

# East Fishkill Soccer Club

## Travel Program Rules & Guidelines

Revised 2026

### 1. Program Objectives

The East Fishkill Soccer Club Travel Program is a competitive, higher-level program for players who are committed to developing their game in a structured environment. Participation at the travel or premier level is determined through a formal tryout process, and roster spots are earned based on skill, commitment, and performance. Families and players interested in competitive soccer are encouraged to participate in the tryout process.

- Provide a competitive, high-level soccer environment for players who have earned their place through the tryout process.
- Offer structured play at the travel and premier levels, including league competition and tournaments.
- Foster sportsmanship, discipline, and a strong work ethic among players, coaches, and families.
- Teach advanced techniques, tactics, and rules of soccer in an age-appropriate and competitive context.
- Provide physical conditioning and promote the athletic development of each rostered player.
- Support the growth of every player on the roster throughout the season.

### 2. Program Committee

The Travel Program Committee (TPC) governs the travel program and consists of:

- Travel Director — 2-year term
- Secretary — elected annually by TPC
- Treasurer and Registrar — 2-year terms
- Two coach representatives — elected annually by TPC
- EFSC President or Vice President
- Director of Coaching (DOC)

### 3. Finances

The Treasurer will share a full financial report with the TPC every six months. The TPC will review and discuss all program expenses at that time.

Each team will maintain its own individual account, managed by the Treasurer. Team funds are to be used exclusively for the needs of that team and its players.

## 5. Official Rules

All play is governed by US Soccer, followed by US Youth Soccer, then Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association (ENYYSA), and finally the Hudson Valley Youth Soccer League (HVYSL) and EDP rules and regulations.

## 5. Equipment & Uniforms

Proper soccer attire is the responsibility of each player and family. Required items include a uniform shirt and shorts, socks, shin guards, and appropriate footwear. EFSC does not provide individual equipment.

### Uniform Standards:

- Primary colors: Royal Blue with White.
- Alternate shirts: White with blue numbers.
- All travel players regardless of age or gender wear the same uniform unless the TPC grants a prior exception.

### Tournament Jerseys:

Teams may use tournament jerseys for tournament play only. Tournament jerseys are not permitted for use at any EFSC-hosted tournaments.

### Team Logos:

Team logos may be used with prior TPC approval. Approved logos are not permitted on the official in-season uniform. Logos may be applied to tournament jerseys and team merchandise only.

## 6. Coaching

Coaching within the East Fishkill Soccer Club travel program is a privilege. The TPC is committed to selecting coaches who reflect the values, standards, and mission of the club. All coaching positions are subject to annual review and are not guaranteed from season to season.

### Application Process:

- All coaches must submit a completed coaching application by March 1 to be considered for a coaching position for the upcoming season.
- Applications must be submitted annually. A coach returning from a prior season is not automatically reinstated and must reapply each year.
- Coaching applications are available on the EFSC website.
- Following the submission deadline, the TPC will review all applications and make final coaching selections. All applicants will be notified of the TPC decision in writing by March 30.

### Certification Requirement:

All coaches are required to have current and up-to-date certifications in place by August 30. Any coach who has not met this requirement by August 30 will not be permitted to coach until all certifications are fulfilled.

**Resignation:**

If a coach resigns, the TPC appoints an acting coach. The TPC must approve any reinstatement or permanent replacement.

**Dismissal:**

Any coach, player, or parent found in violation of EFSC rules or who commits major misconduct is subject to suspension or dismissal. Flagrant violations may result in immediate suspension by the TPC pending a final TPC decision. TPC decisions are final, subject to a written appeal to the EFSC Board within seven (7) days.

- Attempts to remove a coach must be submitted in writing to the TPC; the coach has the right to respond.
- A coach may not dismiss a player for performance reasons during the season. Any dismissal request must be brought to the TPC.
- Any coach found guilty of poaching — enticing a player from another registered club — will be dismissed from EFSC.

**Financial Standing:**

Any coach, player, or parent not in good financial standing with EFSC (intramural or travel) is subject to suspension and may not re-register until the balance is resolved.

## 7. Player & Parent Code of Conduct

East Fishkill Soccer Club is a volunteer-driven organization. All players, parents, guardians, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves with respect and dignity at all times — during practices, games, tournaments, and any club-related communication. This Code of Conduct exists to protect our volunteers, coaches, board members, and administrators, as well as the players themselves.

**Expected Behavior:**

- Treat all coaches, referees, volunteers, board members, administrators, players, and opposing families with courtesy and respect.
- Support players with positive encouragement; refrain from coaching from the sidelines.
- Accept the decisions of referees and club officials, even when in disagreement.
- Communicate concerns calmly and through appropriate channels — never on the field or during a game.
- Model the sportsmanship you wish to see in your child.

**Prohibited Behavior:**

The following behaviors are strictly prohibited and may result in removal from the premises, suspension, or dismissal from the EFSC travel program:

- Yelling at, berating, or verbally abusing any coach, referee, volunteer, board member, administrator, player, or spectator.

- Making threatening, intimidating, or aggressive statements or gestures toward any individual — whether in person, by phone, or in writing (including email and social media).
- Using profane, discriminatory, or demeaning language in any club setting.
- Physically intimidating, confronting, or making contact with any official, volunteer, or club representative in a hostile manner.
- Attempting to engage a coach, referee, or board member in a confrontational discussion immediately before, during, or after a game. Concerns must be raised calmly and at an appropriate time.

**Protection of Volunteers & Board Members:**

EFSC volunteers and board members give their time freely to support our players and community. Any individual who engages in aggressive, threatening, or disrespectful behavior toward a volunteer or board member — in any setting — will be subject to immediate review by the TPC. The TPC may impose the following consequences:

- Verbal or written warning
- Suspension from games, practices, or club events for a defined period
- Permanent dismissal from the EFSC travel program

**Reporting Concerns:**

Any coach, volunteer, board member, or administrator who experiences or witnesses a violation of this Code of Conduct should report it to the TPC as soon as possible. All reports will be handled promptly, fairly, and with discretion.

## 8. Player Try-Outs

All tryout procedures, evaluation criteria, timelines, and selection policies are governed by the **EFSC Travel Try-Out Guidelines and Policy**. All coaches, players, and families are required to reference and comply with that document in full.

## 8. Age Groups, Playing Up & Team Structure

### Age Group Philosophy:

Teams are formed by birth chart whenever possible. The TPC determines groupings where this is not practical. If no team exists for a given age group, the player may try out for the next older team. Any team with fewer than 13 candidates at initial tryouts will be reviewed by the TPC for feasibility.

### Playing Up — Eligibility Requirements:

It is the program's philosophy that most players are best served on age-appropriate teams. Exceptions may be granted by the TPC on a case-by-case basis. Players must meet ALL of the following criteria:

#### ***U8 / U9 / U10:***

- All U8, U9, and U10 players must play within their correct age group. No exceptions will be granted for playing up at these age levels.

#### ***U11 and above:***

- Players already grandfathered onto an older team as a full-time rostered player may continue on that team.
- To be approved to try out in an older age group, a player must rank in the top 25% at their own age-group ranking tryout.
- The player must also be a starter and in the top 50% of the older team they are trying out for, with impactful playing time.
- A written request from the player's parents must be submitted to the Travel Director and Director of Coaching (DOC) by April 15.
- The TPC will solicit the opinion of both the age-appropriate coach and the older team's coach, and may require an additional tryout.

### Two-Team (A/B) Model — Same Age Group:

#### ***U8–U10:***

- Both teams share one team name, using the T2 designation to differentiate the second team (e.g., Team Strikers & Team Strikers T2).
- Both teams train together twice per week. The first hour is joint development; coaches may separate teams for the final 30 minutes.
- Focus: individual development, teamwork, and a love for the game.

#### ***U11 and above:***

While competitive development is important at this level, the primary goal is always to cultivate and grow the age group as a whole. Both the first and second teams are equally valued, and the club is committed to developing every player within the age group to their fullest potential.

- Players are separated into first (A) and second (B/T2) teams based on skill, commitment, and performance.
- Teams may train separately or together at the coach's discretion.
- First teams compete at higher levels; T2 teams compete at a level appropriate to their collective skill.
- Coaches communicate with players and parents throughout the process.

## 8. Player Residency

Players are classified by residency for roster purposes:

- **Home Grown:** Any player who is a resident of East Fishkill.
- **Greater East Fishkill Resident:** Players residing in East Fishkill or the directly bordering towns of Kent, Beekman, Pawling, Phillipstown, LaGrange, Fishkill, and Wappingers Falls.
- **Out of Town:** Players who do not meet either definition above.

Players who have been registered with EFSC (travel or intramural) for one or more years are not reclassified as "out of town" if their family moves outside the greater East Fishkill area. For players of equivalent skill, preference is given to home-grown players.

### Roster Priority & Out-of-Town Player Policy:

EFSC is committed to serving the East Fishkill community first while building competitive rosters that benefit all players. The following framework governs how out-of-town players are considered across age groups:

#### ***U8 through U12:***

- East Fishkill (home grown) and Greater East Fishkill residents are given first priority at tryouts. Roster spots are filled by qualified local players before out-of-town candidates are considered.
- Out-of-town players may be added to a roster only with prior approval from the TPC. The TPC will evaluate each request based on roster need, player skill, and the availability of local candidates.
- TPC approval for an out-of-town player at this age group does not carry over to future seasons. Players must be re-evaluated and re-approved annually.

#### ***U13 and Above:***

- There is no hard limit on out-of-town players at U13 and above. Rosters are built on merit, with the goal of fielding the most competitive team possible.
- Where players are of equivalent skill, preference shall be given to East Fishkill and Greater East Fishkill residents.
- The TPC must be notified of the out-of-town composition of each roster at the time of submission, but formal approval is not required.

*Players registered with EFSC (travel or intramural) for one or more years are not reclassified as out-of-town if their family relocates outside the Greater East Fishkill area.*

## 8. Player Registration

All player registration is handled by the Registrar. All player registration information is due to the Registrar by June 10.

### Waitlist:

A waitlist of the next five candidates not selected at initial tryouts is maintained by the TPC and shared with the IPD, to fill vacancies as they arise.

### Guest Players:

Teams short of players for a tournament may borrow players from other EFSC teams in accordance with EHYSL rules distributed at the start of each season. Teams may also arrange guest players per the EFSC Guest Play Agreement, ensuring the integrity of each age group is maintained.

## 8. Team Policy & Finances

- Teams may implement non-participation fees for families unable or unwilling to contribute to team operations.
- Team fundraising may be authorized by the TPC.
- At least two (2) parent meetings per year are required; a current financial report must be provided at each meeting.
- All team expenditures over \$100 must be approved in advance by team parents. No reimbursement is issued without prior approval and a submitted receipt.
- Team funds may only be used for the benefit of the team and players — not to cover parent expenses.
- Travel program gym time charges are allocated equally across all travel team accounts in a given year.

### Team Funds When Teams Change:

- If a team is dismissed or disbanded and a player joins another EFSC travel team, that player's proportional share of the remaining treasury (including tournament profits) follows them.
- If a new team is formed from an existing team, each player's share of prior Memorial Day Tournament profits follows them.

## 8. Club Meetings

Travel coach meetings are held monthly, with the exception of July and December. Attendance is required for all coaches. A coach who misses two (2) or more meetings in a season will be subject to a fine issued to their team. When a coach is unable to attend, a designated representative with voting authority must attend in their place.

**Note:** These rules supersede all prior versions of the EFSC Travel Program Rules. They are to be read in conjunction with the EFSC Travel Try-Out Guidelines and the EFSC By-Laws. Questions should be directed to the TPC.