



# **Evolution Futbol Club**

## **PLAYER HANDBOOK**

**2009-2010 Season**

## Philosophy

Evolution Futbol Club, Inc. was founded with strong emphasis on player and team development, being led by the best trainers and coaches in our region. Every team is *coached and trained* by these experts. We strongly believe that successful soccer players are the direct result of hard work and the mastering of basic skills. We are not willing to sacrifice player growth for short-term wins.

Evolution's emphasis is on individual growth by integrating cooperation, sportsmanship, leadership, positive coaching and fun through competition in a team concept. Our coaches measure success by how players learn to achieve success in such life skills as hard work, team work, control of emotions and organization. We are looking for players (with parents) who share the coaching staff's passion for soccer. These individuals must be willing to put forth the effort to improve the technical and tactical aspects of their game, training both the mind and the body in a positive environment.

## Principles and Values

EFC pledges to govern all of our endeavors so that:

- All of our youth players can train and play in a safe environment
- All of our affairs will be conducted with integrity and honesty
- Our club will be associated with good sportsmanship
- All people involved will be treated with respect.
- We will at all times strive for excellence in all we do.
- We will always remember that we are training children and that will govern our decisions.

## Goals

In accordance with our philosophy and principles, we have the following goals:

- Provide serious young soccer players with the best coaching, teams and support structure to facilitate their development, while also providing them positive soccer experiences that will last a lifetime.
- Provide the best exposure to college coaches and college opportunities.
- Compete at every age level at the State level for both boys and girls.
- Create an enjoyable and satisfying experience for all families involved.

## **Organization**

### Executive Board

Evolution Futbol Club is a Kansas non-profit corporation with recognition by the IRS as a 501.c.3 Corporation for Federal non-profit tax purposes. Evolution Futbol Club is affiliated with Sedgwick County Soccer and is recognized as EFC for registration purposes. The Executive Board administers the club by establishing or approving the annual budget, agreements, coach's contracts, player fees, club activities, calendar of events including sponsorship activities.

### Team managers

Managers are the official representative of the team at EFC meetings. They will register the players with the club registrar. They will attend all required meetings. The primary role of the team manager is to administer the team, maintain forms, player cards, and roster cards and assist the club treasurer in collection of dues.

## **The Training Program**

EFC is dedicated to providing the training that will help our athletes achieve their goals. We believe that there are different stages of development in competitive soccer: The club's training program is designed for the youth athlete who is serious about soccer and interested in playing at the highest competitive level available. The club is interested in athletes who are considering making soccer their primary sport, particularly in high school. The training program is geared to prepare the players to compete both technically and tactically at the highest level.

Season training sessions are normally two per week and will be determined and announced by the coach, director or team manager. Every effort is made to establish regularly scheduled sessions. However, this is not always possible, due to training availability, daylight savings time, weather and coach availability. Players should always be dressed and ready to start practice on time. Practice is mandatory. If, for any reason, the player is unable to attend training, the coach should be

contacted at the earliest possible time prior to the start of practice. Every effort should be made to schedule other activities at times that will not interfere with training.

## **2009-2010 Player/Parent Agreement**

We have enjoyed success with our involvement in youth soccer and learned that one key ingredient of success is clear, consistent communication between the club, its teams and coaches, players and parents. This document is one way of explaining, in detail, our expectations of you as a member of EFC. It will help you answer questions about the club's decision-making process. As you have committed to become a member of EFC, please take the time to read the following pages carefully. The Player/Parent Agreement must be signed by player and parent to be accepted in the club. This agreement covers the seasonal year.

**Members of EFC agree to put the club ahead of the team.** When decisions are made regarding conflicts between the club and a particular team the club will come first. Club decisions will be made by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. The decision of the Executive Board will be final and without appeal.

**Members of EFC agree to put the team ahead of the individual player.** If conflicts arise between the team and a player or parent, the team coach under the direction of the director of coaching will be responsible to make decisions for the good of the team. These decisions will be made after gathering all relevant information and consulting with those involved. The decision of the team coach will be objective and will be based on his/her best evaluation of the facts. Once a decision has been made, it is final and without appeal. Players and parents must agree to abide with the final decision.

### **PLAYER'S RESPONSIBILITIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT**

#### Commitment

You are not under any pressure to join the club. Instead we hope that you and your parent(s) will consider all of your options and chose what will be best for you, taking into consideration your goals and aspirations as a person and as a soccer player.

Once you commit to join EFC you agree to abide by the policies of the club and your team. This commitment is for one soccer year only. We expect you and your parent(s) to be ethical, honest and to honor commitments both verbal and written; therefore you should make your decisions thoughtfully and carefully. Once your commitment is made, the club expects your full participation and support for the entire soccer year, even in the event team results, personal playing time, personal relationships, etc. do not meet your expectations and/or not to your liking. Remember, there is a bigger picture to consider besides soccer; which is the person's development as an honest and positive human being. Take into account that when you make your commitment, our coaches may need to inform other potential players they did not make the team. Please be sensitive to others and consider your decision carefully.

If you have committed to the club, the club will also be ethical and honest, honoring its commitment to you. No player will be released from a team during the soccer year unless it is for disciplinary reasons or failure to fulfill your financial obligations. The exceptions would be when that players' family has moved. The team coach will make decisions regarding temporary suspension from the club after carefully consulting with the director of coaching. Decisions by the director of coaching are final.

The players in all of the EFC programs have the following responsibilities:

- A. Treat teammates, opposing players, coaches, referees, and spectators with respect.
- B. Play within the rules of the game of soccer.
- C. Demonstrate self-control. Support your teammates. Practice good sportsmanship at all times.
- D. Accept the decisions of the referee without gesture or argument.
- E. Win without boasting, and if you lose, do so gracefully and without excuses.
- F. Honor your commitment to the team and attend all practices and games, unless special circumstances, injury or illnesses prevent it. Whenever possible, an absence from a practice or game should be discussed with the coach before the absence occurs.

- G. Maintain a sense of dedication to the team. Keep competitively sharp and in good condition. Strive for improvement.
- H. Report all injuries to the team coach as soon as possible.
- I. Responsibility of uniform condition lies with the player. Replacement of damaged uniform will be the responsibility of the team member/parent at full cost.

#### Before, During, and After the Games

During the soccer season the team and players participate in practices, league competition, and tournaments, the coaches will make decisions on player selections, game lineup, player's position, amount of playing time, tournament participation, etc. Players must be positive in fulfilling the role they are asked to perform for the Team at any moment, even if that role has them not playing at all, coming off the bench, or playing a different position.

#### Playing Time

There is no guaranteed amount of playing time and there are many factors that can affect the amount of playing time for a particular player. The policy of the club is that playing time is earned and not given. Starting positions and playing time are both earned by coming to practice regularly and by working hard, competing and concentrating during practices and games.

#### **PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT:**

Parental support and involvement in the club are essential. Parents of players must make sure their child attend all possible club and team functions (practices, meeting, games, etc) We understand there will be time when conflict cannot be avoided and the player must attend another event which is scheduled at the same time as practice, etc. The club requires your communication, planning and understanding so we can minimize conflict. It is the team's responsibility to present a periodic schedule to allow time for your planning.

#### Sideline Coaching

There will be no coaching by parents. "Go," "shoot," "pass" or "send it" are interpreted as instructions and as such are not desirable sideline behavior by parents or others who have come to watch a certain player. No matter how good your intentions are, we insist there be no shouting instructions to your child or any other player on the team. We also insist there be absolutely no yelling or complaining to referees or officials during or after games. Your vocal support and positive encouragement are welcome after good play. Please do not criticize or "moan" with disappointment when mistakes are made. The players are well aware of mistakes they make (especially the bad ones), and we also teach our players that overcoming and learning from mistakes are an important part of the learning process. It is important that players not be distracted at practices or during games, and that players are given one set of instructions by one voice before, during and after practices and games. For this reason, the club insists the coach or trainer is the only voice the player hears before, during and after all games and practices. No one other than those listed on the official game roster may sit on or near the team bench before and during games (please respect the space and privacy necessary for the coach and team to carry out their game responsibilities)

#### Respect

Please respect all of the other players on the team. Please do not make critical remarks to others about specific players on your son's or daughter's team. Many times, these comments are overheard by the players or others and can be quite hurtful and foster an unhealthy team environment.

Please respect your coach and do not make negative remarks to others about coaching decisions. The club's first concern is for the long-term growth and development of our players' as individuals along with their soccer abilities under pressure. There will be times coaches make decisions and players are instructed to do things parents will not understand. Club, team and player development will sometimes be given a greater priority than winning, especially in the younger years. Parents must understand this and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with this philosophy in order to maintain a healthy team environment. Remember, playing only to win without taking healthy club, team and player development into account will not result in a solid foundation upon which your child can build on and prepare them for winning.

## Communication

Parents, always at the appropriate moment and time, feel free to communicate and ask questions about your child. Also, please take the initiative to encourage and teach your player to speak up and communicate for themselves whenever possible.

EFC believes in and teaches players the benefit of having mental toughness to guide their intense focus on the game of soccer: Your child will be instructed to ignore adverse conditions such as bad referees, name calling, foul language, rough play, cheating, poor weather, negative behavior by parents or opponents, etc. We expect our parents (as well as our coaches) to have this same mental toughness. EFC has the right to remove a parent from the sidelines, if necessary for behavior not acceptable to EFC's Parent/Player Agreement, Financial Agreement and any other SCSA rules that apply to sideline behavior. This removal can be for one game, one month and/or the season. The duration of this removal will be at the discretion of the EFC Director of Coaching and or the Executive Board of EFC.

### EFC Policy on Communication

**Discuss the problem with the manager.** If not resolved then...

**Discuss the problem with the coach.** If not resolved then...

**Discuss the problem with the Director of Coaching**

The parents of players in all of the EFC programs have the following responsibilities:

- A. Respect the judgment of the referee and do not criticize the officials or players on either team.
- B. Be supportive of your son or daughter. Be a good listener. Make them feel important and let them know that they are contributing to a team effort.
- C. Provide transportation to and from all practices and games and ensure the player is prompt in arriving and departing. Ensure that the player has the proper equipment, including shin guards, uniform, shoes, and weather appropriate clothing.
- D. Attend the games when possible.
- E. Do not coach from the sidelines. Understand and respect the difference between the roles of the parent and the roles of the coach. "Coaches coach – Parents Cheer"
- F. Volunteer
- G. Pay fees in a timely manner.
- H. Report all player injuries to the team coach as soon as possible.
- I. Responsibility of uniform condition lies with the player.

## **The Coach**

EFC coaches are instructed to conduct themselves first as teachers and second as soccer coaches. Our coaches recognize they are dealing in an important way with young people and cannot overlook the impact they have on players' lives. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of the team on and off the field whenever the team is together. We insist our players are polite, well behaved and respectful. Players and parents can expect honesty, communication, consistency and reliability from the coach. The club and coaches are committed to giving players the tools and skills to enable them to become as good as their ability, desire, commitment, and effort allow. Coaches are committed to creating an environment that is conducive to the development of quality, competitive soccer. We recognize there are things more important in life than soccer. In terms of priority, family and school work come first.

Do not expect the coaches to praise everything the player does well. After a time there are things the coach will come to expect from every player. There are times when the coaches will say very little, and times they may yell out instructions. There are times they will be critical of players, and other time they will be generous with praise. Players and parents are expected to take constructive criticism along with praise for a job well done, and be able to deal with both. The coach will attend practice and will coach at games. In situation where conflicts do occur, and they will, the club will designate a coach to cover that particular practice or game.

## COACH'S RESPONSIBILITIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT:

EFC coaches in all programs will have the following responsibilities:

- A. Be a good role model. Demonstrate self-control, integrity, and professional behavior on and off the field. Show respect for players, opponents and referees. Demonstrate good sportsmanship. Maintain a balanced perspective and conform to the letter and the spirit of the rules and regulations.
- B. Support the principles of EFC.
- C. Organize the team practices and communicate the practice and game schedules to the players and parents.
- D. Attend the team practices and games.
- E. Be dedicated to player development. Praise effort, not just good results. Teach and inspire soccer players to love the game and to compete fairly. Help the players understand their positive contribution within the team framework. Challenge individual players to improve their skills and their understanding of the game. Use positive reinforcement and use appropriate and consistent discipline for inappropriate behavior.
- F. Ensure that the players have an emotionally and physically safe atmosphere to learn and play soccer.
- G. Recommend that an injured player receive proper medical treatment. Ensure that a medical release for each player and a first aid kit are available at every practice and game.

In addition, the coaches of the teams in the competitive program have the following responsibilities:

- A. Participate in the player tryout and selection process for their team and other EFC teams as needed.
- B. Report all team and player changes promptly to the EFC head coach and registrar.

### **ACADEMIC STANDING:**

Although EFC is not affiliated with any school district or school, EFC recognizes the importance of academic achievement. EFC does not require a specific level of academic achievement for participation in any of the EFC programs. Instead, EFC supports parents setting academic standards for their children. EFC coaches are expected to honor temporary limits to a player's participation in soccer to support academic studies, if necessary.

### **SUBSTANCE ABUSE:**

EFC prohibits all forms of substance abuse. Substance abuse may lead to limits on a player's participation or termination of membership with EFC.

### **MULTI-ROSTER POLICY:**

- League-rostered on EFC team and outside team(s): EFC expects to be the primary. Exceptions by written agreement from the EFC DOC. Full EFC fees applicable.
- League-rostered on more than one EFC team: Full EFC fee for the primary, \$35 per year administrative fee for each additional team.
- Guest players for tournaments: share in trainer travel expenses at discretion of the team manager. Note: Guest players should be the exception, not the rule. A player who regularly guest plays for a team should reasonably be considered part of the team for fee purposes.

**PLEASE SIGN THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

# EFC

## Code of Conduct Player Contract 2009-2010

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All signatures must be in place before player card will be released.

I have read the entire EFC Handbook and agree to abide by the provisions of the handbook as long as I am a member of an EFC team. I agree to put the club ahead of team, the team ahead of player. I agree to accept decision of the Board of Directors regarding the code of conduct. I understand that if I violate the Code of Conduct, it may result in my dismissal from the club.

**Players Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Team:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Players Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and discussed the EFC Handbook with the above player. I have read and understand the expectations that I will be held accountable to.

- Be supportive of your son or daughter. Be a good listener. Make them feel important and let them know that they are contributing to a team effort.
- Respect the judgment of the referee and do not criticize the officials or players on either team.
- Do not coach from the sidelines. Understand and respect the difference between the roles of the parent and the roles of the coach. "Coaches coach – Parents Cheer"

I understand that EFC has the right to remove a parent from the sidelines, if necessary for behavior not acceptable to EFC's Parent/Player Agreement, Financial Agreement and any other SCSA rules that apply to sideline behavior. This removal can be for one game, one month and/or the season. The duration of this removal will be at the discretion of the EFC Director of Coaching and or the Executive Board of EFC.

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Parent/Guardian:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Coach Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_