



## NORTH CAROLINA ADULT SOCCER ASSOCIATION

### BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 18, 2021

Call to Order: 7:07pm

**Roll Call:** Sam Cohen, Donna Langdon, Bob Kepner, Charles Gomes, Paul James, Alex Vidaurri, Mike Unwin, Jeremy Mikell, Matt Friedman, Laura Collins, Darius Ejlali, Matt Friedman

**Not Present:** Emmanuel Sarkorh, Vance Carlisle A quorum of the board was present.

#### Officer & Staff Reports

- President – Welcome All, this evening my report will cover two topics as we will discuss many items this evening.

A huge Thank You to all who had a hand in putting together the Celebrate the Tatas Tournament of Champions event. It was an amazing weekend. We had 8 competitive teams and 3 recreational teams. The tournament raised over \$40,000, meeting the goal of donating \$30,000+ to two Breast Cancer Centers in Charlotte, which will go toward free mammograms for uninsured and under-insured women. The following individuals need to be recognized:

- Alex Vidaurri did an amazing amount of work to ensure the event was a success. Even committing to assisting a “house” team by playing with them.
- Jeremy Mikell assigned referees for the event, refereed in the event, took several drone photographs, and helped with event breakdown, a lot of hard work.
- Laura Collins worked hard at organizing her team to enter the tournament and she and her teammates helped with set up.
- Darius Ejlali made sure operations ran smooth and covered everything from securing the nets to packing van and all points in between including music and awards presentations.
- Cindy Morrison worked behind the scenes with registration/rostering and assisted wherever needed throughout the tournament.
- Talia Goldman is co-chair and co-founder of the tournament. She has more energy than a normal person should; Talia covers so much ground from raising record breaking amounts of money, securing raffle items, having food donated, securing a spot on a national radio show to arranging the banquet dinner for all the players to attend and organizing the Queen’s University team that volunteered its help for half a day, which included breakdown. Talia is an unbelievable force.

The second item is Carolinas Cup. A list of registered teams from the Carolinas Cup was circulated. Having this level of early registrants is a good sign we are on track to having a fantastic tournament. I’ve contacted many past teams and league directors to inquire about their participation in the Cup; feedback has been very positive and many teams are returning from previous years.

- Executive Director – The Celebrate the Tatas has been the number one focus. The preparation for the event was thorough, the event was fantastic, and the wrap up has been intense, especially as we finalize donation numbers. Operations costs were tight, maximizing NCASA’s contribution.

The Carolinas Cup work has also picked up pace. Team registrations are more than double what they usually are at this point.

Donna and I have reviewed a new registration system. Our current registration system, Affinity, serves our purposes but there are issues with the system and some of our league members are needing something a bit more customizable and more user-friendly.

Unfortunately, our case of player misconduct towards referees is at an all-time high. We are scheduling hearings as quickly as possible.

Researching other Director and Officer Liability Policy options for our leagues.

- Vice-President – September had been a busy month of meeting with USASA Annual General Meeting, USASA Region III meetings along with reinvigorated work on the Constitution and Bylaw revisions. Detailed work, ensuring NCASA follows USSF and USASA, as well as being in line on how North Carolina Adult Soccer functions.
- Treasurer’s Report – A NCASA financial report was submitted and was circulated to all members.
  - Our P&L Budget to Actuals for 2021 to current look great.
  - Budget committee has put in quality work on the 2022 budget. In the process of cleaning up the document and notes. The final budget will be sent around shortly.

### **Approval of Minutes**

- Minutes for the September 20, 2021, meeting were approved unanimously.

### **Growth Initiative**

- Registration Report – Registration numbers are strong, NCASA is close to 8400, which is 152% above our projected numbers. Registration will slow down. Probably not going to top 9000 but we are getting close to our pre-pandemic registration numbers of 2019.

Darius and I have been talking about registration systems for a while and have begun looking at several systems. We reviewed a system called Team Pass. We both felt it is a solid system that is worth looking at closer, so we brought Sam in for a presentation. Unfortunately, the system was priced too expensively. We want to be patient and make the correct decisions for the state, the leagues and the players. The next system should be one that we stay on for many years. We will step up our pursuit of new systems.

We will be opening Spring 2022 registration.

- First-Year-League Updates: none
- New League Update – Emmanuel Sarkorh has committed to establishing the NC conference for the EPSL.

### **Competitions**

- Carolinas Cup – Laura Collins requested Carolinas Cup consider an Over 40 women’s division, so the advertising went out and there has been interest shown. Registration is the highest it has been at this time of year. Letters are being sent to every captain once they register, discussing how to roster and the fact that we have hotel links and a hotel agent, Stacey Johnson, to assist.

The committee is meeting regularly and has cleaned up the rules. Excitement is building. A volunteer list has been sent out, please look it over and pick a time slot or two. Give me a call if you want to help but if your availability doesn't fit the time frames on the list, help is always needed so we will work it out.

- Celebrate the Tatas – We really liked the location of Huntersville. The committee is still meeting, wrapping up the event. Talia is still receiving checks for the 2021 Celebrate the Tatas. We have decided to keep the 2021 donation open for the entire month of October. We have already secured our first 2022 donation from a local Dermatologist.

The publicity that will be coming from the two hospitals is going to be a great opportunity for NCASA.

### **Organizing Committees**

- Budget Committee – the work has been very positive as we reviewed programs and visions for the North Carolina Adult Soccer Association. Final 2022 budget will be sent around for everyone's review.
- AGM Committee – the committee decided that the 2022 AGM should be strictly business. Then NCASA should create opportunities to hold workshops before or after the AGM. The committee thought of several ideas for potential workshops:
  1. Safe Sport
  2. Referees
  3. Registration system
  4. Minimizing league risks

The committee also discussed creating a quarterly newsletter and working on additional social media communications.

The committee's next meeting will be in November.

- Election Committee – 5 members, 3 board members and 2 league directors: Cem Canel from Wilmington and Jeff Jager from Charlotte.

The nomination letter has been circulated to the membership. Next step will be to contact the incumbents.

- Awards Committee – adding language to our current Award descriptions, including more bio information about the individual the award honors. A letter about our awards and seeking nominations form membership will be sent out soon.

**Board Q&A (10 Minutes)** - none

**Old Business** – none

**New Business (motions)** - none

**Old & New Business (discussions)**

- State Referee Updates – referee registration numbers are down, significantly (about 1,600 referees in 2021 vs. 2,600 referees pre-pandemic). Discussion around recruitment, incentives, ref pay and

ways NCASA can help in the process. NCASA has agreed to utilize our Constant Contact system to send out a message to assist the referee community.

- USSF Innovate to Grow – Darius Ejlali attended the USSF webinar on Innovate to Grow and shared the presentation and the general parameters of the grant. Discussions were held to generate thoughts around submitting a grant. The window for submission is short for 2021 but NCASA should be prepared to submit a grant for 2022.
- Budget Initiatives discussion – postponed to November meeting

**Takeaways/To Do Item Wrap-up – none**

**Thoughts & Visions**

**For the Good of the Game / Announcements**

**Adjournment – 8:57 pm**

**2021 NCASA REGISTRATION REPORT**

	2021 Player Registrations										Projections			2020 Player Registrations				
	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	As of Oct 12	Nov	Dec	2021 TOTAL	2021 PROJ	% of Proj.	# Spring Players 3/16/20	# Fall New Players	TOTAL Players 2020
ABASA		274	429	26	5	350	30		121	144			1379			932	0	932
AC Sandhills																29	2	31
Catawba	22	3	9	13	4	44		1	50				146			41	20	61
Charlotte Independence					10	128	2	249	90	2			481					
CPSL	97	360	27	13	4		15	38	85	10			649			511	103	614
First Flight League		71	241	35	31	28	22	26	16	13			483			0	0	0
Metrolina			423	17	8	1	4	69	200	3			725			608	80	688
NCASA Annual Pass					7	26	2	12					47			5	2	7
Pitt Greenville			35	53	3	22		23	28	13			177			135	-1	134
Premier Adult								104	26				130			106	12	118
Seashore Soccer League			10	34	13	1	1	5	7				71			0	0	0
Swansboro			112	49	22	7	3	101	12	3			309			199	79	278
TASL	899	185	98	56	445	230	631	235	73	27			2879			2041	372	2413
Wilmington	142	138	35	89	115	26	47	98	15	1			706			477	-3	474
Winston Salem		63	49	7	1			35	33				188			199	19	218
<b>TOTAL PLAYERS</b>	<b>1160</b>	<b>1094</b>	<b>1468</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>996</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>216</b>			<b>8370</b>	<b>5500</b>	<b>152%</b>	<b>5283</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>5968</b>

**Tournament Only Passes**

**Temporary Passes 22**

Beer City Cup	878
Carolinas Cup Charleston	24
Carolinas Cup WS	12
Celebrate the Tatas	46
Queen City Cup	175
USASA Adult Soccer Fest	1

**TOTAL 1136**