



## **NORTH CAROLINA ADULT SOCCER ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING**

**April 19, 2021**

### **Minutes**

**Call to Order: 7:08pm**

#### **Roll Call**

**Present:** Sam Cohen, Donna Langdon, Bob Kepner, Charles Gomes, Matt Friedman, Jeremy Mikell, Alex Vidaurri, Paul James, Vance Carlisle, Darius Ejlali

#### **Not Present:**

Guests: Emmanuel Sarkorh, Laura Collins, Mike Unwin

#### **Quorum determination**

#### **Officer & Staff Reports**

- President – Welcomed everyone and introduced guests, Reminder to all to accept meeting invitation; accepting invite serves multiple purposes and puts the meeting on your calendar. In May, a draft Constitution/Bylaws update will be presented for review. This project will be worked on to present to membership at the next Annual General Meeting. Safe Sport mandate will be a topic for the board to consider as First Flight League has made a request to allow under 18-year-old players to participate in the 2021 season.
- Vice President – Enjoyed interviewing new board members. Working on registration system regularly with NCASA office.
- Executive Director – Continuing to assist leagues with the spring season needs. Working with league members on rostering players, age restrictions and declined credit cards. Executive Vice President, Donna Langdon and I spend time with Affinity, reviewing processes and how the registration system could better serve our members.  
Carolinas Cup Charleston planning is moving quickly as we prepare for the Memorial Day event. Celebrate the TaTas planning committee is engaged and meets regularly. Researching unaffiliated leagues in NC to list an inventory. Working on Constitution/Bylaw update and processing insurance claims.
- Treasurer – Presented financial reports and reviewed the balance sheet

#### **Approval of Minutes**

- Minutes for the March 15, 2021, Approved unanimously.

## **Growth Initiative**

- Registration Report – Submitted report showing league by league registration. Registration numbers are steadily growing. Currently, NCASA has 3846 paid registered players as of April 11, 2021. NCASA's registration numbers are at 70% as compared to last year's numbers. Registration report shows a gender comparison. Previous years show a 16-17% female participation. Currently, NCASA is at an estimated 13% female participation. This drop has negatively impacted some leagues' ability to offer functioning female divisions.
- First Year League Updates - AC Sandhills is still focusing on their youth participation. Seashore Soccer League has begun registering players, small but they are beginning, First Flight League has had strong registration and all 12 teams are competing. Premier Adult Soccer League, given the mask mandate and loss of leadership, is taking the spring off and looking to build towards launching this Summer or Fall.
- New Leagues Update – As President, Sam Cohen has reached out to NCYSA's Marvin Bishop. NCASA's plan for growth was shared with Marvin. NCASA would like to reach out to youth leagues to discuss growing adult soccer for youth leagues that do not have an adult division and looking to work with youth leagues that do have an adult division.

There are many unaffiliated leagues in NC. 55 leagues were identified. 25% of these leagues may not be functioning, a portion were indoor leagues, several women's leagues, coed leagues, city leagues, social club leagues and Hispanic leagues. These are areas NCASA need to develop an approach to begin pursuing conversations with the unaffiliated to see if there can be a move to affiliate these leagues.

## **Competitions**

- Carolinas Cup – Charleston, SC, Memorial Day weekend tournament numbers continue to grow. The committee meets regularly focusing on operational functions and team registration. Hotels have been secured; trainers are in place. Working on beer vendor and food trucks.

A written partnership agreement between North and South Carolina needs to be established.

- Celebrate the TaTas – Will be held this year. Planning committee meets regularly. Donations have been strong; the goal with the donation is to give back to the local front-line workers in the health industry. Several out-of-state teams have contacted NCASA and Cup chair about participating. Fields are still an issue, working with several private schools and a local youth club. MASL excited the tournament is held in Charlotte this year and MASL wants to help grow the event.

Question regarding NCASA's board financial commitment to the project were asked.

President has asked all board members (not mandatory) to make a small donation to the Celebrate the TaTas event once the donation link is set up.

Treasurer wants to ensure that all financial tracking be established and put in place to understand the financial picture. Alex Vidaurri and built the budget to outline the true expense of the tournament and to show what gets covered by donations.

**Board Q&A (10 Minutes) – none**

**Old Business - none**

## New Business (motions)

- New Board Members – NCASA had two board positions open after the 2021 AGM and another position open was resigned. Three positions in total needed to be filled. After reaching out to league members and posting the openings, several candidates were identified. President and Vice President conducted interviews and three individuals have been offered positions for VP Men's Competitions, VP Membership and Development II and VP Membership and Development III. Presidents appoints;
  - Mike Unwin from Charlotte - VP Men's Competition
  - Laura Collins from Holly Springs - Membership and Development II
  - Emmanuel Sarkorh from Wilmington - Membership and Development III

The NCASA Board confirms the appointments unanimously.

- Temporary Exception to NCASA Policy to Permit Registration of Players Under the Age of 18. First Flight present a motion requesting an exception to the "no under 18-year-old players".

USASA Safe Sport Recommendations states that teams with an under 18-year-old player, all players and coaches must take the Safe Sport course and get a background check.

Board members debated the pros and cons to approving First Flight's request.

Paul James asked for motion to end debate, Bob Kepner seconded.

Vote was held and motion passed.

- Player Pass Option – President introduces the idea of exploring areas of player registration that member leagues may like to see as an option, such as a "tryout" player pass. Currently, NCASA charges \$30 for an Annual pass and \$15 for a Tournament Only pass. He will bring this idea back for further exploration at a future board meeting.
- Carolinas Cup – location considerations and hosting requirements. President has had a couple of requests to consider moving the event around the state. Issues surrounding moving the event or securing a home centrally located in the state were discussed. Identifying the number of complexes that can support the current tournament size plus growth was presented. The positives of marketing the event that had a home versus one that move every was offered for consideration. In addition, the number of competing organizations that are looking for large complexes have increased considerably making it a very competitive market to secure a facility to serve our members without breaking the event into multiple dates and locations.

Based on the various considerations discussed, the strong consensus of the Board was that the Carolinas Cup should continue to be held at Truist Park and a long-term partnership should be explored. This consensus will be shared with Member Leagues for feedback, and the Board will finalize its decision at the May Board meeting.

- Transition to new video conference platform – Will be postponed until next meeting. It was asked to consider Google Meets on the list of other services being reviewed.
- Good of the Game – Welcome new Board Members
- Adjournment – 9:06pm

## RESOLUTIONS

### **New Board Member Appointments**

Whereas NCASA currently has openings on its Executive Committee (generally referred to as the NCASA Board) for the positions of (1) Vice President/Men's Competition, (2) Vice President/Membership and Development II, and (3) Vice President/Membership and Development III, and

Whereas the NCASA Bylaws, Article IV, Section 14, provide that in the case of a vacancy on the Executive Committee, "the President with concurrence of the Executive Committee may appoint a temporary successor until the next meeting of the Council," and

Whereas a number of qualified individuals have expressed interest in the current open Executive Committee positions,

Be it resolved that the NCASA President appoints, and the NCASA Executive Committee concurs with the appointment of, the following individuals to fill the current vacancies on the NCASA Executive Committee until the next meeting of the Council:

- Vice President/Men's Competition – Mike Unwin,
- Vice President/Membership and Development II – Laura Collins
- Vice President/Membership and Development III – Emmanuel Sarkorh

### **Temporary Exception to NCASA Policy to Permit Registration of Players Under the Age of 18**

Whereas NCASA policy is to not permit players under 18 years of age to register and play in NCASA-sanctioned leagues, and

Whereas the First Flight League mistakenly believed the age requirement was a calendar year requirement (i.e., a player turning 18 during the course of the current calendar year was eligible) rather than a requirement based on the player's actual age at the time of registration, and

Whereas First Flight League teams recruited a small number of players under 18 years of age based on this misunderstanding of the rules, and

Whereas any exemption to NCASA policy granted to First Flight League with respect to the age requirement also should be extended to all other NCASA-sanctioned leagues as a matter of fairness,

Be it resolved that for the duration of 2021, players born in 2003 who have not yet turned 18 years of age are eligible to participate in NCASA-sanctioned leagues with an appropriate waiver signed by the player's parent or other legal guardian, and

Be it further resolved that, notwithstanding the previous provision, a player under the age of 18 years only may be added to a team roster if the following conditions are met:

- Every coach, manager, and player 18 years or older on the roster must pass the SafeSport certification course and pass a background check (as specified by the current guidance from USASA for teams with players under the age of 18), and
- Satisfactory proof of completion of the SafeSport certification course and background check by each required individual has been provided to the NCASA Executive Director, and

Be it further resolved that before any additional players can be added to the roster of a team with a player under the age of 18, each additional player will need to pass the SafeSport certification course and background check and provide satisfactory proof of this completion to the NCASA Executive Director, and

Be it further resolved that if a player under the age of 18 on a team turns 18, that player must complete the SafeSport certification course and pass a background check (and provide satisfactory proof of this completion to the NCASA Executive Director) to continue playing on the team if any other player under the age of 18 is still on the team's roster.

2021 NCASA PLAYER REGISTRATION REPORT																
2021 Player Registrations													2020 Player Registrations			
	As of												2021 TOTAL	# Spring Players 3/16/20	# Fall New Players	TOTAL Players 2020
	31-Jan	28-Feb	31-Mar	11-Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec				
ABASA		274	429	7									710	932	0	932
AC Sandhills														29	2	31
Catawba	22	3	9	12									46	41	20	61
Charlotte Independence																
CPSL	97	360	27	2									486	511	103	614
First Flight League		71	241	5									317	0	0	0
Metrolina			423	7									430	608	80	688
NCASA Annual Pass														5	2	7
Pitt Greenville			35	31									66	135	-1	134
Premier Adult														106	12	118
Seashore Soccer League			10	4									14	0	0	0
Swansboro			112	26									138	199	79	278
TASL	899	185	98	22									1204	2041	372	2413
Wilmington	142	138	35	3									318	477	-3	474
Winston Salem		63	49	5									117	199	19	218
	<b>1160</b>	<b>1094</b>	<b>1468</b>	<b>124</b>									<b>3846</b>	<b>5283</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>5968</b>

		2021 to Date		2020 Annual #		2019 Annual #	
NCASA	Female Players	499	13%	1,050	16%	1,653	16.50%
	Male Players	3,436	87%	5,407	84%	8,347	83.50%
	Total Players	3,935		6,457		10,000	