



NORTH CAROLINA ADULT SOCCER ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

May 17, 2021

Call to Order: 7:15

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

Not Present: Matt Friedman, Emmanuel Sarkorh

Quorum determination

Officer & Staff Reports

- President – Welcome everyone. Thank you for joining. The transition away from the mask mandate went well. All leagues embraced dropping the mask mandate. Tonight, we will be covering several topics, officer and staff reporting, reviewing our growth initiatives and our competitions. Our new business for May will include ratifying our email vote to remove NCASA “COVID-19 Related “Return To Play” Restrictions, our Carolinas Cup discussion around location decision and Entry Fee and Travel Subsidy for teams advancing to the USASA Region III National Cup Championships.
- Executive Director – There has been steady work on our competitions. The Carolinas Cup – Charleston tournament committee meets regularly discussing the operation, team entries, scheduling, and amenities to the event. NCASA and SCASA met with the St James Island complex manager to do a site visit and map out the fields and discuss all set up issues around event headquarters, trainers, and vendors. Celebrate the TaTas meets weekly. Securing fields has been very difficult in Charlotte. Fil Wilkerson of Charlotte Independence has offered his assistance in locking down fields as well as NCASA has applied to Park and Rec. There is continued work in preparing NC’s Champions and Finalists for the USASA Region III National Cup Championships.
At the encouragement of NCYSA and NCSRA, NCASA has developed a working relationship with Stacey Johnson of Global Events to assist with hotels and banquet needs for our events. Stacey’s impact has already resulted in positive steps. Stacey reviewed a 2019 contract with Hilton and discovered many errors, as a result, Stacey discussed with Hilton ownership group and it was agreed upon to return 20 rooms for NCASA to use at the 2021 Carolinas Cup in Winston-Salem. Registration issues continue to be addressed with NCASA’s registrar and Affinity. NCASA is setting up two new leagues, Levi United Football Club in Brunswick, NC and Eastern Premier Soccer League. Registration numbers are growing, insurance claims are being processed and a payment to USASA has been sent.

- Vice-President – No Report
- Treasurer’s Report – submitted NCASA financial report and it has been circulated and reviewed.

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes for the April 19, 2021, meeting were approved unanimously

Growth Initiative

- Registration Report - – Submitted report showing league by league registration. Registration numbers are steadily growing. Currently, NCASA has 4223 paid players. The registration report has added columns to assist in understanding membership and projecting our registration. Given registration trends, NCASA looks to exceed the 2021 budgeted registration numbers by over 15%.
NCASA has applied on behalf of the new leagues and future leagues for the USASA New League Rebate which offers a \$4.00 per player rebate for new leagues when the leagues return for the second year.
Current league registration numbers were reviewed and discussed.

Competitions

- Carolinas Cup – Charleston is prepared and ready for kick off. There are 43 teams, a little shy of the goal of 50 teams. NCASA has 8 teams in the tournament.
- Celebrate the TaTas – organizing committee meets regularly on planning and fund raising. Fields are an issue that needs to be solved. NCASA has applied through Park and Rec and league director Fil Wilkinson from Charlotte Independence is assisting with fields. There is a high percentage of likelihood that Fil Wilkinson will be able to provide fields at Richard Barry Park in Huntersville, 20 minutes north of Charlotte. Fund raising is going well with an estimate of \$11,500 so far and in-kind donations are increasing. Celebrate the TaTas will be looking to secure fields on a long-term basis for 2022 and 2023. It was requested of all Board members at the April meeting that we consider donating to the Celebrate the TaTas cause ourselves to show that we are invested in and supportive of the tournament’s purpose. Donations by board members can serve as a strong statement to future potential donors, particularly corporate donors. Currently, NCASA is classified as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. The president reiterated last month’s donation suggestion.
Celebrate the TaTas budget is due in June for review.

Board Q&A (10 minutes) – none

Old Business – none

New Business (motions)

The Board discussed and approved the following motions.

1. COVID-19 Restrictions

Removal of COVID-19-Related Restrictions on Play by NCASA Member Leagues

[Preliminarily approved via email on April 29/30 to be effective at the same time as Governor’s executive order removing the outdoor mask mandate]

Whereas, the increasing number of vaccinated adults in North Carolina significantly reduces the potential COVID-19 risk for adults engaged in outdoor activities, including soccer, and

Whereas, Governor Cooper, in keeping with the improving public health situation, has announced a new executive order effective on Friday, April 30, 2021, that removes the mask requirement and many other restrictions on outdoor activities,

Be it resolved that NCASA removes all COVID-19-related restrictions on the resumption of play by member leagues that were implemented in 2020, and

Be it further resolved that member leagues must still comply with any and all applicable legally binding authority that may impact their ability to play, as well as with all of NCASA's general, non-pandemic-related rules, regulations, and policies.

NCASA voted unanimously to ratify the email vote to remove COVID-19 - Related “Return to Play” Restrictions

2. Carolinas Cup (December)

Carolinas Cup – Location Decision for 2022 and Beyond

Whereas the NCASA Board has carefully considered multiple factors in determining the best venue (or venues) at which to hold the December Carolinas Cup tournament in 2022 and beyond,

Be it resolved that the NCASA Board recommends entering into a multi-year agreement to host the December Carolinas Cup at Truist Park (located in Bermuda Run, North Carolina), and

Be it further resolved that any agreement to host the December Carolinas Cup at Truist Park will be presented to the NCASA Board for approval prior to execution, and

Be it further resolved that nothing in this resolution prevents NCASA from pursuing agreements to host future Carolinas Cups in locations other than Truist Park if a mutually satisfactory agreement with Truist Park cannot be finalized within a reasonable period of time.

Board members were provided with additional information about Truist Park and the Matthews Sportsplex (Charlotte area) before the meeting in case this additional information changed the Board’s previously expressed consensus to continue hosting the tournament at Truist Park. Vote was held on the proposed motion and passed unanimously.

3. Region III National Cup Championship Subsidies

Region III National Cup Championships Entry Fee and Travel Subsidy for Carolinas Cup Champions & Finalists

Whereas NCASA has four champion and three finalist teams from the 2020 Carolinas Cup participating in the USASA Region III National Cup Championships in June 2021,

Whereas NCASA has traditionally paid the \$300 per team application fee for teams representing North Carolina at the USASA Region III National Cup Championships which qualified for this tournament based on their performance at the Carolinas Cup,

Whereas NCASA also has traditionally provided a travel subsidy of \$1000.00 per Carolinas Cup champion team and \$500.00 per finalist team for these teams,

Whereas the teams competing at the 2020 Carolinas Cup have reported that they were told that teams advancing to and competing at the USASA Region III National Cup Championships would receive these application fee and travel subsidies,

Whereas all advancing teams have inquired about the travel subsidy and application fee and have expressed the importance of the support,

Whereas the funding to cover these application fees and travel subsidies was not included in the 2021 NCASA Budget approved at the NCASA AGM,

Be it resolved that NCASA approves the spending of up to \$7,600 for teams from the General Fund to cover these expenses,

Be it further resolved that this spending is permitted to cover the following expenses:

- Champion team travel subsidy: \$4,000 (\$1000 per champion team x 4 champion teams);
- Finalist team travel subsidy: \$1,500 (\$500 per finalist team x 3 finalist teams); and
- Application fees: \$2,100 (\$300 per team x 7 teams);

Be it further resolved that NCASA will provide NC-based referees attending the USASA Region III National Cup Championships a \$100.00 stipend per referee, up to a total of \$600.

Amendment was proposed to add funding to provide a stipend to North Carolina referees attending the USASA Region III championships. After debate, the amendment passed. Vote was held on the motion as amended (as shown above) and motion passed unanimously.

Old & New Business (discussions)

- Transition to new video conference platform
Will hold off discussion as more information is needed.
- Carolinas Cup – Long-term agreement parameters
NCASA and SCASA have a verbal partnership to hold the two Carolinas Cup; a written agreement is needed. It is important to develop the parameters of this agreement in writing, financial, labor and commitment. President has asked officers to contribute in advance to the creation of said agreement.
- Constitution and Bylaws – Proposed Revisions
Constitution and Bylaws need to be updated. Executive Director started the process. President and Vice-President think it might be easier to do a re-write than to adjust current governing documents.

Takeaways/To Do Item Wrap-up

- Good meeting, motions passed, the Removal of the COVID-19 related Restrictions, deciding to hold the Carolinas Cup at Truist Park and supporting our players, teams, and referees at the next level of amateur play.

Good of the Game

- The amateur game is not immune to racial and social issues that confront our society. In a recent match in the Eastern Premier Soccer League (Mid-Atlantic division) a team reportedly walked off the field of play when one of the players was subjected to racial abuse on the field of play. NCASA will review the Discipline and Appeals manual to see if NCASA needs policies to address these issues.
- CPSL will be holding their Championship matches Sunday May 23rd, 2021, at Ramblewood Complex fields 3&4. Championship matches begin at 12:30pm. (Over 50 – 12:30 pm; Over 40 – 2:00 pm; Open – 4 pm)
- Returning of Tournaments in NC: Queen City Cup and Beer City Cup are officially on this year!
- Charlotte FC academy teams played in BoA Stadium and a NCASA officer, Jeremy Mikell, was chosen to officiate on what might be the last natural grass game played at the stadium.

Adjournment – 9:00 pm

2021 NCASA REGISTRATION REPORT

	2021 Player Registrations												Projections			2020 Player Registrations		
	As of												2021	2021	% of	# Spring	# Fall	TOTAL
	31-Jan	28-Feb	31-Mar	30-Apr	May 10	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	PROJ	Proj.	Players 3/16/20	New Players	Players 2020
ABASA		274	429	26	5								734			932	0	932
AC Sandhills																29	2	31
Catawba	22	3	9	13									47			41	20	61
Charlotte Independence																		
CPSL	97	360	27	13	1								498			511	103	614
First Flight League		71	241	35	9								356			0	0	0
Metrolina			423	17	2								442			608	80	688
NCASA Annual Pass																5	2	7
Pitt Greenville			35	53									88			135	-1	134
Premier Adult																106	12	118
Seashore Soccer League			10	34	8								52			0	0	0
Swansboro			112	49	16								177			199	79	278
TASL	899	185	98	56	35								1273			2041	372	2413
Wilmington	142	138	35	89	32								436			477	-3	474
Winston Salem		63	49	7	1								120			199	19	218
TOTAL PLAYERS	1160	1094	1468	392	109								4223	5500	77%	5283	685	5968