



NORTH CAROLINA ADULT SOCCER ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

August 16, 2021

Call to Order: 7:11

Roll Call: Sam Cohen, Donna Langdon, Charles Gomes, Paul James, Alex Vidaurri, Jeremy Mikell, Matt Friedman, Emmanuel Sarkorh, Darius Ejlali, Bob Kepner

Not Present: Vance Carlisle, Mike Unwin, Laura Collins

Guest: Felice Bell

Quorum determination

Officer & Staff Reports

- President – Thank you to Jeremy Mikell, who is joining us even though he is under the weather. We have several important votes tonight and it's good he can participate.

We will have a guest, Felice Bell, President of ABASA, who will present her proposal to the board on an initiative for Conflict Resolution to reduce violent conduct and aggressive behavior that detracts from the game. In 2020 the General Council voted to budget resources to assist leagues with special projects.

Secondly, at the beginning of the current fiscal year we scheduled meeting dates through August and agreed to reevaluate at a later time the meeting schedule for the rest of the year. Given the current status of COVID, I do not believe it would be a smart idea to begin face to face meetings. Unless someone objects, we will continue Zoom meetings for the rest of the year.

- Executive Director – Carolinas Cup in Winston-Salem is requiring more attention. Last month we approved the budget. This month, NCASA has sent out a "Save the Date" announcement, reached out to South Carolina to engage the Carolinas Cup Committee, and started working on transitioning the Carolinas Cup website from 8v8 to 11v11. The subject of working on the partnership agreement has been brought up with both SCASA's Director and SCASA's President.

One of our leagues experienced a glitch in the Affinity system on a financial matter. NCASA VP Donna Langdon gracefully managed the communication between an accounting department that believed that everything is correct on their end of the equation and the highly concerned league. It was not an easy conversation with either, but our VP balanced both positions and assisted in discovering the issue and bringing the issue to a resolution.

NCASA has a Discipline and Appeals case on the calendar. The office and D&A chair have been working with the league.

The Celebrate the Tatas Committee continues to meet regularly. Lots of positive steps leading

up to the event, donations have been strong, and operations are taking shape.

NCASA worked closely with Queen City Cup verifying out-of-state players as well as NC players.

The large task currently is the Beer City Cup. 112 teams are participating, 40% are NC teams. The new system of online verification is working well but is very involved.

The exciting work this month has been assisting our NC women's team prepare for the Final Four in Detroit. RIII Champion Georgia FFC determined it not able to attend. USASA asked RIII to invite the RIII Finalists, which is Charlotte GAA. With very little time, we were able to get commitment from 16 players and arrange travel. NCASA has a women's team in the National Final Four!

- Vice-President – NCASA's registration numbers are looking great. All leagues are registering and our Tournament Only passes are growing.
- Treasurer's Report – Registration is exceeding projected numbers, which is directly tied to our financial picture. A NCASA financial report was submitted and was circulated to all members of this committee prior to this meeting. NCASA is in a healthy financial position. Budget committee is heading into beginning 2022 planning. Recommendations are welcome from board members. Monthly P&L statement was reviewed.

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes for the July 19, 2021, meeting were approved unanimously.

Growth Initiative

- Registration Report – registration report was given during Executive – VP Report.
- First-Year League Updates: USASA has removed all first league incentives from its budget. Darius is looking into this issue, as some new leagues had previously been told about these incentives. All first-year leagues are doing well. Emmanuel has announced that Levi United will be joining First Flight League spring 2022.
- New League Update -- There is a potential new league for the fall season, and the President will provide an update next month.

Competitions

- Queen City Cup Update – Big success, established a strong tournament 040 division and women's division. The women's Champion made up a large core of the team that is going to the National Finals in Michigan. The Queen City Cup had great weather and good competition.
- Carolinas Cup – Update provided in Executive Director report.
- Celebrate the Tatas – Learned recently that NCASA will have to contract through Huntersville Park and Rec. We are waiting for the final contract. Charlotte Independence was unable to donate their time at Richard Barry Park. Communicating with a lot of captains. Monitoring a Beer City Cup rostering practice that we may adopt. Donations are looking good.
- Beer City Cup is shaping up well. Weather and COVID concerns always raises a concern. Looking forward to being at simply two complexes instead of spread all over Asheville. An enhanced rostering process will be used. Donna Langdon recognized Cindy Morrison for her work in going over the call of service through working with the roster and providing great customer service.

New Business (motions)

- Welcomed Felice Bell. Very pleased that a member league has taken the initiative to utilize our program for assistance to enhance their league and soccer community.

Felice outlined the program's main focus is to minimize violent conduct. ABASA's emphasis on sportsmanship makes violent conduct out of place and preventable. The goal is to teach a de-escalation program. Training offered to captains, as well as players that have VC infractions.

The following motion was approved unanimously:

ABASA Conflict Resolution Workshop for Players and Captains

Whereas at the 2020 NCASA Annual General Meeting, the General Council approved an Initiative to Reduce Violent Conduct with the purpose of providing a funding source for any initiatives designed to reduce violent conduct that the Executive Committee (i.e., the Board) approved;

Whereas the NCASA membership resolved that "\$10,000 will be made available from the general fund balance to be available for initiatives designed to reduce incidents of violent conduct occurring at league matches"; and

Whereas the purpose statement accompanying this resolution referred to initiatives approved for implementation in Calendar Year 2020, but the resolution language does not include this stipulation;

Be it resolved that, for the purpose of resolving any potential ambiguity, the \$10,000 previously approved for initiatives designed to reduce the incidences of violent conduct occurring at league matches will remain available for these initiatives as part of the Initiative to Reduce Violent Conduct Fund until the full allocation of \$10,000 has been spent or this authorization has been directly revoked by future Board or NCASA membership action; and

Be it further resolved that up to \$750 may be provided to the Asheville-Buncombe Adult Soccer Association (ABASA) from the Initiative to Reduce Violent Conduct Fund for the purposes of the Conflict Resolution Workshops for Players and Captains, as described in the proposal submitted by ABASA and included below:

Conflict Resolution Workshops for Players and Captains: “Conflict resolution skills training open to the community. For managers, leaders, and everyone else.”

NCASA Violent Conduct Prevention and Reduction Funding

June 24, 2021

Proposal submitted by Felice Lopez Bell, ABASA

Cost of program: \$425-\$638 (\$500-\$750 with 15% 501(c)3 discount) -- for a half-day (3.5 hours or fewer) workshop

Goals: To work with our captains and passionate players to develop conflict resolution skills that they can use on the field and the sidelines to diffuse situations which would otherwise end in violent conduct, threatening language, dissent and abuse, etc.

Participants: Focus on captains and players who have cards due to dissent, VC, AL, etc. Invitation to all captains and players, ABASA Board

Incentives: captains’ discount, access to NCASA COVID-grant funding, return to play after card(s), player fee discount for fall 2021

Timeline: (workshops early fall 2021)

1. Grant money awarded (day 1)
2. Identify players and captains who would benefit from the program
3. Initiate work with the mediation center to develop the workshop (day 14)
4. Survey captains and players to determine 2-3 dates/times with medium-high availability (day 19)
5. Set dates. (day 26)
6. Send out invitations to players, captains, board members. (day 27)
7. Consider hosting the program in the future without the Mediation Center.

Links:

- [The Mediation Center: Finding Common Ground](#) (Asheville, NC)
- [Custom Training Workshops](#) (and rates) through the Mediation Center

Additional New Business (motions - 2/3 vote required)

A motion to consider an additional new business item that was not previously announced passed unanimously. The new item is the following motion to allocate funds to support the presence of the Executive Director at the Beer City Cup.

After discussion, the motion included below was approved unanimously.

Beer City Cup –Additional Allocation from General Fund

Whereas the Beer City Cup is one of the largest NCASA-sanctioned adult soccer tournaments in North Carolina,

Whereas NCASA traditionally has had a presence at Beer City Cup to provide assistance to the tournament organizers and to publicize other NCASA-sanctioned events, including the Celebrate the Tatas Tournament of Champions and the Carolinas Cup,

Whereas the approved 2021 NCASA budget did not include funding to provide this presence at the 2021 Beer City Cup, and

Whereas NCASA registrations (and therefore revenues) have been higher than projected when the 2021 NCASA budget was formulated,

Be it resolved that NCASA approves the spending of up to \$1,127 from the General Fund to cover these expenses, and

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

- Van Rental/gas - \$600
- Lodging - \$350
- Food - \$177 (\$59 per diem x 3 days)

Board Q&A (10 minutes) - none

Old Business – none

Old & New Business (discussions) – none

Takeaways/To Do Item Wrap-up – It has been a good summer; we've taken care of multiple logistic items for the association. Upcoming months will be quite busy, planning and approving a budget, preparing for the AGM, virtual AGM or in person, elections, committees, and our events; Celebrate the Tatas and Carolinas Cup. Looking forward to making our endeavors successful, which sets us up for a productive next year.

Thoughts & Visions

For the Good of the Game / Announcements – lots of league are back in swing, professions and local leagues, exciting time.

Adjournment – 7:55 pm

2021 NCASA REGISTRATION REPORT																		
2021 Player Registrations													Projections			2020 Player Registrations		
	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	As of Aug 9	Sept	Oct	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						1114			932	0	932
AC Sandhills																29	2	31
Catawba	22	3	9	13	4	44							95			41	20	61
Charlotte Independence					10	128	2	14					154					
CPSL	97	360	27	13	4		15	3					519			511	103	614
First Flight League		71	241	35	31	28	22	3					431			0	0	0
Metrolina			423	17	8	1	4	6					459			608	80	688
NCASA Annual Pass					7	20							27			5	2	7
Pitt Greenville			35	53	3	22							113			135	-1	134
Premier Adult								22					22			106	12	118
Seashore Soccer League			10	34	13	1	1	1					60			0	0	0
Swansboro			112	49	22	7	3	10					203			199	79	278
TASL	899	185	98	56	445	230	631	73					2617			2041	372	2413
Wilmington	142	138	35	89	115	26	47	15					607			477	-3	474
Winston Salem		63	49	7	1			6					126			199	19	218
TOTAL PLAYERS	1160	1094	1468	392	668	857	755	153					6547	5500	119%	5283	685	5968