



NORTH CAROLINA ADULT SOCCER ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 20, 2021

Call to Order: 7:10

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

Not Present: Paul James

Quorum determination

Officer & Staff Reports

- President – Welcome All, most of my report will be covered throughout the meeting. We have entered “Tournament Season”, with the Queen City Cup being held in August, Beer City Cup in September, Celebrate the Tatas in October and wrapping up the year in December, our Carolinas Cup. There is a lot of work going on and we also are entering “Prepare for the Next Year Season” as we plan for our 2022 Annual General Meeting, budget committee work, elections, and NCASA Awards. It is a busy time and exciting time.
- Executive Director – Beer City Cup was the most dominant focus of the month. Established a check-in process providing a verification method that streamlined the entire Friday night team check in. It is a good system, but it is not without necessary labor. We hope to streamline the back end as well as the player’s interface. Cindy Morrison was very instrumental in the success of this new process and gave the teams and players exemplary customer service. We will be using the same rostering steps as Beer City Cup for Celebrate the Tatas and Carolinas Cup. We are operationally ready for the Tatas Tournament. Still seeking two more teams. Carolinas Cup has begun planning. Reviewing the rules and rostering, website is being updated. NCASA is still working on one D&A case and another has been reported.
- Vice-President – No Report
- Treasurer’s Report –A NCASA financial report was submitted and was circulated to all members of this committee prior to this meeting. Continuously shaping the financial report for easy reading and understanding. NCASA is in strong financial shape. Work on the 2022 Budget has begun with the Budget Committee holding its first meeting. The committee’s next meeting scheduled for September 22 will need to be rescheduled. All board members should contribute ideas and budget items on how to better serve our members.

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes for the August 16, 2021, meeting were approved unanimously.

Growth Initiative

- Registration Report – Registration is very positive, NCASA is 30% above 2020 registration numbers. Most leagues are also well above their 2020 numbers. Working with leagues on opening their Fall season. Some leagues, such as TASL, open Fall play early, but most leagues begin Fall registration after Labor Day. NCASA numbers will continue to grow. Considering all the events that have occurred since May, including Memorial Day Carolinas Cup, Queen City Cup, and Beer City Cup, there have been over 1000 Tournament Only Passes purchased.

A couple new items that have been set up in our system are two new categories of registration. Both registrations will utilize the Tournament Only Pass coverage to have a “pick-up pass” and a “try-out pass”. These will be options for leagues. Now try-outs can be properly covered with COI-registered players at a minimum cost. There is also the ability for the leagues to add their own try-out fee. Organized pick up is the other option. Leagues might want to utilize this option to increase membership before adding members to teams.

Donna is working with Darius and Cindy on many registration projects and says that Darius is correct, that Cindy has been a huge asset to NCASA, offering teams and players excellent customer service during Beer City Cup rostering. Celebrate the Tatas rostering has been set up in the same manner. The Carolinas Cup rostering will be set up next.

Donna Langdon is also now serving on the USASA Budget Committee, which offers a unique insight to the national budget process of adult soccer.

Donna and Darius have been researching registration systems, always seeking something that might serve the state and membership better. We spent about 2 hours reviewing the Massachusetts Adult Soccer registration system with the state’s Director and President. We will loop back around for a deeper dig.

- First-Year-League Updates:
First Flight has had a good season, although with some general growing pains. Plans of review and re-shaping leagues based on the trials and errors has begun. The league began with 12 teams and currently 9 teams will be challenging in their play-offs. Several FFL teams are interested in the Carolinas Cup.
Seashore Soccer League has had a successful spring/summer season. Their Fall season has begun. AC Sandhills have struggled to establish their adult league. They offered an organized pick-up league over the summer to try to drum up interest.
- New League Update – Sam has been engaged with a potential new league that may consider joining for the Spring 2022 season.

Competitions

- Queen City Cup Update – Already planning for 2022.
- Carolinas Cup – Committee has held its first meeting, shaping the rules of play and roster requirements. Registration is open, hotels secured, referee assignor in place, budget approved, advertisements sent, we are in good shape.
- Celebrate the Tatas – We are two weeks out from the first kick off. Ironing out final details. Registration has been better than expected, especially given COVID. The tournament is still looking for 2 more teams. Food donations are down due to strains on restaurants in general and serving food is more complicated now. Arrangements for the dinner are in place. Donations are strong. Talia Goldman, tri-chair, landed a spot on a conservative radio program that has almost 2 million

listeners to spotlight the tournament and ask for donations. The tournament will be held October 2-3, 2021, north of Charlotte at Richard Barry Park in Huntersville

- Beer City Cup – had several 11th hour decisions due to weather, fields, and an alcohol permit. Fortunately, everything worked out. The tournament used the 8 fields at Buncombe County Sports Park. Great weather, good competition, a successful weekend.

Organizing Committees

- Budget Committee has had one very productive meeting. Sam shared some ideas and his vision on different programs to assist our leagues. There was strong input to create a good foundation. A second budget committee meeting has been scheduled.

Board Q&A (10 Minutes)

Old Business – none

New Business (motions)

The following motion passed unanimously:

2022 NCASA Annual General Meeting

Whereas NCASA traditionally holds the NCASA Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the same time and location as the NCSYA AGM when the AGM is held in-person so that participants can attend parts of both meetings,

Whereas when AGMs are held virtually it is more difficult for participants to attend both if the meetings are held at the same time, and

Whereas NCYSA has decided to hold its 2022 AGM as a “virtual” AGM on January 29-30, 2021,

Be it resolved that NCASA will hold its 2022 AGM as a “virtual” AGM,

Be it further resolved that the 2022 NCASA AGM will be held on the weekend of January 22-23, 2021, with the specific date(s), starting time(s), & duration to be proposed by an AGM Committee appointed by the NCASA President, and

Be it further resolved that the NCASA AGM Committee will inform the NCASA Board and Member Leagues of the proposed date(s), starting time(s), & expected duration of the 2022 NCASA AGM no later than November 8, 2021, with the NCASA Board voting on the proposal at its November 15, 2021, Board Meeting.

Old & New Business (discussions)

- (New) AGM – Committee, Board member reports
AGM Committee will be Donna Langdon, Laura Collins, Matt Friedman, Bob Kepner and Darius Ejlali. Reports of officers should be in by January 10, 2022. Mandatory reports: President, Executive Vice President, Treasurer, Carolinas Cup, Celebrate the Tatas and Referee reports. If an officer is inclined to submit a report, please meet the same deadline.
- (New) Election/nominations committee
Nomination Committee needs to be formed at least 60 days prior to the AGM and submit a slate of nominees to the board by January 10th, to be endorsed and presented to the membership 10 days prior to the AGM. The committee will be Bob Kepner, chairman, Alex Vidaurri and Matt Friedman plus two league leaders/presidents chosen to give the committee a statewide representation.

- (New) NCASA Awards Committee
Due to Pandemic circumstances, NCASA did not have awards for 2020. The plan is to have externally-recommended (outside of the Board) nominees selected by December 10th, to be reviewed by the board on Dec. 13th. Bob Kepner will work at expanding the description of the awards and adding more content about the person behind the award.
- (New) 2022 Budget Initiatives (including D&O insurance discussion)
Brainstorming for ideas for the 2022 budget.
 - Growing leagues - advertising/marketing to support registration & tournaments
 - Help reach leagues that are not currently reaching (e.g., Laura plays in both Durham & Apex leagues)
 - Better emails to members about benefits of being part of NCASA
 - Monthly newsletter (constant contact has basic templates)
 - Adult soccer training session/camp
 - MASL looking to grow into weeknight league next season – will need to purchase small-sided goals
 - Seed money for new leagues (for initial field rentals, etc.)
 - ICC games – doing some sort of marketing around these games
 - Renting futsal to do a small-sided game in parking lot was expensive...
 - Charlotte visitor center/tourism bureau might be better partner – do it somewhere nearby that still has good foot traffic
 - D&O Insurance for next year (\$7K),
 - \$ for temporary assistant for Darius at certain times of year
 - Survey monkey – useful for surveys of members
 - Some state subsidies to support Tatas and Carolinas Cup
 - US Open Cup – encouragement to participate (pool of travel money, etc.)
- (New) SafeSport Requirement for Adult Leagues/Clubs
US Soccer has passed a mandate requiring all state and league administrators take the Safe Sport course and background check beginning January 1, 2022. There has not been a lot of information shared as to the why behind the USSF decision, nor any other aspects of implementing a new and involved process. USASA has invited a US Soccer Membership liaison to the AGM to answer questions and offer more insight.
- (Old) NCASA Website update
Vance has been working on the website. He has reached out to Sports Connect, the provider for more assistance to understand more of what the site can do.

Board Q&A (10 minutes)

Q - Has everyone reviewed the taxes and confirmed with the treasurer?

A – enough officers replied

Old Business – none

Takeaways/To Do Item Wrap-up – none

Thoughts & Visions

For the Good of the Game / Announcements

United States Adult Soccer Association will be holding their Annual General Meeting Saturday September 25, 2022.

Adjournment – 9:00 pm

2021 NCASA REGISTRATION REPORT

	2021 Player Registrations												Projections			2020 Player Registrations		
	AS of												2021	2021	% of	# Spring	# Fall	TOTAL
	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept 12	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	PROJ	Proj.	Players 3/16/20	New Players	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		1	40				136			41	20	61
Charlotte Independence					10	128	2	249	61				450					
CPSL	97	360	27	13	4		15	38	37				591			511	103	614
First Flight League		71	241	35	31	28	22	26	5				459			0	0	0
Metrolina			423	17	8	1	4	69	149				671			608	80	688
NCASA Annual Pass					7	26	2	12					47			5	2	7
Pitt Greenville			35	53	3	22		23	7				143			135	-1	134
Premier Adult								104	12				116			106	12	118
Seashore Soccer League			10	34	13	1	1	5	5				69			0	0	0
Swansboro			112	49	22	7	3	101	3				297			199	79	278
TASL	899	185	98	56	445	230	631	235	32				2811			2041	372	2413
Wilmington	142	138	35	89	115	26	47	98	9				699			477	-3	474
Winston Salem		63	49	7	1			35	17				172			199	19	218
TOTAL PLAYERS	1160	1094	1468	392	668	863	757	996	377				7775	5500	141%	5283	685	5968

Tournament Only Passes

Beer City Cup	872
Carolinas Cup Charleston	24
Queen City Cup	175
USASA Adult Soccer Fest	1
TOTAL	1072