
QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER



SPRING
2022

REGISTER FOR THE 2022 CAROLINA'S CUP! Memorial Day Weekend Tournament!

Don't miss out! Register your team by May 5th for a weekend of 8v8 competitive fun at the James Island Complex in Charleston, SC May 28th-29th. We offer a variety of player divisions. Come join the fun!

A WEEKEND IN HISTORIC CHARLESTON

Visit Folly Beach, Historic Downtown Charleston or enjoy yourself at the Spoleto Festival.

Tournament Dates
May 28th & May 29th

James Island Complex
871 Fort Johnson Rd
Charleston, SC 29412

For more information visit www.carolinascup.org



TOURNAMENT ROUNDUP - CAROLINAS CUP

Men's Amateur Gold Championship April 30, 2022



It was a great day for men's amateur soccer on Saturday, at WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary, NC. The weather was a mild 72 degrees with a slight breeze and consistent cloud cover -- perfect conditions for Tobacco Road FC and Goldsboro Strike Eagles FC to battle it out at the Carolinas Cup Men's Amateur Gold Championship match. Both of these talented teams won their Gold Division groups in the Carolinas Cup held at Truist Park in December, and will advance to USASA Region III finals in June.



Photo Courtesy of Gregory Ng from [SoccerPhotographer.com](https://www.soccerphotographer.com)

It was a hard-fought match, both teams played with intensity, intelligence and heart. The score was level 0-0 at halftime, but in the second half, Tobacco Road FC was able to put two goals in the back of the net to come away with the W. Congratulations to Tobacco Road FC on their 2-0 victory over Goldsboro Strike Eagles FC in the Carolinas Cup Men's Amateur Gold Championship match.

Missed the match? You can watch it online at [Eleven Sports](https://www.eleven.com).

A big thanks to our partners, the Town of Cary and NCFC for allowing us to host our Men's Amateur Championship at their beautiful soccer facility; and for offering soccer fans an action-packed double header. For \$10, fans had access to the Tobacco Rd vs Goldsboro Strike game and the USL1 NCFC vs Northern Colorado Hailstorm at Sahlen Stadium. The event was a great success for players and fans!



USASA REGION III – The Road to Nationals

The United States Adult Soccer Association (USASA) Region III National Cup Championships crowns regional champions on their way to a National title.

The program starts at the local level in four regions across the country with teams winning the right to represent their state in National competition in the following divisions; Men's and Women's Amateur, Men's Over 30 and 40.

In Region III, State Champions from all 12 State associations; North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas South, North Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Tennessee will meet in Plano, Texas, June 10-12 to determine Regional Champions.

All regions send their champions to the Final Four. The Men's Amateur Final Four will be held in Chicago, Illinois the first weekend in August and the other divisions will be hosted in Murfreesboro, TN the third weekend in August. Here's a look at our 2021 National Champions.

Men's Amateur – Landsdowne Boys – Region I

Women's Amateur – Rockport Raptors – Region II

Men's Over 30 – ACS New Stars – Region III

Men's Over 40 – Florida Kickers FC – Region III



AROUND THE STATE - TASL's VIP Pool Program

During a season, teams may find themselves in a pinch to field a team. With family commitments, work, travel, and the prevalence of soccer injuries -- adult team rosters occasionally wear thin. To help teams bridge the gap during lean times, Triangle Adult Soccer League (TASL) came up with a solution.

[TASL's Very Important Player \(VIP\) Pool](#) allows currently rostered TASL women players and goalkeepers to join a player pool. Captains in need of players conveniently view the pool online; reach out to players directly; and roster the player for the game. There is no fee for VIP Players, and VIPs may participate on the same team three times per season. Age requirements apply and players may not play in a division in which they currently play, but VIPs enjoy a few extra games each season, while helping teams avoid playing down a player, or worse, a forfeit.

The VIP program has been a great success for the league. Donna Langdon, NCASA Executive Vice President, and TASL Director, had this to say about the program....“After our first season with the VIP Player Pool, the feedback that we heard the most was, “Please keep it!” The VIP program is a great tool for the Team Captains to avoid forfeits, especially with mid-season injuries or a goalkeeper that can’t make a game. It has been successful in all divisions, and even more so in Coed and Women. One of the goals of the program was to ultimately see an increase in the number of female players in the league. They have been getting all the playing time that they want! Last season VIPs were used in 154 games, and we plan to keep it going!”

THE REFEREE PROBLEM – You Are Part of the Solution.

The referee shortage in the United States is a serious issue that affects all levels of all sports. The Covid-19 pandemic negatively affected sporting communities on a global scale, but it is the lack of sportsmanship that continues to impact the recruitment and retention of officials.

In recent years, the lack of sportsmanship has been on a dangerous upward trend. In 2017, the National Association of Sports Officials conducted one of the largest surveys of sports officials (17,487 officials participated). In that survey, 57.02% of officials said sportsmanship is getting worse. Approximately 46% of officials said they had felt unsafe or feared for their safety because of an administrator, coach, player or spectator behavior. 57% of officials reported that they have had to step in to break up a fight during a game.

An unsafe working environment creates conditions that drive current and prospective people from officiating. 70% of new referees in all sports quit the job within three years, according to the National Association of Sports Officials. NCASA leagues are not immune to the strain. In Fall 2021, there were only 1,658 referees registered in the State of North Carolina, significantly below the annual average of 2,500-2,800 registrants.

There is a way forward, and that is to put resources toward growing the pool of officials, and changing the culture of abuse. To accomplish this task, everyone must do their part. Here are some ways to grow and improve our referee pools:

Sponsor one new referee each year. Startup fees, uniforms and referee association fees can add up. Sponsoring a new referee is a great way for a league to bring referees into the fold, and to build up the referee-registrant pipeline.

Host league meetings to review rules. Go over your league's code of conduct, discuss sports etiquette, and establish a zero-tolerance policy toward abuse. Emphasize that there will be absolutely no inappropriate language or profanity by players, whether directed at an opponent or the referee.

Implement positive behavior programs. Reward teams that demonstrate good sportsmanship over the course of a season, e.g.: award a discounted season fee. It's a simple incentive that works.

Be the change you wish to see in the world. Do your part. Behave on the pitch. Hold your teammates accountable for their behavior. For players that are also soccer parents, model positive behavior on the sidelines at your kids' games.

Remember, referees are people, too. Officiating is fast-paced, high-pressure and stressful. Mistakes are bound to happen. When a call goes against your team – like a missed foul, or a throw-in awarded to the wrong team, players should not criticize the referee. If you feel the referee may have missed a call, let it go. Some calls may go your way and some may not.

Show appreciation for your referees. Regardless of the game result or the referee performance – thank the referee. Referees help keep our matches safe and fair. According to the National Association of Sports Officials, nearly 70% of officials work full-time. Remind your teams that most referees have other careers, and are in the officiating avocation for their love of the game. Let's support their connection to the sport and show appreciation for the

job they do. Good sportsmanship and respect for referees go a long way to toward retaining them.

Become a referee yourself. Certification courses take place year-round, but typically during the winter months. Officiating offers many benefits like exercise, travel, a way to earn money, and an opportunity to become more knowledgeable about the sport. Most importantly, officiating is a great way to give back to the soccer community.

Upcoming Events:

2022 May 16 NCASA Monthly Board Meeting

2022 May 28-29 Carolinas Cup 8v8 Charleston, SC

2022 June 10-12 National Cup Region III Championship Plano, TX

2022 June 20 NCASA Monthly Board Meeting

2022 July 13-17 Soccer Fest Chattanooga, TN

2022 July 18 NCASA Monthly Board Meeting

2022 August 19-21 Champions of Regions Murfreesboro, TN

2022 August (TBD) USASA Amateur Cup Chicago, IL

