



QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER



WINTER
2022

Dear Members,

Welcome to a new year, and the first 2022 installment of our quarterly newsletter. Thanks to you, 2021 was a very successful year for NCASA. With 10,074 players, and 13 active leagues, we saw a 40% increase in participation from 2020. These numbers are very encouraging, and they reflect the commitment and energy of our membership.

The NCASA 2022 Annual General Meeting was held virtually on January 22nd. The meeting set the course for our work in 2022 to support our leagues, and improve the quality and access to competitive, fun adult soccer in our great state.

In 2022, you can look forward to NCASA best-in-class tournaments like Celebrate the Tatas, Carolinas Cup 8v8 (Memorial Day Weekend) and the Carolinas Cup 11v11 (December). Also, this year, we will host informational workshops to share best practices with your leagues. We'll dive into topics ranging from SafeSport and Managing Risk, to League Marketing and Registration.

We're excited for the future, and we look forward to a great year of soccer ahead!

Thank you.

NCASA Board of Directors

REGISTER FOR THE 2022 CAROLINAS CUP

Memorial Day Weekend Tournament!

Don't miss out on early bird registration! [Register your team](#) for a weekend of 8v8 soccer in Charleston, SC.



Register Early & Save

Memorial Day Weekend 2022



Early Bird Special
Jan 21st-Feb 7th
\$425
After Feb 7th
\$475

Men's • Women's • Women's 040 • Coed • Over 30 • Over 40 • Over 50 • Over 60 • Over 65

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

Register Today!



TOURNAMENT ROUNDUP - CAROLINAS CUP

December 2021

The Carolinas Cup was a huge success! A record number of 73 teams and over 1,000 players competed at Truist Park in Winston-Salem, NC. We all enjoyed the beautiful weather, quality competition and excellent sportsmanship! Congratulations to all of the winners, and a huge thanks to all who participated and supported the event. Best of luck to the winning teams who will represent the Carolinas in the USASA Region III tournament in June.



[Check out photos](#) of all the action at the Carolinas Cup!
Photographs by [Blue Cottage Creative Photography Studio](#).
Photos are also posted on our [Carolinan Cup Facebook](#) page.

CAROLINAS CUP TOURNAMENT RESULTS

DIVISION	CHAMPION	FINALIST
MEN'S AMATEUR GOLD Group 1	GOLDSBORO STRIKE EAGLES FC	FSC
MEN'S AMATEUR GOLD Group 2	TOBACCO ROAD FC	GREENSBORO INTERNATIONAL FC
WOMEN'S AMATEUR	CHARLOTTE EAGLES	CAPITAL PRIDE FC

MEN'S AMATEUR SILVER	LAKE NORMAN FC	CHARLESTON FC
COED	LA REAL QUEEN CITY FC	DILWORTH PICKUP
MEN'S OVER 30	1990 ROYALS	TOBACCO ROAD FCO30
MEN'S OVER 40	WANDERERS FC	SPORTING CHARLOTTE
WOMEN'S OVER 40	ABASA UNITED	TRINIDAD & TABASCO
MEN'S OVER 50	KENTUCKY WATERFALL	SOUTH STATE BANK
MEN'S OVER 55	CURMUDGEONS INTERNATIONAL FC	TASL55
MEN'S OVER 60	LONGTIMERS	ROLLY RANCHERS



AROUND THE STATE

Despite the Pandemic, First Flight League Takes Off!

[First Flight League \(FFL\)](#) is the first and only currently active NCASA-sanctioned state-wide men's adult league in North Carolina. In its inaugural year, 12 clubs participated in FFL. Clubs competed in a full season of play (120 games) from March to October.

Five FFL teams competed in the 2021 Carolinas Cup Tournament in Winston Salem. As a testament to the quality of the league, two FFL teams, Greensboro International FC and Goldsboro Strike Eagles FC advanced to the finals in their respective divisions. Goldsboro Strike Eagles won the Men's Amateur Gold Group 1 Division. Greensboro International placed second in the Men's Amateur Gold Group 2 Division.

We reached out to Yacouba Ide Niandou, FFL President and former Head Coach of the Goldsboro Strike Eagles, to discuss FFL, and to find out what the future holds for this up-and-coming league.

Tell us a bit about how First Flight League got its start.

"Goldsboro Strike Eagles, FC started in the United Premier Soccer League (UPSL) in 2019. That first year, we won the UPSL Southeast Conference, but we quickly realized that the cost to continue playing in the UPSL was not sustainable. After many discussions with Darius Ejlali (NCASA Director), and leadership at Lazars Soccer Club, Union FC, Greensboro International and others, we realized that through NCASA,

we could create a high-quality, competitive league, *but* at an affordable price. With a lot of hard work, we made it happen. We cut costs 500%."

What is FFL's focus for 2022?

"For 2022, we are not looking to grow just for growth's sake. We want to focus on making FFL top quality. We're a nonprofit with no payroll. Everything is done by volunteers. Every single member has a task they are responsible for, from social media and referees, to field maintenance. Everyone chips in to make it work."

What's next for FFL?

"We want to make adult soccer in NC something people look forward to seeing. How do we do that? How do we engage communities in all of these different places that we play? How do we get people to go out on a week-to-week basis and watch adult soccer? It's a grassroots movement. We have to involve more than only the ones who are playing, and get them interested in the game -- local involvement, local media involvement, so that people in the community realize, 'Hey, these guys are doing something good.'"

NCASA congratulates First Flight League on a remarkable year and for all the work the players, coaches, and volunteers do to support competitive adult soccer in North Carolina.

For more information about FFL, follow the league on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

Also, check out the documentary, [More Than Ready The Story of Goldsboro Strike Eagles FC](#) about the club's first season; and how grassroots soccer positively impacts the Goldsboro, NC community.

2022 WORKSHOPS DESIGNED FOR LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS'

SafeSport (Proposed SafeSport Policy)	TBD 2022
Sportsmanship, Discipline + Appeals	March 1, 2022
Minimizing Risk	April 5, 2022
How to Get + Retain Referees	May 3, 2022

Marketing Strategies	September 13, 2022
Registration for Registrars Training/Q+A	October 4, 2022

Meeting reminders and Zoom invitations will be emailed in advance of each workshop.

2022 UPCOMING EVENTS

NCASA BOARD MEETING 7:00PM (Virtual)	FEBRUARY 21
USSF <u>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</u>	MARCH 3-6
USASA <u>SOCCER FEST</u> CHATTANOOGA, TN	JULY 13-17



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