



NORTH CAROLINA ADULT SOCCER ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 19, 2024

Call to Order: 7:06pm

Roll Call – Darius Ejlali took the roll call.

Present: Sam Cohen, Donna Langdon, Chad Garber, Bob Kepner, Paul James, Alex Vidaurri, Scott Eisenbraun, Jeremy Mikell

Not Present: Laura Collins, Fil Wilkinson

Quorum determined.

Officer & Staff Reports

- President – Welcome all. Moving through tonight's agenda, we do have a couple items to discuss, and we'll take as much time as we need.

Many soccer events have taken place since NCASA last met. Champion of Regions; there was an unfortunate incident with our Over 40 team who fielded an ineligible player. We will learn more about that in our Competition report.

The Registration Committee needs to meet. Laura Collins has submitted a proposal for the committee to consider. Committee meeting requests will go out.

The registration numbers look good, and we will hear more from our registrar.

- Executive Director – Attended the National Amateur Cup for Men and Women in Chicago. Both Region III teams, Tobacco Rd. FC and Winger FC are NCASA teams.

The teams represented NCASA and Region III very well on and off the field. Tobacco Rd FC were knocked out by Region I NY Pancyprian Freedoms in the semi-final and the Winger FC lost to Region IV Pan World Women in the Championship.

The very next weekend, Queen City Cup took place. Cindy managed the rostering and NCASA took all our tournament gear to assist with the event.

NCSRA invited the youth director and me to speak for a few minutes at a high-level NC Referee meeting. It gives NCASA an opportunity to speak directly to officials about NCASA and the Carolinas Cup.

NCASA had three teams win their division at USASA Region III Championships in the Amateur Men and Women divisions and the Over 40 Men's division. Cindy worked closely with each team to ensure proper rostering.

Conversations with Ava Lynch, who lives in Winston-Salem and is USASA's social media manager, about assisting NCASA and our projects. Cindy shared links to all of NCASA's accounts for Ava to get an understanding of who we are. We will be holding talks to go over goals and strategies to achieve our objectives.

NCSL is an ongoing focus.

Cindy, Donna and TeamPass are reviewing opening registrations earlier to combat tournaments requiring earlier registrations. Our goal is to allow players to register earlier in NC to avoid purchasing out-of-state single event or annual passes.

Still mapping a Discipline and Appeals Manual. USSF has expanded the abuse definition in Policy 591-9 which is Misconduct Towards a Game Official.

- Executive Vice President – I've been working with the office on more operations; spending time with Cindy and Darius working on registration, database and TeamPass. Also working on state processes such as D&A and how it impacts.
Hummer in the Summer tournament needed assistance running the tournament registration through TeamPass for the first time.
- Treasurer – Gave a summary of NCASA finances. NCASA is in a positive financial position. Details are in the Treasurer's report.

Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the July 15, 2024, minutes.
Minutes were approved unanimously

Growth Initiative

Registration Report – Registration is robust. Fall season is kicking off and registration is increasing. We are on track for another stand-out year. Many leagues have already surpassed their 2023 numbers-- Metrolina, TASL, OCASL, WASC and Wake Women. Several other leagues are very close. Fall registration has just opened for many of our leagues. The numbers for the registrar report were taken from early August numbers; our September and October report will reflect most of the Fall growth. Our single event passes are significantly down from last year due to Beer City Cup affiliating directly with USASA. NCASA is selling more Annual Passes instead of single event passes. As of Aug. 13, there were 457 annual passes. These players are not associated with a league. The state is a mid-size league on its own.

- First Year Leagues Update – Transylvania Adult Soccer Association continuing to register players.
- New League Update – GCCSA vice-president Rosanna Faulkner contacted the NCASA regarding affiliation. GCCSA is a youth club west of Charlotte.

Competitions

- Carolinas Cup – Registration is opening September 1st. Scott Eisenbraun has been working to secure a sponsor. The Cup Committee will be meeting soon.
- Celebrate the Tatas –Registration is positive, shirts, party hotel and other details are on track. Additional food vendors are needed. US Soccer has committed a wonderful Fan Package to raffle off. The event is on Cindy Parlow Cone's calendar; doesn't secure her attendance but there is a possibility.

- USASA Adult Soccer Fest – NC teams that attended the USASA Soccer Adult Fest should be receiving a refund for part of their entry fee. Inquiry to USASA when the teams are to receive their refunds.
- USASA Amateur Cup – The NCASA teams represented very well on and off the field. The venue was Husky Stadium, Northern Illinois University, which is a soccer specific facility. The event was a bit lacking in atmosphere with very little team fans.
- USASA Champions of Regions – Scott Eisenbraun represented NCASA at the Amateur Cup and Champions of Regions. The NC Wanderers FC competed against Central Park Rangers from Region I. Very exciting match that saw 6 lead changes through double overtime. Wanderers FC prevailed in PKs that saw each keeper save a shot in the first five taken. Game was decided 8-7 when Wanderers FC keeper saved the 8th pk.

Wanderers FC had a guest player that had trained at the Barcelona Youth Academy and had several years at the professional level with other teams. This player's career steps is online. An opponent looked him up and verified the player was under 40 and did not meet the age requirement to compete in the Over 40 division. The player uploaded a photo of his passport for his government issued ID. Upon scrutiny, the passport upload was doctored to an older birth year. The manipulated information did not match the passport code on the bottom that displays country of birth, dob and date the passport was issued. As a result, Wanderers FC were disqualified. Central Park Rangers defeated Region II Torino FC for the Championship.

- Queen City Cup – 2024 QCC was a bit smaller than last year. The event lost several contributors to the operation, putting many tasks on a few. The participants are loyal and returning teams and really enjoy competing. Next year is the QCC 10th anniversary and the plan is to build the excitement and put on a big show.

QCC continues to hold a Charity Division; it is the most attended division where the Champion's prize money goes to the charity of their choice.

Really appreciate the support from NCASA with roster, and equipment. Truly contributes positively to the event and adds legitimacy, it helps to connect members to the state.

- Beer City Cup Asheville – Tournament is in good shape with staff, divisions, schedule and complex. 132 teams maximizing all the complexes in Asheville.

Organizing Committees

- D&A Committee – In Feb. 2024, USSF began reviewing the USSF Policy 531-9 which is Misconduct Towards a Game Official. In May, the US Soccer BOD ratified the amended policy. There are significant changes to the policy that will impact on our state processes and league practices.

Now players accused of referee abuse will be automatically suspended until the outcome of the hearing. USSF have also expanded the abuse definition to go beyond simply communication of a threat. There are definitions under Gross Mistreatment, which includes discriminatory language around gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disabilities or any other legally protected characteristics. The policy touches on several other areas. It is important that these changes are communicated clearly to our members and leagues.

Budget Committee – Nothing to report.

AGM Committee – Nothing to report.

Election/Nominations Committee – Nothing to report.

NCASA Awards Committee – Nothing to report.

Board Member Reports

- Scott Eisenbraun – In discussions with Salem City FC, the USL Pro 2 team that would like to learn more about sponsorship opportunities at the Carolinas Cup. Truist Park, where the Carolinas Cup is held, is also the home field for the Salem City FC. Salem City FC is also exploring the idea of having an amateur team enter the Carolinas Cup. Strong potential to secure sponsorship for the Cup and land an elite amateur team.

New Business (motions)

- Carolinas Cup Budget – see below
Motion passed unanimously

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

- NCSL – The NCSL Handbook has been sent around for your review. The document is in two parts; the first is the governing piece and the second part is the Rules of the Competition.

Please review the governance section. There will be NCASA board members on the operating committee. Please share any input.

Update – The league start date was intended to be August 18th. NCSL held a match between Say Word FC and Medicine City in a friendly. Unfortunately, the NCSL has not had the team registration it had hoped for. Over the summer, especially after the TST event, several teams expressed interest in joining that didn't materialize by our deadline. Currently, Say Word FC and Central Raleigh are the two committed teams. There are another 4-5 captains that Darius will be meeting with to discuss joining and then re-shuffle the schedule.

Cedric Burke is our chairman, and he is committed to the project. The league needs a strong committee to form and become active on two fronts, salvaging the Fall 24 season and looking forward to 2025.

Old & New Business (discussions)

Additional New Business (discussions)

Takeaways / To Do Item Wrap-up

For the Good of the Game / Announcements

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn approved– 8:46pm

Approved Motions:

- Carolinas Cup Budget

Carolinas Cup Budget

Whereas the Board approved a policy at its February 21, 2022, meeting requiring the Carolinas Cup committee to present to the Board for approval a proposed budget describing how funds already budgeted in the annual budget for the Carolinas Cup are expected to be spent no later than three months before the start date of the Carolinas Cup tournament;

Whereas the Budgetary Spending Authority Policy allows the Carolinas Cup committee to expend funds beyond the budgeted funds up to the amount of revenues from the event, and

Whereas the August 19, 2024, NCASA Board meeting is the final Board meeting occurring more than three months before the start date of the Carolinas Cup tournament,

Be it resolved that the Board authorizes the Carolinas Cup committee to spend \$66,000, consisting of the already budgeted funds of \$52,500 plus an additional \$13,500, with the additional spending primarily paid for by additional revenues from the event (e.g., additional registration fees, sponsorships, and donations, including in-kind donations), in a manner consistent with the following proposed budget:

[see next page]

Carolinas Cup (State Cup) Budget Proposal - 2024		
	Goal	Comments
Income		
Team Registration	\$62,900.00	\$850 per team (increase from \$750 in 2023)
Apparel Sale	\$ 1,500.00	Sold \$1.6K in 2023
Hotel Rebate	\$ 730.00	Based on 2023 actuals; generally receive \$5 per room booked (Stacey also gets \$5 per room booked), plus 1 room comped for every 15 booked; showing revenue here and showing full cost of rooms in Expenses; assuming 155 rooms booked (to match 2022 actuals)
Hotel Comp room value	\$ 450.00	based on last year - As of 2022, generally receive \$5 per room booked (Stacey also gets \$5 per room booked), plus 1 room comped for every 15 booked; showing revenue here and showing full cost of rooms in Expenses (will offset \$250 in referee lodging and \$200 in staff lodging)
State Subsidy		-- No subsidy included in 2022 NCASA budget
SC Contribution		South Carolina generally covers housing costs of referees from SC (direct payment) - normally covers -- cost of 6 rooms (3 per night)
Food & Alcohol sales		As done in 2022, beer vendor retains revenue, but donates championship beer; per contract, Truist
Sponsorship		-- Park handles food vendors (and retains revenue subject to agreements with food vendors)
		-- Exploring options
TOTAL INCOME	\$65,580.00	\$52,500 included in 2022 NCASA Budget (based on 70 teams @ \$750/team)
Expenses		
Fields	\$12,000.00	Includes Fields, Lights, Carts (x2), Security
Referees		
Game Referees & ARs	\$24,440.00	\$215/match - Men's Amateur Gold, Men's Over 30 Gold, Men Over 40 Gold, Women's Amateur Gold) \$185/match - All other divisions Include \$65/match for 4th officials for qualifying division finals Referee fees kept at same level as 2022
4th Officials	--	\$65/match - for qualifying divisions only (Men's Amateur Gold, Men's O30 Gold, Men's O40 Gold, Women's Amateur Gold); in prior years, used 4th Official for all finals (different rates by division)
Reserve Officials	\$960.00	\$30 per reserve; limiting to 3 reserves per time slot; 19 reserves on Saturday & 13 Reserves on Sunday
Assigning	\$1,905.00	(Standard - Allocate 1 ref reserve (in case of injury) per 4 games per time slot) \$15 per match
Ref. Coord.	\$600.00	Includes on site coordination/per diem (approx. \$37.50/day)/travel (approx. \$55); 2022=\$655
2nd Ref. Coord.	\$550.00	Includes on site coordination/per diem (approx. \$37.50/day)/travel (approx. \$55); 2022=\$545
3rd Ref. Coord.	--	Not paying for more than two coordinators (3rd coord. = \$415 in 2022)
4th Ref. Coord.	--	Not paying for more than two coordinators (4th coord. = \$295 in 2022)
Lunches/Water - Ref	\$800.00	\$8 per lunch; NCASA providing on Saturday, but McAllister is donating lunches on Sunday; \$782 in 2023; snacks/water included separately (see tournament admin expenses)
Ref Lodging	\$5,250.00	Limiting number of "room nights" covered to amount that can be covered by \$5,000; "comped rooms" from referee paid rooms will be provided to referees/assignors, so including \$250 in "comped room" value here, but NCASA will not spend more than \$5000 out-of-pocket
SC ref registrar fees	--	Fees associated with registering South Carolina referees in Arbiter so can be paid/assigned matches; NCASA not paying this fee in 2023 (covered fee in 2022 for first time)
Transaction Fees	\$200.00	X% of ref-related charges (excluding lodging) - from Arbiter
Referee "overage"	\$1,045.00	Assorted, unexpected additional referee-related expenses; based on 2023 actuals
Tournament Amenities		
Trainers	\$2,730.00	4 trainers [approx. one for every 4 fields]; projecting \$35 per hour (\$30 per hour for 2023)
Photographer	\$900.00	Same as 2023; limiting photographer hours on Saturday to reduce expenses
Social Media coordinator	\$0.00	
Trophies	\$4,550.00	1st & 2nd place trophies for each division (13 divisions) - \$350 per division
Championship Beer	\$0.00	Championship beer being donated by Small Batch Brewing (Tim); 1 beer for each champion & finalist
Championship Shirts	\$3,828.00	23 shirts/division (full roster + coach) for Champions = 299 champion shirts (13 divisions) 20 volunteer shirts \$12/shirt
Apparel for Sale	\$950.00	quantities/items TBD
Captain Gifts	\$750.00	Approx. \$10/team (traditional cost)
Outdoor Space Heaters	--	some included as part of facility rental
Food & Alcohol		Beer vendor (Small Batch) retains revenue, but donates championship beer; per contract, Truist Park -- handles food vendors (and retains revenue subject to agreements with food vendors)
Tournament Administration		
Staff/Officer Lodging	\$881.00	\$681 in 2023; also including \$200 in comped hotel room value; Darius for 3 nights; plus volunteer for 3 nights
Officer/Staff/Volunteer Per Diem	\$343.14	\$343.14 in 2023
Food/h20/ice	\$450.00	\$570 in 2023, includes snacks for refs
Van Rental/Gas	\$225.00	\$160 in 2023
Miscellaneous	\$21.34	\$21.34 in 2023
Scoreboards	\$220.00	\$197 in 2023
Check-In	--	
Fusion Volunteer Tip	--	
Carts	\$400.00	4 carts; only 2 carts covered by contract
Soccer Balls	--	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$63,998.48	Only \$45,000 included in 2022 NCASA Budget (same as expected revenue based on 60 teams)
NET	\$1,581.52	

	2024 INDIVIDUAL NCASA PLAYER REGISTRATIONS BY FIRST LEAGUE													TOTAL # PLAYERS		
	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	As of Aug 13	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	2024 TOTAL	2023	2022	2021
ABASA	632	657	91	42	146	156	35	13					1772	2007	1671	1433
Catawba	105	0	2	47	4	1	3	16					178	219	193	146
Charlotte Independence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0		692	485
North Meck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0	174		
Rock Hill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0	176		
CPSL	564	15	6	5	1	1	2	5					599	707	690	661
First Flight League	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0	261	279	484
Metrolina	332	515	38	26	0	0	20	98					1029	1016	889	727
Mooreville	166	150	11	1	30	79	1	12					450	491		
NCASA Annual Pass	205	71	10	15	44	53	42	17					457	497	308	48
North Carolina Soccer League	0	0	76	24	5	0	0	0					105			
Pitt Greenville	34	134	99	8	4	34	1	2					316	402	210	182
Premier Adult	4	82	16	1	0	0	1	1					105	144	195	130
Seashore Soccer League	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0	9	39	73
Swansboro	1	66	185	18	14	0	0	0					284	390	391	312
Transylvania Adult Soccer	0	0	0	0	63	20	3	0					86			
TASL	2120	470	94	175	531	171	281	86					3928	3763	3327	2926
OCASL @TASL	76	374	62	36	138	66	28	35					815	777	628	0
Wake Women's League	79	53	14	2	6	1	12	7					174	94		
Wilmington	684	48	42	126	88	22	73	20					1103	869	775	712
Winston Salem	66	121	14	1	0	0	11	15					228	251	184	201
TOTAL LEAGUE PLAYERS	5068	2756	760	527	1074	604	513	327					11629	12247	10471	8520
TOURNAMENT ONLY PASSES:																
Beer City Cup Asheville						6	18	8					32	866	841	879
Beer City Cup Indianapolis					1	1							2			
Beer City Cup Savannah	84	27											111	807		
Carolinas Cup Charleston			8	27	44								79	7	32	24
Carolinas Cup WS														382	426	401
Celebrate the Tatas														81	93	47
Hummer in the Summer							46	1								
Queen City Cup							72	7						128	118	175
Tourney Pass Other						2							2	0	34	
USASA Adult Soccer Fest														52	10	1
TOTAL TOURNAMENT PASSES	84	27	8	27	45	9	136	16					352	2323	1554	1527
Temporary Passes														0	0	27
TOTAL # PLAYERS	5152	2783	768	554	1119	613	649	343					11981	14570	12025	10074