



MINUTES

Georgia Soccer Board of Directors Meeting February 24, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Virtual

- I. **Call to Order** – Meeting was called to order by President Neil McNab at 7:07 p.m.
- II. **BOD Attendance:**
 - A. **Voting Members Present:** Neil McNab, Melissa Camp, Andy Boyle, Micah Wilson, Donald Barksdale, Tommy Zavieh, Mark Bloom
 - B. **Non-Voting Members Present:** AJ Hurst, Leigh Jakes, Jim Walker (Executive Director)
 - C. **Guests Present:** Karon Beyer
 - D. **Members Not Present:** Tricia Biando (Voting), Kevin Biando (Non-Voting)
- III. **Correspondence:** None.
- IV. **Consent Agenda**
 - A. Approval of Minutes (December 2, 2024) – Motion, Seconded, Approved unanimously
 - B. Approval of Minutes (January 25, 2025) – Motion, Seconded, Approved unanimously
 - C. Approval of Financials (January, 2025) – Motion, Seconded, Approved unanimously
- V. **Items Not on Consent Agenda**
 - A. GSSA Update from Jim
 - i. Innovate to Grow grant between GSSA and AYSO will be featured during the upcoming US Soccer AGM
 - ii. Jim and Neil met with Soccer Down Here recently and have established a new working relationship wherein they are eager to help push out GSSA features on their platform, including their radio spot on Tuesday nights. First action on this front was their efforts in highlighting the adult charity event in February. More to follow!
 - iii. The SRC referee training session was a huge success and included Kari Seitz from US Soccer as a presenter at the session. Approximately 125 referees participated in the session, which included classroom and field training sessions.
 - iv. We received a recent anonymous letter from a parent expressing concerns about comments made by an independent contractor associated with GSSA. Investigation and action have commenced.
 - v. Jim and Neil met with Skye Eddy of Soccer Parenting regarding their relationship with GSSA and better ways for us to marketing the partnership to generate greater value to our members.
 - vi. Jim met with FIFA Club World Cup members to discuss volunteers that are needed this summer, efforts on how GSSA can help accommodate that goal, and the fact that volunteers for this summer will be placed ahead of the line for World Cup volunteers in 2026.
 - vii. Jim has had several meetings with ETrainU and their Club in a Box program that could be offered to GSSA members. Surveys on interest were sent to all GSSA clubs but only 12 raised any interest in the product. Cost estimates recently provided but may be limited to those clubs that responded with interest in the survey.
 - viii. Jim advised that the ODP girls were in FL this past weekend, with the boys the weekend before, and that the results for Georgia at both events was spectacular!
 - B. Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest: Neil reminded all board members that both the Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest need to be signed and sent to Jim as soon as possible.

- C.** Vacant Board Positions: Neil advised that there are several board vacancies that need to be filled and offered up recommendations for the board's consideration and approval.
- i. Director of Youth Recreation
 - David Miles: Donald made a motion to accept David to this position. Seconded by Melissa. Approved unanimously by board.
 - ii. Director at Large – Youth
 - Edgar Garcia: Board decided to table this particular position in light of the possibility of another candidate that was mentioned so as to give the board time to assess both candidates and make a decision at the next meeting.
 - iii. Director – Player Athlete
 - Geriano Viveros: Board temporarily tabled this matter until GSSA had verification that Geriano was properly registered with GSSA as a player, as this position requires the holder to be a registered adult athlete with GSSA. [This was confirmed a day or two after the board meeting and approved unanimously via electronic vote.]
- D.** Committee Appointments: Neil circulated the committee list for all members to see the various committees in play and the individual(s) responsible for appointing members to those committees. Decisions on specific individuals to the various committees was tabled to allow all board members to review potential candidates and provide such information to the appropriate board member to consider those names for appointment to specific committees.
- E.** Youth General Update: Melissa provided an update on the recent meeting that discussed potential changes for the State Cup procedure for 25-26.
- F.** Youth Recreational Update: Vacant position so no update other than Melissa's report and Micah's brief report.
- G.** Youth Select Update: Micah reiterated the work Melissa was doing on the State Cup changes.
- H.** Adult General: No additional report.
- I.** Referee Update: Kevin was not present but Jim and Neil provided information regarding the recently release RAP (Referee Abuse Prevention) policy and it's effective date of March 1 with potential consequences following it's implementation. Neil also advised the group of a RAP Q&A scheduled for the following afternoon if anyone wanted to join that conference call. Neil also mentioned his efforts to create a SRC Workshop in early March.
- J.** Future of GSSA: Neil presented on topics related to looking forward with respect to opportunities for GSSA to capitalize on in the coming months/year with FIFA Club World Cup this summer and the FIFA World Cup in Summer, 2026. Neil asked members to contemplate ideas that would allow GSSA to capture and grow with these opportunities.
- i. FIFA World Cup
 - ii. US Soccer
 - Possible options in the market?
 - a. Collective Global - Looking at various options: Jim presented on the idea of working with the Collective Global on ways to maximize strategic efforts at the Staff, Board, and Referee levels. Board authorized Jim to explore further with Collective Global and other similar companies in that market and report further at the next Board meeting.
 - b. Cogeo – Jim and Neil recently met with Cogeo, a company that assists with large capital grant funding options, updating the board on the nature of that conversation. Jim advised that he would be meeting with Oregon Youth Soccer Association at the US Soccer AGM to obtain more details on their experience with Cogeo.
- K.** Board Member Updates: No additional reports.
- VI. Good of the Game:** Karon Beyer noted that she is the USASA Secretary and offered her services to the members in that capacity. Discussion on Atlanta United winning their opening match of the 2025 season. Additional talk on Liverpool defeating City. Jim mentioned that his older son is friends with a Davidson College grad, Nico Cavallo, who recently signed a contract with NYCFC and secured his first minutes as a professional player the preceding Saturday.
- VII. Executive Session:** None.
- VIII. Adjournment:** Andy motioned to adjourn meeting with a second by Melissa. Adjourned at 8:28 p.m.