



MINUTES

Georgia Soccer Board of Directors Meeting October 27, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. Virtual

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by President Neil McNab at 6:41 p.m.
- II. **BOD Attendance:**
 - A. **Voting Members Present:** Neil McNab, Melissa Camp, Karon Beyer, David Miles, Juan Castillo, Tommy Zavieh, Geriano Viveros, Micah Wilson
 - B. **Non-Voting Members Present:** Leigh Jakes, AJ Hurst, Jim Walker (Executive Director)
 - C. **Guests Present:** Richy Serota.
 - D. **Members Not Present:** Donald Barksdale (voting), Kevin Biando (non-voting), Tricia Biando (voting), Mark Bloom (voting)
- III. **Correspondence:** None.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** The September Minutes and Financials below were approved unanimously in a consolidated motion by Karon with a second from Melissa.
 - A. Approval of Minutes (September 22, 2025)
 - B. Approval of Financials (September, 2025)
- V. **Items Not on Consent Agenda:**
 - A. There was discussion with the board regarding the starting time for meetings with the possibility of starting at 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, or 7:30 being options but with the desire to have one time established for all meetings for continuity. It was determined that Jim and Neil would put together a schedule of meetings for November/December and all of 2026 so as to have that cadence established well in advance of meetings. Melissa noted a desire to have a meeting invite sent to members.
 - B. Jim provided a detailed update on the USASA AGM in Chicago, noting positive developments with the new adult league (APSL) in Georgia and an excellent breakout session with the Chicago Fire, along with a very productive South Region meeting during the event. Jim touched upon the USYS Grassroots Symposium in Kansas City that Neil and Melissa attended, with each of them noting the beneficial results of that event. Jim gave an update on GSSA's involvement at the Atlanta Arab Festival earlier in October with approximate 10,000 people in attendance, noting that GSSA has been invited to return to the 2026 event already. Additionally, Jim and Richy established contacts with several people regarding playing, coaching and refereeing opportunities with GSSA for attendees, as well as a connection with a Moroccan official connected to their U20 team who is interested in working with GSSA for competitions between the two nations and creating additional exchanges related to World Cup preparations with Morocco being a co-host of the 2030 event.

Jim also provided updates on the efforts of the Collective Global with the staff, and he gave an update on a new partnership with GSSA and RoundGlass, who has also recently partnered with USYS, on efforts to improve athlete's mental health. Jim advised that he is engaged in conversations with Playmetrics/Stack regarding the new registration software and is meeting with GotSport in November to determine the best course for GSSA's future software needs. Jim informed the Board that he has been appointed Chair of the USYS Legal Advisory Committee, and he reminded the Board of upcoming deadlines for nominations for elections to the Board in January and deadlines related to any proposed bylaw/rule changes.

Jim provided an update on State Cup and Presidents Cup, noting that approximately 36 teams have withdrawn from those events, for several key reasons: (1) They did not register and don't want to participate, (2) The team is not strong enough to compete in those events, (3) The cost (not registration) is too much with respect to travel, gas, food, and hotel accommodations, and (4) Concerns over SafeSport and not enough adults attending to chaperone the minor athletes. Jim advised that there are 44 teams competing in State Cup (a decrease of about 15 teams) and 62 teams participating in Presidents Cup (an increase of about 9 teams). First round of games for both events is slated for November 1 and 2 at N. Mt. Carmel in McDonough with games kicking off at 8:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m. on both days with November 8 being the last date of round robin games and November 9 being the rainout date.

Jim advised that the US Soccer Member Meetings start on November 6 in Atlanta. Jim noted that GSSA was selected by Cobb County to be part of their holiday tree jubilee so the office is working on putting together a soccer-themed decorated tree for display/purchase at the Cobb County holiday festivities at Maple Manor. Lastly, Jim advised that the GSSA holiday party is tentatively set for December 11 with the venue still to be determined. More details to follow.

- C. Karon advised that she has been chatting with Tyler re Alliance and also raised the possibility of creating some type of award for the adults that is akin to the USYS "Of the Year" Awards. Perhaps an adult administrator award. She also requested if GSSA could donate another holiday basket to their Christmas benefit tournament in December. Neil echoed those sentiments for a GSSA basket for their Father Christmas charity event the following week in December.
- D. Micah advised that the fall season was approaching wrap-up.
- E. Melissa noted that she has been talking with South Carolina regarding GA players/teams potentially playing in SC leagues but still registering with GSSA. She also provided a brief update on the USYS Grassroots Symposium in Kansas City. Neil also provided a brief update on that event and noted that he conducted a presentation during the symposium on after school programming.
- F. Richy provided an update on the referees, noting that they had recently started working with The Collective Global at the SRC level and how they interact with the board, advising that the early results on that work were positive and productive. He also noted that they would have mentors and referee coaches at State Cup over the next two weekends. Richy advised that the Youth Referee of the Year and Adult Referee of the Year applications were open for nominations. He informed the Board that there was an Advance Referee Clinic on November 15 and then another such clinic was scheduled for February. Lastly, he noted that he had been meeting with US Soccer regarding ideas on how US Soccer could work better with SRCs.
- G. David advised that he is working on trying to get the Recreational Cup re-established, potentially as early as Spring, 2026. He also noted that he was advised of a situation in a recreational game wherein illegal players were purportedly used. Jim advised David to send the documentation to him for distribution to the appropriate folks (Anne Wright and Eric Keller).
- H. Leigh advised that Atlanta United was hosting soccer individuals at the Training Center on October 30 regarding the women's game and efforts to expand participation in the game in all elements for women.

VI. Good of the Game: Neil noted that the US Women's team picked up a nice win against Portugal. Karon congratulated Jim on the appointment as Chair of the USYS Legal Advisory Committee. Jim praised David and Columbus for their willingness to donate soccer uniforms to Lindsay Kraun for her CP Soccer program in Atlanta.

VII. Executive Session: None.

VIII. Adjournment: Melissa made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by David at 7:27 p.m. The next regularly scheduled board meeting is November 24, 2025, though there is the possibility of a reschedule off that date since it is just a few days before the Thanksgiving holiday.