



## MINUTES

### **Georgia Soccer Board of Directors Meeting February 23, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Virtual**

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by President Neil McNab at 7:08 p.m.
- II. **BOD Attendance:**
  - A. **Voting Members Present:** Neil McNab, Karon Beyer, David Miles, Tommy Zavieh, Geriano Viveros, Melissa Camp, AJ Hurst, Juan Castillo
  - B. **Non-Voting Members Present:** Leigh Jakes, Jim Walker (Executive Director)
  - C. **Guests Present:** None
  - D. **Members Not Present:** Micah Wilson (voting), Mark Bloom (voting), Donald Barksdale (voting), Tricia Biando (voting), Kevin Biando (non-voting)
- III. **Correspondence:** Reference was made to a letter from Gary LeMay to Patrick Lama and Richy Serota, though was not in the possession of GSSA.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** All of the below items were approved in a consolidated motion from Karon with a second from Melissa and were approved unanimously.
  - A. Approval of Minutes (November 24, 2025)
  - B. Approval of Financials (November, 2025; December, 2025, January, 2026)
- V. **Items Not on Consent Agenda:**
  - A. Neil provided an update regarding GSSA Committees and the need for individuals to serve on those committees, seeking input from board members with respect to identifying people who might be willing to serve in that capacity. It was also noted that several committees (ex. D&P, E&G) would continue to exist beyond the original AGM date in January until the new AGM occurred on March 7 and committee members were replaced, as we didn't want to incur issues with the spring season starting and having vacant committees.
  - B. Jim provided an extensive update on a number of topics:
    - i. Update on Get on the Bus ITG Grant - \$200,000 Innovate to Grow grant awarded by US Soccer to GSSA. Actions have already occurred to move this project along with the KIPP schools in downtown Atlanta.
    - ii. Possibility of a GSSA Soccer Complex – Jim noted that he has been exploring the idea of a possible soccer complex with another investor group wherein several outdoor fields, some indoor training space, and some GSSA offices might be located. Melissa, Karon, and AJ expressed interest in participating in this fact finding mission.
    - iii. Update on GSSA License Plates – Jim noted that GSSA is still short on the required number of license plate purchases, noting that the original deadline was February 14, though he has request an extension but has not heard further on that request. GSSA will continue to push out the option in person at the AGM in the hopes of securing the necessary 140 or so orders that are required to bring the total to 500 and keep it available as an option for people.
    - iv. New Membership Application – Jim advised that he had previously created a more detailed new member application in Arkansas and had tweaked that for GSSA to help streamline the process for membership applications. It could be available for review at the AGM, if needed with respect to the bylaw discussions.

- Karon and Melissa were in the process of reviewing and making modifications to it.
- v. Update on Marcet – Jim updated the Board on the status of the partnership with Marcet and that he was waiting for a “Day in the Life” feature from Marcet to be able to offer to perspective parents whose player had been identified by GSSA as a potential candidate for the opportunity.
  - vi. Update on AGM reschedule date of March 7 (Parliamentarian??) – Jim noted that the usual parliamentarian that we have at the GSSA AGM and SAGM is not available on March 7 and GSSA staff is having difficulties in locating a replacement parliamentarian. Jim asked for board assistance in finding someone. It was also noted that, in prior years, the parliamentarian would provide a basic course at the SAGM for board members to better understand the Robert’s Rules procedures and that this might be something to explore in the future again. Board members were reminded of the timing and agenda for the March 7 AGM.
  - vii. Possible events at the National Training Center (SAGM?) – Jim advised that the August SAGM was likely going to be at the NTC in Fayetteville and that he was awaiting the final contract from them for review and signature, noting that the terms were far superior to prior agreements for the event from various hotels and that the venue was certainly be intriguing for membership, particularly with a facility tour being included. Jim also advised that the NTC is looking to host other events so board members should keep this in mind for other opportunities to use the facility for various events.
  - viii. Partnership with Trace – Jim updated the board on the Trace membership noting that Trace provided a cash payment to GSSA as part of the agreement and provided all GSSA teams with a free Trace camera upon application. Further, the first 100 respondents would receive a \$100 discount on the subscription to access camera footage.
  - ix. Partnership with Roundglass – Jim noted that Roundglass had partnered with GSSA to provide free access to their product which is an app that focuses on mental wellbeing for athletes via short video segments on various elements that are designed to provide athletes with mental health training that is often overlooked.
  - x. Atlanta Insiders and GSSA’s involvement – Jim advised that he has been engaged in conversations with US Soccer to be the leader for them with respect to their new marketing strategy that expands the national approach of US Soccer Insiders to a local level with “Atlanta Insiders.” GSSA has been asked by US Soccer to be instrumental in developing and organizing that group here in Atlanta. Very early on in discussions but a promising opportunity for GSSA to build its brand and be more involved in the US Soccer landscape. Discussion occurred about getting Karon involved in this project to spur adult player participation.
  - xi. Grant partnership with US Soccer and Seattle Children’s re concussions – Another very early possibility for GSSA to be involved in a health grant. US Soccer, once again, reached out to Jim about this grant obtained by US Soccer and GSSA’s interest in participating in the pilot program which, essentially, involves a pregame huddle for all teams wherein coaches/referees talk to the middle school players about any head issues they may be experiencing. Funding would be provided to GSSA as part of the grant. More discussions and details to follow.
  - xii. Partnership with Just Ball and the US Soccer Foundation – Jim advised the board about GSSA’s involvement in a new grant project through the US Soccer Foundation which finds ways to bring the game to the kids. Very early discussions, and while hopes are to commence this spring, it may really commence in earnest in the fall. Again, grant funding would be provided to GSSA to participate in the project.
  - xiii. Update on Atlanta United and USMNT tickets – Jim reminded folks that United and USMNT tickets were being distributed to board, staff, clubs, and members via a series of giveaways.
  - xiv. Update on Software Changes – Jim discussed his spreadsheet that highlighted the major software players and various elements and impacts on those elements

for each provider, noting that GSSA needs to make a decision on the software provider. Jim specifically requested board input on that decision process. Juan noted that he liked GotSport.

- xv. Hall of Fame/Of the Year Update – Winners and Redesign Ideas – Board was updated on the various winners of the HOF and OTY awards, and Jim noted that they were exploring ways to modernize the award at the office, as the current photo format was a bit outdated and difficult, if not impossible, to match with new entrants to the recognition. Karon inquired if the recipients had been notified of the awards and Jim advised that they had been and that most were planning on attending the March 7 AGM.
  - xvi. Update on United Soccer Coaches Convention – Pathways Discussion – Jim and Neil provided updates on the Convention in Philadelphia in mid-January, particularly some 30,000 feet details on the Pathways conversations about the new competitive league being jointly formed by USYS and US Club.
  - xvii. Update on the US Soccer Annual General Meeting – Jim and Neil provided updates on the AGM and the multitude of meetings and occurrences from that event in downtown Atlanta.
- C. Melissa provided an update on the Youth, noting that she had recently spoken with Walter from SC about leagues, as well as the possibility of club based leagues like NPL, NAL and GA teams that might be interested.
  - D. David provided an update about Columbus' potential involvement with the Get on the Bus grant for the fall with that club.
  - E. Micah was not present but Melissa noted that the spring season was underway, and unfortunately, we already had a couple of D&P issues arise.
  - F. Karon noted that the Adult State Cup registration link was open and would remain open until March 4. She also noted that the Region 3 adult meetings/workshop would coincide with Regionals from May 29-31 in Murfreesboro. Also, the USASA AGM would occur in Seattle on the weekend of September 24-27. Jim noted that he has been working with USASA, along with TN and CO, in a focus group designed to build a "youth bridge" to adult soccer and that the group was featured in the USASA segments of the US Soccer AGM last weekend. Jim also noted that he has been elected to the USASA appeals committee.
  - G. While Kevin was absent from the meeting, Jim noted that the referees had an Advanced Training session scheduled for February 28 at Northgate High School.
  - H. Leigh provided an update on the NWSL Atlanta team, noting that they were still in the exploration phase for hiring so still very early in that process.

**VI. Good of the Game:**

- A. Neil raised the connection with the GSSA ODP player and the Nike commercial with Diego Luna from the USMNT. Neal also noted that the US Soccer School pilot program with GSSA's involvement was starting the following day.
- B. Jim noted that the Cobb County Holiday Tree Jubilee awarded an Honorable Mention recognition (4<sup>th</sup> place) for the GSSA trees on display during the event.

**VII. Executive Session:** None.

- VIII. Adjournment:** Juan made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Melissa at 8:24 p.m. At this time, the next regularly scheduled board meeting is ahead of the March 7 Annual General Meeting at 7:45 p.m. followed by a very brief meeting after the AGM to execute Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest documents. Thereafter, the next board meeting with normal business operations will be March 23.