



MINUTES

Georgia Soccer Board of Directors Meeting April 27, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Virtual

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by President Neil McNab at 7:02 p.m.
- II. **BOD Attendance:**
 - A. **Voting Members Present:** Neil McNab, Karon Beyer, David Miles, Tommy Zavieh, Geriano Viveros, Melissa Camp, Tony Lamb, Matt Dismar, Sam Zebarjadi, Walter Martinez, Donald Barksdale,
 - B. **Non-Voting Members Present:** Leigh Jakes, Dave Edwards, Jim Walker (Executive Director)
 - C. **Guests Present:** Richy Serota, Anna Lavis (US Soccer)
 - D. **Members Not Present:** Walter Martinez (voting), AJ Hurst (non-voting)
- III. **Correspondence:** None.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** Motion to Accept was made by Karon with a second from Melissa. Unanimously approved by the board.
 - A. Approval of Minutes (March 23, 2026)
 - B. Approval of Financials (March, 2026)
- V. **Items Not on Consent Agenda:**
 - A. Jim indicated that he provided a written report to the board that addressed Youth State Cup, Adult State Cup, Atlanta Insiders, National 1 League (formerly "NewComp"), and Future State, seeking any inquiries on that report. No questions arose.
 - B. Neil introduced Anna Lavis from US Soccer. Anna provided a detailed update, PowerPoint presentation, and entertained Q&A regarding US Soccer's "Future State" initiative and what that entailed with respect to the State Association being the "local arm" of US Soccer to allow for the US Soccer crest to be more present at the grassroots level.
 - C. Melissa noted that State Cup/Presidents Cup games continued over the weekend with Group Stage finishing noting that the games had gone well.
 - D. David M advised that the Battle of the Border hosted by Alabama had been cancelled and indicated a desire for Columbus to host the next installment of the event. David was disappointed about the cancellation and stressed the need for more recreational level tournaments. He also inquired on the status of the small-sided games survey. Jim replied by indicating that he had spoken with Jen Pfeiffer from Alabama earlier in the day and that she had advised that only 10 teams had registered for the event by the deadline, thereby resulting in the cancellation. Jim also noted that the small-sided games survey from the AGM did not yield many responses but that out of those 6 responses, all but one noted a desire for a 7v7 format, rather than a 5v5 format.
 - E. Sam noted that they were proceeding with end of season scheduling and disciplining but nothing of major consequence. Neil raised the prospect of having an outside third party operator handle state leagues and that he had broached this subject with Melissa and Karon and was exploring conversations with various entities about this possibility.
 - F. Karon echoed Jim's written report on the Adult State Cup, noting that Round 2 of Group Stage had concluded the prior night. She was pleased to report that several of the games had ended in ties in the first two rounds, confirming that GSSA teams were competitive with those teams

that were not fully attached to GSSA member clubs. Karon also noted that Jim and Cristina had already reserved a placeholder position for USASA Regionals for the GSSA team ultimately advancing out of Adult State Cup. Donald also raised similar sentiments noting that Terminus and Majestic had recently tied, though a couple other matches the preceding Sunday were not as competitively balanced on the scoreboard. Donald noted that the referees had been “amazing” and Karon described them as “stellar.” Donald indicated that it has been a great event so far and that he is even fielding inquiries from teams that want to participate in the event now but that he’s had to advise them to wait until next year since registration has been closed for this event for about a month and is currently underway. Still, great to see that the event is garnering attention and interest so that it will hopefully continue to grow next year!

- G. Dave E expressed his appreciation for being involved with the Adult State Cup, noting that the event provided an opportunity to continue to train and develop referees with higher level matches for them to be evaluated and assessed. Richy also noted his appreciation for the ongoing support the referees receive from Jim and the rest of the GSSA staff. He noted that there were two MLS referee mentors that attended the Adult State Cup, further elevating the quality of the event for everyone involved. Richy also noted that many of the referee coaches/mentors were in Valdosta for ODP events to assist with referee development on those matches. Richy also reminded folks that on July 25-26 at the National Training Center, they were conducting an advance clinic where Esse Baharmast, currently with Colorado and a former FIFA World Cup referee, would be instructing referees in attendance.

VI. Good of the Game:

- A. Leigh provided an update on the NWSL facility groundbreaking that occurred a few days prior.
- B. Tommy expressed frustration regarding assignors not placing appropriate aged and skilled referees on the correct level of matches, noting that there had been an issue recently involving inexperienced referees assigned by Concorde Fire for a match that exceeded their abilities. Richy expressed appreciation for this information so he could relay the concerns upstream to US Soccer to help them better address these inadequacies with assignors.
- C. Discussion occurred regarding the date of the May board meeting, as it currently falls on Memorial Day Monday. It was noted that the meeting would NOT occur on that date and would likely be postponed to the following Monday.

VII. Executive Session: None.

VIII. Adjournment: Karon made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Melissa at 8:30 p.m. It was subsequently determined that the next board meeting with normal business operations will be June 1, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.