



MINUTES

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

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by President Neil McNab at 7:01 p.m.
- II. **BOD Attendance:**
 - A. **Voting Members Present:** Neil McNab, David Miles, Tommy Zavieh, Geriano Viveros, Melissa Camp, Matt Dismar, Sam Zebarjadi
 - B. **Non-Voting Members Present:** Leigh Jakes, Dave Edwards, Jim Walker (Executive Director)
 - C. **Guests Present:** None.
 - D. **Members Not Present:** Karon Beyer, Tony Lamb, Donald Barksdale, AJ Hurst, Walter Martinez
- III. **Correspondence:** None.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** Motion to Accept was made by Melissa with a second from David M. Unanimously approved by the board.
 - A. Approval of Minutes (June 1, 2026)
 - B. Approval of Financials (June, 2026)
- V. **Items Not on Consent Agenda:**
 - A. Jim provided an update on the status of the USYS bylaw change proposal that is scheduled to come to vote in late August at the USYS AGM.
 - B. Jim provided an update on the Innovate to Grow grant and opening window for submission of such applications in early August.
 - C. Jim and Neil provided updates on Soccer for All and the ultimate desired outcome of making recreational soccer free for all youth players in the state. However, in order to generate immediate successes to create a portfolio to target larger corporate sponsors and philanthropists, GSSA is working with AYSO and grant money previously obtained (about \$45,000) to generate a statewide Innovate to Grow grant process to allow clubs to seek financing from GSSA for various projects they are working on. Jim and Neil noted the need for a committee to review grant applications. Tommy, Melissa and Sam indicated their interest for same which was motioned, seconded, and unanimously approved. Jim also raised the prospect of adding Daniel McAdams to that committee, given his related work on the scholarship committee.
 - D. Jim advised the Board of modifications to the GSSA fee schedule with respect to not charging registration fees for TOPSoccer players to encourage participation and induce more clubs to create such programs, particularly ahead of the Cerebral Palsy World Cup. No objection was raised.
 - E. Jim informed the Board that a new contract had been signed with PlayMetrics for GSSA's player registration software which would be phased into GSSA operations over the coming months with an effort to be fully on that platform by Spring or Fall, 2027. Details of the terms of the contract were also provided.
 - F. Jim gave an update on the successes of Atlanta Insiders and the World Cup watch parties conducted by GSSA/Atlanta Insiders.

- G. Jim had previously provided a copy of the proposed 26-27 budget to both the Finance Committee and the full board. No questions or concerns were raised either before or during the board meeting regarding that proposed budget.
- H. Jim updated the board on the applications from the perspective new clubs for the board's consideration and support for the upcoming SAGM. As part of this discussion, it was noted that GSSA staff should conduct the initial review and vetting of new applicants to ensure that all materials and information was collected ahead of submission to the board. Specific issues to consider include, but are not limited to, referee assignor certification, field usage agreements being confirmed, potentially confirmation of coaching licenses with respect to their identities and levels attained, assignment of mentors for new clubs such as GSSA staff or board members and potentially a neighboring club mentor, contacting references provided by perspective new clubs, and ensuring that there was no bad history with the perspective clubs leaders. Process would be that the GSSA staff makes a recommendation to the board and then the board would make a recommendation to the members. Discussion also occurred with respect to forums in the future for Meet the Perspective Affiliates to give members the opportunity to engage with perspective new members ahead of the AGM/SAGM.
- I. With respect to the SAGM, Jim provided details of the event, noting that a social would occur on Friday night at the National Training Center, followed by a brief "run of show" board meeting on Saturday morning, ahead of the Youth and Adult Council meetings with the General Council meeting occurring thereafter, followed by lunch and tours of the NTC.
- J. David Miles referenced his written report while also reminding board members of the recreational tournament in Columbus in early December and the possibility of a discounted team registration fee that might be reimbursed after successful completion of the tournament by participating teams. Neil noted that he had engaged in a conversation with Georgia Parks & Recreation regarding the age group change and their efforts to align their age groupings with GSSA's so as to get all recreational soccer on the same timeline for registration participation.
- K. Sam referenced his written report.
- L. Dave Edwards provided a referee update, noting that they recently concluded an advanced clinic at the NTC that had 105 attendees. He also noted that the clinic included a physical testing element for referees and that Esse Baharmast from Colorado led some training sessions for the referees in attendance. Wade Wright also did a presentation. Dave also noted that there were several new referee courses on the schedule with the fall season around the corner.
- M. Tommy raised concerns regarding the partnership with Marcet with respect to recommendations for players and coaches to attend Marcet's training opportunities.

VI. Good of the Game:

- A. Leigh advised that there were lots of interviews occurring presently with the NWSL positions for the new Atlanta based team. She also mentioned that the National Center for Human Rights had a The People's Game exhibit that might be worthwhile for the board to visit.
- B. Neil congratulated Spain on winning the World Cup and noted that the World Cup was an amazing experience with it hosted in the United States and so many competitive matches throughout the country, including Atlanta.
- C. Neil also praised the efforts of Soccer for All as a means for tackling the Pay to Play aspect of the game.
- D. Jim reminded folks of GSSA's involvement in the Cerebral Palsy World Cup at the NTC from mid-late October and encouraged board members to attend, noting that GSSA is a VIP for the event so anyone interested in attending should connect with Jim so he could update the CP WC staff of their attendance.
- E. On the heels of the successful World Cup, it was also noted that we had the 2027 Women's World Cup around the corner, followed by the 2028 Summer Olympics which includes soccer and will have matches as near as Nashville, so lots of global soccer is still ahead for us!

VII. Executive Session: None.

VIII. Adjournment: David M made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Melissa at 8:29 p.m. The next board meeting with normal business operations will be in person at the SAGM on August 8 at 7:30 a.m.