MINUTES
Georgia Soccer Board of Directors Meeting
October 26, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
Virtual

I. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by President Neil McNab at 7:03 p.m.

II. BOD Attendance:

A. Voting Members Present: Neil McNab, David Miles, Tommy Zavieh, Geriano Viveros, Melissa Camp, Matt Dismer, Sam Zebarjadi, Tony Lamb, AJ Hurst, Karon Beyer
B. Non-Voting Members Present: Dave Edwards, Leigh Jakes, Jim Walker (Executive Director)
C. Guests Present: Dan Russell, US Soccer
D. Members Not Present: Donald Barksdale, Walter Martinez

III. Correspondence: None.

IV. Consent Agenda: The below items were approved in a consolidated motion from Karon with a second from Melissa and were approved unanimously.

A. Approval of Minutes (September 28, 2026)
B. Approval of Financials (September 2026)

V. Items Not on Consent Agenda:

A. Dan Russell, Sr. Director of Soccer Markets and Pathways with US Soccer, appeared as a guest to provide details and answer questions on the changing soccer landscape within the country.
B. Jim followed Dan's presentation with his own update and assessment of the recently concluded US Soccer Member Meetings.
C. Jim gave details on the Cerebral Palsy World Cup, GSSA's involvement in that event, and the excellent showing of the US Women's team (Champions!) and US Men's team (Finalists!).
D. Jim reminded the Board that the GSSA State Cup and Presidents Cup would start on November 14-15 with preliminary group play matches finishing on November 21-22, followed by Semi-Final and Finals on December 12-13 (Girls) and December 19-20 (Boys). First two weekends at N. Mt. Carmel, last two weekends at NTC
E. Jim raised the new adult member application from Niles Bridge. Board opted to have Karon, Donald, Gerry, and Walter review the application documentation and then would submit their recommendation to the board for an electronic vote. [Karon's team subsequently recommended approval of Niles Bridge as a provisional member, pending full membership vote at the AGM, and the remaining Board members voted in favor of that recommendation. Niles Bridge ultimately elected to delay their membership submission until the AGM for the full vote and approval by the membership rather than secure the provisional membership now. As such, they will be submitting for approval as a new Adult member at the February 6 AGM.]
F. Jim reminded everyone about efforts on the GSSA holiday party, noting that it would likely occur the second or third week of December and probably occur on a weekday earlier in the week.
G. Jim also reminded everyone about the AGM and the resulting deadlines for bylaw/rule change submissions of December 4, as well as nominations for positions to the GSSA board bearing that same December 4 deadline.
H. Melissa did not have a specific report and deferred to the reports offered by Sam (Select) and David M. (Recreational).
I. David M. offered an update on the Recreational side, noting that there were zero teams currently registered for the December Rec Fest, and as a result, barring a sudden influx of registrations, the event would likely be postponed. The thought on why registrations were lacking is that the

timing was between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays did not help, particularly with the recreational season having ended for most teams 4-5 weeks earlier. The potential for cold weather was another explanation. David also noted that he'd like to explore how the recreational league can be revamped to breathe more energy into the league while minimizing travel and maximizing game competitiveness.

J. Sam referenced his written report, while noting that there had been several D&P issues and related forfeits for a variety of reasons. He also raised the possibility of modernizing rules and process gaps, seeking recommendations from the Board for potential changes. The December 4 deadline for bylaw change proposals was reiterated.

K. Karon noted that they had been busy on the adult side with some D&P suspensions and an issue with E&G with GAWSA. She also noted that there would not be a Men's State Cup this year because that event was no longer being run by USASA. However, she noted that there were ongoing discussions about a potential "Southern Championships" event for USASA Region 3 with a potential date of June 26-27 at the NTC. Of course, she also raised the concern that this could be an extremely hot time for such an event in Atlanta so the Region 3 committee was exploring options. Karon also noted that the Brandi Chastain Cup did not yet have a date or venue, advising that she now sits on that committee. She also mentioned the Quest Cup for Women in 2028. Jim advised that there had been no Soccer for All grant requests from any adult affiliated organization.

L. Dave Edwards noted that things were moving along well in the referee world. He specifically noted that Georgia had NINE referees selected for US Soccer's new advancement program, R90+, for referee development. Dave also noted that the mentor program in GA was getting noticed by other State Associations.

M. Leigh provide an update on Atlanta City FC, noting that Richard Gunney (Chief Soccer Officer) would be starting next week. She also advised that she would look for clarity from Atlanta United on various youth initiatives.

VI. Good of the Game:

A. The US Cerebral Palsy Women's team took home GOLD in the recent CP World Cup while the men finished second in a heartbreaking late loss in the Championship match. It was also noted that Joey Martin, a local Georgia player who played for SSA was on the championship squad for the Women's team. Dave M noted that he had volunteered for the CP World Cup and how excited the players were to be a part of this event, also noting that GSSA should be proud of its involvement and role in the administration of the event.

B. Atlanta City FC was the official name reveal for the NWSL team coming to Atlanta and their logo was also recently released.

C. Harry Kane of England and Bayern Munich was noted to have won the Ballon D'or.

D. Reminder to submit bylaw/rule change proposals AND BOD Nominations by December 4

VII. Executive Session: None.

VIII. Adjournment: Melissa made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Tommy at 8:16 p.m. The next board meeting with normal business operations will be virtual on November 23 at 7:00 p.m., unless the date is modified due to it occurring a few days before Thanksgiving.