Alabama Soccer Association

2017 Annual General Meeting

February 11, 2017

Birmingham Marriott 280
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Birmingham, AL 35243
Alabama Soccer Association Partners

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2017 Annual General Meeting Schedule

On February 11, 2017 at the Birmingham Marriott 280

Schedule:

Saturday, February 11

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Coach Development Symposium</td>
<td>8:30am - 5:30pm</td>
<td>Birmingham 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Growing soccer and securing its long term future/success</td>
<td>10:15am - 11:30am</td>
<td>Jefferson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awards Luncheon</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Birmingham 1, 2, 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Voting Registration</td>
<td>1:15pm</td>
<td>Lobby - Birmingham 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual General Meeting</td>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>Birmingham 4</td>
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2016 ASA Annual Award Winners

Administrator of the Year: Christie Clark, Huntsville FC
Coach of the Year – Girls Competitive: Jay Hammond, Birmingham United
Coach of the Year – Boys Competitive: Luke Whittle, Vestavia Hills SC
Coach of the Year – Girls Recreation: Emma Greenwood, Homewood SC
Coach of the Year – Boys Recreation: Jim Jeter, Birmingham United
TOPSoccer Buddy of the Year: Sarah Grace Jones, Vestavia Hills SC TOPS
TOPSoccer Coach of the Year: Katie Steinert, Vestavia Hills SC TOPS

Congratulations to all of our award winners!

Awards supplied by Sport Pins, a proud partner of ASA!
Gene Hallman, President/CEO Bruno Event Team

Mr. Hallman received a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the College of Charleston (SC) and his MBA from the University of South Carolina. He serves as President and CEO of Bruno Event Team. He also holds the title of Executive Director of the Alabama Sports Council, the sports lobby for the city of Birmingham and the state of Alabama. He is CEO of ZOOM Motorsports, LLC, the exclusive event promoter for the Barber Motorsports Park. He is also the co-owner of Five Star Event Catering and a board member of March of Dimes and Magic Moments at Children’s Hospital.

Dr. Ricardo Colberg, Andrews Sports Medicine

Ricardo E. Colberg, M.D. is a sports medicine and non-surgical orthopaedic physician at Andrews Sports Medicine & Orthopaedic Center. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation and Registered Musculoskeletal Sonographer. Dr. Colberg is Medical Director for the Jacksonville State University Gamecocks, and Head Team Physician for the Birmingham Blaze semi-pro football team, Birmingham Hammers semi-pro soccer team, Minor High School, Lawson State Community College, and Alabama Soccer Association’s Olympic Development Program (ODP). He has also worked as team physician for the U.S.A. Paralympic Team at the Lakeshore Foundation, Birmingham Barons, Alabama Ballet, University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa, and University of West Alabama.
ALABAMA SOCCER ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
February 11, 2017
1:30pm
Birmingham Marriott

Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. President’s Address

III. Guest Speaker - Dr. Ricardo Colberg

IV. Vote Accreditation

V. Approval of 2016 AGM Minutes

VI. Financial Report

VII. ASA Written Reports

VIII. New Business

IX. Election and Appointment of Officers
    (a) Vice President of Youth
    (b) Treasurer
    (c) At-Large Directors (1)

X. Good of the Game

XI. Adjournment
Call to Order

The Annual General Meeting of the Alabama Soccer Association was called to order Saturday, January 23, 2016 by President Cecelia Friday at 12:34pm at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham – The Wynfrey.

President’s Comments

President Cecelia Friday welcomed everybody to the meeting. She thanked the Board of Directors, and exclaimed they are a high level group of people who have dedicated countless hours promoting the sport of soccer. She also recognized the state office staff and the great job they have done thus far. Lastly, she recognized the clubs and stated the appreciation she has for them and what they do for the game of the soccer.

Vote Accreditation

Secretary/Executive Director Tom Condone is recognized and reports there are 14 clubs/leagues in attendance and a total of 96 votes to represent a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the 2015 Annual General Meeting were distributed. A motion to approve the minutes was made from the floor. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Financial Report

Treasurer Jill Hopkins gave the financial report. The goal was to break even and we performed slightly better, with a short excess in revenue over expenses. This was accomplished by extra income from the President Cup the year prior; reduction of staff; and increase in player registration. Jill mentioned our financial objectives were met and the 990/Financial Statements for the prior year are available for viewing at the head table.

A motion to approve the financial report was made from the floor. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Written Reports

President Cecelia Friday asked if there were any questions on the reports from officers/staff. Cecelia added that the reports have valuable information and encouraged membership to review.
Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Motion: To accept the new Bylaws revision as written (Aimee Tucker)
There was a second (Manny Sanchez)
Motion: Motion passed unanimously

Election of Officers

Nominating Committee Chairman Aimee Tucker stated the nomination committee has identified one candidate Cecelia Friday for the position of President. Aimee Tucker asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. Cecelia Friday is elected President by acclamation.

Cecelia Friday is elected as ASA President

Nominating Committee Chairman Aimee Tucker stated the nomination committee has identified one candidate Jill Hopkins for the position of Treasurer. Aimee Tucker asked for nomination from the floor. There were none. Jill Hopkins is elected Treasurer by acclamation.

Jill Hopkins is elected as ASA Treasurer

President Cecelia Friday appointed Delayne Dean, Nick Fees, and Kristin Roberts for the three At-Large Director positions. Delayne Dean will be approved pending the eligibility to fill the position.

A motion to approve the appointments was made from the floor. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Nick Fees, Kristin Roberts, and Delayne Dean are appointed as At-Large Directors

Good of the Game

Tom Condone thanked Aimee Tucker and Jacque Boyer for their service as members of the ASA Board of Directors.

Ryan Leib (Briarwood Soccer Club) thanked ASA for the social, which was held at the NSCAA Convention/US Youth Soccer Workshops and felt we were well represented, with over 25 coaches/administrators from our state.

Russell Richey spoke about the passing of Tommy Glazer, who for over 20 years was a tireless contributor to Birmingham’s adult amateur soccer scene. Tommy, a Birmingham Southern graduate, sponsored and managed Excel SC. His dedication to soccer touched hundreds of players of all ages over the years.
Aimee Tucker recognized several new clubs in attendance and was excited about our growth as a State Association. She encouraged our existing clubs to reach out and support the new clubs whenever possible.

Andrew Brower (Birmingham United Soccer Association) recognized the ASA State Office for an outstanding job as well as their commitment to the membership.

**Adjournment**

With no objections, President Cecelia Friday adjourns the meeting at 12:57pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tom Condone
Secretary/Executive Director
Alabama Soccer Association had another great year in 2016. Our membership grew again this past year when many member states in USYS lost members. Our members and the office staff have worked very hard to handle the growth we have had the past two years. There are always growing pains when you increase membership, but those pains have been minor. Open communication is one of the main reasons we have been able to work together and be successful. I would like to thank all of you for the important part you have played in our continued growth and success.

At the beginning of last year, we knew it was going to be a challenge to make the changes for birth age registration, field sizes and goal sizes go smoothly. Tom and Zac have worked very hard to keep everyone abreast of the ever changing information being provided by the USSF. Tom and I visited areas of the state in an effort to answer questions and ease the minds of member clubs as the changes were being made. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to make these changes successful for our state.

This past fall, we had the opportunity to play our State Cup at the newly opened Foley Sports Tourism Complex in Foley. It was a great event. The weather for both weekends was very pleasant. We heard many good comments regarding the location and the fields. Hopefully, this can be an alternative for future State Cup events.

Just as in years past, work has been being done in the background. One of the major projects for this past year was rewriting the rules. While that project is not currently complete, it will be accomplished by the end of this year. Tom and Jill worked very hard on establishing the Alabama Soccer Foundation. Alabama Soccer Foundation is now a viable entity. Two board meetings have been held and funds have been deposited to the ASF account. There are three members of ASA’s board on the Foundation’s board which will continue to be the case. This will help the two entities to work together to improve soccer in our state.

As we approach the upcoming year, we will be looking to improve soccer in the state. Tom and Zac will be working on the programs we already have in place and seek new programs that may be of interest to membership. Currently, we do not have any major changes to be made this year. Again, thank you for everything you have done to increase the soccer interest in our state.

Yours in soccer,

Cecelia Friday
President
The year ending 7/31/2016 was another solid year financially for the Alabama Soccer Association based on the growing number of registered players and the success of the ODP programs. Expense control was also a major priority. Revenues over expenses for the year were $49,429 versus a budget of -$46,997 and cash on hand was $682,238. There were virtually no liabilities other than bond payments payable back to the clubs.

With the formation and incorporation of the Alabama Soccer Foundation on 11/9/2016, the ASA board voted to gift $350,000 to the foundation from cash reserves. This gift will be the beginning of a base of funds to be used to support grassroots and other soccer programs to support the mission of ASA in perpetuity. In December 2016, $228,919.95 was transferred to the foundation with the closure of the ASA National Bank of Commerce and Compass Bank money market accounts. The remaining $121,080.05 will be transferred to the foundation in June 2017 with the proceeds for the maturing Iberiabank CD.

In our ongoing effort to improve our processes and controls around financial transactions to ensure that we are accurately handling the business of the state office and are within acceptable accounting standards we hired Bryan L. Parker, CPA, LLC to perform a selected transaction review. This was done in order to determine any additional issues we face and to make recommendations for process improvements going forward. The results of that review were very good although there were a few process changes made in the office to improve controls. Based on the outcome of the transaction analysis a full audit was not deemed necessary at this time.

Sincerely,

Jill Hopkins
Executive Director Report by Tom Condone
Alabama Soccer Association

2016 was a historic year! I would like to thank our membership for their hard work and contributions this past year. It is important ASA strives to provide an environment for positive interaction, good culture and chemistry between ASA and its members.

From 2014 through 2016, ASA has doubled youth membership, from 11,939 to 23,344. This is a significant achievement, as we have been ranked #1 out of 55 State Associations in largest % increase of youth player registration numbers, two years in a row! This is our third consecutive year of growth, as well as breaking the record of our “all-time high” for player registration. ASA appreciates all you do to bring the game of soccer to your community!

Certainly, this has been a year of change for US Soccer. Field/roster size changes, build out lines and new heading rules all challenged our clubs. As the state association, we tried to ease the burden and assist our member’s for this change as efficiently as possible, while considering all of the different issues and potential disruptions involved. We were careful and methodical in our communication to membership. Our discussion had mainly revolved club leadership, including, but not limited to, town hall meetings, webinars, and conference calls, to have a successful season with limited incidents.

ASA announced the creation of the Alabama Soccer Foundation, an initiative to provide opportunities for Alabamians of all ages to learn and grow through “The Beautiful Game” of soccer. The purpose of the Foundation is to nourish the physical, mental, and emotional growth of soccer in Alabama by supporting selected organizations and deserving projects which create opportunities for all ages to enjoy the game regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, economic circumstances, or athletic ability.

Our Fall State Cup, was hosted by Foley Sports Tourism, bringing our state championships to the Alabama Gulf Coast for the first time. Besides great weather, one of the weekends was held in conjunction with the Sun Belt Conference Women’s Soccer Tournament, for a full-fledged soccer environment! It should be noted the Alabama Soccer Festival was held in Orange Beach during the Southeastern Conference (SEC) Women’s Soccer Tournament. For the 2nd year in a row, the Festival combined with the Kohl’s American Cup, a recreational festival that is supported by US Youth Soccer, which created an awesome soccer experience! Congratulations to all of the teams who participated!

In an ongoing effort to keep soccer fun and safe for kids and all of the adults who help to make our game a reality, ASA has partnered with Respect in Sport, an on-line training program aimed at coaches and youth activity leaders, which informs individuals on issues related to bullying, abuse, harassment and discrimination. Designed to both protect children, and provide coaches with information and tools to help recognize and address issues of maltreatment, Respect in Sport is a blueprint to help raise awareness and improve the culture of youth sport.

With regards to ASA Adult/Amateur play, an Adult Advisory Board was recently formed. This important new initiative will allow adult soccer stakeholders to provide ongoing input and direction for improving the programming, policy and value ASA delivers to its adult members. The Adult Advisory Board will also serve as a consulting body for a variety of soccer related issues pertinent to helping the adult game in Alabama. We hope this is another positive step toward building a truly collective, unified state association that naturally flows from youth to adult.

Again, thank you for your support of soccer in Alabama. Our goal is to be the very best sporting organization in Alabama and in the country. Keep up the great work!

See you on the fields,

Tom
Hello Alabama Soccer Family! Year four for me has gotten off to a great start as our player registration numbers continue to rise and many other programs are continuing to flourish and new programs are coming online. The US Soccer Player Development Initiatives have been well received by most members with some minor bumps along the way. We have continued to help provide support, answer questions, and be there for members that are experiencing issues.

For Coaching Education, we were able to host the National Youth Coaching Course this past summer and it was well attended with over 30 candidates, many from Alabama. We are investigating hosting this course once again in December of 2017 as we were asked by the Youth Academy Directors. There will be some changes coming to the delivery of the US Soccer “F”, “E”, and “D” License courses in 2018, however, we will continue to host them as requested by US Soccer for 2017. Our partnership with the NSCAA allows us to be able to deliver shorter courses designed specifically for small sided games so we are hoping to be able to deliver more content in 2017. The biggest event for coaching education will take place during the AGM with the Coaching Development Workshop, where we have some big name coaches coming in for a one-day clinic. We expect to have about 100 coaches present for the Workshop. The biggest highlight over the past year has been the formation of the Alabama Female Coaches Group, which exists to help connect, educate, and advocate for female coaches and coaches of female players. We had a great symposium hosted by Auburn University Head Coach Karen Hoppa. Coaching Education will need to be a big area of focus as our number of registered players and therefore registered coaches continues to increase.

The Olympic Development Program continues to grow with over 800 players involved in both the ODP and EPD (Elite Player Development) programs for the 2016-2017 season. We once again continued the scouting/recommendation system for all age groups except for the youngest (2004s & 2005s participated in open tryouts). Alabama, no longer as the smallest state player registration wise in Region III but still one of the smaller ones, experienced a banner year at the 2016 Region Trials by placing a record 44 players into the Region Pool (an increase from 42 the previous year). A new record was set with the 2002 boy with 10 players placed in the Region Pool and on the girls side the 2000s placed 6. Overall, we placed 30 boys into the Region Pool and were ranked 6/12 in Region III for the number of Region Pool players. For the full Alabama ODP Region Trials Recap, please CLICK HERE. Concerning the 2016-2017 season, we started the process in September and it put a large burden on the coaching staff. The events were well attended by players, but it was difficult to find quality coaches. I have been in discussion ODP Program Coordinator Rob Dominguez about how we can change our format next year to fit some of the logistical needs of both players and coaches.

The implementation of the Youth Academy for 10U and 9U has been well received with 13 clubs joining for the initial season. We were able to help clubs build curriculum, license coaches, interact with parents, and meet the new US Soccer PDIs. Informal feedback from parents and coaches is that the program is different and challenging to adapt to since everyone is used to “teams.” However, the goal is to keep more kids playing and the Academy helps provide that environment. We hosted two events in the fall and were able to bring in top-notch speakers to meet with the Youth Academy Directors and for parent interactions. Neal Ellis from STX and Vince Ganzberg from the NSCAA were both very helpful in their observations and feedback of the program.

Finally, Grassroots soccer continues to snowball as we continue to see a large increase in player registration numbers. Katie Steinert won the TOPSoccer Coach of the year award from USYS and we hope to snowball this into helping grow more programs around the state. Tom Condone and I have also been meeting with several underserved communities to help bring soccer into their kids’ lives (Soccer4Life, NorthStar, and City of Birmingham to name a few). It is really an exciting time for Alabama Soccer as our player registration numbers continue to grow and new challenges arise that we must continue to rise up and deal with in a professional manner. Thank you for allowing me to be a member of the ASA family.

Sincerely,

Zac Crawford
Youth soccer is a great opportunity to instill positive habits that last into adulthood. Publix proudly supports your state's youth soccer association, as well as others throughout the Southeast. Visit publix.com/soccer for more information.