



As in years past, NCSA experienced many successes as well as recognition of areas to improve the 2018/2019 soccer year. Improvement opportunities included a revamp of board meetings and operational processes, a limited base in Concord Academy and a need to find a new home for several of our programs. Our successes included management of our challenges, opening of new programs and moves towards improving the operation of our club. We spent a significant amount of time rebranding ourselves with new logos in both Concord Football Club (CFC) and Concord Academy (CA).

From a board perspective, in the 2018/2019 soccer year, we committed to operationalizing, and streamlining internal processes to reduce stress and work on volunteers. We applied an enhanced focus on procedure and processes. This focus helped us to decide how to efficiently hold meetings by more strictly following the structure of Robert's Rules of Order. We utilized a workgroup and report back system that allowed for more meaningful meetings. A very positive but unexpected outcome of this system was that we have been able to reduce the time spent at board meetings without compromising the work that is being done. NCSA has also improved efficiencies through the purchase of a QuickBooks Online account. The informatics available through such a service will allow us to better prepare for future.

During the Fall of 2018, we entered teams into the Fall MOHL organized out of Randolph. Our teams enjoyed competitive play and local travel. Most shared a winning record. All home games were played at Holy Trinity RC Church in Dunkirk.

Through the winter, we again partnered with the City of Dunkirk to put on 2 sessions of futsal. These sessions ran from December to March with programming Monday – Friday. Each session lasted 7 weeks. We look forward to another year at the fairgrounds.

NCSA/Concord FC entered several teams in the Buffalo and WNY Junior Soccer League. Our teams remained competitive and a force to be considered by other clubs. While our competitive level of play is certainly something to be proud of, Concord FC is also known in the league for being respectful, hardworking and committed members of the Buffalo and WNY Junior Soccer League. This is a testament to the coaches, and staff that support CFC. CFC did not enter any teams in the Southern Tier Travel Soccer League this year. We did notify the league of this plan and being in good standing, may return if a situation adventitious to the club presents itself.

In the 2017/2018 season, Concord Academy, once known as House or Rec League, fell under much scrutiny for our rollout of and attempt to adapt to the Player Development Initiatives pushed down from US Soccer. In 2018/2019 the Academy returned to a single coach per team model with some guidance on what and how to train players. While some families struggled with the rate increase, CA was able to offer full uniforms (performance top, shorts and socks) and improved facilities at SUNY Fredonia. The fields, properly outfitted to manage excessive rain allowed that only one evening was canceled. Additionally, if actual games had been canceled, coaches and families were given means to reschedule. We continue to offer a robust financial aid program that offered discounts to many registrants. In an effort to stay focused on our primary objective, NCSA dedicated time and volunteer resources to the running of our program rather than event planning. We have the sincerest hope to offer Soccerfest again in the summer of 2020. Concord Academy utilized green space at SUNY Fredonia within the track and in the area between the track and the Campus and Community Children's Center along Brigham Road. The feedback from coaches, parents and participants was very positive.

Some grounds work at Fredonia Central Schools forced us to seek opportunities to play at different venues. Concord FC's oldest players found a home at SUNY Fredonia and on the turf at Dunkirk High School, while our younger players held home games at Holy Trinity. Talks have begun to secure these facilities again for the 2019/2020 season. NCSA is hopeful that we will be able to continue to use the fields and spaces without much of an adjustment to fees currently paid (\$5,000 and \$2,000 donations to SUNY Fredonia and \$500 to Holy Trinity) in the coming year.

NCSA also continued a relationship with Brett Gould, Director of Coaching, and PJ Gondek, Technical Director. Coach Gould and Coach Gondek offered trainings and support to all coaches in NCSA, CFC and CA alike. Coach Gould has announced his resignation to the Board and we are seeking appropriate candidates.

One of the greatest successes of this year and in all of NCSA history was likely not recognized in its entirety. TOPSoccer is otherwise known as The Outreach Program – Soccer. It is specifically designed for players with special needs. Through the dedication of some very committed people, and with support from New York State West Youth Soccer Association, NCSA hosted its first TOPSoccer Jamboree in March and held its first 6 week season this past summer. This was a dream come true for many put into motion by our former President, the late, Betsy Dixon-Lang. This legacy item should be appreciated and recognized by all for what it is, a way for NCSA to live its mission to provide an, "exceptional soccer organization appropriately structured to accommodate any level of play commensurate with our players' individual ability, potential, and interest and to promote a positive youth sports culture that teaches life lessons for all players". This program will

continue with 2 seasons annually. Winter will run during the Winter Futsal Season and the Summer program will share resources with the Summer Concord Academy offering sessions during the running of the Summer Concord Academy program.

NCSA will continue to explore opportunities for the players we have the honor to serve. Currently, we'd like to find a league or situation that will allow play for older children (HS age) during the winter months.

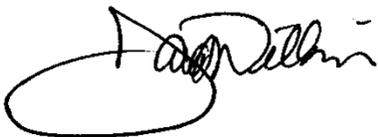
NCSA officers and Directors are a cut above and are being recognized as such. NCSA nominated 2 members for recognition of their commitments to our club and community. Coach Phillip Cook, Director of TOPSoccer and Vice President, Christopher Witkowski, Director of Travel will be recognized at the NYSWYSA Annual Awards Banquet after the Annual General meeting held by the Association later in November this year. Phill will be recognized as the TOPSoccer Coach of the Year and Chris will be recognized as the Volunteer of the Year. Both nominations have met criteria for national recognition and have been submitted by NYSWYSA to US Soccer Region I. Congratulations to both, Chris and Phill.

In the coming year, NCSA will continue to seek ways to:

- Operationalize and streamline practices and procedures to reduce the stresses of volunteerism
- Develop a budget to be measured against
- Identify additional opportunities to develop existing programs or expand our offerings

NCSA remains focused on continual improvement, player and coach development and innovative practices to improve its offerings at every level. The 2019/2020 year will, without a doubt, come with its own set of challenges but NCSA is suited and prepared to handle each of them as they come.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jake Wilkins", with a large, stylized flourish underneath.

Jake Wilkins, President

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