

**ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING**

2025 - 2026

June 9, 2026

7:00pm

Covenant Church

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SOCCKER ASSOCIATION OF COLUMBIA/HOWARD COUNTY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 10, 2025

The 2024-2025 Annual General Meeting of the Soccer Association of Columbia/Howard County (SAC/HC), was held at Covenant Life Church on June 10, 2025, and was called to order at 7:00pm by Craig Blackburn, Executive Director.

The minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting were read and a motion to approve without change was passed unanimously.

I. ANNUAL REPORTS:

The annual report for the Club was verbally presented by Bob Grandfield, Board President. John Ellinger presented a year in review for the travel and academy programs. Wilma Moran-Wylie and Aki Lake presented the annual report for the Recreation program. The AGM report was posted on the SAC Website and distributed to the attendees at the meeting.

II. OLD BUSINESS: None

III. NEW BUSINESS: None

IV. LUBY FOUNDATION AWARDS

Mike Lubitz presented awards on behalf of the Luby Foundation. Cash awards (to be used toward college) were given to two high school seniors who volunteered to coach recreational teams and wrote an essay on the experience.

V. SAC/BA AWARDS:

COACHES OF THE YEAR

RECREATION/SELECT

BOYS COACH OF THE YEAR Steven Bloom

GIRLS COACH OF THE YEAR John Dalziel

TRAVEL/BALTIMORE ARMOUR

BOYS COACH OF THE YEAR Eric Finney

GIRLS COACH OF THE YEAR Mark Hopwood

POLLY CARLAN MEMORIAL AWARD

(In recognition of sustained exceptional performance in enhancing the programs and operations of SAC/HC)

Chris Chavez

VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

There were no contested elections. The positions of President and Executive Administrator were not on the ballot since it is midway into a two-year term. A motion was made and approved to elect the following slate of officers by acclamation for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

2 YEAR TERM

PRESIDENT

Not up for election

VICE PRESIDENT

Matt Whelan

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

Not up for election

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Reya Mathew

THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS WERE FILLED ON ONE YEAR TERM BASIS:

VICE PRESIDENT – MEMBER AT LARGE

Sarah McConnell

VICE PRESIDENT – RECREATIONAL PROGRAM

Wilma Moran-Wylie

VICE PRESIDENT – TRAVEL PROGRAM

Frank Turney

VICE PRESIDENT – FACILITIES

Scott McVicker

VICE PRESIDENT – SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Mike Ditter

VICE PRESIDENT – SPORTSMANSHIP

Chris Riismandel

VICE PRESIDENT – MEMBERSHIP/SPONSORSHIP

Paul Capodanno

VII THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE ATTENDED THE MEETING

1. Bridget Husk
2. Katie Dalziel
3. Chris Chavez
4. Mohit Virani
5. Jim Ward
6. Sarah McConnell
7. Sharon Finney
8. Gina Garcia
9. Erin Yi
10. Kayia Kim
11. Chris Riismandal
12. Hye Percey

13. Chris O'Brien
14. Aki Lake
15. Carl Bartels
16. Andrew Omotosho
17. David Rarow
18. Emma Pripeo
19. Craig Blackburn
20. Ryleigh Kendall
21. Bob Grandfield
22. Mike Lubitz
23. James Garwin
24. Eric Finney
25. Owen McConnell
26. Maggie Hicks
27. Samantha Husk
28. Mali Dalal
29. Calin Mares
30. Anjali Dalal
31. Emily Irish
32. John Dalziel
33. John Ellinger
34. Kachi Armony
35. Frank Turney
36. Scott McVicker
37. Scott Apple
38. Paul Capodanno
39. Charley Pulay
40. Kavita Somavarapu
41. Nadimire Jules-Dole
42. Archi Earl
43. Rachel Berberich
44. Sara Pijpers
45. Hua Xie
46. Maddox Piercy
47. Peter Hommel
48. Hannah Brooks
49. Andy Dalal
50. Erick Quinteros
51. Judith Sapp
52. Emily Capelle
53. Ni Ceria
54. Vicki Gutierrez
55. Alex Gokinrdon
56. Laura Jones
57. Anderson Bawgansam
58. Charlemagne Marc

59. Maura Ward
60. Chantal Kingul
61. Lawrence Reid
62. Players from John Dalziel' team
63. Players from Steven Bloom's team
64. Players from Eric Finney's Team
65. Players from Mark Hopwood's team
66. Players from Chris Chavez's team
67. Mary Anne Capelle
68. Glenn Lieu
69. Lane Pipers
70. Kris Starks
71. Ashley Fried
72. Attumnrainettree
73. Kerthik Memi
74. Vasilios Lazaris
75. Amelo Lecks
76. Mark Hopwood
77. Greg Dahlem
78. Diana Alveres
79. Duncan Alveres
80. Kelly Garvin
81. Jeremiah Hill
82. Grace Garun
83. Rayman Quist-Therson
84. Sara Collins
85. Jennifer Chavez
86. Steven Bloom
87. Matt Rarkaris

VII CLOSING

Door prizes were awarded at the conclusion of the business segment of the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 pm.

Submitted by Craig Blackburn, SAC Executive Director

2025-2026 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

June 9, 2026

By Bob Grandfield

The Soccer Association of Columbia/Howard County/Baltimore Armour (SAC/BA) annual year extends from September 1 through August 31 in conjunction with the Fall and Spring soccer seasons. As we approach the end of the 2025–2026 year, I wanted to provide an update on the past year and what the future holds for SAC/BA.

The past year has been another successful one in all aspects of the programs SAC/BA provides, including Juniors, Jr. Academy, Recreation, Select, Travel, and Academy. SAC/BA continues to uphold its primary mission of providing a positive soccer experience for players of all levels and ages. Through the efforts of many volunteers and staff members over the years, the Club has established itself as a premier youth soccer club in both Maryland and throughout the Mid-Atlantic region.

Player Registrations

Registrations for 2025–2026 were approximately 4% lower than the previous year. The decrease occurred primarily in the Junior Academy age groups (U5/U6) and the recreational high school league. These age groups face the most competition from other sports and local soccer programs.

The Club has more than 6,000 registered players from U3 to U19 competing at all levels of the youth soccer pyramid. Players come from throughout central Maryland to play for our teams. We continue to be one of the largest and, I believe, preeminent soccer programs in Maryland. No club or program matches our breadth of offerings or provides the same combination of staff quality, playing opportunities, and premier fields and facilities. With these advantages, our Club has actively marketed our programs and engaged in local outreach to ensure that the SAC/BA name is recognized by families and players seeking a soccer program.

Finances

The Club's overall operations and finances are managed on a day-to-day basis by our Executive Director, Craig Blackburn, a financial professional with an extensive soccer background. The finances are also monitored by the Board and its Chief Financial Officer, who is a CPA. Additionally, the Club's finances are regularly audited or reviewed by an outside accounting firm. The Club's Form 990, which is filed with the IRS, is available for inspection at SAC/BA's offices upon request.

From a financial perspective, the Club's position continues to be strong, with substantial cash reserves available to repay the loan on the complex and provide for maintenance and upkeep. Thanks to that strength, the Club continues to fund annual provisions for field and infrastructure

replacement to ensure that Covenant Park remains available for future generations of soccer players.

Overall revenue for the past year exceeded the budget adopted by the Board due to increases in the recreation program, travel program, and tournament revenue. Club expenses for the year are in line with the Board-approved budget. The Club has various lending facilities in place and is complying with the terms of each loan agreement while also repaying some loan obligations ahead of schedule.

The Club's major sponsors are the Bob Lucido Team, Bode Floors, Classic Photography, Dick's Sporting Goods, Pepsi, Fulton Bank, LDD Sports, Under Armour, Patient First, and Musco Lighting. We are in the eighth year of an agreement with Leidos to sponsor the Club's recreational jerseys. Additionally, SAC signed an agreement with Patient First to sponsor the back of the recreational jerseys beginning in Fall 2026. These funds help support the SAC/BA scholarship program across all programs. The Club has never turned away a player in need of scholarship assistance. SAC/BA continues to seek new sponsors to support the Club and our scholarship fund. The Club also has many companies that sponsor banners around the facility. If you own a business or know someone who would like to sponsor the Club, please contact Craig Blackburn at cblackburncoo@sachc.org.

Tournaments

SAC/BA successfully hosted all scheduled tournaments during the 2025–2026 season. The tournaments included the SAC/BA Columbus Day Tournament, Boys Classic, Girls Classic, Amanda Post Memorial Tournament, and the Columbia Invitational Soccer Tournament (CIST). All tournaments experienced increased participation from the previous year except for CIST, which was down sixteen teams.

The Club also leased the complex to Elite Tournaments over Labor Day weekend, one weekend in December, and two weekends in March.

SAC/BA held the 37th Annual Recreational Select Team Tournament during the last week of October and the first weekend of November. The SAC/BA office staff and volunteers coordinated the tournament. Sixty-two teams participated, ranging in age from U9 to U15.

Program Visibility

The Club remained active in Howard County throughout the year through the efforts of our athletes, volunteers, coaches, and alumni. When people think of soccer in Howard County and Central Maryland, we want SAC/BA to continue being recognized first as a top-tier soccer club with opportunities for players of all levels.

SAC participated in the production of a documentary to be broadcast on "All Access" with Andy Garcia on PBS. The documentary focuses on the importance of youth sports and the challenges

of cost and accessibility for participants. In addition, the production company created a 30-second commercial that will air on cable networks beginning in the fall.

In conjunction with the World Cup coming to the United States this June, SAC partnered with the local television station Fox 45 to promote the event. The primary focus was educating the public about various aspects of the game. Additionally, a commercial will air on the network, and SAC will be featured on Fox's morning show on June 16.

The Club continues to provide field space free of charge to CP Soccer for training players with Cerebral Palsy. SAC also held its first program for amputee soccer players in May.

Over the past four years, SAC/BA has partnered with Soccer Without Borders to provide free recreational soccer opportunities for players from low-income families in Baltimore City.

As a nonprofit organization, we understand the importance of helping others. During this fiscal year, SAC/BA provided approximately \$120,000 in financial aid across all programs.

After high school graduation, many SAC/BA players continue playing soccer at the collegiate level, and some advance to the professional ranks. Many former SAC/BA players have also become Club coaches and referees. Given the long history of SAC/BA, we now have several generations of families playing and/or coaching within the Club. Special thanks to the current high school and college players who coach teams and refereeing games, as these are valuable additions to the Club.

Our Club continues to maintain a strong presence across various social media platforms. If there is something you would like posted on SAC/BA's social media accounts, please email the Club's dedicated social media specialist at social@sachc.org. Thank you to everyone who already follows and supports the Club online. If you and your family have not yet done so, please visit the Club's Facebook page to stay informed about Club news, information, and upcoming events.

SAC and BA stickers and magnets are available free of charge at the SAC/BA office. Please pick one up and encourage others to display them as well.

Staffing

John Ellinger, SAC/BA's long-serving Technical Director, retired in December. Aki Lake has assumed the role of Technical Director. Linda Carmody, BA's Administrator, also left BA for another opportunity, and SAC/BA office staff have absorbed her responsibilities.

Covenant Park

Improving the game-day experience at SAC/BA continues to be a priority for the Board and staff.

SAC installed new concrete stairs on the side of the clubhouse, replacing the old wooden stairs. We also purchased new 9v9 goals for Field 8 and four sets of larger 5v5 goals for the U8 program.

SAC is investing in new LED lighting for Fields 5–8. This major project will improve field lighting while minimizing light pollution. Our contractor, Musco Lighting, will obtain “Dark Sky” certification for the fields, confirming that SAC’s lighting does not create spillover that affects the surrounding neighborhood. As part of the project, Musco will also rewire the complex to improve outdated infrastructure.

In June, SAC hired BrightView to replace the Bermuda grass on Field 4 with a new, more durable grass variety. BrightView will also use additional sprigs on Field 9 to repair bare spots.

We continue to replace wooden fencing with green metal fencing throughout the complex and around the retention ponds.

Programs and Enhancements

In Fall 2023–2024, SAC/BA instituted a Club Fee for travel teams. The Club Fee is an all-inclusive fee, with finances managed by the SAC office instead of individual team accounts. By all indications, this change has proven successful and has improved financial transparency for parents regarding travel costs.

The PlayMetrics registration system continues to be an enormous success. The registration process is easier for parents and can now be completed on a mobile device.

We also continue to support the high school mentor program, in which high school students volunteer as recreation coaches. Seniors participating in this program are eligible to apply for a \$500 scholarship from SAC/BA and the Lubitz Foundation. The Lubitz Foundation was created to honor longtime SAC coach Dave Lubitz, who passed away from cancer.

Existing Programs

Player development in SAC/BA recreational and travel programs continues to be, in my opinion, the best in the State of Maryland. The most immediate demonstration of this success is the performance of our teams in tournament competition and league play. Many SAC/BA teams compete in highly competitive regional and national leagues. The Club continues to excel in the USYS Presidents Cup and State Cup competitions. Overall, the Club has one hundred travel and academy teams, by far the largest number in the state.

Our recreational program is second to none, and we continue to develop our players to the highest level they can achieve. SAC/BA’s Technical Director, Aki Lake, continues to explore ways to improve the program, with a focus on player development and coaching education.

SAC/BA continues to operate its successful camp program and will do so again this summer. Our popular boys high school summer league will continue in 2026, and SAC/BA will also continue hosting the girls high school league through a partnership with Howard Community College.

The SAC Juniors program (U3–U5), under the leadership of Andrey Pavlov, is an excellent way for young girls and boys to be introduced to the game of soccer

SAC Going Forward

SAC/BA continues to operate at a high level in all areas, and I am confident we will continue to do so in the years ahead as SAC/BA concludes its 55th year as a soccer club. Our goal remains to provide girls and boys from Juniors (U3) through High School (U19) with instructional and competitive youth soccer opportunities that build character, strengthen community, and promote an appreciation for the game of soccer while emphasizing the core values of self-esteem, confidence, teamwork, and respect, along with the benefits of physical exercise.

Since its founding in 1971 as a small neighborhood-based youth soccer league to becoming a professional youth soccer club with a first-class facility and professional staff, the growth of SAC/BA has been tremendous. None of this would have been possible without the support of our volunteers, coaches, dedicated staff, and committed Board members. On behalf of the current Board of Directors, the most important message is this:

Thank you to all our volunteers and SAC/BA staff, past and present, for everything you do for SAC/BA and our players!

2025-26 SAC/BA Travel/Academy Report Aki Lake – Technical Director

SAC/BA Technical Director Annual Report

Dear SAC Family,

John Ellinger is arguably one of the greatest coaches in U.S. Youth Soccer history. Several generations of coaches and players have benefited from his passion, knowledge, and experience. Thanks to John Ellinger's visionary leadership and strategic direction, SAC/BA stands today as one of the premier youth soccer clubs in the country. I join our coaches, parents, and players in thanking John for his extraordinary leadership as Technical Director over the last 15 years. Through vision, hard work, and determination, John led SAC/BA's transformation and reestablished the club as one of the most respected youth soccer organizations in the nation.

I am honored by the Board's decision to appoint me as the new Technical Director of SAC/BA and humbled to succeed John as I write my first annual report to you. John is certainly a very difficult act to follow.

While there is a change in leadership, there is no change in strategy. Our club has a clear and consistent purpose: to create a culture that develops outstanding people and exceptional soccer players.

This past year, SAC/BA fielded 53 boys' travel teams and 36 girls' travel teams. SAC/BA travel teams participated in the following leagues: EDP, the USYS National League South Atlantic Conference, MLS NEXT Academy Division, MLS NEXT Homegrown, Girls Academy and GA Aspire. Our teams were competitive across all leagues.

Girls Playoffs / GA Champions Cup Qualifications

Congratulations to all the teams and coaches who qualified for postseason competition.

- GA Aspire U19, coached by Mark Hopwood, will compete in the Aspire Playoffs, June 25–30 in Norco, CA.
- GA Aspire U16, coached by Cynthia Walsh, will compete in the Aspire Playoffs, June 25–30 in Norco, CA.
- GA U19, coached by Sam Haddad, competed in the GA Champions Cup at IMG Academy in Bradenton, FL.
- GA U16, coached by Jeremy Dillon, competed in the GA Champions Cup at IMG Academy in Bradenton, FL.

- GA U16, coached by Jeremy Dillon, will compete in the GA Playoffs, June 18–22 in Norco, CA.

Boys Playoffs

Congratulations to all the teams and coaches who qualified for postseason competition.

- BA U13, coached by Machel Millwood, competed in the MLS NEXT Cup in Utah.
- BA U14, coached by Oscar Sancho-Davilla, competed in the MLS NEXT Cup in Utah.
- BA U16, coached by Oscar Sancho-Davilla, competed in the MLS NEXT Cup in Utah.
- BA U19, coached by Michael Lookingland, competed in the MLS NEXT Cup in Utah.

MSYSA State Cup

Congratulations to all of our State Cup finalists:

- Girls 2014 Pre-GA – Jon Larsson
- Girls 2015 Pre-GA – Jeremy Dillon
- Boys 2015 Pre-MLS NEXT – Ian Rodway

MSYSA President's Cup

Congratulations to all of our President's Cup champions and finalists:

- Girls 2009 Premier Blue (Champions) – Karl Omatsola
- Boys 2009 Premier Blue (Champions) – Frank Lopez
- Boys 2010 United Blue (Champions) – Michael Linsemeyer
- Boys 2015 Premier Blue (Champions) – Sumed Ibrahim
- Boys 2013 Premier Blue (Finalist) – Woolim Lee
- Girls 2014 United Blue (Finalist) – Mike Jenkins
- Girls 2012 Premier Blue (Finalist) – BJ McKellar

Player Development

SAC/BA U11–U19 teams utilized Veo 2 and Veo 3 camera systems to support video analysis. This technology is critical for player evaluation and the development of Individual Development Plans (IDPs). Veo continues to provide technology upgrades that enhance the quality of data and feedback available to our players after matches.

Coach Development / U.S. Soccer Coaching Licenses

SAC/BA continues to invest in coaching education because we believe it is a cornerstone of player development.

During the 2025–2026 season, our coaches utilized the following tools:

- Veo Technology – Game and player analysis
- Sports Session Planner – 3D training session design and periodization
- SAC/BA Game Analysis Book – Match-day notes and strategy
- Tactics Board – Soccer strategy and planning

We are proud of all coaches who completed U.S. Soccer licensing courses during the 2025–2026 season:

- 'B' License – 7
- 'C' License – 3
- 'D' License – 1

The club will continue investing in coaching education as an integral part of player development.

College Preparation Advisor / College Commitments

SAC/BA is proud to announce Paul Capodanno as our College Advisor. Paul's energy, network, and experience will help our players pursue opportunities to play collegiate soccer. Along with our coaching staff, Paul has been instrumental in supporting players as they navigate the college recruiting process.

College Commitments

The SAC/BA Class of 2026 includes 19 girls and 30 boys who will continue their soccer careers at the collegiate level.

- All 17 seniors on the GA U19 team have committed to playing soccer in college (Division I – 9 players, Division II – 2 players, Division III – 6 players).
- All 20 seniors on the BA U19 team have committed to playing soccer in college (Division I – 15 players, Division II – 1 player, Division III – 4 players).

We are extremely proud of this remarkable achievement. Our club continues to set the standard for college soccer placements. We wish the entire Class of 2026 the very best in their next chapter and hope to see many of them return to SAC/BA as coaches and mentors in the future.

Closing Statement

I hope you are as proud as I am of what we have accomplished together.

I cannot adequately express my appreciation and respect for the tremendous character, professionalism, and dedication of the office staff who support our club through both challenges and successes.

We are also deeply indebted to the many individuals whose contributions helped build this exceptional club and laid the foundation for our continued success.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our head coaches, assistant coaches, goalkeeper coaches, managers, volunteers, and their families. Your dedication and sacrifice help keep our club strong in an ever-evolving soccer landscape.

Finally, thank you to all of our players and parents for your continued commitment and loyalty to SAC/BA. We look forward to another successful season and to creating even more unforgettable memories together.

SAC Recreation Program Report (2025-2026)

Aki Lake

Technical Director

Wilma Moran-Wylie

VP Recreation Program

The Soccer Association of Columbia hosted another successful Recreation, Select and Junior Academy season. We continue to work diligently to provide you and your family with the best soccer experience possible.

The Recreation Program currently consists of:

- 541 volunteers (coaches, assist coaches, managers)
- 207 Rec Teams (U7-U19)
- 67 Select teams (U9-U15)
- 39 Junior Academy teams (U5-U6)
- 2,601 Players registered in Rec Program (1,694 boys and 907 girls)
- 956 Players registered in Select Program (568 boys and 388 girls)
- 402 Players registered Junior Academy Program (249 boys and 153 girls)
- 8 Outside Teams participating in the Club

To fulfill our “One Club” philosophy, the SAC Select Tryouts will be run by the Travel Coaches of the respective age groups. This will provide our players a direct pathway to play at the highest level possible (Recreation/Select/Travel). Throughout the tryout processes, the coaches will identify any players that should consider playing at the travel level.

Due to their success, the following programs will continue to be offered:

- Coach Mentoring Program: Designed for SAC High School players that wish to get involved in coaching at the Club.
- SAC Training Academy (offered throughout the year and the summer)
- Advanced Technical Training sessions for Recreation/Select players (offered throughout the year and the summer)
- Recreational Coaching Education Sessions (U.S. Soccer Coaching Modules)
- Under 8 Rec Plus Program with new enhancements including coach evaluations
- High School Summer Soccer League (boys/girls)
- U8-U14 Coaching Manuals
- SAC Player Development Models U8-U18
- SAC Player Job Descriptions

Thank you for being a member of the Soccer Association of Columbia. We look forward to serving you in the coming year.

SOCCKER ASSOCIATION OF COLUMBIA, INC.
CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTOR POSITIONS
2026-2027

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS ARE CANDIDATES FOR POSITIONS ON THE SAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS. (TWO YEAR TERM)

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| PRESIDENT | Bob Granfield |
| SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT | Not up for election |
| EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR | Lynn Canterbury |
| CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER | Not up for election |

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS ARE CANDIDATES FOR ONE YEAR TERM POSITIONS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| VICE PRESIDENT – MEMBER AT LARGE | Sarah McConnell |
| VICE PRESIDENT – RECREATION PROGRAMS | Wilma Moran-Wylie |
| VICE PRESIDENT – TRAVEL PROGRAMS | John Ellinger |
| VICE PRESIDENT – FACILITIES | Scott McVicker |
| VICE PRESIDENT – SPECIAL PROGRAMS | Michael Ditter |
| VICE PRESIDENT – SPORTSMANSHIP | Chris Riismandel |
| VICE PRESIDENT – MEMBERSHIP/SPONSORSHIP | Paul Capodanno |