



A-Board Newsletter

From your Communications Chair - Dylan Hammon

SPORTS COMMISSION UPDATE:

Welcome A-Board members to 2026!

Since our second quarter Associate Board meeting, the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission team has been hard at work, successfully hosting three events over a two-week span while continuing preparations for future marquee events.

USA Wrestling U23 Nationals + U20 World Team Trials

From May 29–31, we welcomed more than 1,200 athletes and 300 coaches to SPIRE Academy for three days of elite competition featuring some of the nation’s top wrestlers.

NCAA Division III Baseball Championships

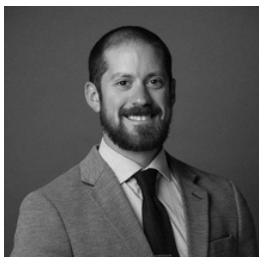
From May 29–June 4, the NCAA Division III Baseball Championships brought eight teams and 264 student-athletes to Classic Auto Group Park in Eastlake. This marked the third and final year of hosting the championship in Greater Cleveland.

Road to 26: Brazil vs. Egypt

As excitement built toward this year’s FIFA World Cup, Cleveland hosted Brazil and Egypt at Huntington Bank Stadium on June 6. The 64,000 fans, made it one of the highest-attended non-NFL sporting events in the stadium’s history.

Special Olympics USA Games Update

Several GCSC staff members are currently in Minneapolis observing the 2026 USA Games and gathering insights for Cleveland’s hosting efforts. Stay tuned to our social media to learn more about our trip!



Matt Sajna
msajna@clevelandports.org



Rachael Stentz-Baughner
rachaelsb@clevelandports.org

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A Word From Our Leaders...



ANGELA ALMASY
CHAIR

We've had a busy and productive second quarter, and it's been great connecting with so many of you at GCSC events, committee meetings, and our recent quarterly meeting. Thank you for your continued engagement as we make strong progress toward our annual goals.

A special thank you to Jaelen Hollinger for hosting us at DigitalC and coordinating our guest speaker, Joshua Edmonds.

Associate Board applications will open on August 3. Please consider individuals in your network who would add value and help advance our mission. I'm happy to connect with anyone interested in learning more. If you are considering stepping off the A-Board at year-end, please let Matt and me know by July 15 so we can plan accordingly.

Looking ahead, Q3 offers plenty of opportunities to make an impact. We're also beginning to explore how the A-Board can support the 2030 Special Olympics USA Games, and I look forward to sharing more in the months ahead. I hope to see many of you at our upcoming intern mentoring events and the Summer Golf Classic!

It's hard to believe we're already halfway through the year and the first six months have been packed with incredible events and opportunities for A-Board members to get involved!

From NCAA DI Wrestling, NCAA DIII Baseball, and the Collegiate Women's Bowling Championships to AMA Supercross, USA Fencing, USA Wrestling Trials, the American Cornhole League, and numerous volleyball tournaments, there truly has been something for everyone. It's been great to see nearly every A-Board member engaged at least once this year.

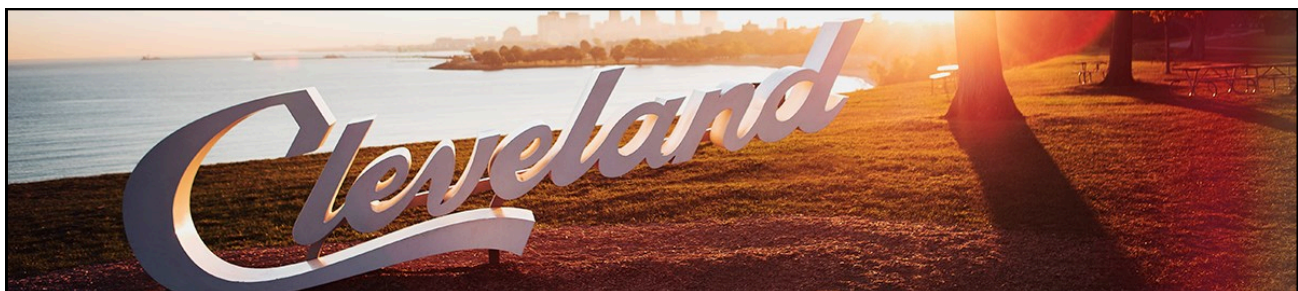
As we head into Q3, there are plenty of ways to stay involved. Upcoming opportunities include professional development events with our interns on June 17, June 24, and August 5, as well as Board to Board featuring Logan Weiland, CFO of Oatey, on September 17. Be sure to check the A-Board calendar for the latest updates.

One of my goals is to continue creating meaningful ways for members to connect with each other, our interns, and the broader Sports Commission community. If you have ideas for future speakers, volunteer opportunities, or ways to enhance the A-Board experience, I'd love to hear from you.

You can reach me at arielsmcnair@gmail.com if you have questions, ideas, or simply want to connect.



ARIEL MCNAIR
VICE CHAIR





PAIGE RABATIN
pmrabatin@bmdllc.com



PRADEEP GIRI
pradeep.giri@gmail.com

ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Engagement Committee has already had a strong start to the year and is excited to share several ways for members to continue making an impact.

Our annual baseball and softball equipment drive was a tremendous success, with approximately 1,300 items collected to date. While we are still awaiting a final count as additional donations continue to come in, the response from our network has once again been outstanding. Thanks to the generosity of our members and supporters, GCSC has already begun distributing equipment to local organizations, helping provide greater access to youth sports and creating opportunities for young athletes throughout our community.

Looking ahead, our next engagement opportunity will be the YES Program's Summer Golf Classic Youth Clinic on Monday, August 3. This annual event provides local youth with an opportunity to learn the game of golf while supporting the broader mission of using sports as a vehicle for mentorship, confidence-building, and personal growth. We will be seeking volunteers to help make the clinic a success, with opportunities available between 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Whether you are able to volunteer for the entire event or just a portion of the day, your time and support will make a meaningful difference in the experience for these young participants.

Thank you for your continued enthusiasm and commitment to the Engagement Committee. We look forward to seeing many of you at the clinic and throughout the remainder of the year.

AWARENESS COMMITTEE UPDATE



CHRIS PECK
cpeck@sequoia-financial.com



JIM HOFBAUER
James.Hofbauer@UHhospitals.org

As summer gets underway, much of our focus has shifted to planning for the Associate Board's signature fundraising event, the Summer Golf Classic, which will take place on Monday, August 3, at Sleepy Hollow Golf Course. This annual outing raises more than \$30,000 in support of the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission's mission and programs, making it one of the most important events on our calendar.

We encourage all members to consider how they can contribute to the event's success. Opportunities to get involved include purchasing a foursome, securing sponsorships, supporting on-course contests and activities, donating raffle items, or volunteering your time on event day. The success of the Golf Classic is truly a team effort, and we are grateful for the enthusiasm and support our Associate Board continues to provide. Additional event details and volunteer opportunities will be shared in the coming weeks.

We are also excited to launch our Mitchell's Ice Cream fundraising campaign in early July. By moving the campaign to the summer months, we hope to capitalize on seasonal excitement and provide supporters with a fun and easy way to give back while enjoying one of Northeast Ohio's favorite treats.

We encourage everyone to help spread the word within their personal and professional networks. Together, these efforts will help us continue creating a lasting impact through sport across Greater Cleveland.

Member Updates & General Announcements

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- June 24 | 11:30am-1pm: GCSC Intern Lunch and Learn [GCSC Office]
- July 28 | 7:45am-8:45am: Women's Coffee Hour [Roasted Tremont]
- August 3 | Summer Golf Classic + YES Program [Sleepy Hollow]
- August 5 | 3:30pm-5pm: GCSC Intern Public Speaking Showcase [TBC]
- August 13 | 4pm - 6pm: Q3 A-Board Meeting + Social [Patrick S. Parker Sailing Center]
- September 17 | 3:30pm-5pm: Board-to-Board [Logan Weiland, Oatey]
- September 26-October 3 | USA Boxing Volunteering [Public Auditorium]
- October 3 | 10am-3pm: USA Boxing YES Program [Public Auditorium]
- October 7 | GCSC Intern Networking Night [TBC]
- October 14 | GCSC Intern Lunch and Learn [GCSC Office]
- October 22 | 2pm-3:30pm: Board-to-Board [Ryan Puente, City of Cleveland]
- October 29 | 4pm - 7pm: Q4 A-Board Meeting + Holiday Party [Urban Community School]
- November 5 | Pickle In The Land Volunteering [Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland]
- November 12 | 3:30pm-6pm: GCSC Annual Meeting [TBC]
- December 2 | GCSC Intern Public Speaking Showcase [TBC]

Celebrate Good Times!

Shouting out to all the exciting news and events occurring in the lives of our A-Board members! We encourage you to share what you're celebrating in life so we can celebrate YOU throughout the year!

Birthdays

- 04/06 | Alfonso Makiling Jr.
 - 04/13 | Dylan Hammon
 - 04/16 | Paige Rabatin
 - 04/19 | Brian Nally
 - 05/06 | Julie Novario Calkins
 - 05/19 | Jim Hofbauer
 - 05/29 | Blair Vrcan
 - 06/01 | Jaelen Hollinger
 - 06/10 | Connor Stease
 - 06/22 | Javier Collins
 - 06/23 | Jeff Tolman
 - 06/27 | TJ Hunt
 - 06/29 | Marie Schaefer
-

Member Spotlights



JARED DALY

Regional Coordinator of Workforce Development, Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities

When did you join the Associate Board?
2026.

Are you originally from Northeast Ohio?
No, I first moved to Cleveland in 2006 for college.

What excites you the most about the work of the Associate Board?
Supporting GCSC and the work for the 2030 Special Olympics.

What is your favorite sports team or athlete?
The Guardians would be my top team with the Cavs a close second.

If you could attend any sporting event in the world, what would it be?
I really want to sit Courtside for an NBA game - ideally a playoff game but courtside any time I will take.

What is your favorite sports memory?
Being downtown for the Game 7 of the Cavs 2016 Championship!

What is your favorites Northeast Ohio restaurant?
Barrio (see photo).

When did you join the Associate Board?
2026.

Are you originally from Northeast Ohio?
Yes, born and raised.

What excites you the most about the work of the Associate Board?
Collaborating with like-minded young professionals who are passionate about bringing Cleveland together and elevating our community.

What is your favorite sports team or athlete?
Cavs.

If you could attend any sporting event in the world, what would it be?
Women's Olympic Gymnastics.

What is your favorite sports memory?
Cavs 2016 Championship, of course!

What is your favorites Northeast Ohio restaurant?
The Fairmount.



JULIE NOVARIO CALKINS

U.S. Program Officer,
Junaid Family Foundation



Cleveland in the News

Check out other Cleveland sports updates happening around town and in the community!

- Congratulations to our own Dylan Hammon, who was announced as part of Destinations International 30 Under 30 2026!
- Congratulations to Bailey Wells and Angela Almasy on their new roles!
- Check out the new Meet Me Here Plaza now open between the JACK Casino garage and Rocket Arena!
- Celebrate \$10 beer night with the Baseball Heritage Museum and Southern Tier on July 18.
- Visit Cleveland's newest waterfront recreation asset, the Patrick S. Parker Community Sailing Center at E.55th Marina.
- Cleveland Pro Soccer officially launched the brand of the highly anticipated WPSL team, Cleveland Astra!
- Homegrown world champion, Abdullah Mason, defends his world title on July 4th at the Wolstein Center!
- June 14th is officially Laila Edwards Day in Cuyahoga County, celebrating the National & Olympic Champion!



DEST. INT'L 30 UNDER 30
DYLAN HAMMON



PROMOTION!
BAILEY WELLS



NEW ROLE!
ANGELA ALMASY



MEET ME HERE PLAZA



\$10 BEER NIGHT



PATRICK S. PARKER
SAILING CENTER



CLEVELAND ASTRA



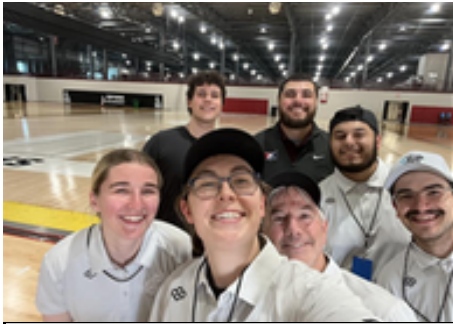
ABDULLAH MASON
WORLD TITLE DEFENSE



LAILA EDWARDS DAY

GCSC Team In Action!

Check out the Sports Commission and Associate Board in action around town and in the community!



USA WRESTLING U23 NATIONALS



GREEN SPORTS ALLIANCE SUMMIT



GCSC INTERN APRIL LUNCH AND LEARN



SPORTSLAND 2026



LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN



GCSC INTERN JUNE NETWORKING



Thank you for reading!

IF YOU'D LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO FUTURE NEWSLETTERS, PLEASE REACH OUT TO DYLAN HAMMON (DHAMMON@DESTINATIONCLE.ORG)