



Associate Board Overview

Overview

The Associate Board helps Greater Cleveland Sports Commission (GCSC) achieve its mission to measurably improve the economy of Greater Cleveland and enrich the community by attracting, creating, managing, and enhancing significant sporting and competitive events. The Associate Board is comprised of passionate advocates for GCSC and the City of Cleveland. Selected through a competitive process, the Associate Board meets quarterly and is responsible for developing and executing specific projects and initiatives in partnership with GCSC Staff.



Mission

The Associate Board furthers the advancement of GCSC through the generation of ideas, advocacy, and awareness.

Associate Board Benefits

- Opportunity to enhance the economy, image, and quality of life in the Greater Cleveland community through sporting and competitive events.
- Network with GCSC Board of Directors and Staff.
- Better understanding of GCSC goals and current projects.
- Develop relationships with other like-minded professionals who share a passion for Cleveland.
- Access to purchase tickets for select events ahead of the public.
- Listed on GCSC's website.



Meeting Schedule

- Quarterly Associate Board meetings run from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. and are followed by an optional social component.
- Sub-committee meetings, as scheduled by Co-Chairs of Initiative Planning Teams.
- Annual fundraising event(s).
- Awareness events, when appropriate.
- Social events include optional happy hours, golf, sporting events, etc.
- Annual networking event with GCSC Board of Directors and Staff.

Terms

Members are selected for one (1) two-year term and may serve up to three (3) two-year terms.

Please submit completed application packet by Thursday, October 31, 2024:

Becky Griesmer / rgriesmer@clevelandsports.org / 216-479-6226



Annual Dues

All Associate Board members are required to pay annual dues of \$1,000 (personal or corporate contribution). Partial scholarships and non-profit rates are available.

2024 Executive Committee

- Elected Positions
 - o Chair: *John Banks, The Shamrock Companies*
 - o Vice Chair: *Angela Almasy, Dix & Eaton*
 - o Co-Chairs of Initiative Planning Teams:
 - Community Engagement Initiatives: *Ariel McNair, EY & Mike Vuraich, Mid-American Conference*
 - Awareness Initiatives: *Robert Guy, Re:Build CDI & Matt Schaefer, Golden Reserve*
- Executive Committee manages all issues related to governance.



Committees

All Associate Board members are expected to join at least one (1) Initiative Planning Team and attend majority of meetings of the planning team on which they serve.

Community Engagement Initiatives

The Community Engagement Initiative Planning Team will identify ways in which GCSC can develop unique connections with the Greater Cleveland community. The Co-Chairs are responsible for overseeing the Community Engagement Initiative Planning Team's pursuit of the following goals:

- Developing ideas to link the GCSC events with community resources to maximize event impact.
- Deploying community outreach activities at select GCSC events.
- Developing legacy and programming ideas that leave a meaningful impact on the community.



Awareness Initiatives

The Awareness Initiative Planning Team will promote engagement and awareness of GCSC for emerging leaders in Cleveland. The Co-Chairs are responsible for overseeing the Awareness Initiative Planning Team's pursuit of the following goals:

- Promoting the GCSC brand, providing exclusive Cleveland sports experiences, and granting rare access to Cleveland sports venues and locales. Events will be financially self-sustaining.
- Advocating on behalf of GCSC and its associated events.
- Creating fundraising opportunities to support GCSC.

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**Greater Cleveland Sports Commission Associate Board
2025-2026 Application for Membership**

Application Materials Checklist:

- Completed Application Form
- Current Resume
- Two (2) Letters of Recommendation
- Scholarship Application (optional)

Application Deadline: Thursday, October 31, 2024

First + Last Name: _____

Email + Phone Number: _____

Employer: _____

Title: _____

Personal Mailing Address: _____

Please attach a separate document with answers to the following questions (limit 300 words each).

- 1. Why are you motivated to apply for membership to the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission's Associate Board? Please focus on your interest in GCSC specifically.*
- 2. What skills and experiences will allow you to contribute positively and uniquely to Greater Cleveland Sports Commission and its Associate Board?*
- 3. What would you like to gain from being a member of the Associate Board?*
- 4. How does the Associate Board support your passions and goals with civic engagement?*
- 5. Describe your interests and experiences with civic engagement, providing a list of other organizations with which you have been involved and the capacity in which you served. Please also indicate any on which you continue to serve.*

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Greater Cleveland Sports Commission Associate Board 2025-2026 Scholarship Application (Optional)

Standard dues are \$1,000 annually. Members from non-profit organizations or with company representation on the GCSC Board of Directors receive a discount. Scholarship application will be considered separately from application for membership. No applicant will be granted 100% scholarship. All applicants will be required to pay a portion of their annual dues. An application for membership must also be submitted to be considered for the Associate Board.

Scholarship Application Deadline: Thursday, October 31, 2024

First + Last Name: _____

Email + Phone Number: _____

Employer: _____

Title: _____

Personal Mailing Address: _____

Please attach a separate document with answers to the following questions (limit 300 words each).

- 1. What is the amount of your scholarship request? You must enter a specific dollar amount (do not include a range).*
- 2. Please state the reason(s) you are seeking a scholarship. You must include how your participation in Greater Cleveland Sports Commission's Associate Board would be impacted without that funding.*
- 3. To what success have you secured other sources of funding support (employer, community organization, mentor, board member, etc.)?*
- 4. Understanding that we have different backgrounds and experiences, what skills, perspectives, and/or experiences do you possess that would benefit other participants and add to the diverse makeup of the Associate Board class?*

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Associate Board Statement of Expectations

- Committing to the mission and goals of Greater Cleveland Sports Commission.
- Attending meetings of the Associate Board of Directors: Four (4) meetings are scheduled each year. Board members are expected to attend at least three (3) of four (4) scheduled meetings.
- Serving on at least one (1) initiative planning team and attend meetings: Board members are expected to attend/participate in most meetings of the planning team on which they serve.
- Contributing annual dues to Greater Cleveland Sports Commission.
- Participating in fundraising activities.
- Representing Greater Cleveland Sports Commission: Be familiar with and speak on behalf of the Sports Commission.
- Disclosing any potential conflict of interest with Greater Cleveland Sports Commission.
- Refraining from discussing or sharing confidential board business with non-board members.

_____(*initial*) I understand that if I am selected to serve on the Associate Board of Greater Cleveland Sports Commission, I will be held accountable to the expectations above on an annual basis.

Interview Selection

All applicants will be invited to an in-person interview with two (2) members of the Associate Board Executive Committee. Please check which date(s) you are available and continue to hold your calendar. As we get closer, you will be assigned to a 45-minute time slot within this window:

- Tuesday, November 19 – 5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 20 – 5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Signature

By signing below, I understand that all information I have submitted is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that applying does not guarantee acceptance. New members will be selected by the current Associate Board Executive Committee based on questionnaire, resume, experiences, letters of recommendation, and/or interview. Space is limited.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

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