



...always moving forward #vsa

Hello VSA Families,

I want to welcome all of the new folks into our organization and welcome back those who are returning. This is an exciting time in VSA history as we are now transitioning from a developmental club to a professional youth club. What does this mean?

It means that we are fortunate to have had a select group of dedicated volunteers who shouldered the responsibilities of managing and performing all of the day-to-day operations of the club in years past. The time it took to manage the minutia that goes in to running a youth sports organization of our size is quite substantial. This didn't leave much time to really dig deep and analyze what was working with the club and what needed to be improved, nor did it leave much time to anticipate the next course of action.

We are now in a position where we can offer professional full-time coaching and administrative support to handle the day-to-day operations of the club. The soccer experts will make the soccer decisions. The board will still give guidance and oversight of the staff, but board members will now have the time and flexibility to analyze our programs, continue what works, fix what doesn't, and anticipate the future needs of the club to grow VSA.

My vision for VSA is to provide a community atmosphere where children of all abilities, goals, and aspirations have a place to play soccer, grow as athletes, and develop into well-rounded individuals. VSA will provide high-quality service to our members by investing in our players, parents, and coaches. VSA will clearly outline the programs we offer, and will deliver on those promises. Members will be proud to be part of VSA.

We as a board feel very fortunate to have found Matt Lacey to lead us on the technical side. He is highly qualified, having played at the professional and collegiate levels, was the past Technical Director for Chesterfield United, and holds a USSF A License as well as a USSF National Youth License. Matt has high standards and expectations for himself, his staff, and his coaches. He has an incredible work ethic and enthusiasm for the game. Additionally, Matt is well-connected and well-respected within the soccer community. He has put a technical staff in place that will support all aspects of our club from Recreational and ADP to Travel. We will also invest in coaches at every level to increase their knowledge and education to bring back to our players. This includes offering coaching certification courses for some of our recreational coaches.

With a competent technical staff in place, the board is looking forward to shifting focus towards obtaining more fields. All of the sports leagues in our area have the opportunity for growth, but there currently are not enough fields to support that growth. VSA is committed to working with Parks & Recreation and the Board of County Supervisors to push for the development of the long-promised fields at Catharpin and Rollins Ford. The board will also investigate alternate methods of obtaining quality fields as well as organizing fundraising events to go towards a field fund.

Another project at the forefront of the board is to create a scholarship program. VSA wants to provide scholarship opportunities to players based on need. The board will be initiating fundraising campaigns for this worthwhile cause as well as setting up guidelines, a blind application process, and a scholarship committee.

The board is also looking forward to providing more community outreach opportunities for our members. It is important to give back to the community. VSA will be looking to support various community endeavors to include local food banks/shelters, Wounded Warrior, VDOT Adopt A Highway, and Wreaths Across America.

I look forward to serving the members of VSA and working with the board and staff to continue to improve our program and provide positive experiences for the members of our youth soccer community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mandi N. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President, Virginia Soccer Association