

**John Ruffolo**  
**Candidate for President**  
**Ohio Soccer Association**

Dear OSA Members:

Pursuant to the new Code of Regulations of Ohio Soccer Association (“OSA”), I am declaring my candidacy for the office of President of Ohio Soccer Association. This is the first annual statewide general meeting and election for President of OSA following the successful merger of Ohio South Youth Soccer Association (“Ohio South”) and the Ohio Youth Soccer Association – North, Inc. (“Ohio North”).

Initially, I want to express my sincere appreciation for your past participation in Ohio North and Ohio South and for your service to all the athletes that participate in Ohio soccer. Soccer is indebted to each of you for your contribution to our sport.

I have been the President of Ohio South for the past four (4) years and I am the current President of the transitional Board of OSA. Prior to my election as Board President, I was a Board Member of Ohio South for several years. In addition, I have been a college player, a high school coach, a youth coach and Board Member and President of the Miami Valley Youth Soccer Association.

I would like to address three themes that I want to promote:

1. Inclusion and Participation

I am very proud to have guided Ohio South into this merger with Ohio North to form OSA. The greatest accomplishment of the merger, in my opinion, was its decision to be inclusive. If you look at the OSA Code of Regulations, you will find that each of you have a role in our association. I am most pleased that clubs, leagues and associations have voting rights in choosing your leadership. With voting rights, there is an expectation that there will be participation by the members. I encourage each of you to feel that your contribution to our Association is essential and necessary to its success.

As your President you can be assured that this organization will value your opinion. I will continue to encourage the organization to seek your guidance. This will be your organization. I will demand that our staff will always pursue programs that benefit our members. I want our organization to listen to your concerns and respond accordingly.

2. Safety

In addition, I am proud of how both Associations have faced the challenges of COVID this past year. It has been most difficult facing issues that are not only novel, but intimidating. I believe that the leadership of OSA must be willing to face the challenges of COVID with the goal of assuring that our youth will be safe in playing the game. At the same time, leadership must understand that our youth need to play. Leadership must find the path to merge both of these goals. As President, I would encourage our clubs, leagues and associations to follow the guidance of our health officials and your OSA leadership.

In guiding OSA, I believe that our message must be our commitment to providing the infrastructure and pathways for player, coach and referee development, risk management, and SafeSport - making it safer and more fun for kids to play.

### 3. Expansion of Programs / Marketing

I am pleased that our transitional Board has approved the appointment of Gordon Henderson to lead our Association as its first Chief Executive Officer. As President of Ohio South I have been fortunate to have worked with Gordon and I look forward to continuing to work with Gordon if elected. Gordon and I believe that we must have an investment in our programs that develop and nurture the next generation of soccer players. What does this mean? We must encourage investment in the youth programs by focusing less on the business aspect and more on a way to develop enjoyment of the game. We must market our organization by targeting our youth and youth organizations with programs that benefit the development of skills and the understanding of the game. Soccer is the greatest sport in the world. Let's go out and bring this wonderful game to everyone, including our inner city youth, our rural youth and let's develop programs for our youth as they transition to adulthood.

This will be the last year of having a separate State Cup and President Cup for Ohio North and Ohio South. With the merger we need to be expanding the Cups to allow for greater participation throughout Ohio. I remember coaching in State Cup and the Regionals. I know my players remember the joy of the event. We need to make it an event that each of the participants will find memorable whether they just participate or win and move on.

There are so many other issues that need to be addressed by this new Board and its President. Please know that I will be ready to lead our Association. However, before going forward with OSA, I want to thank the volunteer Boards of Ohio North and Ohio South for their past commitment to youth soccer and their efforts in merging these organizations. Further, I want to thank the current transitional Board for their insight and guidance in getting this Association to our first Annual General Meeting. It has been an honor and pleasure to work with you.

Finally, if elected, please know that I promise to work diligently and tirelessly to promote soccer in Ohio. I look forward to representing you and providing the assistance you require for your programs. I appreciate your support.

Yours in soccer,

*John M. Ruffolo*

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JOHN M. RUFFOLO  
**RUFFOLO, STONE & STONE**

**Education:**

University of Dayton, Juris Doctor, 1982;  
University of Dayton, B.A. in political science/pre-law, 1979.

**Admissions:**

Ohio Bar, 1982  
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Ohio, 1983  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, 1984.

**Member:**

Dayton Bar Association  
Ohio State Bar Association  
Certified Grievance Committee for Dayton Bar Association, 1992 – 1999, 2000-2001; Chairman,  
1997 - 1999.  
Dayton Bar Association Counsel, 2001-present.

**Employment:**

Cross & Turner, a general practice law firm (1983-1985).  
Allbery, Cross & Turner, a general practice law firm (1986-1987).  
Law Offices of John M. Ruffolo (1988-1992).  
Ruffolo, Stone & Dressel, a general practice law firm (1992-2014).  
Ruffolo, Stone & Stone, a general practice law firm (2014-present).

**Practice Areas:** Real Estate, Corporate/Business, General Civil Litigation, Probate, Personal Injury and Domestic Relations, Ethics/Discipline.

**Awards:**

AV Preeminent© Attorney in Martindale Hubble (2004-Present)

**Presentations:**

New Lawyer Training - 02/19/2009  
Annual Criminal Law Seminar - 05/08/2009  
Conflicts of Interest in a Full-Service Law Firm - 12/17/2009  
Domestic Relations – Professionalism – 12/2010  
Ethical Considerations & the Grievance Process - 09/25/2012  
Flying Solo: Starting, Managing and Maintaining a Solo Practice - 10/05/2012  
Mistakes You Don't Want to Make: Common Ethics Issues & Disciplinary Problems -  
12/02/2013 Professionalism, Law Practice Management & Client Fund Management - 12/04/2013  
Legal Malpractice Issues & Ethical Traps - 10/02/2014

Professionalism, Law Practice Management & Client Fund Management - 12/03/2014  
Ohio Ethics Update - 01/12/2015  
Professional Conduct: The Top 10 Ethics Mistakes - 12/04/2015  
Ethics Year in Review - 12/19/2016  
Recent Ethics Violations and the Ethical Perils of Social Media - 10/26/2017  
Young Lawyer Development (YLD) Core Components: IOLTA/Professionalism - 11/29/2017  
2018 Ethics Case Law Review & New Advisory Opinions - 11/15/2018  
Young Lawyer Development (YLD) Core Components: IOLTA/Professionalism - 12/2018  
2019 Ethics Case Law Review & New Advisory Opinions - 11/14/2019  
YLD Core Components: IOLTA/Professionalism - 12/04/2019

### **Soccer/Community Activities:**

#### **Board Member:**

Ohio South Youth Soccer Association  
President (2017-Present)  
Appeals Chairperson (2009-2016)  
Board Member (2013-Present)

Miami Valley Youth Soccer Association  
President (2011-2016)  
Vice-President of Conduct (2009-2011)  
Board Member (2008-2016)

#### **Coaching:**

Northern Warren County Soccer Club  
Head Soccer Coach (2009-2014); U-13 State Cup Champion 2012

ISC Storm / Centerville Recreational / Washington Township Recreation Center  
Head Soccer Coach (1997-2010);

South Dayton Knights Basketball Program  
Head Coach (2010-2014)  
Assistant Coach (2008-2010)

Incarnation Grade School  
Basketball Coach (2005-2016)

Oakwood High School  
Varsity Women's Head Coach (1983-1986)

Oakwood Jr. High School  
Boy's Assistant Coach (1981-1982)

#### **Playing Career:**

University of Dayton  
Men's Varsity Soccer (1976-1979)