

Below you will find the nominees for the open board seats at this year's AGM elections:

1. President- Elect: Rich Watkins, Scott Baird

Bios:

Richard Watkins

My name is Richard Watkins, and I am running for the President-Elect board position. It has been a privilege to serve on the board this past year and I would love to continue giving back to the club by serving in this new role as President-Elect.

I have lived in Rapid City for the past 19 years with my wife, Jenna, and our two children, Landon (15) and Merica (11). My son is currently on the U16 NPL boys' team and has been playing for the Rapids since 2017. For the past 23 years, I have served in the Army National Guard and currently work full-time as a Soldier on Camp Rapid.

My passion for Black Hills soccer started in high school around the mid-90s when I began guest playing with a Rushmore soccer team in the summer months while visiting my dad. Following high school, I went on to play soccer here in Rapid City at NAU and then Montana State University - Billings. Currently, I am assisting with the U16 NPL boys' team. I look forward to continuing my passion for this great game by coaching and staying active within the club where needed. I believe in what this club stands for and the continuation of its cause.

Thank you for your consideration,

Richard Watkins

Scott Baird

Scott Baird is a well renowned and respected athletic trainer within the Black Hills region. He is currently employed with BHOSC and is working with Stevens Raiders for their athletic endeavors. He has also provided countless volunteer hours of his certified athletic training knowledge to the Rapids teams since becoming a paying member in 2019 when he moved his family back to the region to be closer to both grandparents. Thru the majority of his 25 plus year of athletic training career he has been on the collegiate sidelines. He left his collegiate athletic training position where he was the head athletic trainer for the university of Bridgeport and he was the head of the women's soccer team who were national champions for D2. Upon returning to rapid city he obtained his Masters in Health Sciences Management to further advance his love of collegiate and youth sports involvement in not only rehabilitation aspect yet in further tutelage and understanding of the requirements necessary to advance to the next level

His passion for athletics, the community, the kids... his respect for the level of dedication and sacrifice of the coaching staff and his appreciation for the entire Rapids staff who keep the grass green and the communication lines clear as mud.

Lovingly termed the Dad who dads the hardest of all the dads.... His love for his soccer family is unrivaled.

2. **Treasurer:** Jarrod Reisner

Bio:

Jarrod Reisner

I am writing to express my interest in the Treasurer position on the Board of Directors for the Black Hills Rapids. My extensive background in finance, board governance, advocacy, and strategy, combined with my lifelong passion for soccer and commitment to community service, supports me as a candidate for this role.

As it relates to the position of Treasurer, I am a CPA and have been employed by Black Hills Federal Credit Union for the past 15 years, serving as Chief Financial Officer for the last 13 years. My professional experience has equipped me with the financial acumen and strategic leadership necessary to effectively manage the financial responsibilities of the Treasurer position.

Soccer has been a significant part of my life, both as a player and a coach. I have a USSF D coaching license and have been involved in the game for as long as I can remember and have been a coach within the Rapids program for the past 9 years, recently as the U13 Boys Select / NPL Coach. Prior to having children and the Black Hills Rapids existing, I coached for the RCYSL Challenge program. My two boys are currently in the Rapids Select / NPL program (2010 and 2012), and I value the opportunity to give back to my community and youth through the game of soccer.

My background working with and serving on Boards will provide valuable experience for the strategic direction of the Rapids. This upcoming May, I will be termed out after 9 years of service to the Dakota Credit Union Association, where I represented and advocated, at state and national levels, for all North Dakota and South Dakota credit unions, serving 6 years as Board chair. I also serve as Treasurer of Black Hills Fly Fishers for over 9 years, advocating for cold, clear water.

I believe that my professional background, passion for soccer, dedication to developing our youth, and experience in political advocacy and strategic governance will enable me to be an effective voice for the greater good of the Black Hills Rapids.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to further contribute to the Black Hills Rapids.

3. Secretary: Alysia Lester

BIO:

Alysia Lester

I am a neonatal nurse practitioner here in Rapid City and have had the privilege of serving on the Black Hills Rapids Soccer Club Board of Directors for the past two years. As a mom to three soccer players (U15, U12, and U10), I am deeply committed to supporting youth sports and fostering a positive environment where young athletes can thrive.

This is our family's last season with a child in the pre-select program, which gives me even more reason to contribute to the club's success and growth. I am running for the position of secretary to continue serving the community I care so much about, both through my work and through youth sports.

I believe in the values of teamwork, communication, and dedication—both on and off the field. I look forward to bringing my experience and passion to this role to help ensure the best possible experience for all our players and families.

4. Member at Large – Pre-Select Program: Robert Galbraith

BIO:

Robert Galbraith

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Robert Galbraith. I would like to submit my application for the Member at Large – Pre-Select position with the Black Hills Rapids Soccer Club. I was born and raised in Rapid City, and, other than my time in college and law school, I have lived in Rapid City all 41 years of my life. My wife, Amanda, and I have two girls, both of whom play for the Rapids, Kaira (2014) and Paige (2017). We have been involved with the Rapids organization for the last 6 years and the pre-select/select programs since 2022. Outside of soccer, through our girls, I have had the opportunity to coach or help coach both youth softball and basketball for many years. I also serve on the board of directors for Black Hills Sports, Inc., the non-profit entity that manages the Post 22 baseball stadium (we do not manage the program itself). Through that board I have worked through various issues negotiating the field lease with the City, drafting comprehensive field use guidelines and applications for third-party use of the field, concessionaire issues, and advertising/fundraising. Having had the opportunity to see many different sports and organizations in Rapid City throughout my life, both Amanda and I have consistently told the coaches of our girls' BHR teams, we believe the Rapids

represent the gold standard for youth athletics in Rapid City. Based on our experience to date, we have been impressed with the player development, culture, and strategic/competitive plan we have seen with the Rapids. Our girls have grown as players and humans through this program more than we could ever express (our oldest more so than our youngest who is still fairly new to the program). The coaching staff we have had the pleasure of getting to know through our girls have been some of the most impactful non-family individuals in their lives. While my wife and I both grew up playing sports in Rapid City, we were not soccer players; we are very happy now to be soccer fans. I look forward to the opportunity to further contribute to the BHR organization. If you have any questions, or would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

5. **Member at Large – General Membership (Odd Years):** Ben Wudtke, Kelsey McKie, Justin Wermers

BIOS:

Ben Wudtke

My name is Ben Wudtke, and I am running for the Member at Large - General Membership board position. Our family has called Rapid City home since 2012, and our son has been playing with the Black Hills Rapids for about 10 years – since he was 6 years old. My wife has also volunteered as the fundraising coordinator for our team in the past. Our family has a passion for the game and want to see the club succeed. Over those 10 years we have seen the growth and changes within the club and know there is more to come.

As we move forward, I believe it is critical for board members to bring the voice of the broader membership into the process by providing easy access to board members to ensure the opportunity for every family to be heard. I know the importance of close member relations from my everyday work as the Executive Director of a multi-state, members-based trade association. Additionally, I hold positions on other boards from the Black Hills to Colorado and am experienced working through complex issues, together, towards the best outcome for everyone.

Although my work and travel schedule has previously made it difficult to be closely involved with the inner operations of the club, I have already made the commitment and changes needed to prioritize working with the Black Hills Rapids Board of Directors and I look forward to bringing a fresh voice to the table.

Thank you for your consideration,
Ben

Kelsey McKie

My name is Kelsey McKie, I am applying for the member at large board position.

I was not born and raised here, but I am a transplant of 20 years. I am a mortgage loan officer at CMG Home Loans, which gives me the flexibility to be a fulltime mom and be successful at my career. I have three children in the club, one in Pre-Select U8 and two in Select U11 & U13. It's rare I'm not at the complex moving around, assisting where needed. I was nominated as volunteer of the year, but I yet have to log any volunteer hours since we joined the club. I simply donate my time as much as I can.

My husband Matt was the former board President. With his term ending I feel it's important to have a Mom serve on the board. I know it would be beneficial for the club and players as I may see things differently than the mostly male dominate board. I look forward to representing the players of the club on the board.

Thank you,
Kelsey McKie

Justin Wermers

My name is Justin Wermers. I grew up in Dimock, South Dakota, where I learned the value of hard work on my family's farm. My wife and I have four kids, and Rapid City has been our home for 12 years. My career as a power lineman has instilled in me the importance of safety, teamwork, and reliability.

I love sports and strongly believe that keeping kids active and fostering teamwork builds character and lifelong skills. For the past three years, our family has been actively involved in soccer. In addition to supporting youth sports, I'm actively involved in my local faith community and passionate about giving back.

I believe the soccer club is making a positive impact on our kids and our community, and I'd be honored to contribute to Black Hills Rapids continued success.