



Nordecke Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 4, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Columbus Metropolitan Library, Dublin Branch, Meeting Room 2

Attendees: Paco Argondizza, Kourtney Sullivan, Brent Miller, Ravi Pandey, Collin Hill, Kurtis Roush

- Updates
 - Chairperson
 - Nordecke Cup is set for 9/21 at Historic Crew Stadium. Registration will go live after tonight's board meeting. It is open to all current Nordecke members, there is no registration fee. Winning team will receive a prize pack. Socials push will begin soon.
 - Communications
 - USMNT Match
 - Nordecke was provided a discount code for additional tickets that US Soccer is selling in the Nordecke, prices are \$45-\$50 each. The link was posted on socials last week, it can be posted and shared again if needed.
 - We received the discount link well after the public on sale date, which is why it was shared so late.
 - Kurtis asked if US Soccer has shared any sales information for the match; Collin said no.
 - Flag Policy/Issues
 - Event timeline overview:
 - The team signed Wessam on 7/26/25.
 - Nordecke fans attempted to take normal preapproved flags into the stadium, including a Danish flag and a Canadian flag, plus a separate fan with a US flag which was confiscated. Allison & Ethan McKinley attempted to bring in the Danish and Canadian flags and were told at the gate that the policy has been forever that no national flags are allowed in the stadium. Allison asked the security personnel to provide the written policy and he could not. This put the Nordecke board on notice that all flags, banners, etc needed preapproval prior to every match in order to be displayed.
 - This was the same match where the Crew played Toluca and there were several national flags in the stands.



- After the 7/29 match, Collin sent an email to Ty asking that the Nordecke be allowed to bring in national flags of the players on the team.
- A few weeks went by without much information back from the club, Collin was told that it was in the works with MLS.
- Collin received an email and call from Ty saying that the team's request to the MLS had been approved to display one flag from each player's national team/country. The team identified the drumline/ADA area as a good place to hang the flags. These flags would be the only ones permitted in the stadium.
- Over those 10-12 days, Nordecke was contacted by at least 6 different national journalists asking for comment.
- During the August front office meeting, the FO was very defensive regarding the flag updates. The stadium A-Z guide was updated before the meeting to reflect this new policy.
 - Every time the board asked for clarification or asked the FO to point to actual policies, they could not.
- Henry from the Athletic reached out to Collin letting him know that he had received a statement from the MLS regarding the flag policy.
- Henry then went to the team and asked for a statement and the club walked back their statement.
- The board received an email from Ty at 7:00AM the day that the Athletic article dropped stating that there is no limit or ban on country or national team flags other than countries involved in the conflict in the Middle East.
- Kurtis said that at the tailgate, someone had brought pocket size parade style Palestinian flags and was handing them out. This was not funded or provided by Nordecke. Many fans tried to take the flags into the stadium; security was threatening fans with a stadium ban of up to one year if they took the flags into the stadium. A number of flags did make it into the stadium, at least one former Nordecke leadership member was removed from the stadium by security for allegedly waving his flag.
- Norm said there were additional issues with fans that were wearing various types of Palestinian apparel and were also threatened by security. The issues did not appear to be limited only to Palestinian flags.



- Kurtis said that there was a Palestinian family in the stands that was wearing a Kafia jersey with a tiny Palestinian flag that security was attempting to kick out. Brad and other board members escorted the family into the Nordecke section and helped to be able to keep them at the match.
- Brent said that there were reports of someone in a Palestinian jersey that was removed and asked if we received any confirmation that this happened. Alex said that there was a fan behind him in a Palestinian jersey that was not there after half time, but also stated that it isn't uncommon for fans to leave at half time or other times during the match.
- The Nordecke will not enforce the flag policy but we will attempt to educate our membership on the policy.
- Community
 - Kourtney shared that we will be doing blessings bags again for the Nordecke Cup, so if anyone would like to donate or volunteer to put together the bags, please reach out to Emily
 - The next volunteering event is 9/14/25 at Ronald McDonald House from 3:00PM to 7:00PM. If you would like to sign up to volunteer, signups are available on Nordecke.com.
- Creative
 - Deputy Creative Director announced - thanks Rick Herman! Rick has been acting in that capacity for a few months and it is now official.
 - Hispanic Heritage tifo is underway. There will be some additional hours this Saturday 9/6/25 from 12:00PM to 5:00PM.
- Gameday
 - Paco welcomed back Trent and Joey from vacation and thanked everyone who helped out in August with Leagues Cup, the Crewzers reunion, hanging banners, etc.
 - The CAPA event was last Saturday, Paco estimated there were about 250 people in attendance. The venue was very cool, with lots of very positive reviews from attendees that were not already part of the Nordecke. Paco thinks there is definitely room for improvement and could work well for a playoff match or something like that.
 - Paco said if anyone has any differing feedback from the CAPA event, please reach out or email him so that he can share all feedback for improvement with the front office.
 - Paco said if anyone Latino fans are interested in getting on the capo stands for the Hispanic Heritage night, reach out to him ASAP.
- Merchandise
 - Brad is working on a couple of new fall merch items - a hoodie and jacket.
 - Kids Club launch is paused until everything is more fleshed out.



- There were a decent amount of sales at the CAPA watch party, Brad will provide a sales total update over the weekend.
- Nordecke 2025 memberships close at noon on Decision Day, they will not reopen after that date for playoff ticket sales.
- Partnerships
 - Reminder to the board to fill out your surveys.
 - Condado and Seventh Son will both be providing gift cards. Ravi is working on getting additional gift cards from Walrus and Pecan Penny's.
 - The Beer Captain asked if we should have a jockey box for tailgate that could be handy as we have more beer partners that may prefer to provide kegs instead of cans of beer. The total cost would be \$800.
 - Norm asked how many partners have preferred to provide kegs instead of cans.
 - Ravi said that it's usually a mix. Endeavor, and Seventh Son typically put together kegs. Some of the newer partners provide cans, some provide kegs. This past home game was the first time that Land Grant provided kegs.
 - The beer captain also suggested putting out a donation box at the tailgate where people could donate towards the purchase of a jockey box.
 - Ravi is looking into seeing if a food truck would be interested in participating in the Hispanic Heritage night tailgate. He'll put out feelers this week and provide info to the board regarding costs.
 - There was a question if the team would put anything towards the cost or if Condado would offer any discounts since they are in the stadium.
 - A question was also raised on if there will be any restrictions on food vendors we could bring in because the tailgate is on Crew property, there may be restrictions that the team can allow due to their contracts.
 - Counterbalance Brewing will be providing beer for both of the remaining regular season home matches.
- Travel
 - Despite multiple competing events, we were still able to send 19 fans to the NYRB match on 8/30.
 - Crew York hosted a tailgate for the fans and did a great job. They made a financial investment of a few hundred dollars, Kurtis motioned to provide \$100.00 to Crew York to help offset the costs of the tailgate. Kourtney seconded the motion. Yays - Kurtis, Paco, Norm, Ravi, Kourtney, Brent. Nays - none. The motion passed.
 - We have 25 fans going to the Atlanta match.
- Open Forum



- Evan Remer
 - Introduced himself as a Nordecke member and Crew fan. He met Kurtis and Kourtney at one of the matches last season and appreciated the opportunity to come today to speak. Evan reached out to Kurtis requesting an opportunity to share his thoughts on the flag issue.
 - Evan was concerned about mentions of “solidarity” in the news article about the flag policy changes. Evan stated that he is Jewish and participates in many local Jewish organizations.
 - Evan’s concern is that people are going to use this as a wedge issue to create division not to further the fan experience. The JCRC had approached the Crew earlier this year about having a “fighting anti-semitism” night, however the front office pulled back a bit.
 - Evan stated that he is supportive of Wessam and hopes to see him succeed but asked that caution be used that some in the community might find issue with the supporter section flying the Palestinian flag and possibly allowing someone to use it to further their political agenda. He is concerned that it may not create a welcoming environment for Jewish fans.
 - Kurtis asked Evan if, as a somewhat de facto representative of the local Jewish community, if he is satisfied with the outcome of the flag policy change.
 - Evan stated that he is supportive of that policy, of one flag being displayed in the stadium per senior team player but not being held by people in the flag.
 - Norm stated that the last match felt as if the supporters were excited to show support and make Wessam feel welcome and it felt like the supporter section was being punished by the team for a rule the team created. The board pushed the front office and the league for clarity on the policy.
 - Evan asked if there is any way for other supporters groups to band together to push back on the league.
 - Brent provided information on the Independent Supporters Collective - there is at least one group for every team in MLS as well as some teams in lower divisions and women teams. ISC has been asking the league for the flag policy for at least a year. The league still has yet to produce it. It appears that the flag policy is not well defined other than flags related to the conflict in the Middle East.
 - Evan asked if there has been any other feedback received.
 - Collin said yes, we have received feedback from other SGs stating that having this be defined has been helpful for their groups.



- We have also received feedback criticizing our push to be able to display a Palestinian flag in the stadium.
- New Business
 - Nordecke Cup
 - Alex said that the registration form is live however when you hit submit, it goes to asking you to pay a registration fee for last year's cup.
 - Brad suggested closing sign ups on 9/14, Kourtney would like to extend it to 9/15 or 9/16 or even the 17th.
 - Kourtney made a motion to close registration on 9/17/25 at noon. Kurtis seconded the motion. Yays - Kourtney, Kurtis, Norm, Paco, and Collin. Nays - none. The motion passed.
 - Supporter Summit
 - Collin said there is no update. He has asked Ty multiple times for a date and he has not been able to get anyone in the front office to commit to a date for the Supporter Summit.
 - Ticket Negotiations
 - Kourtney said that the board is meeting in person with Adam and the FO on Monday 9/8 to figure out the ticketing deal for 2026.
 - Website Issues
 - It was brought to Kourtney's attention that there has been some language on the website for merchandise purchases stating the following: "This money will go directly and exclusively to TIFO, NorOnTour, Events, NorOnYour: Community Assist, and the Nordecke Family Fund. All donations will directly benefit members and the matchday experience of all Crew supporters." There are two initiatives listed that she doesn't believe have been in effect for the last couple of years. One of the initiatives was The Family Fund which was set up two boards ago which was a form that people could fill out to request assistance during COVID. There has been no separate account, no separate funds, requirements for percentage of funds going to that initiative to Kourtney's knowledge.
 - The second initiative was the NorOnYour Community Assist. Kourtney asked previous board members their opinions on what that was. This was part of a previous ticketing agreement where the team would donate 30-40 tickets to be given out to local community organizations.
 - Kourtney motioned to remove the NorOnYour: Community Assist verbiage from the website - Kurtis seconded. Yays - Kurtis, Paco, Norm, Collin, Kourtney, and Brent. Nays - none. The motion passed.
 - Kourtney motioned to temporarily remove the Nordecke Family Fund wording from the website until the Board has time to discuss and determine how to handle that going forward. Kurtis seconded. Yays - Kurtis, Paco, Norm, Collin, Kourtney, and Brent. Nays - none. The motion passed.



- Capybrava Flags
 - Alex said that they were still not permitted to hang flags at HCS for the Crew 2 match. Jared said that he would get it resolved ASAP when the board notified him previously. Kourtney will follow up today and get an update for Nick/Alex tomorrow as the next Crew 2 match is Sunday.
- Men In Blazers Event
 - Collin said that the Nordecke board and some others such as drummers, were invited to attend the Men In Blazers event next week to provide a “moment” and were offered free entry in order to participate.
- 501c3 Foundation
 - Brent said that he has been working on the possibility of adding a 501c3 foundation so that Nordecke can utilize additional services and things that are available to 501c3 organizations.

Action items

