

Soccer Leadership Profile: Chris Bartlett

With over a decade of dedicated service to the provincial game, **Chris Bartlett** currently serves as the **President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Soccer Association (NLSA)**. His tenure is defined by a commitment to modernizing governance and ensuring that organizational structures directly support the growth of players, officials, and clubs across the province.



Executive Leadership & Vision

Since stepping into the role of President 2.5 years ago, Chris has spearheaded a comprehensive cultural and operational shift within the NLSA. Key achievements include:

- **Organizational Restructuring:** Leading a complete overhaul of professional staff alignment to ensure every role supports the association's long-term strategic goals.
- **Operational Evolution:** Transitioning the NLSA toward a modern model that prioritizes transparency, efficiency, and sustainable growth.
- **Strategic Alignment:** Bridging the gap between grassroots needs and provincial objectives to create a more cohesive soccer ecosystem.

A Foundation in the Game

Chris's leadership is informed by a "complete" soccer background, having participated in the sport at every level:

- **Roots in Stephenville:** Developed a foundational passion for the sport as a player, coach, referee, and student employee.
- **The Officiating Path:** Continued his development as a referee through his 20s while living in **Halifax**, gaining a deep appreciation for the technical demands of the game.
- **Club Growth:** After returning to coaching for his children, Chris took the helm of **CBN Lightning SC** as President. Under his leadership, the club saw a **60% increase in registration**, growing from 250 to 400 players.

Provincial Impact & Governance

Before becoming President, Chris served as a **Regional Director** on the NLSA board, contributing to a decade of continuous service. During the mid-2010s, he played a pivotal role in:

- **Constitutional Reform:** Leading the restructure of the NLSA Constitution and By-Laws to align strictly with **Canada Soccer** standards.
- **Governance Excellence:** Facilitating the move to a setup that offers superior governance and operations, allowing the board to focus on high-level strategy while empowering professional staff.

"My goal has always been to ensure the organization evolves alongside the game. By focusing on strong governance and a clear strategic vision, we are building a foundation where Newfoundland and Labrador soccer can thrive for generations to come."