

## **Majid Eghbali-Zarch, PhD**

*Candidate for Director, NLSA Board*

Majid Eghbali-Zarch is a multidisciplinary professional, academic, and lifelong soccer participant who brings strategic leadership, community commitment, and a deep understanding of the game to the NLSA. An associate professor of the Faculty of Business at Memorial University (MUN), Majid specializes in helping organizations navigate complex strategic challenges and stakeholder decision-making.



Majid's commitment to soccer in Newfoundland and Labrador is broad and hands-on. For the past three years, he has served as a volunteer member of the NLSA's EDIA Committee, supporting efforts to make the sport more equitable, inclusive, accessible, and welcoming for all. He has also been a certified soccer referee for three years and is a lifelong player, giving him insight into the game from multiple perspectives: as a volunteer, official, player, parent, and community member. He currently plays in and co-manages a team in the Masters league, remaining actively involved in the senior soccer community.

Drawing on his background in strategic planning, stakeholder decision-making, and community infrastructure, Majid can help address the priorities identified through recent NLSA surveys. He is a strong advocate for affordable grassroots soccer, greater inclusivity, and improved access for rural communities across the province. Inspired by football cultures in countries (such as Brazil, Argentina, France, and Germany), where the game is woven into community life, Majid is committed to lowering barriers to participation so that children and adults across the province have the opportunity to play, build social connections, and enhance their mental, physical, and social well-being.

Beyond his professional and volunteer roles, Majid is also a proud soccer dad. His daughter, Ariana, plays U10 with the Feildians, and his wife, Tima, a business data analyst, is a dedicated soccer mom. Together, they understand the commitment families make to support children in sport.

Majid lives in St. John's with his family. In addition to soccer, he plays hockey and enjoys hiking the East Coast Trail.