

NJ Youth SoccerBoard of Directors – **Questions for the Candidate**
Annual General Meeting

Candidate: Andrew Bondarowicz

League : Suburban Youth Soccer League (SYSL)

A) Why do you wish to become a member of the NJYS Board of Directors?

As a life-long soccer player who has also spent over 20 years professionally working within the sports and entertainment industries, I bring a unique blend of talents, skills, and contacts that can help NJ Youth Soccer thrive. I was nominated for this position without my knowledge, but I embrace the opportunity to utilize my talent, skills, and time to help New Jersey Youth Soccer become a better and stronger organization.

B) What is your relevant experience (e.g., experience with youth soccer; non-profit; other Board positions held)?

I have been a sports and entertainment attorney for over 15 years – 10 of those representing professional athletes. I teach Sports Law at Rutgers University as an adjunct faculty member at the undergraduate, graduate, and law school levels.

I still work with a number of amateur, college and pro leagues, teams and athletes so I am unique positioned to utilize a dynamic set of skills and experience to the benefit of NJYS members. I specialize in working with non-profit organizations and helping them find new ways to thrive.

In youth soccer, I have been a coach and referee for over 20 years, have run several prominent youth soccer tournaments, was a club board member and club president. I was a co-founder and the initial Commissioner of the Suburban Youth Soccer League (SYSL) which has thrived in its three years in filling a unique void in the soccer landscape.

C) What is your vision for soccer in New Jersey during the next 3 years?

Soccer needs to stay accessible to everyone. If you marginalize groups, you miss out on a great about of talent and opportunities.

The vertical integration of the levels of soccer needs work. There are still too many barriers to marginalized communities and this represents the largest growth opportunity for the NJYS. By blurring lines between recreational, travel, and academy levels, you create a better pathway for players to reach their goals – whatever those are.

NJYS needs to harness its available platforms and become a more relevant player in the local soccer landscape. Technology needs to be better embraced to meet those goals.

NJYS needs to be a driver in the soccer landscape and show leadership through a turbulent time in the sport's history.

D) What is your perception of New Jersey Youth Soccer?

New Jersey Youth Soccer has the potential to be a great organization. While it has made some solid improvements in recent years, it still has a long way to go. With the shifting sands of the soccer landscape, the organization is still trying to figure out who role is should play as it faces increased competition from other soccer organizations and outside organizations.