

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

Candidate: Jess Yeager

League: Monmouth Ocean Soccer Association

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

I have been on the NJYS Board of Directors several years now in different roles. Continuing with the Board gives me the opportunity to further the work we have done in the last two years in becoming a more effective Board.

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

I started out with Toms River Youth Soccer Club (merged with Toms River Soccer Association to become Toms River Futbol Club) doing field maintenance, then Referee Assignor, Head Coach and finally President of the club. TRYSC was a community-based club focused on providing all children with an opportunity to participate in our programs. I coached several teams while in the club, all of them were teams that struggled to find coaches.

I joined Monmouth Ocean Soccer Association, a league on the Jersey Shore, as the Secretary and eventually became the President of MOSA.

I also was a referee at both the youth and high school level for many years. I enjoyed being a referee because I got to experience the game from a different perspective.

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

The Board made progress in the last two years of starting to focus on a more strategic vision. NJYS needs to continue to grow strategically and focus on where they need to provide more services. I currently envision three underserved areas where we can develop strategic growth plans. Those would be the recreation, urban and special needs programs. Recreation and urban programs can continue to help grow our base and create a more positive experience for our members when they first enter the sport. There are many special needs programs that are working to serve the specific group they focus on. We can do more to help them expand their programs and provide them access to more resources.

The Board needs to come up with the plans that properly scope, staff, fund and grow these areas for development. We also need to reach outside of the Board to incorporate other subject matter experts who can help us establish viable, realistic plans.

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

My perception when I joined the Board was not a positive one. There was no clear direction and meetings were very chaotic. That has changed over the last four years as the Board became more focused and has begun work together to move forward.