

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

Candidate: Joseph Giunta

Club: Middletown Soccer Club

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

I wish to become a member of the NJYS Board of Directors so that I could try to help build a stronger soccer program in New Jersey. I think NJYS is moving in the right direction and I would like to be a bigger part of the direction of where soccer is going in New Jersey especially in the younger age groups. Soccer has been part of my life for over 40 years and has taught me so many valuable life lessons, I would like to give back on a larger scale than just being involved in my local club.

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

Relevant Experience:

- a. Played for over 40 years and currently still play.
- b. Coached youth soccer for over 15 years in Rec. as well as travel
- c. Been on the Middletown Soccer Club Executive board for the past 3 years.
 - i. 1st VP for 1 year.
 - ii. Town and field liaison for 2 years
 - iii. Small stint in the treasurer role to help with transition to a new Treasurer.

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

My vision for Soccer in New Jersey is to build stronger foundations in soccer players starting a young age so that players learn to love the game at an early age and hopeful that will lead to players playing and enjoying the game longer. I would like to see soccer in New Jersey become even stronger with more concentration on the pathways we have to offer players as they navigate through the years. The ODP program we have I believe could be stronger and needs to lose some of the stigmas it has obtained over the years. New Jersey has produced many strong players over the years but I think we have only scratched the surface. I feel players and parents can be educated more about what NJYS can offer them and help them make the right decisions when it comes to their path they choose in soccer.

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

Perception of New Jersey Soccer: I think we like many states we are flooded with so many programs, academies and clubs, which gives parents and players too many decisions to make when it comes to playing soccer. This in turn has caused parent involvement in youth soccer to become out of control and children just playing and having fun at a young age is gone and that needs to change. In my opinion the changes that NJYS has made over the past couple of years by giving the game back to the player and following US soccer play-practice-play model is moving soccer in the right direction.

Thanks in advance for your consideration and look forward to hearing from you.