

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

Candidate: Rico Scardelletti

Club: Lawrence Hamnett Soccer Association

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

I feel I have a unique perspective that will bring value to the NJYS Board. I am one of the few people in the state who has experienced soccer not only as a player and coach (numerous teams both travel and recreation, with experience with girls and boys teams), but also as an ODP coach, an instructor in the NJYS Coaching School, as a club administrator and club president and a short stint as a referee. I see soccer from all sides as experienced by the player. And that has always been my ultimate goal throughout my career – to effectively impact the players and give them a rewarding, life experience that only soccer can provide.

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

40 years of youth soccer involvement that includes:

- Camp counselor – Rider/Bronco soccer camp
- Graduate assistant – Rider College
- Lawrence Hamnett and East Windsor PAL Rec coach
- Lawrence Hamnett and East Windsor Competitive Coach – Girls and Boys teams
- NJYS ODP coach – 12 years
- NJYS Coaching School instructor – 13 years
- Certified TOP soccer instructor
- NJYS Disciplinary Committee member
- Lawrence Hamnett Board member 19 years
- Lawrence Hamnett Board President 12 years
- USSF “C” license

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

New Jersey has one of the most, if not the most, diverse soccer community in the country. We have a rich tradition and history driven by our strong ethnic influence and strong coaching that created an unsurpassed passion for the game. However, we are very splintered in many ways that make it difficult for families to navigate what is best for their children. We have small clubs who are doing a great job at development, while we also have the benefits of the big clubs and academies. My vision is that NJYS would have a greater role in helping parents and players make better decisions. As a state we were always well represented on the National and Olympic stage. That does not seem as prevalent as in the past. We could help create a clearer path for player who seek those levels with a more cohesive approach.

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

Since I am already a part of the NJYS family it is difficult to see it without bias. But I do believe we can become a more effective conduit to bring competing forces back to focusing on the player. My perception is that we could have a stronger voice in effecting the overall soccer experience and in many ways continue some of the very good things that have been happening in the last few years that I believe have improved our reputation.