

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

Candidate: Rob Marino

Club: Next Level Soccer Academy & Hopewell Valley Soccer Association

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

I have been involved in youth soccer wearing many hats since the late 90's, first and continuing as a parent, but also as a part-time parent coach early on, and still as a Board Member for an in-town Rec/Travel Club, Referee, Club Founder & Director, and District Commissioner. So, I've seen the game and enjoyed watching it grow and develop, and would love the opportunity to contribute to that growth and development and provide ideas and suggestions based on my multiple experiences over the years in many different roles.

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

Co-founder & Director – Next Level Soccer Academy (2007-present),
Board Member – Hopewell Valley Soccer Association (around 2005-present),
Grade 8 (now Grassroots) Referee – 2006-present,
District Commissioner for NJYS (for a while, since the days of carbon copied rosters!)

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

New Jersey has always been a strong soccer presence both in the US and on the international stage. I would love to see that grow and to do so, it begins with continuing to have a solid program at home, developing local talent, and preparing them to succeed along every step of their soccer journey. Beyond that, I'd like to see local, grassroots, soccer improve for those players for whom the local Rec league experience is the perfect fit for them – helping to grow their enjoyment and love for the game, and provide them with a positive experience.

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

I feel the organization has made great strides in the last several years. Communication has grown, programming has grown, and the organization seems much more organized, compared to what I remember when my kids (and therefore I) first got involved in youth soccer. I would love to have the opportunity to continue that positive upward trend. So, my perception is definitely positive!