

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

Candidate: Stephen Conger

Club: Real Jersey FC

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

First, soccer is a passion of mine and I really can't remember a time when it wasn't an important part of my life. My involvement in NJ youth soccer started when my family moved to NJ nine year ago, and since then, I have been involved with youth soccer as a parent, coach, assistant coach and currently Registrar for Real NJFC. I am looking for a new opportunity to learn, as well as, make an impact on the NJ Youth Soccer, and hope this will be a good avenue to achieve both.

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

As mentioned, in recent years, I have served as parent, coach, assistant coach, trainer, and team manager. I think I have learned the most, through my current role as Registrar for Real Jersey FC, with responsibilities to include scheduling, both games and officials, team registration, educating team managers regarding carding processes, registration for tournaments, among other duties. Prior to moving to NJ, I organized a club in Upstate NY to fill a need for youth soccer in an area that was underserved with youth sports. Additionally, I have served on a variety governance boards of non-profit entities whose experiences have helped me understand the challenges non-profits face on a consistent basis.

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

I would like to see NJYS continue and increase its leadership role as a state association for youth soccer. This leadership role should help to sustain growth for NJYS and its member clubs benefiting kids in NJ that want to play soccer.

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

NJ provides our players and families with several strong options of play ranging from Top Soccer working with children with disabilities, to recreation leagues, to some of the best clubs in the Nation at their respective age levels. Soccer within NJ at the youth level is competitive and as a parent, coach, and fan of the game, I am often impressed by the opportunities, as well as, level of talent that exists within the state. However, I also recognize that some of our highest level of play is led by a pay to play model that does not always support opportunities of lower income families, and feel we can do a better job supporting our players.