

HONORS POLICY

(December 7, 2024)

PART I—AWARDS OF THE YEAR

Section 101. PURPOSES

The purposes of this part I are to provide for Awards of the Year that the United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc. recognizes and the criteria, requirements, and procedures for designating the recipients for each of the awards.

Section 102. DEFINITIONS

- (a) The definitions in Article III of the US Youth Soccer Bylaws apply to this part I. Those definitions include the following:
- (1) “**Board of Directors**” means the Board of Directors of US Youth Soccer established under Article XIII.
 - (2) “**Federation**” means the United States Soccer Federation, Inc.
 - (3) “**Award of the Year**” means an award designated by Section 103 of this policy.
 - (4) “**National Council**” means the National Council of USYSA as provided under Bylaw 311.
 - (5) “**State Association**” means the administration body within a territory determined by the National Council to carry out US Youth Soccer’s programs for youth players, as enumerated in Article IV, Section 2, 3.
 - (6) “**US Youth Soccer**” means the United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc.
- (b) In this part I, “**person**” means an individual or an entity.

Section 103. AWARDS OF THE YEAR

US Youth Soccer has the following Awards of the Year:

- (1) Girls Competitive Coach of the Year, as determined by sections 104 and 106.
- (2) Boys Competitive Coach of the Year, as determined by sections 104 and 106.
- (3) Girls Recreation Coach of the Year, as determined by sections 104 and 106.
- (4) Boys Recreation Coach of the Year, as determined by sections 104 and 106.
- (5) Young Female Referee of the Year, as determined by sections 104 and 107.
- (6) Young Male Referee of the Year, as determined by sections 104 and 107.
- (7) Volunteer of the Year, as determined by sections 104 and 108.
- (8) Administrator of the Year, as determined by sections 104 and 109.
- (9) TOPSoccer® Buddy of the Year, as determined by sections 104 and 110.
- (10) TOPSoccer® Coach of the Year, as determined by sections 104 and 111.
- (11) Goal of the Year, as determined by sections 105 and 112.
- (12) Save of the Year, as determined by sections 105 and 112.

Section 104. SELECTION PROCEDURES FOR SECTION 103(1)–(12) AWARDS

Each State Association is entitled to select annually its recipient for each State Association Award of the Year for the awards referred to in section 103(1)–(10). ~~and (10).~~

Each Region is entitled to select annually its recipient for each Region Award of the year for the awards referred to in section 103(1) –(12).

The selection shall be determined by the State Association in accordance with this part I.

- (a) The Board of Directors **or** their designee(s) shall select annually a recipient for each US Youth Soccer Award of the Year for the awards referred to in section 103(1)–(10). ~~and (10).~~
- (b) The national office of US Youth Soccer shall prepare and distribute to each State Association and the Board of Directors, a memorandum about the procedures, deadline, and nomination forms to nominate and select individuals to be recipients of the Awards of the Year referred to in section 103(1)–(12)-

Section 105. SELECTION PROCEDURES FOR SECTION 103(11) AND (12) AWARDS

- (a) Awards referred to in section 103(11) and (12) shall be for unedited, original footage. Footage submittal must be approved by the subject or the subject’s legal guardian.
- (b) Footage shall be submitted directly to the national office of US Youth Soccer. The national office shall—
 - (1) Establish submission deadline dates, and
 - (2) prepare and distribute to members of US Youth Soccer a memorandum about the procedures, deadlines, and forms for the awards.
- (c) The Chair of US Youth Soccer shall designate each year a panel composed of 3 members of the US Youth Soccer Board of Directors, 3 chairs of US Youth Soccer committees, and 3 members of the national office staff. The panel shall review all submissions submitted for the year and select the winner.

Section 106. COACHES OF THE YEAR

- (a) An individual may be nominated for any of the 4 Coaches of the Year awards, but may be selected by a State Association for only one Coach of the Year award for a year. The individual shall be selected for extraordinary accomplishments as a soccer coach if the individual—
 - (1) coached for at least one season during the seasonal year immediately prior to the seasonal year for which the individual is being nominated;
 - (2) is coaching during the seasonal year for which the nomination is being made; and
 - (3) coached and is coaching for US Youth Soccer, a region, a State Association, or a member or team of any of those organizations.
- (b) Any person may nominate an individual for a Coach of the Year Award. The nominating person shall—
 - (1) designate, on one nomination form, only one of the 4 Coaches of the Year Awards the individual is being nominated for; and
 - (2) provide at least the following information about the nominating person: name, address, position, daytime telephone number, and e-mail address.
- (c) The nominating person shall provide at least the following about the individual being nominated:
 - (1) the name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, occupation, and the

- organization for whom the individual is coaching;
- (2) a summary of the individual's coaching history;
- (3) a statement about the sportsmanship of the individual and the ability to develop sportsmanship in players;
- (4) a statement about the individual's ability to develop and motivate players;
- (5) a statement about the personal coaching development of the individual; and
- (6) a statement about whether the individual is known in his or her own soccer community and outside that community and the coach's influence beyond those whom the individual coaches.

(d) The following should also be included with the nomination form: a soccer resume of the individual being nominated; and not more than 5 letters of recommendations from those having first-hand knowledge of the individual's soccer experience.

Section 107. YOUNG REFEREES OF THE YEAR

- (a) An individual may be nominated and selected as the Young Female Referee of the Year or the Young Male Referee of the Year for extraordinary accomplishments as a young soccer referee if the individual—
 - (1) was certified as a Federation referee during the seasonal year immediately prior to the seasonal year for which the individual is being nominated;
 - (2) is certified or being certified as a Federation referee during the seasonal year for which the individual is being nominated;
 - (3) during those 2 seasonal years, refereed games primarily for US Youth Soccer, a region, a State Association, or a member or team of any of those organizations; and
 - (4) did not reach 19 years of age prior to that August 1 immediately before the beginning of the seasonal year for which the individual is being nominated.
- (b) Any person may nominate an individual to be the Young Female or Male Referee of the Year. The nominating person shall—
 - (1) designate whether the individual is being nominated for the Young Female or Male Referee of the Year; and
 - (2) provide at least the following information about the nominating person: name, address, position, daytime telephone number, and e-mail address.
- (c) The nominating person shall provide at least the following about the individual being nominated:
 - (1) name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address;
 - (2) date of birth, referee grade, and Federation referee identification number; and
 - (3) a summary of the services and accomplishments of the nominated individual, including referee accomplishments, school grade and school currently attended, player accomplishments, extracurricular activities, and community activities, with any supporting documents.

Section 108. VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

- (a) An individual may be nominated and selected as the Volunteer of the Year for extraordinary accomplishments as a volunteer if the individual—
 - (1) was a volunteer for a State Association or a member of a State Association;

- (2) is an excellent role model for the community beyond soccer;
 - (3) has favorable relations with other members of the soccer community;
 - (4) demonstrates a willingness to promote players and soccer;
 - (5) is a positive role model for all volunteers;
 - (6) is of sound moral and ethical character;
 - (7) through participation, has increased the opportunities for others to participate in soccer;
 - (8) has not previously received national or other significant recognition from US Youth Soccer for contributions to soccer, but is well known in his or her community and is a true hero of grassroots soccer; and
 - (9) has not received any compensation for the volunteer efforts.
- (b) Any person may nominate an individual to be the Volunteer of the Year. The nominating person shall provide at least the following information about the nominating person: name, address, position, daytime telephone number, and e-mail address.
 - (c) The nominating person shall provide at least the following about the individual being nominated:
 - (1) name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and occupation; and
 - (2) a summary of the services and accomplished of the nominated individual, including soccer administrative accomplishments and community activities, with any supporting documents.

Section 109. ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

- (a) An individual may be nominated and selected as the Administrator of the Year for extraordinary accomplishments in the administration of soccer if the individual—
 - (1) has been a soccer administrator for US Youth Soccer, a region, a State Association (including any of its territorial areas), or a member or team of any of those organizations for at least 4 seasonal years; and
 - (2) is not a member of the Board of Directors of US Youth Soccer during the seasonal year for which the individual is being nominated.
- (b) Any person may nominate an individual to be the Administrator of the Year. The nominating person shall provide at least the following information about the nominating person: name, address, position, daytime telephone number, and e-mail address.
- (c) The nominating person shall provide at least the following about the individual being nominated:
 - (1) name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and occupation; and
 - (2) a summary of the services and accomplished of the nominated individual, including soccer administrative accomplishments and community activities, with any supporting documents.

Section 110. TOPSOCCER® BUDDY OF THE YEAR

- (a) An individual may be nominated and selected as the TOPSoccer Buddy of the Year for extraordinary accomplishments as a TOPSoccer Buddy if the individual, in carrying out the US Youth Soccer TOPSoccer program and its events and

- activities—
- (1) has demonstrated patience, understanding, dependability, flexibility, and ability to adjust to ever-changing on-field situations;
 - (2) has proven to be an invaluable volunteer who facilitates the Program by filling many roles, including being a coach, a cheerleader, a role model, and assisting when needed with administrative responsibilities;
 - (3) has provided support, engaged players one-on-one, and modeled desired behavior in group play or off to the side of group play; and
 - (4) is cognizant of player safety while assisting, guiding, directing, teaching the game of soccer and its skills, and creating a fun and learning experience.
- (b) Any person may nominate an individual to be the TOPSoccer Buddy of the Year. The nominating person shall provide at least the following information about the nominating person: name, address, position, daytime telephone number, and e-mail address.
- (c) The nominating person shall provide at least the following about the individual being nominated:
- (1) name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and occupation; and
 - (2) a summary of the TOPSoccer activities and services of the nominated individual, with any supporting documents.

Section 111. TOPSOCCER® COACH OF THE YEAR

- (a) An individual may be nominated and selected as the TOPSoccer Coach of the Year for extraordinary accomplishments as a TOPSoccer Coach if the individual, in carrying out the US Youth Soccer TOPSoccer program and its events and activities—
- (1) has demonstrated patience, understanding, dependability, flexibility, and ability to adjust to ever-changing on-field situations;
 - (2) has proven to be an invaluable volunteer who facilitates the Program by filling many roles, including being a coach, a cheerleader, a role model, and assisting when needed with administrative responsibilities;
 - (3) has provided support, engaged players one-on-one, and modeled desired behavior in group play or off to the side of group play; and
 - (4) is cognizant of player safety while assisting, guiding, directing, teaching the game of soccer and its skills, and creating a fun and learning experience.
- (b) Any person may nominate an individual to be the TOPSoccer Coach of the Year. The nominating person shall provide at least the following information about himself or herself: name, address, position, daytime telephone number, and e-mail address.
- (c) The nominating person shall provide at least the following about the individual being nominated:
- (1) name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and occupation; and
 - (2) a summary of the TOPSoccer activities and services of the nominated individual, with any supporting documents.

Section 112. GOALS AND SAVES OF THE YEAR

- (a) Digital Media submitted for a Goal or Save of the Award must—
- (1) not be more than 60 seconds long;

- (2) be for a goal or save that occurred during the identified seasonal year for the award;
 - (3) be for a goal or save by a player of US Youth Soccer in the U6–U19 age groups.
- (b) All submissions must provide at least the following information:
- (1) the name, address, position, daytime telephone number, and e-mail address of the person submitting the media;
 - (2) the name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the individual making the goal or save.

PART II—COACHING EDUCATIONAL AWARD

Section 201. THOMAS FLECK AWARD

The Dr. Thomas Fleck Award is designed to honor a lifetime of dedication to youth soccer, with integrity, honor, humor, and humility. Recipients will have made extensive and far-reaching contributions to the enjoyment, retention, and development of youth soccer players through their work in promoting and modeling expertise in coaching education.

Nominations for the Dr. Thomas Fleck Award shall come from the technical directors of the state associations and/or from past Dr Thomas Fleck Award recipients. Nominations will then go to the USYS Technical Committee to select the award recipient. The selection is subject to ratification by the Board of Directors

PART III—LEADERSHIP AWARD

Section 202. EVELYN GILL LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Evelyn Gill Outstanding Leadership Award is so well named; Evelyn Gill was an outstanding leader. Evelyn was a pioneer, always a lady but never afraid to fight a wrong; her gloves came off when necessary. She firmly believed in fighting for what was essential; Evelyn would lead the charge, be it a policy, a program, or a candidate. USYS is better for her involvement.

In addition to her efforts in supporting future leaders, Evelyn was passionate about providing opportunities for players. She envisioned a path for all children to participate; she was as involved with the Olympic Development Program as she was with TOPSoccer.

Her legacy lives on when you hear laughter on a soccer field or a healthy discussion in a soccer board room.

The recipient of this annual award is chosen by the current USYS Chair and subject to ratification by the Board of Directors.

PART IV—HALL OF FAME AND MERITORIOUS RECOGNITION

Section 201. VISION

US Youth Soccer establishes a US Youth Soccer Hall of Fame. The Hall will recognize and honor the contributions and accomplishments of persons and induct them into the US Youth Soccer Hall of Fame, for their nationwide achievement in any of the following capacities:

- (1) founder;
- (2) player;
- (3) coach;
- (4) referee; or
- (5) administrator.

Section 202. HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE

- (a) There shall be a Hall of Fame Committee appointed by the Chair of US Youth Soccer with the approval of the Board of Directors. Members of the Committee should have a thorough knowledge of the national history of US Youth Soccer.
- (b) The Committee shall be involved in all aspects of the Hall of Fame selection process.
- (c) The Committee will recommend to the Board of Directors persons to be honored for induction into the Hall of Fame or for Meritorious Recognition each year. The recommendations are subject to ratification by the Board of Directors.
- (d) The Committee has the following responsibilities:
 - (1) notifying the membership of US Youth Soccer of the nomination process;
 - (2) deciding on the number of persons to be recommended for induction;
 - (3) reviewing nominations and making recommendations to the Board of Directors;
 - (4) presenting the persons to be honored for induction into the Hall of Fame and persons and entities for Meritorious Recognition (as provided by section 204 of this policy);
 - (5) presenting speakers for the history and biographies of each of the persons to be inducted;
 - (6) preparing and submitting an annual budget for the Hall of Fame, Meritorious Recognition, and the Committee; and
 - (7) selecting the type of awards and working with the national office in securing the awards.

Section 203. GENERAL CRITERIA

- (a) Nominations for a person to be inducted into the US Youth Soccer Hall of Fame may be submitted by any person who has been or is a player, coach, referee, or administrator for US Youth Soccer, an Organization Member, or a member of an Organization Member.
- (b) All nominations shall be typed on the US Youth Soccer Hall of Fame Nomination Form prepared by the Committee.
- (c) Recognition for induction into the Hall of Fame must be for significant personal

- achievement in, or contribution to, US Youth Soccer at the national level for a minimum of 6 years. In addition, the demonstrated positive effect of such achievement or contribution must have set a clear and recognized example for the soccer community to emulate and regard as a model to be followed for personal achievement.
- (d) Founders: To be eligible, the person must have been instrumental in the founding of US Youth Soccer. The Committee shall provide nomination forms to the Board of Directors containing the names of the founders of US Youth Soccer. The Board of Directors shall decide which of the individuals nominated shall qualify for induction into the US Youth Soccer Hall of Fame as a founder.
 - (e) Players: To be eligible for nomination as a player, the player must be at least 22 years of age and distinguished himself or herself with an outstanding standard of play or performance, or both, as a member of US Youth Soccer. The player must also have participated in youth games as a registered member of US Youth Soccer for at least 6 consecutive years.
 - (f) Coaches, Referees, and Administrators: To be eligible for nomination as a coach, referee, or administrator, the individual must have demonstrated outstanding accomplishments or leadership, or both, that have made significant contributions to the improvement of soccer and its participants nationwide. The individual must have contributed directly for a period of at least 6 years at the national level of US Youth Soccer.
 - (g) Completed nomination forms shall be submitted to the US Youth Soccer national office. The date for submission will be set by the Committee; however, it must be no later than November 1 of each year. The nomination forms shall be recorded at the national office, and copies shall be provided to each member of the Committee for review. The original nomination forms shall be filed in the US Youth Soccer national office and kept indefinitely for future reference.
 - (h) No person shall be inducted into the USYS Hall of Fame or awarded a Meritorious Recognition award while they are a current employee or an independent contractor of USYS and its members.

Section 204. MERITORIOUS RECOGNITION

- (a) Meritorious Recognition is special recognition of a person or persons who, or an entity or entities that, have provided exceptional, positive, and longtime support of US Youth Soccer.
- (b) Nomination and selection will be in accordance with section 203 of this policy.