



2011 US Youth Soccer Recreation Coach of the Year regional winners announced

National winner to be named at US Youth Soccer Awards Gala

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FRISCO, Texas (Jan. 10, 2012) - US Youth Soccer announces the regional winners of the 2011 US Youth Soccer Boys and Girls Recreation Coach of the Year awards. The Recreation Coach of the Year is awarded to a recreation coach for both a boys team and a girls team for his or her coaching activities, sportsmanship, player development, personal coaching development and citizenship.

The national Boys and Girls Recreation Coach of the Year will be announced at the US Youth Soccer Awards Gala on Friday, Feb. 17, at 7:30 p.m., as part of the [US Youth Soccer Workshop](#) in Boston.

Brief bios of the regional winners are below based on the submitted nomination forms:

Boys Recreation Coach of the Year regional award winners:

Region I – Pierre Agbadou – Newark, N.J.

Pierre Agbadou compares his teaching and coaching philosophy to that of the famed Notre Dame football coach Ara Parseghian who said, "A good coach will make his players see what they can be rather than what they are." For the Just One Soccer League in Newark, N.J., Agbadaou's approach to the game he loves has helped mold young players to love the game. Agbadou holds a USSF "E" License.

Region II – Jesse Nester – Humboldt, S.D.

Father and banker, Jesse Nester spends much of his free time coaching youth soccer teams for Dakota Alliance Soccer Club. Nester teaches being a good player has to do with more than technical ability on the field; it's defined by how you act on and off the field. His approach to coaching makes every player a star in his own right and transforms individual players into a cohesive team.

Region III – Tristan Rowell –Collinsville, Miss.

Tristan Rowell has coached soccer for four years, guiding Under-10 and U-12 teams. In that time, Rowell has earned the U-6/U-8 Youth Module License, the U-10/U-12 Youth Module License and holds a USSF "D" License. His U-12 recreational team, Manchester United, went undefeated in the fall and spring seasons and won the league championship in 2011. Each player receives specific instruction and attention to improve their skills.

Region IV – Jean Robinson – Seattle, Wash.

Jean Robinson faces the unique challenge of not only coaching teenage boys, but also managing a roster of half locals and half Somalian or Ethiopian youths from a nearby housing development. She has successfully crafted a team experience that fully engaged and fostered the development of the individual. As a result, her Under-18 boys went 12-0 in district play. Robinson holds a USSF "D" License.

Girls Recreation Coach of the Year regional award winners:

Region I – Richard Brigante – Colchester, Vt.

No matter the result, Richard Brigante is consistent in his post-game message to his teams—each player receives specific, individual praise. This attention to player development has left a lasting impression on the 11 teams Brigante has coached in six years at Colchester Youth Soccer League. Brigante's kind, no nonsense style has helped shape successful Under-10 teams who exude good sportsmanship and positive energy.

Region II – Tim Schwindt – McPherson, Kan.

In his 16 years as coach at McPherson Strikers Soccer Club, Tim Schwindt has coached range of skills and ages, from Under-7 up to Under-14 boys and girls. Schwindt never played soccer himself, but has invested time in learning the game and using his coaching skills from previous experience. Schwindt spends a great deal of time with his teams, not only coaching them but mentoring his players into adulthood.

Region III – Lauren Acosta – Hubert, N.C.

As a coach in the Swansboro Soccer Association, Lauren Acosta has seen the players on her team turnover year after year. The rotating roster has enabled numerous young girls to learn from Acosta's emphasis on teamwork, sportsmanship and dedication. Her commitment goes beyond teaching technical and tactical fundamentals. Acosta teaches her players to love the game and to play with passion and good sportsmanship.

Region IV – Tom Makowski – Beaverton, Ore.

Tom Makowski creates a family out from Somerset West Soccer Club teams he coaches, encouraging participation from players' parents and siblings. In 15 years of coaching, Makowski has never been carded, a testament to the sportsmanship he teaches. As a youth coach spanning three decades, Makowski believes the three most important things any player brings to the game are attitude, effort and skill in that order.

The US Youth Soccer Workshop will be held in Boston from Feb. 16-18, 2012. The annual convention will be held at the Hynes Convention Center and is designed to further the education of coaches, administrators, referees and enthusiasts involved in the game. [Online registration](#) continues through February 9. For more information please visit USYouthSoccer.org/Workshop.

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About the United States Youth Soccer Association (US Youth Soccer) – US Youth Soccer - "The Game for ALL

Kids!®" is the largest youth sports organization in the country and largest member of the United States Soccer Federation, the governing body of soccer in the United States. US Youth Soccer registers more than 3 million players annually, ages 5 to 19, and over 900,000 administrators, coaches and volunteers in 55 member State Associations. US Youth Soccer programs provide a fun, safe and healthy environment for players at every level of the game. For more information, visit www.USYouthSoccer.org.

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