



US Youth Soccer honors regional Male and Female Young Referee of the Year

National winner to be named at US Youth Soccer Awards Gala

Twitter: [@USYouthSoccer](https://twitter.com/USYouthSoccer), live announcement of national winner

FRISCO, Texas (Jan. 13, 2012) - US Youth Soccer announces the regional winners of the 2011 US Youth Soccer Male and Female Young Referee of the Year awards. The Young Referee of the Year Award honors those who have a strong work ethic, knowledge of the rules of the game and are positive role models.

The national Young Referee of the Year winners 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:

Young Male Referee of the Year regional award winners:

Region I – Kyle Smith Eastern – Ephrata, Pa.

Kyle Smith comes from a family of referees, propelling him to improve his skills as a referee in his own right. A Grade 8 referee since 2008, Smith has earned the right to take the field in some of the most prestigious events in the area. Smith worked the [US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program](#) Region I Championships in 2011 and took the field as center in the Under-12 final at the [US Youth Soccer Region I Championships](#).

Region II – Christopher Badgett – Louisville, Ky.

As a young referee, Christopher Badgett has become a leader on the field and among his peers. Badgett commands respect and has earned the respect as a referee who works hard and always puts the game first. In addition to holding a Grade 8 license, Badgett trains new young referees to instill confidence. His style of refereeing has been adopted by several of those who he has mentored.

Region III – Anthony Remensnyder – Milton, Ga.

Anthony Remensnyder balances a busy high school academic and athletic career with referee development. His dedication has paid off, as he was the only youth male referee selected out of the 12 from Georgia to participate in the [US Youth Soccer Region III Championships](#) in 2011. A Grade 8 referee, Remensnyder also mentors other youth referees. Additionally, Remensnyder is a part of Georgia's Advanced Referee Development Program.

Region IV – Bennett Savage -- Lake Oswego, Ore.

As a young referee in Oregon, Bennett Savage displays maturity beyond his years. He began refereeing at Grade 8 in 2007 and is now Grade 7. Savage has been selected for several prestigious events, including the Far West Regional League, [US Youth Soccer Region IV Championships](#), [US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup](#) Region IV Championships and [US Youth Soccer ODP](#) Region IV Camp.

Young Female Referee of the Year regional award winners:

Region I – Charlotte Falletta – Williamsville, N.Y.

Since registering as a referee in 2008, Charlotte Falletta has continuously tried to improve her abilities to manage the game she loves. As a means to improve her skills, she keeps a list of referee-related questions to which she adds after every match. Whenever given the chance, Falletta will discuss her questions with more experienced referees. Her hard work, dedication and willingness to learn has helped Falletta develop into a standout referee.

Region II – Raechel Conine – Leslie, Mich.

Even the most recognized FIFA referees begin were once young referees, and Raechel Conine hopes her strides in referee development will lead her on a similar path. Conine became a referee in 2007 and began the process of progressing from Grade 8 to Grade 7. She has officiated at the [US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program](#) Region II trainings and at the [US Youth Soccer Michigan State Championships](#).

Region III – Catherine Nackashi – Jacksonville, Fla.

As a young referee herself, Catherin Nackashi devotes time to mentor and encourage younger, newer referees. Her work ethic and willingness to be involved have set her apart as an outstanding example for younger female referees at Jacksonville Youth Soccer Club and in her other extracurricular pursuits. Nackashi began officiating in 2007 and is a Grade 8 referee.

Region IV – Genie Hyatt – Waialua, Hawaii

Genie Hyatt always made friends on the soccer field, whether living in San Francisco, Hawaii, Virginia or Germany. That love for the game led Hyatt to begin refereeing—she currently is a Grade 8 official. Hyatt continues to develop her skills—improving her vision, movements and mechanics—and passes her knowledge on to younger referees. She represented Hawaii at the [US Youth Soccer Region IV Championships](#) in 2011.

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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