



## **SOUTH DAKOTA STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZES 2016 AWARD WINNERS**

**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

**MITCHELL, SD (December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016)** – South Dakota State Soccer is pleased to announce the state award winners for the 2015-16 Season. As part of our reflection every year we celebrate the key people who have played a role in helping make this beautiful game possible in South Dakota with our Annual Awards.

Every September & October SDSSA collects nominations for our Annual Awards and winners are selected by a committee. The award winners are recognized at the Annual Workshop & AGM Award Ceremony in November. Each award recipient becomes a nominee for the US Youth Region II Annual Awards in the same category. Below is a description of each award and an excerpt from the letters of recommendation we received for this year's winners.

### **YOUNG REFEREE OF THE YEAR:**

*Individuals must be a certified referee with the US Soccer Federation for the previous two years, have refereed games primarily at the region and state level, and be under the age of 19 years old for the seasonal year being nominated. Consideration is based on the steps each nominee has taken to further advance the game and all who participate, do they participate in soccer outside of their position as a referee, and have they created relationships within the community to promote the game of soccer.*

#### **2016 Young Male Referee of the Year: Braydon Ibis, Sioux Falls**

- "Being an official was a new experience for me, starting off with just smaller age groups I re-learned my love of soccer in a new way. Seeing the smile on many of the faces of kids after they scored a goal or after a nice play brought happiness to me. Being a referee showed me that I don't have to be the one performing all of these achievements, I can be the guy that makes the game fair and fun to play. For many kids the game of soccer is a way to come together outside of school and have relationships with people that they have never met before. I am glad to be apart of making the game possible. "

#### **2016 Young Female Referee of the Year: Makena Mette, Brookings**

- "I have been an official for almost 4 years and referee mostly Brookings rec league games during the spring and fall. I love the opportunity this provides to guide the younger players through some of their first games, to help the players learn good sportsmanship, and to help them understand the rules of the game. The first big tournament I refereed was in Tea, SD, and that's a tournament I continue to look forward to every year. I also referee the Fishback tournament in Brookings every year. "

### **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR:**

*Individuals must be a volunteer for the State Association or a member affiliate of the State Association, an excellent role model for the community beyond soccer, through their participation has increased the opportunities for others to participate in soccer, and has not received any compensation for their volunteer efforts. Consideration is based on the steps each nominee has taken to further advance the game and all who participate, do they participate in soccer outside of their position as a volunteer, and have they created relationships within the community to promote the game of soccer.*



**2016 Volunteer of the Year: Jenny Ness, Spearfish Soccer Association**

- “When Ms. Ness discovered the Midco Cup would not be able to be held in Rapid City, Ms. Ness jumped at the chance to host the event in Spearfish. There was very little time to get things organized and ready for an influx of teams, but Ms. Ness was able to pull it off. The event was a huge success with teams having an excellent experience. Jenny has been actively involved with Spearfish soccer for several years serving in various capacities from Board of Directors to coaching to field maintenance. [She] can be found at any soccer field with a smile on her face and willingness to help.”

**ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR:**

*Individuals must be an administrator for the State Association or a member affiliate of the State Association, an excellent role model for the community beyond soccer, and through their participation has increased the opportunities for others to participate in soccer. Consideration is based on the steps each nominee has taken to further advance the game and all who participate, do they participate in soccer outside of their position as a administrator, and have they created relationships within the community to promote the game of soccer.*

**2016 Administrator of the Year: Jeff Boldt, SoccerMadison**

- “Since 2010 the driving force for the introduction of soccer in Madison, SD has fallen on the shoulders of one man; Jeff Boldt. He has been a coach, referee, registrar, scheduler, fundraiser, and field maintenance crew every fall and spring since 2011. His passion to see kids playing this beautiful game started with his own kids, and then Jeff had the vision to bring this sport to our Madison. With his investment of time and energy SoccerMadison has seen consistent increases in registration numbers almost every year. We appreciate everything that Jeff has done to grow this game in Madison.”

**COACH OF THE YEAR (RECREATIONAL & COMPETITIVE):**

*Individuals must have coached for at least one season during the seasonal period for nominations for the State Association or a member affiliate of the State Association, an excellent role model for the community beyond soccer, and through their participation has increased the opportunities for others to participate in soccer. Consideration is based on how the coach promotes sportsmanship for themselves and in their players, are players motivated to learn and play to the extent of their ability because of environment created by this coach, the nominee’s coaching philosophy, the courses and licenses the coach has taken to continue his/her education, and do they positively influence soccer beyond their own team or club?*

**2016 Competitive Coach of the Year: Robert Hoffman, Tempo Soccer Club**

- “Robert cares deeply about each player and works with them on a one to one basis to help them improve. He wants each player to be successful and have fun in a sport they love. From an early age, my son and others has received the direction from Robert which has lead them to improve their ability as a player. He encourages the boys to practice and condition outside of the team practices.

“In 2016, Robert challenged two of his teams to attend a regional tournament. Robert was clear with players



and parents on the expectation of extra practices, focused drills, conditioning, and strategies. The Tempo Thunder (U15) accepted his challenge and attended the US Youth Region II Presidents Cup in Indianapolis, IN and came home as Finalists in the championship game.”

**2016 Recreational Coach of the Year: Michele Blair, Dakota Alliance SC**

- “Michele and I have coached together for 3+ years now and she is a great role model and teacher/ coach for youth soccer. Good sportsmanship is always a high priority for her teams and win or lose, the boys learn and grow together under her guidance. “

**About South Dakota State Soccer Association (South Dakota Soccer)** - South Dakota Soccer is a 501c3 nonprofit who promotes the game of soccer for all youth in South Dakota. As the largest youth sports organization in the state in over 33 communities our goal is to promote the importance of education, self-esteem, diversity and teamwork in a fun and safe environment, allowing players to develop to their fullest potential in soccer and in life. South Dakota Soccer is a member of US Youth Soccer, US Futsal, and the US Soccer Federation (the governing body of soccer in the United States). For more information, visit [www.SouthDakotaSoccer.com](http://www.SouthDakotaSoccer.com).