

2018 MYSA Annual Award Winners

Administrator: Julie Dornish (Keliix-Intra Soccer Club)

Julie has been part of the Keliix family since 2000 when her daughter signed up to play soccer a U9. Today, Julie's official titles include Vice President of the Board of Directors, Field Assignor, Liaison to the Referee Assignor and Team Manager of the U17 Boys Premier Team. Julie also works in the Minneapolis Public School System so her time with the club is voluntarily. A fellow board member said, "At Keliix, we don't have to worry, we have Julie". Her passion for children, soccer and the club are extraordinary, and her kindness and energy appear boundless.

Boys Competitive Coach: Joshua Mauch (Tri-County United Soccer)

Joshua creates a training environment where players are high motivated to improve. He provides encouragement and positive feedback as well as addressing areas for them to work on. Joshua inspires his team to do their best, and even after tough losses, he encourages them to recognize the goods things that happened in the game. He was also elected to the Tri-County board this year and is truly a valuable member of the community.

Girls Competitive Coach: Kevin Quinn (Central Minnesota Youth Soccer)

Kevin has the unique ability to captivate players with a genuine excitement for the game. He makes learning the game fun, while developing a strong sense of belonging and sportsmanship. Whether in practice or a game, Kevin shows and promotes respect and fair treatment for all players, coaches and referees. The girls on his team understand that being a good soccer player is not solely determined by the score at the end of the game. Kevin's enthusiasm and passion for coaching soccer is evident in both his words and actions.

Boys Recreation Coach: Jeff Armentrout (CC United)

Jeff follows the CC United coaching philosophy which prioritizes development over winning. He sees the big pictures and does a great job of encouraging his players to try new things, regardless of failure! Jeff has completed his youth coaching license and attends CC United coach training over the winter. Jeff enjoys playing pick-up soccer and watching games. He is a positive role-model and leader to the players in the recreational program.

Girls Recreation Coach: Mike Heuer (CC United)

Mike is a recreational coach for CC United. Mike shows up early for practices and games and always encourages the players to do more. He creates an environment where kids also want to show up early just to play. Mike can adapt to any situation and makes sure all players are being challenged as well as having success. Mike is great with parents and communicates the foundations of soccer, the club structure and vision for development.

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Young Female Referee: Heather Olinger (South of the River Advanced Mentoring)

Heather began refereeing at the age of 11 and has been a member of the South of the River Advanced Mentoring Group for the past two years. This year Heather refereed several DA and MRL games. She also mentors at tournaments and has a great repour with young referees. Outside of soccer, Heather has volunteered with several different organizations including Feed My Starving Children, coached a GU9 soccer team and volunteers at Fairview Ridges Hospital. Heather is a terrific individual that gives her full effort in all things she does.

Young Male Referee: Sam Cesafsky (Mankato United Soccer Club)

Sam has been a referee for the past four years. This past summer he worked the Minnesota State Cup and President's Cup. Sam was selected by the State Referee Committee to travel to Ohio for the Midwest President's Cup. He did a great job and the committee appreciated his constant positive attitude and work ethic. Sam is dependable and always willing to step in and help where needed.

TOPSoccer Coach: Sara Zimmerman (Metro West)

Sara Zimmerman is one of the most committed coaches the TOPSoccer program has ever had. She often makes gigantic efforts to go between her own kid's soccer activities and TOPSoccer matches and practices. Her intuitiveness, gentle nature and encouraging manner are always on display around TOPSoccer athletes. She is not afraid to take the lead whenever the site coordinator is not able to attend a practice or a game day. She is diligent to organize the athletes in to teams to make sure matches start on time. And she is always providing positive encouragement to the athletes as well as celebrating accomplishments alongside them. During our year-end party this year Sara oversaw the award ceremony and took extra time to make sure that every athlete felt special and cared for.

TOPSoccer Buddy: Lucy Zimmerman (Metro West)

Lucy Zimmerman takes being a TOPSoccer Buddy to the next level. Lucy has participated in the TOPSoccer program since she was just older than some of the youngest TOPSoccer athletes. She is a generous, loving role model that does everything with a smile. She is willing to leap in wherever she is needed. From spending one on one time working on shooting with a junior league athlete, to running alongside an athlete during the B game. From showcasing her passing skills empowering A athletes to score goals to helping train in a new buddy in the program. Her energy and passion are contagious, and athletes are always wanting to work with her on practice or game days.

Volunteer: Abdirashid Ahmed (Somali American Youth Enrichment)

Abdirashid helps SAYEC in many ways from giving kids rides, talking to parents about the benefits or soccer and connecting local business and organizations to their program. He was part of a partnership with Fairview to get inner city girls involved in sports and exercise. He also organizes volunteer opportunities for the kids in the community such as, Feed my Starving Children and neighborhood cleanup. Abdirashid was a part of starting the SAYEC tutoring program, his main goal is not only giving back to the kids but ensuring the success and wellness of their present and future.