



VP REGION D CANDIDATE:

LOUIS RICHARD

RVPD@FYSA.COM | (850) 368-2305

WHY DO YOU WISH TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE FYSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

AFTER MORE THAN 30 YEARS IN COLLEGIATE AND YOUTH SOCCER, I BELIEVE THIS IS THE RIGHT TIME IN MY CAREER TO GIVE BACK BY HELPING SHAPE THE FUTURE OF THE GAME IN FLORIDA. SERVING ON THE FYSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS HAS ALLOWED ME TO DO EXACTLY THAT, AND I REMAIN ENERGIZED BY THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE OUR MEMBERSHIP. I BELIEVE OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS BOARD MEMBERS IS TO SERVE THE MEMBERSHIP, STRENGTHEN THE GAME, AND ENSURE THAT EVERY DECISION REFLECTS THE BEST INTERESTS OF FLORIDA SOCCER. THE BOARD'S RESPONSIBILITY IS TO EARN THE TRUST OF OUR MEMBERSHIP BY MAKING PRINCIPLED, TRANSPARENT DECISIONS THAT PLACE THE INTERESTS OF FLORIDA SOCCER ABOVE INDIVIDUAL AGENDAS. I WOULD BE HONORED TO CONTINUE SERVING AS A FAIR AND APPROACHABLE LEADER WHILE HELPING GUIDE FYSA THROUGH THE EVOLVING LANDSCAPE OF YOUTH SOCCER.

WHAT RELEVANT SKILLS OR EXPERIENCE WOULD YOU BRING TO THE FYSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

I BRING MORE THAN 30 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE ACROSS NEARLY EVERY LEVEL OF THE GAME, INCLUDING NCAA D1 COACHING, YOUTH COACHING, CLUB ADMINISTRATION, NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP, TOURNAMENT OPERATIONS, AND STRATEGIC PLANNING. I HAVE EXPERIENCED THE GAME AS A COACH, EXEC. DIR., BOARD MEMBER, TOURNAMENT ADMIN, AND SOCCER PARENT, GIVING ME A WELL-ROUNDED UNDERSTANDING OF HOW DECISIONS MADE AT THE STATE LEVEL IMPACT PLAYERS, FAMILIES, COACHES, REFEREES, VOLUNTEERS, AND CLUBS; FROM GRASSROOTS RECREATION TO THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF YOUTH COMPETITION. I SERVED ON THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIRING OUR CURRENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. I WORKED ALONGSIDE REGION D COMMISSIONERS, MELISSA ALFORD AND SEAN ACOSTA, TO RESTORE THE COMMISSIONER'S CUP TO THE FLORIDA PANHANDLE WHILE ALSO SUPPORTING THE GIRLS IN SOCCER INITIATIVE THROUGHOUT OUR REGION. I PRIORITIZED RECRUITING, MENTORING, AND DEVELOPING NEW REFEREES BECAUSE I BELIEVE INVESTING IN OFFICIALS IS ESSENTIAL TO THE FUTURE OF OUR GAME.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR FLORIDA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION AND YOUR PRIORITIES FOR YOUR TERM, IF ELECTED?

FLORIDA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION IS ENTERING A PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGE AS THE LANDSCAPE OF YOUTH SOCCER CONTINUES TO EVOLVE NATIONALLY. MY VISION IS FOR FYSA TO REMAIN THE STATE'S TRUSTED LEADER BY ADAPTING THOUGHTFULLY WHILE STAYING FOCUSED ON OUR MISSION OF SERVING PLAYERS, CLUBS, COACHES, REFEREES, AND FAMILIES WITH INTEGRITY AND EXCELLENCE. MY PRIORITIES ARE TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNICATION WITH OUR MEMBERSHIP, SUPPORT INITIATIVES THAT DEVELOP REFEREES AND CLUB LEADERS, INVEST IN PROGRAMS THAT INCREASE PARTICIPATION AND OPPORTUNITY, AND HELP POSITION FYSA TO SUCCESSFULLY NAVIGATE THE CHANGING STRUCTURE OF U.S. SOCCER. I BELIEVE THE BEST SOLUTIONS ARE BUILT THROUGH COLLABORATION, TRANSPARENCY, AND A WILLINGNESS TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER, AND I WILL CONTINUE SERVING AS A BRIDGE BUILDER WHO PUTS FLORIDA SOCCER FIRST.