

Dr. Thomas Fleck, 2013 Hall of Fame Inductee, Coach

For more than 40 years, Dr. Thomas Fleck fostered the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of America's youth through the sport of soccer at all levels of age and competition. He was recognized in 2005 as the inaugural recipient of the US Youth Soccer Dr. Thomas Fleck Excellence in Youth Coaching Education Award, designed to honor a lifetime of dedication where one has with integrity, honor, humor and humility made extensive and far reaching contributions to the process by which youth soccer coaches are educated in America.



Fleck was one of the original National Staff Coaches with U.S. Soccer and served as an instructor for U.S. Soccer for 30 years. Recognized as the leading authority on youth soccer development and education, Fleck was the primary author of the National Youth License as well as the US Youth Soccer Assistant Coach Series, The Official US Youth Soccer Coaching Manual and Parent Coach Primer that are still used by coaches across the nation and specifically in the various State Association coaching courses. Fleck also worked as the director of coaching for the Florida Youth Soccer Association and the Idaho Youth Soccer Association.

Dr. Fleck was presented the 2004 Honor Award for a lifetime of service from the NSCAA, the association's most esteemed award. As President of the NSCAA for two years, Fleck was instrumental in the establishment of the NSCAA Academies, the association's soccer coaching education division. He served as a member of its teaching staff for more than a quarter of a century. He also represented the U.S. Soccer Federation as the technical advisor for the 1980 World Youth Championship in Tunisia, as well as the 1994 World Cup hosted by the United States. In 2004, Fleck received the Walt Chyzowych Award for Lifetime Achievement in Coaching Education.

It's fitting Fleck be formally inducted into the US Youth Soccer Hall of Fame at the Award Gala in Philadelphia. He played high school and club soccer in Philadelphia and was a collegiate player at nearby West Chester University before starting his professional career as a public school teacher in Philadelphia. A member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Soccer Hall of Fame, Fleck's storied coaching career began in the area with the Greater Bethlehem Soccer League.

[VIDEO](#): Fleck Inducted into US Youth Soccer Hall of Fame