

### **Jon and Connie Bivens, 2013 Hall of Fame Inductee, Meritorious**

Jon and Connie Bivens' involvement in youth soccer began as parents nearly 40 years ago when they were "drafted" as a coach, referee and team mom. From that point on, their influence on the game and their love of soccer continued to grow.

Early on, Jon served on a field development committee for his city and was instrumental in convincing his employer to assist in the development of the first soccer-specific complex in the area — fields that are still in use today. He has also acted as vice president of soccer leagues and referee associations in California South, helping to advance the game in the state.

The Bivens co-founded the Upland Surf club team, with Jon managing the youth team for several years while Connie assisted with "team mom" duties. Their travel team, the Upland Surf, competed in numerous youth tournaments in California, Arizona, Nevada and Canada.

Soon after, John became tournament director for the newly-formed Surf Invitational, while Connie was in charge of awards — leading to the creation of their home business that flourished and became Sports Pins International providing awards and pins to all levels of the game. They have also provided the awards for US Youth Soccer and several of the nation's premier youth tournaments.

In 1988, the Bivens became members of the World Cup Founders Club, an organization formed at the request of the U.S. Soccer Federation to help fund the bid proposal to FIFA to host the 1994 World Cup.

Since then, they have attended eight World Cups; four women's and four men's events. During this time, they have worked closely with youth clubs and soccer tournaments all over the country — offering players small reminders of the memories they created while playing soccer.

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

