

Karl Grosch, 2009 US Youth Soccer Hall of Fame Inductee, Founder

Karl Grosch wrote the initial US Youth Soccer constitution, bylaws and rules and regulation in 1974 with fellow Hall of Fame member Don Greer and Robert Nessler. Their actions led to US Youth Soccer uniting all youth soccer programs throughout the United States.

Grosch, Greer and Nessler spent three days mapping out US Youth Soccer's organization. Although it was revolutionary at the time, their goal was to provide a democratic structure to provide uniform rules and guidelines to facilitate intrastate, interstate and international play. Their first draft of the bylaws was handwritten.

In 1974 at the U.S. Soccer annual general meeting in New York City, the 58th Annual USSF Council officially formed and recognized US Youth Soccer as an affiliated, self-governing body for youth soccer in the United States. US Youth Soccer had 100,000 players at the time.



Prior to Grosch's assistance in the creation of US Youth Soccer, he was the co-founder of the Federal Way Youth Soccer Association in 1967. Grosch's two sons began playing in the 1960s and Grosch began coaching and volunteering.

In 1971, Grosch was elected president of Washington Youth Soccer Association. He held that position through 1977. Under Grosch's leadership, Washington Youth Soccer moved from a strictly volunteer run group to a professional organization with an office and staff.

In addition to his duties as president, Grosch was also a licensed referee for both youth and adult games and cofounded the Washington Youth Soccer Referee Association.

In 1974, He was appointed as the first US Youth Soccer Region IV commissioner. He was a member of the USSF National Planning Committee from 1983-1984 and was the chairman from 1984-1985.

Grosch was honored by being inducted into the Washington Youth Soccer Association Hall of Fame in 2000 and was also the first recipient into the US Youth Soccer Region IV Hall of Fame in the same year.

To recognize his many achievements, Washington Youth Soccer and the city of Federal Way, Wash., dedicated the Karl Grosch Field at Steel Lake Park in Nov. 2003 in his honor.