

Wally Lyslo, 2014 Hall of Fame Inductee, Referee

Ever since soccer began to grow in Minnesota, Wally Lyslo has been there as a person everyone could look up to in the referee community. Wally got his start as a volunteer referee in 1973, when his son became old enough to play under Minnesota rules. Eight years later, he registered as a referee with the U.S. Soccer Federation — beginning his long run as a valuable referee, assignor and instructor at the state, regional and national level.

When the first regional soccer tournament was held in Minnesota in 1982, Wally helped coordinate referees for the event. Shortly after, he became a provisional referee instructor before taking on the role of State Youth Referee Administrator for the Minnesota Jr. Soccer Association. When the organization evolved into the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association in 1987, Wally was named to the board of directors.

Throughout the next two decades, Wally held several administrative positions, including Secretary of the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association and the US Youth Soccer Region II Referee Administrator. He was appointed by the governor of Minnesota to the Minnesota State Games Board, and he became Chairman of the US Youth Soccer Referee Committee in 1996.

In 2008, Wally was granted lifetime membership in the USSF Referee Program for 25 years of service and contributions to the National Program for Referee Development. Today, he continues to mentor referees and do evaluations at the recreational level to seek out young referees who may qualify to advance to higher level games.

