



## Bob Delaney

Pocoshock Valley Youth Soccer in Richmond, Virginia is where Bob's officiating journey began in or about 1989/1990. Bob and oldest son enrolled in the referee course provided/taught by the Central Virginia Soccer Referee Association (CVSRA).

The referee instructors were tremendous in the classroom, at the first outdoor rec match and as friends and mentors well into and beyond 1999 when he relocated to Rock Hill.

As a referee in Richmond opportunity was plentiful with youth leagues, men's and women's adult leagues and the Richmond Kickers to provide regular challenges.

Every three (3) years with the aid of CVSRA match records and senior referees he was fortunate to upgrade to grade 7 and grade 6 referee.

In 1995/6 Bob agreed to run for the president's position of CVSRA. Serving as president until a manufacturing opportunity required the Delaney's to relocate to Rock Hill, SC.

Roger Williams (former Winthrop University goalkeeper) was Bob's first referee contact and he put him in touch with Sam Tucker (YCSHOF Class of 2019). Sam was a great host, referee assignor and dedicated to Rock Hill youth soccer. He coached Bob's youngest son.

Rock Hill was in the hinterlands of South Carolina and referees would travel to Charlotte or Gastonia for annual USSF registration. There wasn't much opportunity in South Carolina. Rick Rogers (YCSHOF Class of 2023) posted a hundred or two hundred dollar bounty with the State Referee Administrator to secure a referee instructor and the first referee class was quite successful and Rock Hill was on the map.

Recruitment and retention were key and time on the fields with the referees was a constant. Our success with the involvement of the adult referees aided in boosting the numbers and consistent quality.

The opportunity to contribute at the state level occurred when Roni Canales included Bob in the Region 3 Youth Championship and then as the State Director of Assessments. That was extremely fulfilling and he was grateful for the time with our referees on the fields and the neighboring referees throughout Region 3. Bob went on to referee all levels of college soccer and high school state championship games while still serving as a mentor for young referees.