



Washington State Referee Committee

Subject: Letter to nominate Mr. Ram C. Prasad for a Lifetime USSF member
USSF Registration Number: 0010-2281-1595-7140



Mr. Ram Prasad, the current Chairman of the Washington State Referee Committee has served Washington State and US Soccer for 25 consecutive years in various capacities such as referee, local referee association president, youth club president and a State administrator. Ram is well known for his services throughout the referee community in the State of Washington mostly due to his time on the State Referee Committee and travel throughout the state to serve the game of soccer.

Professionally as part of the Boeing Company management team Ram has brought that professionalism and experience to the Washington State Referee Committee, serving as Chairman since 2003. Additionally, Ram started as grade 9 in 1984 for lake Washington Youth Soccer Association, upgraded to grade 8 referee in 1989 and first time registered with USSF in January 1990. He further upgraded to grade 7 in 1992. In between from 1984 and appointment to the SRC Chair Ram has managed soccer referee organizations at all levels.

Roles held and contributions to soccer / refereeing by Ram Prasad:

President – Redmond Youth Soccer Club – 1983 – 1984

During Ram’s tenure they increased the youth participation by 17 percent and strengthened the Canadian Exchange program for Redmond Youth League.

Referee/Player – Ram became grade 8 referee in 1989, achieved grade 7 in 1992. He officiated HS games from 1992 till present, College games from 1993 – 2008 and Special Olympic games at Fort Lewis for many years. He was a member of WSYSA Judicial Committee – 2002-2003. Ram has played soccer off and on from age 8 through 2008. As a captain of the High School team Ram lead the team to regional championship. He currently holds lifetime player card in the State of Washington.

Vice-President Facilities – Lake Washington Youth Soccer Association – 1985 – 1986

Ram was an acknowledged key in the transformation of the 60 Acres complex from an undulating cow pasture to a reputable Soccer Complex consisting of 16 high quality turf (grass) fields. He managed \$100K plus budget, installed new turf, installed irrigation system by tapping water from the Sammamish slough waterways (grandfathered till 99 year lease expires with the County), introduced paint for lining the fields replacing use of lime, and introduced field rentals to adult leagues to supplement Facilities budgets.

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President – East King County Soccer Referee Association – 2001 - 2002

Here Ram managed 150 plus member referee organization including a paid staff. Worked with the technical directors and initiated a number of steps to make many measureable improvements in operational structures as well as referee development programs.

Chairman – Washington State Referee Committee (SRC) – 2003 – 2015 (present)

Ram, by working with technical directors established operational infrastructure requirements to have Budgets and Business Plan in place before the start of the fiscal year. Worked with two association presidents to move the SRC to a non-profit independent entity. Ram has been managing SRC like a private business with business plan, budgets, policies, procedures and processes in place to make organization function more efficiently and transparent for accountability of SRC to membership. His goals have been to employ less and less touch labor in managing tasks by making use of automation technologies. During this period, and continuing, the referee population and revenue have increased appreciably: The measureable metrics during his tenure as Chair include as follow (there are several measurable statistics - some subjective and some objective):

- From very beginning Ram worked with the Committee members to set specific goals for the organization to be a valued partner to serve the game of soccer and provide valued services to all levels of referees and games.
- The SRC has made many improvements in the last twelve years but objectively the most telling ones, during the period while he has held the position of chairmanship, are growth in referee population and revenues.
- In 2003, when he joined SRC, the referee population stood at 3734 and the fund balance of \$94K in the treasury. At the end of 2014 data show referee population at 6,800 and funds balance of \$428K in the bank – of which approximately \$310K is invested in conservative and moderate growth & income mutual funds.
- In 2011 another significant accomplishment as chair of SRC was passing of the House Bill 1656. On behalf of soccer along with other sports officials the group successfully lobbied for this Bill with the State legislatures and succeeded in getting it passed. This Bill removed the uncertainty from the certain nonprofit associations where amateur sports officials were considered “employer” for unemployment insurance purposes. The new law makes it clear that they are not. Without it, the added cost of unemployment insurance would likely have been passed along to the leagues that contract with these nonprofit referee associations, which in turn would be passed along to those who sign up to play sports.
- The increase in referees, instructors, assessors, assignor’s population in each grade has moved up proportionately.
- In addition to the growth in referee population and revenues as noted above the SRC has made tremendous progress in the quality of referees by providing them high quality training at home as well as out of state where our referees were given opportunities to receive field as well as class room training by highly qualified instructors and assessors.

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The whole SRC membership is very proud of the transformation of the organization during the last twelve years – thanks to Ram and his work with all the technical directors. This organization is well set with a strong team to serve the referees and the games of soccer in the State of Washington.

Based on Mr. Prasad's years of extensive service and unselfish contribution to the soccer and refereeing community, I with US Soccer to consider Mr. Ram Prasad to be approved for US Soccer Federation Lifetime membership.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Kritzberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Jim Kritzberg – State Referee Administrator
State Referee Committee – Washington