



## 2021 Kirk Hoecherl Hall of Fame Inductee

### *David Mills*

David Mills has been a prominent figure in the soccer community for the last 25 years. He has served as coach, league 29 president, district 4 president, region 2 director, member of the disciplinary committee, referee, and referee mentor.

David's interest in the sport started when he served as a coach for his children. Beginning with AYSO youth soccer, he ordered VHS tapes to learn how to coach. He quickly learned the rules of the game and caught on to the spirit of the sport. He continued serving as coach for many years, got his coaching license, and took teams to premier levels and championships. He found joy watching his players progress from learning how to kick a ball to move on to play at high school and collegiate levels. Some of his own players have become coaches themselves. Even after his kids were grown, David still served as a coach for the Wasatch Soccer Club. In one instance, a Wasatch coach had to step down for medical reasons. David volunteered to help as coach when his community needed it most.

David first started refereeing because he was passionate about his kids learning the rules of the game and being members of the soccer community. He reffed for nearly 20 years - long after his kids stopped playing soccer. As age gets the best of us (also known as knee replacements), David's referee career converted from running down the fields to mentoring and training referees. He helped referees by providing feedback for improvement.

As league 29 president, David held monthly coaching trainings to foster relationships between club coaches. He provided resources for coaches, including networking, equipment, and support. His leadership role expanded to the position of district president and then region director. As a district president, he was able to continue the monthly coaching trainings, which included a larger soccer community. He helped the district grow by starting a district program that ran alongside the current state program. He also helped the district grow by creating the academy program for the 7-8 year olds, which is still being played today. When district 4 merged into region 2, he stayed as a leader to solidify relationships and promote a spirit of unity in the region.

The attributes David has that help him to be a leader and mentor include his patience, diligence, hard work, and fair judgement. His time in the soccer community has helped him grow and he has enjoyed giving back. He is a father of 3, grandfather of 4, and he continues to support the soccer community by supporting his wife, Teri Mills, who works as a referee assigner. He is excited to continue watching his grandkids' love for soccer develop.