

# *LJSL Hall of Fame Inductee*

## **Plainedge Soccer Club**

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### *Christopher McGovern*

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My name is Joe Karam, a proud Hall of Fame member and current President of the Plainedge Soccer Club. I'm writing you today to introduce to you Christopher McGovern, an amazing 20 plus years volunteer who worked tirelessly and continues to do so today to benefit our club and all its kids while promoting the wonderful game of soccer.

I first met Chris when I volunteered to coach back in 1998. He was a coach as well and then joined the board as a peeewe commissioner shortly after. At the time, Plainedge soccer Club had about 325 kids playing soccer. Chris is one of the main reasons we have 1200 kids playing today. His vision and energy helped grow our base and more importantly made soccer fun and kept kids involved for many years.

As a player, Chris started his playing days at Farmingdale Soccer Club and then moved over to Hicksville American as it offered a higher level of competition with LJSL. As a coach, Chris took 2 girls teams through U19 while playing at the highest level LJSL has to offer. He never used a trainer rather relied on his soccer knowledge to train his teams for free and keep the cost down for all his players. He continues to do so today. His teams played for LJSL exclusively. Chris is a LISRA certified referee and the current head referee for the Plainedge Soccer Club. He recruits, trains and supervises all our young in-house referees.

Chris was the volunteer administrator for the 135 league for over 15 years. Holding meetings, scheduling games and supervising all activities until last year when he worked with Steve Padaetz and helped transition this league under the LJSL umbrella.

Chris is also the coordinator/administrator of our interleague program encompassing Plainedge, Bethpage, Island Trees and Levittown offering intramural play between all said clubs. Chris founded this program, set the schedules/rules and supervised it for almost 15 years.

Chris was one of the founding members of the Plainedge Soccer Father's Day Tournament. An Intramural tournament for U7 through U9 which our club ran for 15 years at Stillwell field in Syosset. Chris scheduled the entire tournament, measured and lined the fields and refereed the entire weekend as a volunteer. His reward was the success of the tournament and the benefit of our club.

Chris is also a founding member of the Plainedge Soccer Club Kids Helping Kids Intramural Tournament which is 21 years running. The tournament takes place indoors at Plainedge Middle School Gym over Thanksgiving weekend. All proceeds from this event are all donated to local outreach programs and families in need around the holiday season. Chris sets up the schedule, volunteers as a referee and spends the entire weekend at the event to ensure its success.

To this day, Chris remains the person who ensures the safety of our equipment. He is the volunteer who lines the fields every weekend. He is the intermural schedule administrator. He is a volunteer who spends the entire weekend observing games, speaking to coaches, reassuring our young referees, helping the guys in the snack shack and cleaning and securing the fields at the conclusion of all games. All for nothing other than ensuring all our kids have an amazing soccer experience. Chris is also extremely active within our community. He was instrumental in ushering Plainedge Schools out of austerity back in 2005 when our school budget failed and continues to work hard every day to ensure our budget passes so that our community stays strong and on par with our surrounding communities.

I can go on and on with stories and examples of the countless selfless acts I've witnessed from Chris first hand. He was an example to me throughout my involvement. His good nature and sense of giving have made me a better person and energized me while we worked together to make this club the best it can be for all our kids. I was overwhelmed and honored when I became a hall of famer but in all honesty, it is Chris who is so deserving and I believe he should have been there first. He is the optimal volunteer, the selfless man who never looks for credit. He loves this game, loves all the kids and will do anything in his power to ensure they have the best program possible to play in.

It is my honor to recommend Chris to be inducted into the LJSL Hall of Fame. He has done an amazing job and looked for no reward. People like Chris though should be rewarded, should be recognized for their sacrifices and what a better way to do this than agree that this man belongs into the Hall of Fame. I urge you to give Chris your every consideration and your vote, reward his kindness and elect him into the Hall of Fame.

*Nomination submitted by: Joe Karam*

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