

Richard Brook

Inducted January 27, 2012

In 1978 Richard Brook became a referee because his children, James and Jennifer, wanted to play in the East Tulsa Soccer Club. As with most clubs at that time, requirements for children to play included having parents either coach, referee, or volunteer. His wife Sandy opted to coach their daughter and Richard chose to referee. That decision to referee would lead him to more than 34 years of officiating, assessing, and leadership with Oklahoma's referee corps.

Under the tutelage of Hall of Fame members such as Peter Aradi, Russ Staurovsky, and Atef Iskander, it wasn't long before Richard moved up through the ranks of referee, then State Referee (which he achieved in 1984), and finally the ultimate goal of all serious referees a USSF National Referee in 1991. He was the first native Oklahoman to become a National Referee and by then his reputation as one of the state's premier officials had been solidified.

Players and coaches would recognize and appreciate Richard's abilities as a referee, and he was regarded for that expertise with over 8 state championship center assignments. For twelve years he was selected to attend the Region III championships as Oklahoma's representative. Richard and his fellow referees in that time never received payment for their assignments. Refereeing was voluntary and not until recent years have officials been paid to referee matches. But the love of being in the center drove him to accept assignments not only with club soccer, but also high school and college games. He has been a member of the National Intercollegiate Soccer Association referee corps for over 30 years as well as an Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association member.

Richard currently is a State Emeritus Referee and National Emeritus Assessor for USSF. With the NISOA group he is a National Emeritus Referee and National Assessor. He has held the office of president and vice-president of the local NISOA chapter EOISOA.

According to Richard his most memorable events include traveling to the Gothia Cup in Gothenburg Sweden with his friends Pat Stone and Atef Iskander and being selected as a referee for the US Adult Soccer Association National Women's Tournament in Dallas.

During his career, Richard has served Oklahoma Soccer as State Director of Assessments and as an interim State referee Administrator. He recently returned to the office of SDA for the State Referee Committee while working full time as a piping designer. While he is no longer accepting as many assignments as he once did, Richard still loves to referee and now enjoys watching granddaughter Alex play soccer. She is but one of Richard and Sandy's seven grandchildren.