



Addressing Discrimination in Youth Soccer Series - Awareness

18 Jun at 1 pm EST

Welcome

Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. Join us as we kick off a series of webinars on discrimination in youth soccer.

Host: Clifton Bush

Featuring: Kimberley Crabbe Sully Hamid Nicole Hercules
Nikki Washington Karla Thompson

Vision

At US Youth Soccer we endeavour to be an organization that:

- Embraces diversity and inclusion and strive to be the sport of choice for players, officials, coaches and administrators of all backgrounds
- Encourages the advancement of diverse individuals throughout our organization
- Provides a culture where all individuals feel safe, respected and are treated fairly

AWARENESS

DISCUSSION

ACTION

Clifton Bush



Assistant Coach- Racing Louisville

Southern California native Clifton Bush is honored to be hosting this conversation in remembrance of Juneteenth. He and the panelist will be discussing their own stories as well as the past, present, and future of inclusion of BIPOC players, coaches, and staff in the soccer landscape.

Clifton currently serves as first team assistant coach with Racing Louisville of the NWSL. At present he is the only Black-American (4th ever) technical staff member in the league. Prior to Racing Louisville Clifton spent 3 years as an opposition analyst and scout for NWSL teams. Founder and Co-Host of Modern Soccer Coaches #NWSLRewind, a weekly podcast that covered everything in the US women's professional game.

He holds a USSF A-Senior license and has had coaching posts at UNC Asheville (Head Coach), CSU Bakersfield (Assoc Head Coach), Portland Thorns Academy and the Idaho and Oregon Youth Soccer Associations.

Prior to returning to soccer, Clifton spent nearly a decade in law enforcement as a detective and juvenile probation officer. He currently consults for law enforcement agencies in improving hiring practices in an effort to reduce biased based policing tactics.



Kimberley Crabbe

Just months after leading George Mason University to the NCAA national championship, Crabbe became the first Black player called into the US women's national team. A defender, she competed in the first women's Olympic Festivals, National Cups, the W-League and internationally.

Kimberley is currently Outreach Program Director, Wilmington Hammerheads Youth FC which offers soccer training, soccer workshops, supporting all members of the community (SEE "Kicking Around the Community) who would like to play soccer at any level.

She is a member of the Virginia-Washington DC Hall of Fame



Sully Hamid

Sully “Passadie” Hamid was born in Freetown, Sierra Leone. He started his soccer career at the age of 10 when he started playing academy soccer. In the 1980s, Sully started playing for Queens Park Rangers F.C. in London. After starting his coaching journey in 1987, he worked with Olympic Development Program, US Soccer, Annandale (as technical director), and ultimately started Premier AC in 2000. Since then, he has coached multiple players that have gone on to play professionally such as Joseph Gyau, Conor Shanosky, and Antonio Bustamante. Both his children, Jasmine Hamid and Bill Hamid, have also gone on to play at a higher level (Bill is the goalkeeper for DC United and Jasmine plays for GMU).

His initial goal when opening PAC was to turn every player into a student of the game. Ultimately, he wants his players to master the game and one day be able to coach the next generation. “Soccer is a life skill. Being able to deal with hard situations at a young age will prepare you for the outside world. It helps you build a community, solve issues, and helps players understand that you can achieve something greater.”

Sully holds a USSF 'A' License, NSCAA Advanced National Diploma, UEFA 'B' License, USSF 'B' License, and the English Preliminary Badge.



Karla Thompson

COACH EDUCATOR, A-YOUTH & B LICENSE
U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION

Originally from Denver, Karla started playing soccer at a very young age. Even though it wasn't popular when she was growing up, she was still enamored with the sport. She played club soccer all throughout her youth including U.S. Youth National team. She then went on to Colorado College where she was an All-American. After college she was offered a contract with a professional league in Japan but decided to pursue aviation in the Air Force.

Was a Div I coach for 6 years. Region I and IV Head Coach. State Technical Director in Maryland and Arizona. Club Director for 15 year for both boys and girls. Currently Coach Educator for U.S. Soccer and YNT Scout. Created the U.S. Soccer SheChampions Coach Mentoring program for young women.

Seeing young female coaches coming through the ranks and the opportunities they have is what inspires Karla the most. She aspires for this next generation of women to be in more leadership roles. She believes that even outside of soccer, we need more women being leaders, mentors, and owners.



Nicole Hercules

Nicole is the CEO of NHM Consulting and the President of the Rochester Soccer City League and is the first female Chair of the United Soccer Coaches Black Soccer Advocacy Group

She serves on several committees, including:

NY Section V Girls High School Committee

United Soccer Coaches Nominations and Elections Committee

US Soccer Foundation's Urban Soccer Symposium Committee

Nicole is passionate about utilizing the power of soccer to develop and empower members of underserved communities to excel and grow. An advocate and expert in strategies for increasing soccer participation in these communities, she is committed to driving inclusion and diversity initiatives that make a transformative difference in the lives of soccer players.

Nicole received a full Division I soccer scholarship to the University of Albany and served as Team Captain her senior year. She went on to play professional soccer and continues to give back to her community in Rochester, NY.



Nikki Washington

Retired professional soccer forward and right midfielder who last played for Boston Breakers in the National Women's Soccer League and is currently an assistant coach for the women's soccer team at the University of Washington.

She previously played for Chicago Red Stars, Boston Breakers, and magicJack in Women's Professional Soccer as well as the Portland Thorns FC and Houston Dash in the NWSL. She captained the United States team that won the 2008 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup and played for the under-23 team.

A Mesquite, Texas native, Washington was a three-time NCAA Champion during her playing career at North Carolina, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Communications. She was named 2010 ACC Player of the Year



Webinar Notes:

1. Juneteenth is not just black History but rather American history
2. Are we having the difficult conversations with the right audience (i.e. not just the BIPOC community)
3. Things that can be done to address Soccer problems
 1. Can the State Association provide a means to address racial discrimination
 2. Important to have difficult conversations
 3. Can organizations work to have better representations and thus have the different experiences and be able to develop programs to meet your members needs
 4. Training for Coaches
4. Be aware of affinity bias - selecting those that are different but think like those in power
5. Are there other sports that have excelled at being inclusive that we can learn from - ie WNBA, NBA
6. Objective: Emancipation of discrimination - see it as a soccer problem and not just a black or Asian or Muslim problem