



## Craig Dean

Born - July 16 1951, Died - January 25, 2019

It is with sadness that we report the loss of an honored member of our soccer community. Craig Dean has passed to a new life, having fought a strong battle with cancer. Craig has been a leader in many ways within our community. He spent years on the fields of many athletic venues. He was a coach for several years with the South Kitsap Little League and South Kitsap Soccer Club.

Craig served for many years as a member of the NSYSA Disciplinary Committee. Craig was the long time President of the Kitsap Peninsula Soccer Referee Association. Craig was an accomplished referee himself. He officiated in our local leagues, High School, and College level games. He traveled to Russia as part of an exchange group of referees. Officiating games with his new found referee friends.

His relationship with the Referee Association within the Vancouver British Columbia area helped to bring an exchange of referees to support our community of North Kitsap. For the many years of hosting the Viking Cup Soccer Tournament, these exchanges brought quality referees from Canada to band with local referees from throughout the Puget Sound area; to support our community. 'Viking Fest' was held with high regard, as a predominant tournament. Teams from throughout the Western states come to play in our quality soccer event.

Craig was instrumental in supporting the growth and maturity of many of those of us who chose the path as a soccer referee. His mentorship and guidance opened the opportunity and development of many of our referee officials yet today. He was instrumental in supporting and urging many a referee to move on and accept the challenge of higher level games. Some have become Officials that serve on the National level.

Please stand with Northwest Sound Soccer Association in remembering Craig Dean. He was a person which held a commitment to his community that serves as example for us all.