



2026 *Support4Sport* Awards Information Sheet

Link to nominate: <https://support4sportawards.awardsplatform.com>

Nominations open: Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Nominations close: Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.

Event date: Saturday, May 23, 2026, at the Halifax Convention Centre

Eligibility: Accomplishments must have taken place between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026

Important information about the nomination software

- Sport Nova Scotia uses software called Award Force for the nomination process.
- There are two streams for nominations: the Provincial Sport Organization stream and the *Support4Sport* Overall Award stream. **It is very important that each nominee is only nominated through one stream.**
- Please note that Sport Nova Scotia **does not** have the ability to modify nominations once they have been submitted, so please take your time when filling out the forms.

***Support4Sport* Overall Award Stream**

This stream is for candidates who you would like to be selected as the automatic winner for your Provincial Sport Organization **AND** to be nominated for an overall *Support4Sport* Award (amongst all sports).

Provincial Sport Organization Award Stream

This stream is for candidates who you would like to be selected **ONLY** as the automatic winner for your Provincial Sport Organization.

The criteria for each category are below.

If you have any questions about nominations, please contact Kelly Duggan, Manager of Public Relations & Communications at Sport Nova Scotia at kduggan@sportnovascotia.ca.

Coach of the Year

Background

- This award is presented annually to Nova Scotia's premier coach. This individual is considered an elite manager of talent and/or developer of talent within his/her/their sport.
- Nominations are accepted only from member Provincial Sport Organizations (PSO). Individual members, recreation directors and sport media are encouraged to contact their PSO directly with suggested nominations. The PSO president or a signing authority of the PSO must endorse the nomination.
- One nomination will be accepted per sport. The nominee selected by each PSO should represent the best candidate in that sport. If more than one nomination is submitted in a category from a single PSO, they will be returned and the PSO will be responsible for submitting only one by the deadline.

Eligibility

- The nominee must be a member of, OR endorsed by, their PSO or its member organizations.
- The nominee must presently coach Nova Scotian and/or Canadian athletes in a club, provincial, national and/or international level competition.
- High school and/or post-secondary school coaches do not qualify.
- The nominee must hold a minimum of NCCP Comp Intro certification.
- Both paid and unpaid coaches are eligible for this award.
- If you are unsure or have questions about the above requirements, please contact communications@sportnovascotia.ca.
- Nomination must be based upon accomplishments between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026. Information from previous years will not be considered.
- The selection committees make their decisions based solely upon the information you provide. Please assist the committee by ensuring that the nomination is accurate, succinct and as complete as possible.

Recognition

- The award will be given to the overall winner of the *Support4Sport* Coach of the Year as well as the two runners up. Each PSO Coach of the Year will also be recognized with an award. All winners will be honoured at the *Support4Sport* Awards on Saturday, May 23, 2026.

Community Sport Organization

Background

- This award recognizes Community Sport Organizations for the incredible work they do to deliver sport opportunities to Nova Scotians. This award highlights the individuals and teams who have gone above and beyond their regular day-to-day operations to make a

positive difference for participants. They strive for excellence in how they operate, collaborate, innovate, lead and, in some cases, use sport as a tool to create positive social change.

- Each Sport Nova Scotia member PSO has the opportunity to select one Community Sport Organization who will be honoured at the *Support4Sport Awards*.
- Nominations are accepted only from member PSOs. Individual members, recreation directors and sport media are encouraged to contact their PSO directly with suggested nominations. The PSO president or someone with signing authority must endorse the nomination.
- Each selection must be accompanied by documentation of the organization's achievements.
- One selection will be accepted per sport. If there is more than one submission from a single PSO, the information will be returned and the PSO will be invited to choose/submit only one by the deadline.

Eligibility & Selection Criteria

- The organization must be a member of, OR endorsed by, its PSO.
- This award is based on accomplishments in successful hosting initiatives, programming innovation, strong management and/or administration and creating progressive programs for athletes, coaches and volunteers. The sport organization approaches both participation and competition with equal commitment.
- This award is for a sport governing body and not an individual. PSOs are encouraged to nominate themselves; however, any member of Sport Nova Scotia can also advance nominations. Additionally, a PSO can nominate a club or affiliate organization that has demonstrated organizational excellence.
- Nominations must be based upon efforts between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026. Information from previous years will not be considered.

Recognition

- Each PSO Community Sport Organization of the Year will receive an award and be honoured at the *Support4Sport Awards* on Saturday, May 23, 2026.

Junior Female Athlete of the Year

Background

- This award is presented annually to Nova Scotia's outstanding junior female athlete. This individual possesses the qualities associated with performance excellence and sport achievement.
- Athletes can compete either individually or in team events.
- Nominations are accepted only from member PSOs. Individual members, recreation directors and sport media are encouraged to contact their PSO directly with suggested nominations. The PSO president or a signing authority of the PSO must endorse the nomination.

- One nomination will be accepted per sport. The nominee selected by each PSO should represent the best candidate in that sport. If more than one nomination is submitted in a category from a single PSO, the nominations will be returned and the PSO will be responsible for submitting only one by the deadline.

Eligibility

- The junior category is for outstanding athletes under the age of 20 who competed in a developmental or age group category event. U23 and U21 events count as long as the athlete was under the age of 20 at the time of the competition.
- Accompanying results from an open competition (over 21) will only be considered as supporting information for the overall decision about the nominees' standing compared to their competitors.
- The nominee must be a member of, OR endorsed by, their PSO or its member organizations and represent Nova Scotia as a member of a club, provincial or national team in competition.
- Achievements from high school or post-secondary events will not be considered in the selection process. However, times or records recognized by a PSO will be considered.
- Professional athletes are eligible as long as the performance takes place at an International Olympic Committee, International Paralympic Committee or International Federation sanctioned event.
- If you are unsure or have questions about the above requirements, please contact communications@sportnovascotia.ca.
- Nominations should be based upon accomplishments between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026. Information from previous years will not be considered.
- The selection committees make their decisions based solely upon the information you provide. Please assist the committee by ensuring that the nomination is accurate, succinct and as complete as possible.

Recognition

- Awards will be given to the overall winner of the *Support4Sport* Junior Female Athlete of the Year as well as the two runners up. Each PSO Junior Female Athlete of the Year will also be recognized with an award. All winners will be honoured at the *Support4Sport* Awards on Saturday, May 23, 2026.

Junior Male Athlete of the Year

Background

- This award is presented annually to Nova Scotia's outstanding junior male athlete. This individual possesses the qualities associated with performance excellence and sport achievement.
- Athletes can compete either individually or in team events.
- Nominations are accepted only from member PSOs. Individual members, recreation

directors and sport media are encouraged to contact their PSO directly with suggested nominations. The PSO president or a signing authority of the PSO must endorse the nomination.

- One nomination will be accepted per sport. The nominee selected by each PSO should represent the best candidate in that sport. If more than one nomination is submitted in a category from a single PSO, the nominations will be returned and the PSO will be responsible for submitting only one by the deadline.

Eligibility

- The junior category is for outstanding athletes under the age of 20 who competed in a developmental or age group category event. U23 and U21 events count as long as the athlete was under the age of 20 at the time of the competition.
- Accompanying results from an open competition (over 21) will only be considered as supporting information for the overall decision about the nominee's standing compared to their competitors.
- The nominee must be a member of, OR endorsed by, their PSO or its member organizations and represent Nova Scotia as a member of a club, provincial or national team in competition.
- Achievements from high school or post-secondary events will not be considered in the selection process. However, times or records recognized by a PSO will be considered.
- Professional athletes are eligible as long as the performance takes place at an International Olympic Committee, International Paralympic Committee or International Federation sanctioned event.
- If you are unsure or have questions about the above requirements, please contact communications@sportnovascotia.ca.
- Nominations should be based upon accomplishments between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026. Information from previous years will not be considered.
- The selection committees make their decisions based solely upon the information you provide. Please assist the committee by ensuring that the nomination is accurate, succinct and as complete as possible.

Recognition

- Awards will be given to the overall winner of the *Support4Sport* Junior Male Athlete of the Year as well as the two runners up. Each PSO Junior Male Athlete of the Year will also be recognized with an award. All winners will be honoured at the *Support4Sport Awards* on Saturday, May 23, 2026.

Official of the Year

Background

- This award is presented annually to Nova Scotia's premier official. This individual demonstrates dedication to leadership, contributions to local sport development and is seen as an advocate for fair play and ethical behaviour in the sport.
- Nominations are accepted only from PSOs. Individual members, recreation directors and sport media are encouraged to contact their PSO directly with suggested nominations. The PSO president or a signing authority of the PSO must endorse the nomination.
- One nomination will be accepted per sport. The nominee selected by each PSO should represent the best candidate in that sport. If more than one nomination is submitted in a category from a single PSO, the nominations will be returned and the PSO will be responsible for submitting only one by the deadline.

Eligibility

- The nominee must be a member of, OR endorsed by, their PSO or its member organizations.
- The nominee must presently officiate Nova Scotian or Canadian competitions in a club, provincial, national and/or international level competition.
- High school and/or post-secondary school officials do not qualify.
- Both paid and unpaid officials are eligible for this award.
- If you are unsure or have questions about the above requirements, please contact communications@sportnovascotia.ca.
- Nomination should be based upon accomplishments between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026. Information from previous years will not be considered.
- The selection committees make their decisions based solely upon the information you provide. Please assist the committee by ensuring that the nomination is accurate, succinct and as complete as possible.

Recognition

- Awards will be given to the overall winner of the *Support4Sport* Official of the Year as well as the two runners up. Each PSO Official of the Year will also be recognized with an award. All winners will be honoured at the *Support4Sport* Awards on Saturday, May 23, 2026.

Senior Female Athlete of the Year

Background

- This award is presented annually to Nova Scotia's outstanding female athlete. This individual possesses the qualities associated with performance excellence and sport achievement.
- Athletes can compete either individually or in team events.

- Nominations are accepted only from member PSOs. Individual members, recreation directors and sport media are encouraged to contact their PSO directly with suggested nominations. The PSO president or a signing authority of the PSO must endorse the nomination.
- One nomination will be accepted per sport. The nominee selected by each PSO should represent the best candidate in that sport. If more than one nomination is submitted in a category from a single PSO, the nominations will be returned and the PSO will be responsible for submitting only one by the deadline.

Eligibility

- The senior category is for any athlete who competed in open age group competitions.
- The nominee must be a member of, OR endorsed by, their PSO or its member organizations and represent Nova Scotia as a member of a club, provincial or national team in competition.
- Achievements from high school or post-secondary events will not be considered in the selection process. However, times or records recognized by a PSO will be considered.
- Professional athletes are eligible as long as the performance takes place at an International Olympic Committee, International Paralympic Committee or International Federation sanctioned event.
- If you are unsure or have questions about the above requirements, please contact communications@sportnovascotia.ca.
- Nominations should be based upon accomplishments between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026. Information from previous years will not be considered.
- The selection committees make their decisions based solely upon the information you provide. Please assist the committee by ensuring that the nomination is accurate, succinct and as complete as possible.

Recognition

- Awards will be given to the overall winner of the *Support4Sport* Senior Female Athlete of the Year as well as the two runners up. Each PSO Senior Female Athlete of the Year will also be recognized with an award. All winners will be honoured at the *Support4Sport* Awards on Saturday, May 23, 2026.

Senior Male Athlete of the Year

Background

- This award is presented annually to Nova Scotia's outstanding male athlete. This individual possesses the qualities associated with performance excellence and sport achievement.
- Athletes can compete either individually or in team events.
- Nominations are accepted only from member PSOs. Individual members, recreation directors and sport media are encouraged to contact their PSO directly with suggested nominations. The PSO president or a signing authority of the PSO must endorse the nomination.

- One nomination will be accepted per sport. The nominee selected by each PSO should represent the best candidate in that sport. If more than one nomination is submitted in a category from a single PSO, the nominations will be returned and the PSO will be responsible for submitting only one by the deadline.

Eligibility

- The senior category is for any athlete who competed in open age group competitions.
- The nominee must be a member of, OR endorsed by, their PSO or its member organizations and represent Nova Scotia as a member of a club, provincial or national team in competition.
- Achievements from high school or post-secondary events will not be considered in the selection process. However, times or records recognized by a PSO will be considered.
- Professional athletes are eligible as long as the performance takes place at an International Olympic Committee, International Paralympic Committee or International Federation sanctioned event.
- If you are unsure or have questions about the above requirements, please contact communications@sportnovascotia.ca.
- Nominations should be based upon accomplishments between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026. Information from previous years will not be considered.
- The selection committees make their decisions based solely upon the information you provide. Please assist the committee by ensuring that the nomination is accurate, succinct and as complete as possible.

Recognition

- Awards will be given to the overall winner of the *Support4Sport* Senior Male Athlete of the Year as well as the two runners up. Each PSO Senior Male Athlete of the Year will also be recognized with an award. All winners will be honoured at the *Support4Sport* Awards on Saturday, May 23, 2026.

Sport Makes a Difference

Background

- Any individual, group, organization, committee or similar body that creates, establishes or initiates an innovative program, competition or event, or demonstrates an outstanding example of fair play is eligible for this award. Nominees do not need formal PSO membership. Nominees for this award must be nominated by a PSO, must be compatible with the values and mission of Sport Nova Scotia and be in good standing with member organizations. This award is based solely on the advancement of leading edge thinking that results in an improved sport system for Nova Scotians and/or where exceptional merit has been demonstrated.

Eligibility & Selection Criteria

- The selection committee makes its decision based solely upon the information you provide. Please assist the committee by ensuring that the nomination is accurate, succinct and as complete as possible.
- Nominations should be based upon achievements and/or acts between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026.

Recognition

- The selection committee may select up to three winners of the *Support4Sport* Sport Makes a Difference Award from the pool of nominees. Only these winners will be contacted by Sport Nova Scotia and they will be honoured at the *Support4Sport* Awards on Saturday, May 23, 2026.

Team of the Year

Background

- This award is presented annually to Nova Scotia's outstanding sport team.
- Nominations are accepted only from member PSOs. Individual members, recreation directors and sport media are encouraged to contact their PSO directly with suggested nominations. The PSO president or a signing authority of the PSO must endorse the nomination.
- One nomination will be accepted per PSO. The nominee selected by each PSO should represent the best candidate in that sport. If two or more nominations are submitted in a category from a single PSO, they will be returned and the PSO will be responsible for submitting only one by the deadline.

Eligibility

- The team consists of two or more people competing simultaneously as a single entity in an event for the same award. Sports that include team elements such as pairs, crews, relays, doubles, triples, fours, eights, etc. are eligible. Please note, nominations where individual results have been tabulated for a team award are not eligible.
- Nominated teams must be members of, OR endorsed by, their PSO or its member organizations and represent Nova Scotia in competition.
- Achievements from high school or post-secondary events will not be considered in the selection process. However, times or records recognized by a PSO will be considered.
- If you are unsure or have questions about the above requirements, please contact communications@sportnovascotia.ca.
- Nomination should be based upon accomplishments between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026. Information from previous years will not be considered.
- The selection committees make their decisions based solely upon the information you provide. Please assist the committee by ensuring that the nomination is accurate, succinct and as complete as possible.

Recognition

- Awards will be given to the overall winner of the *Support4Sport* Team of the Year as well as the two runners up. Each PSO Team of the Year will also be recognized with an award. All winners will be honoured at the *Support4Sport* Awards on Saturday, May 23, 2026.

Volunteer of the Year

Background

- This award recognizes volunteers for their outstanding dedication and commitment to supporting amateur sport.
- Each Sport Nova Scotia member PSO has the opportunity to select one volunteer who will be honoured at the *Support4Sport* Awards.
- Nominations are accepted only from member PSOs. The PSO president or a signing authority of the PSO must endorse the selection.
- Each selection must be accompanied by documentation of the winner's achievements and/or rationale for being selected.
- One selection will be accepted per sport. The PSO selection should represent the best candidate in that sport. If more than one selection is submitted in a category from a single PSO, the forms will be returned and the PSO will be responsible for submitting only one by the deadline.

Eligibility & Selection Criteria

- Volunteers must support their PSO or its member organizations.
- Nominations must be based upon efforts between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026. Information from previous years will not be considered.

Recognition

- Each PSO Volunteer of the Year will receive an award and be honoured at the *Support4Sport* Awards on Saturday, May 23, 2026.