



**SPORT  
BC**

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## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Finalists announced for the Sport BC 52nd Annual Athlete of the Year Awards

Winners will be honoured at a ceremony on March 28, 2018

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**VANCOUVER, BC (February 13, 2018)** — Sport BC, on behalf of the BC Sport community, has proudly announced the outstanding amateur athletes, coaches, and officials, named as finalists for 14 of the 18 award categories to be presented at the upcoming Athlete of the Year Awards. We are proud to be the longest standing sport recognition event in Canada and this year signifies a historic achievement for sport with our 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary.

The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Awards Ceremony and Gala dinner is set for Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at the Westin Bayshore Vancouver Hotel. The ceremonies will recognize BC's best in amateur sport including athletes, coaches, and officials for outstanding performances in their sport over the 2017 season. Each finalist was nominated by their Provincial or Multi-Sport Organization, High School, College or University. The Selection Committee, chaired by Bernie Pascall, included 16 highly regarded sportswriters, broadcasters, and amateur sport leaders in British Columbia.

"Each year the Athlete of the Year Awards selection committee reviews all nominations and recognizes the talented and deserving athletes, coaches and officials", notes President & CEO of Sport BC, Rob Newman. "The nominees for the 2018 Sport BC Athlete of the Year Awards represent 23 sports and 29 various cities who are all representative of the strength and depth of sport development in our province over the last 52 years. Each year, we are grateful for the support and contribution of our sport and business partners and volunteers."

An additional four awards will be presented at the ceremony including the Best of BC, KidSport BC Community Champion, Harry Jerome Comeback and the Daryl Thompson Lifetime Achievement Award.

#### **Athlete with a Disability**

Tomas Bourassa (Delta) – Wheelchair Tennis  
Tristen Chernove (Cranbrook) – Para-Cycling  
Liam Stanley (Victoria) – Para-Athletics

#### **Male Coach of the Year**

Steven Manley (Vancouver) – Wheelchair Tennis  
Barry Lyster (Maple Ridge) – Cycling  
Garrett Collier (Delta) - Athletics

#### **College Athlete of the Year**

Shun Takano (Vancouver Island University) – Soccer  
Rachel Beauchamp (Douglas College) – Basketball  
Megan Rosenlund (Vancouver Island University) - Volleyball

#### **Female High School Athlete of the Year**

Jacqueline Lew (Pinetree) – Wrestling  
Dakota Chan (McMath) – Multi-Sport  
Katarina Vlanovic (Fraser Heights) - Athletics

#### **Female Coach of the Year**

Tara Self (Coquitlam) – Athletics  
Tina Hoeben (Penticton) – Swim  
Carmen Murray (Elkford) - Curl

#### **Male High School Athlete of the Year**

Ryan Baker (Windsor Secondary) – Football & Baseball  
Brodie Hofer (Langley Christian) – Volleyball  
Michael Dowaniuk (Semiahmoo) - Volleyball



**Female Junior Athlete of the Year**

Sarah Potomak (Aldergrove) – Ice Hockey  
Desirae Ridenour (Cowichan Bay) - Triathlon  
Maggie Coles-Lyster (Maple Ridge) - Cycling

**Male Junior Athlete of the Year**

Mathew Barzal (Coquitlam) – Ice Hockey  
Anastas Eliopoulos (Vancouver) – Athletics  
Tyler Tardi (Surrey) - Curl

**Female Senior Athlete of the Year**

Shallon Olsen (Surrey) – Gymnastics  
Heather Wurtele (Kelowna) – Triathlon  
Marielle Thompson (Whistler) – Alpine Ski

**Male Senior Athlete of the Year**

Yuri Kisil (Calgary) – Swim  
Adam Hadwin (Abbotsford) – Golf  
Michael Mason (Nanoose Bay) - Athletics

**Master Athlete of the Year**

Glenn Carlsen (Okanagan Falls) – Swim  
Siew Har Hong (North Vancouver) – Badminton  
Christa Bortignon (West Vancouver) - Athletics

**Team of the Year**

UBC Men's Track & Field (UBC) – Athletics  
Team Tardi (Surrey) – Curl  
UBC Women's Volleyball (UBC) - Volleyball

**University Athlete of the Year**

Mallory Velte (SFU) – Wrestling  
Danielle Brisebois (UBC) – Volleyball  
Adam Jones (SFU) - Soccer

**Official of the Year**

Scott McLaren (Penticton) – Softball  
Andrew Armstrong (White Rock) – Triathlon  
Andree Montreuil (Vancouver) - Gymnastics

Tickets are now available through *Eventbrite*:

**[Purchase your Athlete of the Year Awards tickets here!](#)**



### About the Athlete of the Year Awards

The Athlete of the Year Awards, founded by Sport BC, is the longest standing amateur sport recognition event in the country. Awards in 18 different categories are given each year to athletes, coaches, and officials on their performance and contribution to sport in the province of British Columbia. The awards play a valuable role in nurturing athletic success while recognizing extraordinary accomplishments in BC.

### 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Presidents Awards

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Presidents Awards is proudly sponsored by *Sports with Balls*. This group is comprised of Basketball BC, Volleyball BC, BC Lacrosse Association, BC Soccer Association, Softball BC, Baseball BC, Tennis BC and the BC Ringette Association. These awards are presented annually to volunteers from Sport BC member organizations who represent the spirit of volunteerism, and whose dedication, energy, and commitment contribute to the development of their sport or organization.



### About Sport BC

In 1966, a small group of dedicated volunteers created an organization to provide a unified voice for amateur sport in British Columbia. While much has changed in 52 years, our core purpose remains the same.

#### **Who we are:**

Sport BC is the non-profit sport federation, representing over 60 Provincial Sport Organizations in British Columbia. As a member-based organization, Sport BC offers services and programs to build the capacity of our members and advocate on their behalf to improve the landscape for organized sport in BC.

#### **Mission:**

Sport BC, as a member-based organization, supports the growth of amateur sport in BC and provides leadership through delivery of its programs and services for members.

#### **Vision:**

Sport in British Columbia is thriving through the leadership of Sport BC and our members.

#### **Values:**

Integrity, Transparency, Collaboration, Creativity and Innovation

*For additional information, please contact*

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**PREVIOUS AWARD RECIPIENTS:** *For a list of previous award winners and additional information, including recognition of our corporate and community sponsors and partners, please visit:*

[www.sportbc.com](http://www.sportbc.com)