



#250 – 999 Canada Place
Vancouver, BC V6C 3C1

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Christine Wong

Athlete of the Year Awards Coordinator
604-333-3421

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

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

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 52nd anniversary.

The 52nd 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) – Football & Baseball
Brodie Hofer (Langley Christian) – Volleyball
Michael Dowhaniuk (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 (Nanose 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.

24th Annual Presidents Awards

The 24th 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

Rob Newman

President & CEO, Sport BC

Tel: 604-340-8432

Email: rob.newman@sportbc.com

Christine Wong

Athlete of the Year Coordinator, Sport BC

Tel: 604-333-3421

Email: christine@sportbc.com

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