



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 11, 2019

CONTACT: Christine Wong

Athlete of the Year Awards Coordinator

christine.wong@sportbc.com

Finalists announced for the Sport BC 53rd Annual Athlete of the Year Awards

Winners will be honoured at a ceremony on March 13, 2019

VANCOUVER, BC (January 11, 2019) — Sport BC, on behalf of the BC Sport community, proudly announces 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 53rd anniversary.

The 53rd Annual Awards Ceremony and Gala dinner is set for Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at the Fairmont Pacific Rim. The ceremonies will recognize BC's best in amateur sport including athletes, coaches, and officials for outstanding performances in their sport over the 2018 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 15 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 2019 Sport BC Athlete of the Year Awards represent 25 sports and 16 various cities who are all representative of the strength and depth of sport development in our province over the last 53 years. Each year, we are grateful for the support and contribution of our sport and business partners and volunteers."

"It's no secret, BC boasts many of the top athletes in Canada, we reviewed an impressive list of candidates for awards consideration." says selection committee chairman Bernie Pascall. "The excellent group of finalists, reflects the remarkable degree of sports development in BC."

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

Athlete with a Disability

Tristan Smyth (Maple Ridge) – Para-Athletics
Mollie Jepsen (West Vancouver) – Para-Alpine
Tristen Chernove (Cranbrook) – Para-Cycling

College Athlete of the Year

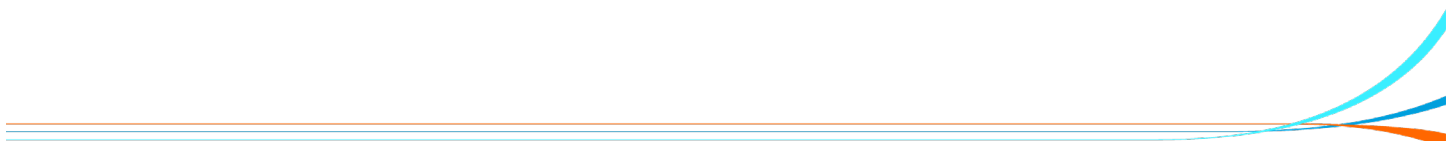
Taylor Reese-Hanson (Camosun) – Curl
Simon Friesen (Capilano) – Volleyball
Mikayla Wagner (VIU) - Volleyball

Female Coach of the Year

Pam Ross (Courtenay) – Karate
Christy Spurrell (Maple Ridge) – Sport Climbing
Malindi Elmore (Kelowna) - Athletics

Male Coach of the Year

Kerry Macdonald (Vancouver) - Volleyball
Pat Coyle (Pitt Meadows) – Box Lacrosse
Richard Wooles (Vancouver) – Cycling



High School Female Athlete of the Year

Nora Goddard-Despot (North Vancouver) – Field Hockey
Cara Butler (Victoria) – Field Hockey/Athletics
Taryn O’Neill (Lake Country) - Athletics

High School Male Athlete of the Year

Jarrett Chong (Port Coquitlam) – Athletics
Diego Maffia (Victoria) – Soccer/Basketball/Volleyball
Dario Ciccone (Burnaby) - Football

Junior Female Athlete of the Year

Camryn Rogers (Richmond) - Athletics
Desirae Ridenour (Cowichan Bay) - Triathlon
Jordyn Huitema (Chilliwack) - Soccer

Junior Male Athlete of the Year

Jerome Blake (Surrey) – Athletics
Tyler Tardi (Cloverdale) – Curl
Riley Pickrell (Victoria) - Cycling

Senior Female Athlete of the Year

Rachel Cliff (Vancouver) – Athletics
Shallon Olsen (Surrey) – Gymnastics
Kelsey Serwa (Kelowna) – Freestyle Ski

Senior Male Athlete of the Year

Django Lovett (Surrey) – Athletics
Bryan Abrey (Richmond) – Softball
Chris Crisologo (Richmond) - Golf

Master Athlete of the Year

Laura Ramsay (Vancouver) – Squash
Jackie Little (Procter) – Golf
David Guss (Kelowna) - Athletics

Team of the Year

Junior A Adanacs (Coquitlam) – Box Lacrosse
Hillary Janssens & Caileigh Filmer (Cloverdale) – Rowing
Nicole & Megan McNamara (Vancouver) - Volleyball

University Athlete of the Year

Yuri Kisil (UBC) – Swim
Regan Yee (TWU) - Athletics
Erika Seltenreich-Hodgson (UBC) - Swim

Official of the Year

Jeff Thomson (Vancouver) - Gymnastics
Brett Iverson (Richmond) – Ice Hockey
Andrew Armstrong (Surrey) - Triathlon

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.

Presidents' Awards

The 25th Annual Presidents Awards is proudly sponsored by *Sports with Balls*. This group is comprised of Basketball BC, Volleyball BC, Softball BC, BC Lacrosse Association, Tennis BC, Baseball BC, BC Rugby Union, Ringette BC and BC Soccer. 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: 604-353-2458

Email: christine.wong@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