

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPORT BC recognizes CHRISTINE GIRARD as recipient of the BEST OF BC AWARD

2019 Sport BC Athlete of the Year Awards



Credit: Serge Gouin 1

VANCOUVER, BC (March 5, 2019) — Sport BC is pleased to announce that Christine Girard has been named the recipient of the Best of BC Award for 2019, as determined by the Athlete of the Year Awards Selection Committee. The award will be presented at the Sport BC 53rd Annual Athlete of the Year awards on Wednesday, March 13 at the Fairmont Pacific Rim Hotel.

This award, sponsored by the Province of British Columbia, is presented to the individual or team thought to have best represented British Columbia, nationally or internationally, in either a professional or amateur sport.

A two-time Olympian, Christine Girard is Canada's first ever Olympic champion in weightlifting, having won the gold medal in the women's 63kg category at London 2012. That was four years after she became Canada's first female Olympic weightlifting medallist with her bronze in the same weight class at Beijing 2008. Both of those medals were awarded several years after the Games when athletes who had initially placed ahead of her were disqualified for doping.

Girard also enjoyed success at other multi-sport competitions. After winning 63kg silver at the 2007 Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro, she came home with the gold medal from the 2011 Pan American Games in Guadalajara. In 2010, she reached the top of the podium at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi, winning gold in the 69kg weight class. That followed a 63kg silver from the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne and a 2002 bronze for the clean and jerk at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester. She still holds multiple Canadian, Commonwealth and Pan-American Records.

Girard competed at her first senior world championships in 2003 when she was just 18. She finished in the top-10 in 2007 (8th – 63kg), 2009 (8th – 69kg), 2010 (7th – 69kg) and 2011 (7th – 63kg). She is the Canadian record holder for the snatch (106kg), clean and jerk (134kg) and combined weight (238kg) in the 63kg category.

As a 10-year-old, Girard followed her older sister Caroline into weightlifting. Her two other sisters, Sylvie and Valérie, also became involved in their sport, as did their parents Gaétan and Aline, who built a weightlifting gym in the basement of their family home in Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec. After Beijing 2008, Girard moved to White Rock, British Columbia when her husband Walter Bailey was transferred to nearby RCMP detachment. She continued to train at home, having built a fully-equipped gym in their garage. In 2018, Girard published her story in a book titled *De la défaite à la victoire*.

Credit: Canadian Olympic Team Official Website

Tickets are now available through www.sportbc.com

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

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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