

Sport BC Announces 56th Annual Athlete of the Year Award Finalists

Media Advisory – January 18, 2024 – (Vancouver, BC)

Sport BC announces the finalists to be celebrated at the upcoming 56th Annual Athlete of the Year Awards taking place on **Thursday, March 7, 2024** at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. The event, to be hosted by CBC's Scott Russell, recognizes the province's best in amateur sport including athletes, coaches, teams, and officials for outstanding performances in their sport in the 2023 season. Each finalist was nominated by their Provincial or Multi-Sport Organization, High School, College, or University. The Selection Committee, led by long-serving Chair Bernie Pascall, included a diverse group of highly experienced British Columbia sport leaders and media members.

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 and the Bobbie Steen Legacy Foundation Award recipient.

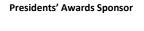
"The Athlete of the Year Awards is a true celebration of sport in our province. The finalists listed below will be honoured at the event and represent exceptional efforts and accomplishments in 2023. We congratulate our finalists and the organizations they represent", shares Sport BC's President and CEO, Rob Newman. "We look forward to celebrating as a sector together on **Thursday, March 7, 2024** at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. The finalists represent **24** sports from communities all throughout BC demonstrating the collective strength of our province's sport sector."

Sport BC gratefully acknowledges the support of the 56th Annual Athlete of the Year Awards sponsors:





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Athlete with a Disability

Yuka Chokyu (Vancouver, BC) – Badminton Bo Hedges (Wonowon, BC) – Wheelchair Basketball Mel Pemble (Victoria, BC) – Para Cycling (Track)

Female Coach of the Year

Jane Gumley (Victoria, BC) – Rowing (UVIC) Sarah Hunter (Surrey, BC) – Wheelchair Tennis Keri Moffat (Richmond, BC) - Golf

Male Coach of the Year

Dylan Armstrong (Kamloops, BC) – Athletics Victor Gantsevich (Richmond, BC) – Fencing Graham Thomas (Calgary, AB) – Ice Hockey (UBC)

High School Female Athlete of the Year

Amelia Kristen (Vancouver, BC) – Athletics (Crofton House) Keira Pemberton (Langley, BC) – Basketball (Walnut Grove) Eva Ruse (North Vancouver, BC) – Basketball and Volleyball (Mulgrave)

High School Male Athlete of the Year

Mark Johnson (Vernon, BC) – Football (Vernon Secondary) Yemane Mulugeta (Surrey, BC) – Athletics (L.A. Matheson) Nash Semeniuk (Kelowna, BC) – Basketball and Volleyball (Kelowna Secondary)

Junior Female Athlete of the Year

Lauren Kim (Surrey, BC) – Golf Emmy Lan (Comox, BC) – Cycling Chloe Primerano (North Vancouver, BC) – Ice Hockey

Junior Male Athlete of the Year

Nicholas Bennett (Parksville, BC) – Para Swimming Gavin Dodd (Kamloops, BC) – Gymnastics Tyson Philpot (Delta, BC) - Football

Senior Female Athlete of the Year

Gabby Flynn (Burnaby, BC) – Gymnastics Megan Kinna (Maple Ridge, BC) – Lacrosse Camryn Rogers (Richmond, BC) - Athletics





Senior Male Athlete of the Year

Jack Crawford – Alpine Skiing Dylan French (Richmond, BC) – Fencing Ethan Katzberg (Nanaimo, BC) - Athletics

Post Secondary Athlete of the Year

Theo Benedet (North Vancouver, BC) – Football (UBC) Rowan Hamilton (Chilliwack, BC) – Athletics (UBC) Michael Henman (Victoria, BC) – Soccer (UNBC)

Team of the Year

BC Female U18 Hockey TWU Spartans Men's Volleyball UVIC Vikes Women's Field Hockey

Master Athlete of the Year

Betty Brussel (New Westminster, BC) – Swimming Malindi Elmore (Kelowna, BC) – Athletics Melanie McQuaid (Victoria, BC) - Triathlon

Official of the Year

Shanda Assmus (Vancouver, BC) – Rugby Melanie Stewart (Port Coquitlam, BC) – Ringette Trevor Walmsley (Vancouver, BC) - Karate

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About Sport BC

Sport BC believes in the power of sport and is committed to building stronger communities through positive sport experiences. Our goal is to enhance and support sport participation in British Columbia ensuring everyone has the opportunity to thrive. Through our KidSport BC, BC Amateur Sport Fund, and ProMOTION Plus along with our services Sport BC Insurance, and Payroll and Group Benefits; Sport BC supports our seventy plus member organizations. Keep up to date @SportBC

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Athlete of the Year Awards

Thursday, March 7, 2024 Fairmont Hotel Vancouver #SportBC56thAOY http://sportbc.com