

AWARD NOMINATION INFORMATION

***NOMINATIONS CLOSE
OCTOBER 6, 2026***

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EVENT HISTORY

The **Queensland Sport Awards** gala was first staged in 1995 and is recognised as the 'night of nights' for the state's sport industry.

In 2009, the Queensland Sport Hall of Fame was introduced as a core feature of the event and each year the event recognises the newest inductees to the Hall of Fame, and the existing Hall of Fame Member elevated to the status of 'Legend of Queensland Sport'.

THE 2026 AWARDS AND HALL OF FAME INDUCTION EVENT

The Queensland Sport Awards and Hall of Fame Induction will be staged at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on Thursday 26 November.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Awards will be conferred in the following categories in 2026:

- Athlete Of the Year
- Para—athlete Of the Year
- Junior Athlete of the Year
- Junior Para-athlete of the Year
- Service to Queensland Sport
- Sport Team of the Year
- Junior Sport Team of the Year Sport Administrator of the Year
- Sport Official of the Year
- Sport Volunteer of the Year
- Sport Coach of the Year
- Sport Innovation of the Year Sport Event of the Year



GENERAL INFORMATION AND CRITERIA FOR ALL AWARDS

PERFORMANCE PERIOD

- Achievements in the period from **1 October 2025 to 30 September 2026** inclusive are eligible for nomination.
- At its discretion, an Award Selection Committee may consider nominations that include achievements recorded substantially within this Performance Period but that may culminate in the days immediately after September 30, 2026 (e.g. Grand Finals for national-level competitions).
- A different performance period applies to the **Service to Queensland Sport Award**, for which nominees will be recognised for their contributions and impact over a sustained period of time.

NOMINATION SUBMISSION

- Nominations are to be submitted via the Awards nomination online portal.
- If required, a PDF version of the Nomination Form is available on request from the QSport office.
- If you are submitting two (2) or more nominations, please submit each nomination separately.
- Please ensure the information provided in the nomination addresses the pertinent factors set out for each Award category in this document.
- To ensure the nominations for each Award capture the breadth of outstanding achievement in that category, the QSport CEO (in their capacity as Secretary of each Award Selection Committee) may submit additional, eligible nominations to the Committee for consideration.

All nominations are to be submitted before
11:59pm on Tuesday October 6, 2026

THE REVIEW OF NOMINATIONS

- Nominations for each Award category are assessed by a Selection Committee appointed by the QSport Board. The Committee will determine the finalists and the winner(s) of each Award.
- The decisions of the Selection Committee for an Award are final.

OTHER ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- A nominee must primarily reside in Queensland and/or consider Queensland to be their home state.
- Nominees are to be in good standing with the recognised State Sporting Organisation (SSO/SSOD). QSport may conduct checks on this status for any nominee with the relevant SSO/SSOD in the assessment process.
- Directors and staff of QSport are ineligible for nomination.
- Nominations for the **Junior Athlete of the Year, Junior Para-athlete of the Year, and Junior Sport Team of the Year awards** are to be for individuals and teams under 18 years of age during the Performance period.
- Nominations for Junior Athlete of the Year and Junior Para-athlete of the Year are to include the nominee's date of birth, and nominations for Junior Sport Team of the Year are to include the date of birth of the oldest member of the team.

ADVICE TO NOMINEES AND FINALISTS

- All eligible nominees for each Award will be advised of their nomination after the close of nominations.
- Nominees selected as a Finalist in each Award category will be advised of their shortlisting in writing via the nominee's email address provided at the time of nomination.

All nominations are to be submitted before
11:59pm on Tuesday October 6, 2026

AWARD-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The **Queensland Athlete of the Year** will be an individual who has attained a level of excellence and/or whose performance(s) set them apart from their peers during the period, thus warranting their recognition with this Award.

Factors to consider in completing nominations include:

- type, level (i.e. regional, state, national and/or international) and standard of competition
- basis of competition (i.e. individual competitor and/or member of a team)
- achievements by the athlete during the period
- significance of the athlete's achievements during the period.

PARA-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The **Queensland Para-athlete of the Year** will be an individual who holds a recognised classification and who has attained a level of excellence and/or whose performance(s) set them apart from their peers during the period, thus warranting their recognition with this Award.

Factors to consider in completing nominations include:

- type, level (i.e. regional, state, national or international; competing in junior and/or open age competition) and standard of competition
- basis of competition (i.e. individual competitor and/or member of a team)

AWARD-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

JUNIOR ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The **Queensland Junior Athlete of the Year** will be an individual aged under 18 years during the period who has attained a level of excellence and/or whose performance(s) in competition, including para-sport competition, set them apart from their peers, thus warranting their recognition with this Award.

Please include the nominee's date of birth in the information submitted.

- Factors to consider in completing nominations include:
- type, level (i.e. regional, state, national or international; competing in junior and/or open age competition) and standard of competition
- basis of competition (i.e. individual competitor and/or member of a team)
- achievements by the athlete during the period
- significance of the athlete's achievements during the period.

JUNIOR PARA-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The **Queensland Junior Para-athlete of the Year** will be an individual aged under 18 years during the period who holds a recognised classification and who has attained a level of excellence and/or whose performance(s) set them apart from their peers during the period, thus warranting their recognition with this Award.

Please include the nominee's date of birth in the information submitted.

Factors to consider in completing nominations include:

- type, level (i.e. regional, state, national or international; competing in junior and/or open age competition) and standard of competition
- basis of competition (i.e. individual competitor and/or member of a team)
- achievements by the athlete during the period
- significance of the athlete's achievements during the period.

AWARD-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

SPORT TEAM OF THE YEAR AWARD

The **Queensland Sport Team of the Year** will be a team of two or more participants that has attained a level of excellence and/or whose performance(s) in competition, including par a-sport competition, sets the team apart from its peers during the period, thus warranting the team's recognition with this Award.

In instances where a nominating organisation wishes to submit two or more teams that have achieved an equal result, each team is to be submitted in a separate nomination for consideration by the Selection Committee.

For example, a State Sporting Organisation wishing to submit two teams that both won a national championship title is required to submit each team's information and achievements in a separate nomination.

Factors to consider in completing nominations include:

- type, level (i.e. regional, state, national or international competition) and standard of competition
- achievements by the team during the period
- the significance of these achievements over the period.



AWARD-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

SERVICE TO QUEENSLAND SPORT AWARD

The **Service to Queensland Sport Award** recipients will be individuals whose commitment and contributions to sport have generated positive impacts over a sustained period. The nominee may have contributed to Queensland sport in one or more roles including as an employed administrator, a volunteer, a competitor, a coach, or as an official. It is their contribution and positive impacts over a sustained period that distinguishes the nominee from their

Factors to consider in completing nominations include:

- type and standard of contributions to their sport(s)
- type and standard of contributions to the industry more broadly
- achievements over a sustained period of multiple years
- significance of achievements and positive impacts they have generated.



AWARD-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

JUNIOR SPORT TEAM OF THE YEAR AWARD

The **Queensland Junior Sport Team of the Year** will be a team of two or more participants aged under 18 years during the period that has attained a level of excellence and/or whose performance(s) in competition, including par a-sport competition, sets the team apart from its peers, thus warranting the team's recognition with this Award.

Please ensure the information that is submitted includes the date of birth of the oldest member of the nominated team.

In instances where a nominating organisation wishes to submit two or more teams that have achieved an equal result, each team is to be submitted in a separate nomination for consideration by the Selection Committee.

For example, a State Sporting Organisation wishing to submit two teams that both won a national championship title is required to submit each team's information and achievements in a separate nomination.

Factors to consider in completing nominations include:

- type, level (i.e. regional, state, national or international; competing in junior and/or open age competition) and standard of competition
- achievements by the team during the period
- the significance of these achievements during the period.

AWARD-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

SPORT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

The **Queensland Sport Administrator of the Year** will be an individual who has made significant contributions to their sport(s) and/or the sport industry more broadly during the period. The nominee's leadership and contributions over the period will have generated benefits for their sport(s) at a standard of excellence that sets them apart from their peers, thus warranting their recognition with this Award.

The nominee does not need to be the CEO (or equivalent) of an organisation; eligible nominees include Directors and staff whose contributions and achievements warrant recognition in the eyes of the nominator.

Factors to consider in completing nominations include:

- type and standard of contributions to their sport(s) during the period
- type and standard of contributions to the sport industry more broadly during the period
- achievements and positive impacts directly attributable to their leadership and contributions during the period
- significance of their achievements and positive impacts during the period.

AWARD-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

SPORT OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

The **Queensland Sport Official of the Year** will be an individual who has attained a level of excellence in the field of officiating (i.e. refereeing, umpiring, judging etc.). The nominee's contributions and achievements as a sport official over the period will be of a standard of excellence that set them apart from their peers, thus warranting their recognition with this Award.

Factors to consider in completing nominations include:

- type, level (i.e. regional, state, national or international competition) and standard of officiating
- achievements of the official during the period
- The significance of these achievements during the period.



AWARD-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

SPORT OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

The **Queensland Sport Volunteer of the Year** will be an individual who contributes to sport in Queensland on a voluntary basis. The recipient of this Award may act as an administrator, coach, official and/or in another role provided they receive no remuneration (apart from reimbursement for expenses incurred) in respect to their duties.

The nominee's contributions and achievements as a volunteer over the period will be of a standard of excellence that set them apart from their peers, thus warranting their recognition with this Award.

Note: This Award applies to achievements during the one (1) year Performance Period relevant to the 2025 Award, with the nominee's number of years of service overall not considered in the judging of this category. Individuals whose sport volunteering contributions and achievements over multiple years warrant consideration should be nominated for the **Service to Queensland Sport Award**.

An eligible person may be nominated for both the Sport Volunteer of the Year Award and Service to Queensland Sport Award in the same year.

Factors to consider in completing nominations include:

- type and standard of contributions to sport as a volunteer during the period
- type and standard of contributions to industry as a volunteer during the period
- achievements and positive impacts directly attributable to their contributions as a volunteer during the period
- significance of their achievements and positive impacts during the period.

AWARD-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

SPORT COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD

The **Queensland Sport Coach of the Year** will be an individual who has made a significant contribution(s) to the achievements of a person(s) or team that they have coached and/or who has made a significant contribution to increasing the capabilities of the coach workforce and/or standard of coaching in the sport(s) with which they have been associated.

The nominee's contributions and achievements as a sport coach over the period will be of a standard of excellence that sets them apart from their peers, thus warranting their recognition with this Award.

Factors to consider in completing nominations include:

- type, level (i.e. regional, state, national or international) and standard of coaching
- achievements of the person(s) and/or team(s) that they have coached during the period
- additional relevant achievements recorded by the coach during the period
- the significance of these achievements during the period.

AWARD-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

SPORT INNOVATION OF THE YEAR AWARD

The **Queensland Sport Innovation of the Year** will be an innovative product and/or initiative creating new opportunities and value for users and/or stakeholders in the sport industry at a standard of excellence that sets them apart from their peers, thus warranting their recognition with this Award.

Eligible products or initiatives include technology-driven or technology-enhanced innovations deployed in sport (but which may also have been deployed in adjacent sectors in parallel with sport).

Broad themes under which eligible innovations may sit include:

1. **Participation:** innovations impacting participation growth, safety, equipment and/or efficiency of sport delivery
2. **High Performance:** innovations that enable athletes and coaches to achieve performance success, and/or prioritise health and wellbeing
3. **Equity & Inclusion:** innovations that successfully address barriers to participation and performance for communities experiencing disadvantage or marginalisation
4. **Sustainability:** innovations that unlock positive environmental impacts and help the industry advance towards climate and/or sustainability goals

Factors to consider in completing nominations include:

- the innovation features a novel approach and/or incorporates novel technology or applies the technology in a transformative way
- the demonstrated impact of the innovation in the sport industry
- the opportunity for the sport innovation to scale and grow across sports and outside of sport into adjacent sectors.

AWARD-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

SPORT INNOVATION OF THE YEAR AWARD

The **Queensland Sport Event of the Year** will be an event recognised as having achieved a standard of excellence greater than that of any other sporting event during the period.

Events during the period may involve local, regional, state, national or international competitors, include either a single or multiple sports, and have been contested by individuals and/or teams (either professionals or amateurs).

The event will stand apart based on its high standard of organisation, its successful delivery and the positive impacts generated through its delivery.

Factors to consider in completing nominations include:

- type and standard of the event (i.e. local, regional, state, national and/or international)
- type and/or mix of competitors (i.e. professional and/or amateur; state, national and/or international athletes etc.)
- the number of competitors, coaches, officials, volunteers and spectators involved
- the quality of the experiences provided to those that engage with the event
- single- or multi-sport event
- the significance of the event and its positive impacts during the period.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Nominations are to be submitted online via the [QSport Website](https://qsport.org.au)

If required, nominators may request a PDF version of the nomination form and submit the completed nomination via email. Please request the PDF nomination form from the QSport office via email: events@qsport.org.au.

All nominations are to be submitted before 12.00pm AEST on Friday October 3, 2025.

Please direct questions about the Queensland Sport Awards event and Award nominations to the QSport office via email: events@qsport.org.au.

