

2025 UNISPORT AWARDS



THE AWARDS

UniSport Australia Sport Awards follow a long tradition of recognising the success of Australian students, student-athletes and university sport programs.

The Sport Awards will be presented at the 2026 UniSport National Conference held on Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 May.

Sport Award nominations are now open for the following categories:

- Most outstanding performance by a student-athlete with a disability
- Most outstanding performance by an Indigenous student-athlete
- Most outstanding sporting achievement by a student-athlete
- Student-athlete of the year
- Most outstanding university sport project/program
- Most outstanding contribution by a student volunteer
- Club leadership award
- Official of the year
- Team of the year

Criteria for each category are contained in the following pages.

Nominations refer to sporting performances or activity (relating to the specific award) that occurred in the period of 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.

Closing date for nominations is Monday 23 March 2026.

[Use this link to submit your nomination today](#)

Most outstanding performance by a student-athlete with a disability

- Recognises an exceptional performance by an elite student-athlete with a disability (AWD) at a World Championships event or other significant international or national Para event.
- Performance is not related to a university sport event.

Most outstanding performance by an Indigenous student-athlete

- Recognises an exceptional performance by an Indigenous elite student-athlete at an Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, World Championship or other significant national or international event.
- Performance is not related to a university sport event.

Most outstanding sporting achievement by a student-athlete

- Recognises an exceptional performance by an elite student-athlete at an Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, World Championship or other significant international or national event.
- Performance is not related to a university sport event.

Student-athlete of the year

- Recognises the sporting achievements of an Australian university student at a university sport event.
- Student-athlete actively contributes to university sport on their campus.
- Performance must be from a UniSport endorsed event but can be from either a domestic or international university sport event.
- Universities may nominate up to two students for this award – one from performances in women's university sport competitions and/ or events and a second nomination from performances in men's university sport competitions and/ or events
- Examples: FISU events (World University Games and Championships), UniSport Nationals and National Championships, UniSport Australia endorsed inter-varsity events.
- Please note the committee may select two award winners – one from performances in women's university sport competitions and/ or events and a second award winner from performances in men's university sport competitions and/ or events

Most outstanding university sport project/ program

- Recognises a successful university sport program, project or campaign.
- Program, project or campaign can relate to university sport strategies, events or on campus sport activities.
- Examples include: recruitment drives, student engagement, brand or culture change, awareness or education activities, fundraising programs, inclusion strategies.

AWARDS CRITERIA

Most outstanding contribution by a student volunteer

- Recognises a student volunteer for their outstanding contribution, commitment and dedication to building the capacity of sport and/or sports club on campus.
- Recognises a student volunteer who demonstrates leadership in inclusion and/or promotes positive attitudes, behaviours and culture within the university sporting community.
- Student must have been enrolled during the nomination period.
- Student must be a volunteer and not receiving payment for their role.

Club leadership award

- Recognises a university sport club for their commitment and dedication to building the capacity of sport in their university, and/ or the engagement and support of members that has resulted in improving the university sport experience.
- Promotes positive attitudes, behaviours and culture within the university sporting community or in the local community.
- Examples:
 - A university sport club working to support junior development in their sport.
 - A university sport club that has implemented a specific leadership program within their club or for the wider community.
 - A university sport club that demonstrates leadership in supporting inclusion.

Official of the year

- Recognises the achievements of a sports official who has made a significant contribution to the success of a sports person, team or competition.
- Official can be a referee, umpire, coach or team manager.
- Person can fulfil the role of official in a paid or voluntary capacity.
- Person must be associated with and endorsed by the university sport delivery agent.

Team of the year

- Celebrates the competitive achievements of a university student team at a sporting event or competition that has excelled, been unbeaten, broken records or otherwise achieved groundbreaking success within their sport.
- Sporting achievement is not limited to a university sport event.
- Team must consist of student-athletes from a single university.
- Examples include: FISU events, UniSport Nationals and National Championships.

The following timelines will apply to UniSport Australia Sport Award nominations:

23 February	Nominations open
23 March	Nominations close
April	Award nominations assessed
May	SDAs liaison regarding attendance of nominees at Celebration Awards
27 May	Sport Awards presented at 2026 UniSport National Conference

Conditions relating to UniSport Australia Sport Awards

- Each UniSport member may only submit one nomination in each award category.
- All nominations must be endorsed by the relevant SDA CEO or equivalent.
- All categories for sporting achievements are open to any students from a UniSport Australia member. To be eligible, the nominee must have been an enrolled student proceeding towards a Certificate or higher award offered by their institution at the time of the sporting performance.
- UniSport employees and Directors are not eligible for any award.
- UniSport reserves the right to refuse the nomination of any person or team that has been suspended, disqualified, banned or otherwise excluded from involvement in university sport by UniSport Australia.
- The decision of the UniSport Awards Committee is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- Control of the awards is vested in the returning officer, as designated by the UniSport Board of Directors. The current returning officer for the UniSport Australia Sport Awards is: Mark Sinderberry, Chief Executive Officer of UniSport Australia.

Awards Committee

The UniSport Australia Sport Awards committee will consist of a minimum of three people from the following:

- UniSport Board Director from a member university;
- Independent representative from a member university;
- Independent representative from a National Sporting Organisation at a General Manager or CEO level or has a role in the area of high performance;
- A student representative such as a UniSport Ambassador, Student Advisory Committee member or similar role;
- A representative from a national peak body or similar high performance organisation.

UniSport staff will act as secretary for the Sport Awards Committee.

If you have questions about these awards, please contact the Sport Awards Committee Secretary.

Award nominations should be submitted by the due date (Monday 23 March 2026) to the Awards Committee Secretary.

[Use this link to submit your nomination today](#)

For more information contact the Sport Awards Secretary:

Bethany Ash

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Registration & Event Senior Coordinator

UniSport Australia