Sports Union Awards Criteria

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# Athlete of the Year

## This award is aimed at an individual who has demonstrated exceptional athletic performance during the season under review, representing the highest standards of excellence in their sport.

## The Athlete of the Year is open to all athletes, including those who may or may not compete for the university, as long as their performance during the review period is outstanding.

## To support your nomination, the following categories of achievement should be considered. Nominations will be evaluated based on the athlete’s overall contribution to their sport and performance level.

## International performances (e.g. Commonwealth Games, World Cup, World Champs, etc.)

## Domestic national performances (e.g. National Championships)

## International student performances (e.g. World University Games)

## Domestic BUCS performances (e.g. BUCS Championships)

## Domestic SSS performances (e.g. SSS Championships)

## Other relevant achievements (e.g. Awards, National Squads)

# Best First Year

Duncan Mathieson Trophy

## This award recognizes the student-athlete who has demonstrated the highest level of performance in their sport during their first year at university, with particular focus on achievements during the season under review.

## A first year constitutes:

## An undergraduate student in their first year (not repeating first year).

## A postgraduate or master’s student in their first year (not repeating first year).

## A student entering directly into the second, third or fourth year of their course.

## To support your nomination, the following categories of achievement should be considered. Nominations will be evaluated based on the athlete’s overall contribution to their sport and performance level.

## International performances (e.g. Commonwealth Games, World Cup, World Champs, etc.)

## Domestic national performances (e.g. National Championships)

## International student performances (e.g. World University Games)

## Domestic BUCS performances (e.g. BUCS Championships)

## Domestic SSS performances (e.g. SSS Championships)

## Other relevant achievements (e.g. Awards, National Squads)

# Performance Team of the Year

David Tedford Trophy

## This award honours the team that has achieved the highest level of sporting success during the season under review. The Performance Team of the Year award is specifically reserved for teams competing at the highest level of competition (e.g., Tier 1 teams, Rowing Championship level, BUCS Premier League, etc.).

## For the purposes of this award, a “Team” is defined as a single group of individuals who compete together regularly in one aspect of a particular sport (e.g., Equestrian BUCS 1s). Only teams competing at the highest tier of their sport during the review period are eligible for nomination.

## Please do not nominate all individual members of a team for the awards Half Blue or Full Blue. However, individual members of the team who have demonstrated consistently high levels of performance may be nominated for separate individual awards.

## Please include results that demonstrate the team’s achievements in the following areas:

## International performances

## National performances

## BUCS performances

## SSS performances

## League and/or cup performances

## Notable competition performances

## Other relevant achievements

# Team of the Year

## This award is for the team that has demonstrated exceptional achievement possible during the season under review. The Team of the Year award is specifically reserved for teams competing in Tier 2 leagues or below (e.g., Korfball Division 2, Rowing Beginners, etc.) and is not open to Tier 1 performance teams.

## The primary focus will be on the team’s overall progress and success within their respective league or competition. Teams demonstrating notable development, consistency, and achievement in their league or division will be looked upon favourably.

## Please include results that demonstrate the team’s achievements in the following areas:

## National performances

## BUCS performances

## SSS performances

## League and/or cup performances

## Notable competition performances

## Other relevant achievements

# Club of the Year

Graduates Trophy

## This award recognises the club that has demonstrated outstanding improvement, growth, and impact across various areas during the season under review. The Club of the Year is open to all clubs that have made significant strides in their development, regardless of competitive performance.

## The following areas may be considered when evaluating a club’s success:

* Membership and participation growth
* Inclusion and diversity
* Volunteer, coach, and official development
* Club financial management (i.e. sponsorship, fundraising, etc.)
* Marketing, publicity, and profile
* Event hosting
* Participation opportunities
* Community and alumni engagement
* Innovative projects
* Institutional involvement
* Sustainability initiatives

The club’s performance will be assessed within the context of its size, scope, and available resources. Competitive success is not the primary focus but may be considered as one of the factors in the overall evaluation.

Additional considerations in relation to the Sports Union:

* Conduct (adhering to deadlines and proper communication).
* Participation in events and meetings.
* Respect for university policies and broader sporting community

# Outstanding Contribution to Coaching

## This award recognises an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to a Sports Union club through their role as a coach. This may include, but is not limited to, the following areas:

## Improvement in standards and skill development.

## Mentoring and supporting club members.

## Increasing participation and fostering inclusivity.

## Contribution to club and coaching development.

## Impact on athlete/club performance and long-term retention.

## This award is open to all student sport coaches, whether paid or volunteer, at any level. The focus of this award is on coaches who consistently go above and beyond in their commitment to student sport.

## To assist your nomination, please provide details that highlight:

## The coach’s approach to fostering individual growth and development among athletes.

## How the coach has contributed to the overall success of individual athletes or teams, both in terms of performance and long-term participation.

## Any additional efforts made by the coach to improve their own coaching practice.

# Outstanding Club Volunteer

This award was donated by Anne-Marie Hughes and is awarded to the individual who has made a notable impact on their sport club and/or the Sports Union during the current season. The winner must have gone above and beyond their given role within the club (committee position, officiating, or any other volunteer role).

Volunteers serving solely in a coaching capacity should not be nominated for this award, and instead be nominated for the Outstanding Contribution to Coaching award.

Nominees may have made notable contributions in areas such as:

* The Sports Union
* BUCS/SSS
* NGB committees/groups
* Being a leader in the face of adversity
* Leading on sustained improvement and development for their club and/or sport.
* Leading on initiatives/projects
* Any other major achievements

The nomination guideline is defined as follows:

* Clubs may only nominate one individual.
* Nominees must be, or have been, a member of the club.
* The individual must be a volunteer (paid positions are ineligible)
* Graduates may be nominated up to one year after graduation (e.g., an individual who graduated in 2023/24 can be nominated in the 2024/25 academic year).
* Nominees must not be in their first year of university. However, students repeating their first year or those changing their degree can be considered.

Please note that the Sports Executive will not count as a section for this award - but may be used as a further example of the individual’s dedication.

# Full Blue

## This award recognises an individual who has demonstrated consistent excellence and achieved a high level of performance in a particular sport during the season under review. The following information can be used to indicate this:

## National representation (Age Group/Level)

## International representation (Age Group/Level)

## British Universities Competition Medal

## British Universities Representative Honours

## Scottish National Competition Gold Medal

## Scottish National Representative Honours

## Background information should be provided that includes representation from previous years.

# Half Blue

## This award recognises an individual who has demonstrated a consistent high level of performance in a particular sport during the season under review, though they may not yet meet the standard for a Full Blue. The following information can be used to indicate this:

## National representation (Age Group/Level)

## Scottish Student Sports representation (Age Group/Level)

## Regional/District representation (Age Group/Level)

## Scottish Universities Competition

## Scottish Universities Representative Honours

## Background information should be provided that includes representation from previous years.

# Honorary Blue

## For an individual who has had a strong connection with the University of Strathclyde, or the Sports Union, and has shown an outstandingly high level of sporting achievement. An Honorary Blue can be awarded in either situation:

## A student was not recognised while at the University despite meeting the Full Blue criteria.

## A graduate of the University who has gone on to show an outstandingly high level of sporting achievement.

# Honorary Life Membership of the Sports Union

## For an individual who has shown an outstanding service, or impact, to multiple sections or to the Sports Union. This will normally be over several seasons.

# Honorary Life Membership of Club

## For an individual who has shown outstanding service to a particular section. This may include holding a number of official roles within the section i.e. coaching, officiating. This will normally be over several seasons.

## Honorary Life Membership of Section shall not be awarded to a current student at the University of Strathclyde unless they are in their final year of university.

# Colours

## A club may award colours to any individuals they deem to have served the club well during the season under review. Typically, nominees should meet the following criteria:

## The nominee has made a substantial impact on the club’s development, through either the quality or quantity of their contributions, driving the success and growth of the club.

## Over the course of multiple years, the nominee has held multiple committee position (which may include repeated positions), consistently demonstrating dedication to advancing the club’s goals and ensuring its success and development.