



Rugby Ontario Club Coach of the Year Award

Rugby Ontario Provincial Recognition Awards recognize individuals who have made a difference in the sport of Rugby in Ontario. Two coaching awards will be made to:

- Male Coach of the Year
- Female Coach of the Year

To be eligible for this award the coach:

- Must be registered with Rugby Canada/ Rugby Ontario as a coach in the current year
- Must be in good standing with Rugby Canada, Rugby Ontario and their club
- Must be a qualified NCCP / World Rugby coach (certified or trained)
- Must agree to have their name and photograph publicized and be prepared to promote the award as requested.
- Not subject to any **personal or team** disciplinary actions during the year of their nomination

Guidelines

- Nominations must be supported by **three** nominators who will attest to the nominee's abilities
- The nominators must comment on the nominee's coaching involvement and activities in detail.
- These nominators could include:
 - Current or past player, coach or match official
 - Guardian/parent of a player (working with the coach directly in the season of nomination)
 - Current Rugby Ontario club or club administrator
 - Current Branch Union
- Nominator 1 must be an individual or club who is registered with Rugby Ontario.
- Nominators 2 or 3 may or may not be an individual who is currently registered with Rugby Ontario. If the nominator is not registered with Rugby Ontario, they should provide details of their relationship with the nominee and/or Rugby in Ontario

Selection Criteria

- Recognized as Demonstrating the attributes and knowledge of a leading coach
- Always maintains a professional attitude toward coaching
- Creates a positive "rugby culture" at their respective club

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- Continues to grow as a coach and demonstrates a history of continuous personal development by attending workshops, clinics or seminars
- Shows a history of mentoring other coaches and players
- Acts as an ambassador for coaching
- Demonstrates long term success in developing successful teams and players

Additional Criteria

- Details should be provided on their coaching skills, coaching development success and player development success (for example: decision making; not winning per se) during the year (see Evaluation Rubric)
- Should be a driving force behind creating a culture of rugby at the club at which they are involved
- Should show objectives and outcomes as identified in the Rugby Ontario Long Term Development Plan

Refer to the enclosed Evaluation Rubric in Appendix 1 for more detail on how nominations will be evaluated.

Supporting documentation could include letters of reference, covering letter, video testimonials, audio interviews, other, etc.

Selection Panel

- The Rugby Ontario Hall of Fame & Awards Committee shall act to determine the winner of these awards and shall use the enclosed Evaluation Rubric in Appendix 1 to compare candidates on a scoring matrix.
- Each committee member shall receive one vote.
- If the event of a tie between candidates, the Chair shall have the casting vote.
- In the event of a Committee member being one of the nominations, that Committee member shall withdraw from the voting process.
- If the Chair is one of the nominations, then the Committee amongst themselves shall appoint a temporary Chair for the purposes for voting for this Award.

Submission Process and Deadline

Please send all nominations to awards@rugbyontario.com. Deadline for submitting nominations is **October 4th, 2026.**

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Appendix 1 – Evaluation Rubric: Club Coach of the Year – Male / Female

1. Community Engagement

	Nominee does not meet Criteria	Nominee minimally meets Criteria	Nominee adequately meets criteria	Exceptional Nominee
Outreach and Involvement	Little to no evidence of community engagement.	Limited involvement in community activities.	Occasionally involved in community events with some positive effect.	Actively engages in community events, outreach programs, and initiatives, making a substantial impact.

	Nominee does not meet Criteria	Nominee minimally meets Criteria	Nominee adequately meets criteria	Exceptional Nominee
Building Community Relationships	No attempt to build or maintain community relationships.	Minimal effort in building community relationships.	Maintains good relationships with some impact on the community and peer group.	Effectively builds strong relationships with peer coaches, community members and other clubs / organizations, fostering a supportive network.

2. Impact on Player Development

	Nominee does not meet Criteria	Nominee minimally meets Criteria	Nominee adequately meets criteria	Exceptional Nominee
Skill and Player Development	Little to no focus on player development.	Some effort in player development with limited results.	Shows strong commitment to player development with noticeable improvements.	Demonstrates exceptional commitment to developing players' skills and character, with visible growth and improvement.



	Nominee does not meet Criteria	Nominee minimally meets Criteria	Nominee adequately meets criteria	Exceptional Nominee
Creating an Inclusive Environment	No evidence of creating an inclusive environment.	Limited effort towards inclusivity and support.	Generally inclusive with a positive environment and rugby culture.	Creates an inclusive, supportive environment that welcomes diverse participants and promotes teamwork and a positive rugby culture.

3. Leadership and Professionalism

	Nominee does not meet Criteria	Nominee minimally meets Criteria	Nominee adequately meets criteria	Exceptional Nominee
Leadership in Community	Limited or no leadership impact.	Basic leadership with some impact.	Strong leadership with positive influence among players and peer group.	Exemplary leadership within the community, serving as a role model and mentor.

	Nominee does not meet Criteria	Nominee minimally meets Criteria	Nominee adequately meets criteria	Exceptional Nominee
Commitment to Personal Development	No evidence of ongoing personal development efforts.	Limited personal development activities.	Evidence shows ongoing personal development with occasional attendance at relevant workshops or seminars.	Demonstrates a strong commitment to personal growth by regularly attending workshops, clinics, or seminars, and applying new knowledge to coaching.

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4. Promotion of Rugby

	Nominee does not meet Criteria	Nominee minimally meets Criteria	Nominee adequately meets criteria	Exceptional Nominee
Advocacy and Commitment to Rugby Values	Little to no evidence of adherence to rugby values.	Shows some commitment to rugby values with moderate impact.	Consistently adheres to and promotes rugby values with visible impact.	Exemplifies and actively promotes the core values of rugby in all coaching and community interactions.

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