



Rugby Ontario Club of the Year Award – Minor & Junior Development

Rugby Ontario Provincial Recognition Awards recognize individuals or clubs who have made a difference in the sport of Rugby. The Rugby Ontario Club of the Year Awards – Minor & Junior Development recognizes clubs that have shown outstanding leadership in development of minor and junior rugby programs. Awards will be made to:

- Club of the Year – Junior Male Program Development (U16 & U18)
- Club of the Year – Junior Female Program Development (U16 & U18)
- Club of the Year – Youth Male Development (U12 & U14)
- Club of the Year – Youth Female Development (U12 & U14)
- Club of The Year – Minor Program Development (U10 & under)

To be eligible for this award, the Club must:

- Be in good standing with Rugby Canada, Rugby Ontario and their local Branch
- Must agree to have their name and photograph publicized and be prepared to promote the award as requested.
- Have not had players or teams subject to any major disciplinary actions during the year of their nomination

Guidelines

- Nominations will be accepted from Branch Unions only. Each Branch Union is to submit a nomination for each award
- Consideration of the award winners will be on a Branch Union basis
- The submission must demonstrate how the selected Clubs have met the Selection Criteria

Selection Criteria

- Clubs must have both junior and minor programs for a minimum of 5yrs.
- Promote and support appropriate certification of coaches, match officials and trainers at a level above the provincial average.
- A consistent and long-term record of developing a positive 'rugby culture'
- Promotes a flow of players from the minor programs through to the junior age grades to senior rugby. Maintains a higher retention rate the provincial average.
- Excellent ambassador for sport within their community
- Promotes development of quality rugby skills while also encouraging a broad level of involvement.

Rugby Ontario

Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre
875 Morningside Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M1C 0C7
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www.rugbyontario.com





- Have made special efforts to increase registration numbers above the provincial average

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 committee

- The Rugby Ontario Hall of Fame & Awards Committee shall act to determine the winners of these awards and shall use the enclosed Evaluation Rubric in Appendix 1.
- Each committee member shall receive one vote.
- In the event of a tie between clubs, the Chair shall have the casting vote.
- In the event of a committee member being from one of the nominated clubs, that member shall withdraw from the voting process.
- If the Chair is from one of the nominated clubs, 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 to submit nominations is **October 4th, 2026.**

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Appendix 1 – Evaluation Rubric: Club of the Year – Minor Program / Youth Male & Female / Junior Male & Female

1. Leadership in Development of Minor / Junior Programs

	Nominee does not meet Criteria	Nominee minimally meets Criteria	Nominee adequately meets criteria	Strong Nominee	Exceptional Nominee
Program Excellence	Minimal or no evidence of leadership in program development.	Limited leadership and program development.	Adequate leadership with basic programs in place; some impact on player development.	Shows strong leadership with effective programs that contribute positively to player development.	Demonstrates outstanding leadership with well-structured, innovative minor / junior rugby programs that have achieved significant development and success.

2. Promotion of Player Progression

	Nominee does not meet Criteria	Nominee minimally meets Criteria	Nominee adequately meets criteria	Strong Nominee	Exceptional Nominee
Player Pathway and Development	Little to no effort in promoting player progression.	Minimal efforts in facilitating player progression between age grades.	Shows some effort in promoting player progression with limited success.	Promotes player progression with noticeable success in transitions.	Effectively promotes a smooth progression of players from minor / junior programs through to senior rugby, with clear pathways and successful transitions.

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3. Efforts to Increase Registration Numbers

	Nominee does not meet Criteria	Nominee minimally meets Criteria	Nominee adequately meets criteria	Strong Nominee	Exceptional Nominee
Registration Growth	No significant efforts to increase registration numbers.	Limited efforts with minimal increase in registration numbers.	Demonstrates meaningful effort to increase registration numbers.	Shows effective efforts with noticeable increases in registration numbers.	Makes significant and innovative efforts to increase registration numbers year over year, demonstrating measurable growth and retention.

4. Promotion of Positive Rugby Culture and Community Engagement

	Nominee does not meet Criteria	Nominee minimally meets Criteria	Nominee adequately meets criteria	Exceptional Nominee
Rugby Culture and Community	Little to no effort in promoting rugby culture or community engagement.	Shows some effort in developing rugby culture and community engagement.	Promotes a positive rugby culture and engages well with the community.	Develops a positive rugby culture, acts as an excellent ambassador for the sport, and engages deeply with the community.

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