



Awards Policy/Guidelines

The AC awards recognizes the outstanding achievements and contributions of its athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, staff, organizations and partners in a number of award categories:

Selection Criteria

Male Athlete of the Year:

Criteria: The selection is based on individual in a senior FINA international Competition achievement in the previous competitive year. *One recipient per year.*

Female Athlete of the Year:

Criteria: The selection is based on individual in a senior FINA International Competition achievement in the previous competitive year. *One recipient per year.*

Team of the Year:

Criteria: This award is based on International FINA Competition achievement in the previous year. Team is defined by: Water Polo Team – male or female, Synchronized Diving Team – male or female, Synchronized Swimming Duet, Synchronized Swimming Team, Synchronized Swimming Combo, and Swimming Relay Team – male or female. *One recipient per year.*

Coach of the Year:

Criteria: One award based on International FINA Competition achievement in the previous year by his/her athletes. *One recipient per year.*

Media Award of the Year:

Criteria: For a person or organization involved in a media-related field who has made a significant contribution to elevating the positive coverage and profile of the AC collectively and/or its member sports, based on the previous competitive year. *One recipient per year.*



 **Spirit of Aquatics Canada Award:**

Criteria: Male or Female Athlete who is a current or former member of the National Team (retired within the last eight (8) years). To be awarded to an athlete who has risen above adversity; made a unique contribution to society or community; has achieved an exemplary level of sportsmanship, leadership or role modeling that has made an impact on aquatics. Maximum one recipient per year.
This award may not be awarded every year.

 **Volunteer of the Year:**

Criteria: For volunteer contribution to AC. A leader, advocate, change agent, builder; someone whose contribution has a broad and long term impact on future direction of AFC. *This is the premier AFC award to be given when and if there is a worthy recipient.*

 **Officials Award of Excellence**

Criteria: The Officials Award of Excellence is awarded to an individual who has made contributions to the aquatic sports in the role of an official/referee. The award is given based on the demonstrated ability to assist in the development of officials/referees in the sport, including grassroots to high performance officials. Any AC volunteer who has demonstrated meaningful involvement with a club, province nationally or internationally as an official/referee may be nominated by their federation.

 **Outstanding National Governing Body**

Criteria: This award is to be awarded to a national governing body that has effectively used partnership in its pursuit of excellence. This organization will have a strong inclusive strategy with stakeholders at all level sand shows leadership within the international community. The FINA Bureau Member and the AC President will determine this award.
This award may not be selected annually.

 **President Honor Roll:**

Criteria: To be awarded to acknowledge and thank an individual or group who has contributed above and beyond to supporting the mission, vision and goals of the AC. Recipients could include volunteer, staff, sponsor, athlete or others. While recipients' contributions may have been in one specific area or sport, the focus of this award is on efforts that impact the collective benefit of the AC. Could be awarded to more than one per/year if warranted to a maximum of six recipients.
Awarded at the discretion of the President with input from the AC Board of Directors.



 **Sport Tourism Award:**

Criteria: To be awarded to acknowledge an international sport event overall success held in the year. The award will recognize an organization or group of individuals who set the best example of attracting and hosting visitors to their community to participate as a participant or spectator in a sport event.

 **Master's Athlete of the Year:**

Criteria: The selection is based on individual in a senior FINA International Competition achievement in the previous competitive year. *One recipient male or female per year.*

 **Sport Executive of the Year:**

Criteria: The selection is based on an individual working in a staff position for one of the four aquatic sports who has done exemplary work furthering the sport they represent in any of the following ways: Increasing grass roots involvement; development of performance excellence for a team or individual; broadening the corporate support to help fund the efforts of the organization; lobbying and/or representation at an international level to bring relevance and credibility to their sport.

 **Hall of Fame Nominee:**

Criteria: The selection of membership into the Aquatics Hall of Fame could be divided into multiple categories: Athlete; Coach; Official; Builder and General Members that could include areas such as sports administration; sport science and medicine; sport media and for excellence and outstanding achievements in roles supportive to sports participants. The other categories should be considered after a two year waiting period following involvement at the highest level of competition.

 **Corporate Excellence Award:**

Criteria: This award is meant to celebrate a corporation who provides outstanding support to a Canadian aquatic sport. The honoree must be a Canadian corporation or a Canadian subsidiary of an international corporation and has supported, enabled or facilitated the pursuit of sporting excellence in an aquatic sport by an individual athlete, team or sport program.

 **Community Service Award:**

Criteria: This award recognizes individuals who have made significant, sustained, unpaid contribution to the aquatic sports in Canada. Often working behind the scenes, these individuals volunteer their time and effort to help the aquatic sports further their mission, vision and values over a sustained period of time. This award also brings to light the example set by volunteers whose compassion and engagement are a part of Canadian character and aims to inspire more Canadians to get involved in their communities.



The Selection Process:

- ACA Secretariat to send out Call for Nominations each fall with the Official Notice of Annual General Meeting.
- Nominations are to be sent to ACA Secretariat for compilation at least one week prior to ACA AGM to facilitate distribution to ACA members for their consideration and decision at the ACA AGM.
- All awards to be decided upon at the ACA Annual General Meeting.
- Awards are based on achievement in the previous competitive year with the exception of the Volunteer of the Year award for outstanding long-term contribution.
- Member sports shall submit only one nomination per category.
- ACA has the authority to not award in any category.
- Each nomination must be accompanied by a resume outlining achievement, placing, International ranking, why the member sport feels that the individual/team is deserving of consideration for ACA award.
- The awards are selected by majority vote of ACA Directors at the AGM. In selecting awards recipients, Directors consider the global view of achievements in aquatic sports and the unique aspect of each of the member sports.
- The Directors may vote by secret ballot by sending their votes electronically to the Secretariat (if meeting being held via conference call.) Alternatively, members may choose to vote by simple show of hands, if meeting taking place in person or by voice, if meeting by conference call.
- In the case of a tie vote that cannot be resolved by the end of the meeting, it will be decided by vote of the President.
- Awards are to be presented at an appropriate time and place that add value to the award and meaning to recipient.
- Directors to determine an appropriate memento for each award to accompany a letter of congratulations from the President.
- The ACA will issue a collective media release announcing the award recipients. Member sports are encouraged to announce award winners through their internal communication processes.
- The ACA Secretariat will maintain records of all award recipients and will forward such information to the Canadian Aquatic Hall of Fame and Museum, when appropriate.