



**SPEED
SKATING
CANADA**

2025-26 AWARDS PROGRAM

Updated

May 10, 2026

PROGRAM DETAILS

The [Speed Skating Canada Awards Program](#) is presented annually to deserving individuals in a number of categories. The awards recognize significant contributions and achievements by some of our sport's most dedicated stakeholders – from athletes and coaches, to officials, volunteers and partners.

Each year, members of the Canadian speed skating community are invited to submit nominations of deserving individuals for the awards program. The nominations process is designed to attract a diverse and broad range of eligible nominees, and to be simple enough that anyone can submit a name for consideration.

Timelines

Below are the timelines for the 2025-26 SSC Awards Program, which includes the nomination period and dates when the finalists and winners will be announced.

- Nominations Open: May 10, 2026
- Nominations Close: June 5, 2026
- Selection Committee Meeting: June 2026
- Winners Announced: June 2026

Nomination Process

Nominations can be submitted using this [online form](#) before the deadline of **June 5, 2026**.

Before submitting a nomination, please consult the award descriptions found on our [website](#) to ensure the nominee meets the eligibility and selection criteria. For reference, a list of previous recipients for each award can also be found on the website.

Selection Process

A panel consisting of the following individuals will be responsible for reviewing all nominations and selecting recipients for each award:

- Speed Skating Canada President (or designate)
- Speed Skating Canada Athlete Director (or designate)
- Speed Skating Canada Chief Executive Officer
- PTSO/Club Representative
- External Representative

SSC's Board of Directors and Advisory Councils will have the opportunity to submit recommendations and offer feedback on nominations to the selection panel for awards within their respective areas.

Prizing and Award Presentations

This year's recipients will be unveiled to the speed skating community and general public virtually over the summer. Where appropriate, in-person recognition ceremonies may take place at national or international events hosted by Speed Skating Canada during the 2026-27 season.

For select award recipients – as detailed in the table below – SSC may cover travel and accommodation costs (e.g.: flight, train or mileage to event location; hotel room for one night), as well as provide a set number of VIP tickets to the international event **closest to the city where they reside**.

Award	Cost of Travel and Accommodations	Complimentary VIP Event Tickets	Prizing
Hall of Fame	2 People	4 Tickets	1 Trophy
Athlete of the Year	N/A	2 Tickets	1 Trophy
Coach of the Year	N/A	2 Tickets	1 Trophy
Coaches Award of Excellence	N/A	2 Tickets	1 Plaque
Official of the Year	N/A	2 Tickets	1 Trophy
Officials Award of Excellence	N/A	2 Tickets	1 Plaque
Volunteer of the Year	N/A	2 Tickets	1 Trophy
Partner of the Year	N/A	2 Tickets	1 Trophy
Family of the Year	N/A	5 Tickets	1 Trophy, 5 Plaques
Club of the Year – Winner	N/A	2 Tickets	1 Trophy
Club of the Year – Finalist	N/A	N/A	1 Plaque

For the [Intact Insurance Club Excellence Award](#), five finalists will be identified from the list of nominees and from these finalists, one winning club will be selected.

- The one winning club will receive a \$10,000 cash prize
- The remaining four finalists will each receive a \$2,500 cash prize

Notable Changes for 2025-26

As part of Speed Skating Canada’s annual review process, a few notable changes were made to the SSC Awards Program. These changes will be implemented as part of the 2025-26 nomination period opening in May 2026.

- Public nominations will no longer be accepted for the Athlete of the Year Awards. Moving forward, candidates will be submitted to the Selection Panel for consideration by staff from the respective High Performance Programs, determined in consultation with coaches and members of the HPAC. As a result of this change, athletes must now be members of Speed Skating Canada’s National Program to be eligible.
- The [Community Champion of the Year](#) Award has been suspended and will not be awarded for the foreseeable future. The eligibility and selection criteria for this award overlaps significantly with the recently created Intact Impact Award, which will continue to exist until at least the end of the 2029-30 seasons part of Intact Insurance’s renewed partnerships agreement.
- Prizing for the Intact Insurance Club Excellence Award has been modified, with the winning club no longer receiving a visit from two National Program athletes as part of their grand prize package. The cash prizes for both the grand prize winner and four finalists remains unchanged from previous years.

Contact

If you have any questions or require additional information about the 2025-26 SSC Awards Program, please contact [Alain Brouillette](#).

AWARDS OVERVIEW

Hall of Fame

First established in 1965, the [Speed Skating Canada Hall of Fame](#) honours and recognizes athletes and volunteers who have made extraordinary contributions to speed skating in Canada and to ensure that these contributions will be remembered for generations to come. Nominations for the Hall of Fame can be submitted in the following categories:

- Athlete
- Team
- Builder

Athlete of the Year

First presented in 1970, the [Athlete of the Year Award](#) recognizes athletes who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to success during the season through outstanding performance at national or international competitions, dedication to the team and/or individual training program, continued growth in physical and technical abilities, and demonstration of leadership, integrity, and respect. Nominations for Athlete of the Year can be submitted in the following categories:

- Female Long Track Athlete of the Year (Catriona Le May Doan Award)
- Male Long Track Athlete of the Year (Jeremy Wotherspoon Award)
- Female Short Track Athlete of the Year (Nathalie Lambert Award)
- Male Short Track Athlete of the Year (Marc Gagnon Award)

Coach of the Year

The [Jack Walters Award for Coach of the Year](#) is presented to a coach who has who has demonstrated sustained leadership within the coaching environment, at either the grassroots or high performance level, along with meaningful, long-term involvement on the club, regional, provincial or national stages.

Coaches Award of Excellence

The [Coaches Award of Excellence](#) is awarded to those who have made meaningful contributions to the sport of speed skating in the role of coach.

Official of the Year

The [René Marleau Award for Official of the Year](#) is presented to an official who has displayed sustained leadership within the officiating environment and demonstrated meaningful, long-term involvement at the club, regional, provincial or national level.

Officials Award of Excellence

The [Guy Marcoux Officials Award of Excellence](#) is awarded to those who have made meaningful contributions to the sport of speed skating in the role of official.

Volunteer of the Year

The [Jean Grenier Award for Volunteer of the Year](#) is bestowed upon a volunteer or administrator who has made invaluable contributions to the betterment of speed skating in Canada. Winners of this award are unsung heroes who work tirelessly in delivering competitions, clinics, programs or events to help increase awareness, promote participation and foster athlete development.

Family of the Year

The [Gagné Family Award for Family of the Year](#) honours the family legacies that run through the Canadian speed skating community and is bestowed upon a family whose members have made an outstanding contribution to the development of the sport.

Partner of the Year

Established in 2019, the [Sport Champion Award for Partner of the Year](#) is presented to a partner that champions the power of sport in local communities and demonstrates sustained commitment to advancing speed skating at the club, regional, provincial, or national level.

Club of the Year

The [Intact Insurance Club Excellence Award](#) recognizes the contributions of local speed skating clubs undertaking grassroots development initiatives that help the sport grow and thrive within their community. Generously sponsored by SSC's longstanding partner, the Intact Insurance Club Excellence Award distributes \$20,000 in grants each season to local speed skating clubs undertaking grassroots development initiatives that help the sport grow and thrive within their community.