

**SAY “THANKS” TO
THE PEOPLE THAT
MAKE SPORT
HAPPEN FOR YOU!**

**Coaching, Officiating
and Volunteering (COV)
Awards 2017**



Enjoy • Engage • Excel

Guidance and
Support Document

Supporting Information

The **Sport Northern Ireland Coaching, Officiating and Volunteering (COV) Awards** recognise the outstanding contribution of coaches, officials, volunteers and coaching organisations over the previous 12 months and the role they play in encouraging people to enjoy, engage and excel in sport.

Nominations can be made across seven award categories for coaches, two award categories for officials, two award categories for volunteers, and one category for awards in support of coaching.

Awards for Coaches	Awards for Officials
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children's Coach of the Year 2. Community Coach of the Year 3. Young Coach of the Year 4. Disability Coach of the Year 5. Talent Development Coach of the Year 6. Club Performance Coach of the Year 7. High Performance Coach of the Year 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Technical Official of the Year 2. Young Technical Official of the Year
Awards for Volunteers	Awards in Support of Coaching
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Volunteer of the Year 2. Young Volunteer of the Year 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coaching Project of the Year

In addition, the **Sport Northern Ireland REACH Award** will once again be presented in 2017 to recognise the outstanding contribution of a female coach. To be eligible for this award, a coach must be nominated in one of the seven categories for coaches, as outlined above. Further information on the National REACH into Coaching campaign can be found at www.reachintocoaching.co.uk

This document provides further information on each of the award categories, together with key evidence the judging panel will look for when making decisions.

Key Points to Consider

- All nominations must be submitted through the online process at www.sportni.net
- A person may be nominated in more than one category but a separate nomination form must be completed each time.
- Nominations should include evidence to support and illustrate the impact of the coach, official, volunteer or project in the category specified. The evidence should be supported with facts and figures where possible.
- All nominated coaches must hold a coaching qualification from an appropriate governing body in a recognised sport. A full list of sports can be found on the Sport Northern Ireland website.
- Governing body endorsement may be sought following submission.
- The judging panel can only take into account information supplied on the nomination form.
- All nominated coaches, officials, volunteers and coaching projects should have made a significant impact **within the period 1 July 2016 to 7 July 2017**.
- The deadline for the submission of all nominations is **Friday 7 July 2017**.

Awards for Coaches

These awards are for individual coaches who have shown outstanding commitment and achieved excellent results in a specific area or with a particular individual and/or group over the last 12 months.

Children's Coach of the Year

This award recognises the outstanding contribution of a children's coach to the development of young people's skills, understanding, enjoyment and lifestyle through sport.

What we are looking for...

- A coach of young people under the age of 16.
- Evidence of the development of basic skills through fun in sport.
- Evidence of appropriate player-centred engagement and high quality coaching.
- Examples of innovation practice.

Community Coach of the Year

This award recognises the outstanding contribution of a coach in getting more people enjoying, engaging and/or excelling in local sport, through high quality delivery.

What we are looking for...

- Evidence of the impact the coach has had on widening access to sport through high quality delivery.
- Evidence of working within a specific community, particularly low participation groups.
- Examples of innovative practice.

Young Coach of the Year

This award recognises the important work carried out by an up and coming coach through his or her coaching achievements to date and the impact they have made on the people they coach.

What we are looking for...

- A coach who is 25 years of age or under at the date of nomination.
- Evidence of creativity and determination in their development as a coach.
- Evidence of the provision of opportunities and dedicated support to performers to help them reach their goals.
- Examples of innovative practice.

Awards for Coaches

Disability Coach of the Year

This award recognises the achievements of a coach working to develop people with a disability at any level within sport.

What we are looking for...

- A coach working with people with a disability.
- Evidence of the impact the coach has had on widening access to sport for people with a disability.
- Evidence of providing opportunities and/or dedicated support within a mainstream sporting environment or a dedicated disability sport environment.
- Evidence of player-centred development leading to successful performance for athletes or teams with a disability.

Talent Development Coach of the Year

This award recognises the achievements of a coach working to develop emerging and young talented performers from within their sport.

What we are looking for...

- Evidence of innovative practice.
- Evidence of player-centred, high quality coaching that encourages the development of performance within sport and nurtures talent.
- Evidence that the coach has assisted the development of athletes or teams by helping them achieve success and/or advance performances.

Club Performance Coach of the Year

This award recognises the achievements of a coach working with athletes at the highest level of domestic club sport.

What we are looking for...

- Evidence of club success at national and/or international level.
- Evidence of the athletes coached gaining national and/or international recognition.
- Evidence of player centred, high quality coaching that encourages the development of performance within club-based sport and nurtures talent.

Awards for Coaches

High Performance Coach of the Year

This award recognises the achievements of a coach working with athletes at the highest level of performance in sport.

What we are looking for...

- Evidence of player-centred development leading to successful performance.
- Evidence of National or International achievements by the athletes coached.
- Examples of innovative practice.

Awards for Officials

Technical Official of the Year

This award recognises the hard work and dedication of referees, umpires and match officials and the contribution which they make to the competition structure of their sport.

What we are looking for...

- Evidence that the nominee has demonstrated outstanding commitment to their sport.
- Evidence that the nominee has officiated at local, regional, national or international level.
- Evidence that the nominee has invested time and energy in their development as an official, undertaking continuous professional development opportunities.
- Evidence that the nominee has been an inspiration and positive role model.

Young Technical Official of the Year

This award recognises the important work carried out by an up and coming referee, umpire and /or match official and the contribution which they make to the competition structure of their sport.

What we are looking for...

- Evidence that the technical official is 25 years of age or under at the date of nomination.
- Evidence that the nominee has officiated at local, regional, national or international level.
- Evidence that the nominee has invested time and energy in their development as an official, undertaking continuous professional development opportunities.
- Evidence that the nominee has been a positive role model.

Awards for Volunteers

Volunteer of the Year

This award will be made to a volunteer in a non-coaching role who has made an outstanding contribution to the development of sport.

What we are looking for...

- Evidence that the nominee has contributed to an aspect of school sport, community sport, club sport, representative sport and/or their governing body and without them, the organisation would not be the same.
- Evidence that the nominee has contributed a substantial amount of time to volunteer in sport.
- Evidence that the nominee has been an inspiration and is a positive role model.

Young Volunteer of the Year

This award recognises the important work carried out by an up and coming volunteer, who has made an outstanding contribution to the development of sport.

What we are looking for...

- Evidence that the volunteer is 25 years of age or under at the date of nomination.
- Evidence that the nominee has contributed to an aspect of school sport, community sport, club sport, representative sport and/or their governing body and without them, the organisation would not be the same.
- Evidence that the nominee has contributed a substantial amount of time to volunteer in sport.
- Evidence that the nominee has been a positive role model.

Awards in Support of Coaching

Coaching Project of the Year

This award is for a project/programme or contributions made by an organisation to enhance activity, using high quality coaching as a means to get more people enjoying, engaging and excelling in sport.

What we are looking for...

- Evidence that this is an organisation, project or programme, operating on a national, regional or local level.
- Evidence of more people engaging, enjoying and excelling in sport.
- Evidence of how this project has enhanced the development and deployment of quality coaches.
- Evidence of innovative practice and sustained opportunities through the running of this project or programme.
- Evidence of a particular area of the community in which this project or programme is delivered.

Sport Northern Ireland Reach Award

REACH into Coaching is a national campaign, run by sports coach UK and supported by Sport Northern Ireland, which focuses on inspiring more women to get into coaching.

The Sport Northern Ireland REACH Award will be presented in 2017 to recognise the outstanding contribution of a local female coach.

To be considered for this award, a coach must be nominated in one of the seven categories for coaches.

Further Information

Please visit **www.sportni.net** or contact a member of the Coaching Team on the details below:

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