

Racquetball Canada Awards Program



Racquetball Canada strives to recognize individuals and organizations who reflect the diverse makeup of Canada and celebrate contributions of its participants on and off the field of play.

The Award Categories include five “legacy awards”, named in honour of volunteers whose contributions to Racquetball Canada were especially noteworthy.

An overarching criterion for all award categories is that nominees will have promoted the mission and values of Racquetball Canada through their contribution, including diversity, inclusion and safe sport.

There are two types of awards:

Open Nomination Awards: Nominations are open to anyone who meets the criteria and are selected through an open process by an Awards Committee appointed by the Board of Directors. This includes the following awards.

1. Ivan Velan Award
2. President’s Award
3. Innovation Award
4. Susan Livingston Award
5. Marc Couette Award

Internal Nomination Awards: Nominations are open to a specific group of individuals who meet the criteria and are chosen through internal methods. This includes the following awards.

1. Heather Stupp Award
2. Sherman Greenfeld Award
3. Awards of Excellence
4. Provincial Award

Selection:

- Racquetball Canada accepts nominations for the **Open Nomination Awards** from any individual or organization. The nomination deadline for each calendar year is February 15 at midnight CST.
- The Racquetball Canada Awards Selection Committee reviews nominations for all Open Nomination Awards and recommends recipients to the Board of Directors, following established policies and procedures.
- The nomination and selection process for **Internal Nomination Awards** follows the process outlined in each award criteria.

Open Nomination Awards

Ivan Velan Award

Description:

The Ivan Velan Award recognizes the efforts of individuals who have made a significant contribution to racquetball at the national level or international level as a builder, official, coach or player.

As the president of Racquetball Canada from 1975 to 1977 Ivan Velan was the driving force behind the present-day structure of the organization. He was instrumental in ensuring racquetball was a recognized and funded sport through Sport Canada and provincial sport funding bodies. He also advanced the sport through coaching development and building a strong national network.

Criteria:

Recipients can qualify in any one of the following categories:

- **Builder:** the nominee must have exhibited outstanding leadership, integrity and dedication. This can include contributions like program development, involvement on committees, boards and task groups, event organization and hosting, or financial support.
- **Official:** The nominee will have shown exemplary leadership, integrity, and dedication as an official. This can include contributing to the development of other officials, making significant contributions while officiating, and promoting fair play, safe sport practices, and ethics in sports.
- **Coach:** The nominee must have demonstrated leadership, integrity, and dedication as a coach. This could involve contributing to the advancement of coaching, enhancing the role of the coach through mentorship, being a positive role model, and coaching athletes to achieve notable results at the national or international level.
- **Player:** The nominee should have promoted or enhanced the recognition of racquetball through their achievements or activities as a player. This can be demonstrated through competitive or non-competitive accomplishments, giving back to the sport by mentoring others, or engaging in sport development activities. These contributions are not restricted to elite competitors.

Eligibility:

- The nominee must have made a significant contribution over a period of not less than four years.

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- A person who receives the Ivan Velan Award in one category is ineligible for nomination in that category a second time. He or she may be nominated for another category which he or she has not previously won. Contributions to areas, other than the one in which a candidate has been nominated, may be taken into consideration when evaluating a nominee.
- The nominee can be active or retired at the time of nomination.
- Posthumus recognition can be made.

President's Award

Description:

The President's Award from Racquetball Canada recognizes an individual or group whose outstanding contributions have significantly advanced the organization's mission and objectives in the two year previous.

Criteria:

Nominees should demonstrate actions worthy of recognition, which may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following:

- Notable contributions to a national level event, a special project or initiative that positively impacts racquetball.
- Financial donations or in-kind support that enhance the development of the sport.
- Contributions made outside the sport (e.g. with stakeholders or partners) that also benefit Racquetball Canada.
- Significant achievements as an athlete, coach, official or builder.
- Leadership roles that inspire and motivate others within the racquetball community.
- Advocacy efforts that raise awareness and support for racquetball at the national or international level.

Eligibility:

- Nominees can be any individual or group actively engaged in the sport or those whose contributions being acknowledged occurred within the last two years.

Innovation Award

Description:

This award celebrates an organization, coach, or sport leader whose leadership, creativity, and innovative efforts have made a significant impact on the sport at the community, provincial, or national level.

Criteria:

Nominees should demonstrate actions worthy of recognition, which may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following:

- Developing creative programs or redesigning existing programs that follow Racquetball Canada's Long Term Development Plan.
- Implementing a new initiative or event including those designed to engage visible minorities and underrepresented groups.
- Significantly increasing membership through the creation of programs, recruitment activities, or strategic promotion of the sport.
- Growing participation in tournaments, leagues, or other racquetball programs.
- Implementing and prioritizing Safe Sport practices, values-based coaching, and participant-centered approaches that demonstrate a concern for the well-being of participants.

Eligibility:

- Nominees can be any individual or group actively engaged in the sport.
- Individuals being nominated must be a participation member of Racquetball Canada.
- Organizations being nominated must be an affiliated club or member of their provincial association.
- Any programs, tournaments, or leagues included in the nomination must be registered in Racquetball Canada's tournament and program management software.
- Programs must be led by a coach who is trained at the appropriate level for that specific program (e.g., Badge Program Coach, NCCP Community Coach, NCCP Competitive - Introduction Coach) and has completed the CAC's Safe Sport Training or Respect in Sport for Activity Leaders training.
- Nominations will be accepted for initiatives that are actively operating, acknowledging that implementation may have begun in prior years to yield results.

Susan Livingston Award

Description:

The Susan Livingston Award honours an individual who has made a significant impact at the community, provincial, or national level by inspiring, empowering, and motivating girls and women to engage in racquetball.

The Susan Livingston Award, formerly the “Women’s Award” was created in 1999. The award was renamed in 2015 to honour Susan Livingston, a role model and advocate for all women in sport.

Criteria:

Nominees should demonstrate actions worthy of recognition, which may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following:

- Developing and/or delivering programs that provide participation opportunities for girls and women.
- Serving as a role model by leading through action and inspiring others.
- Advocating for the inclusion and advancement of women and girls through work on committees, boards, or task forces.
- Mentoring women and girls, offering guidance, support, and encouragement to help them succeed.

Eligibility:

- Nominees can be any individual or group actively engaged in the sport.
 - Individuals being nominated must be a participation member of Racquetball Canada.
 - Organizations being nominated must be an affiliated club or member of their provincial association.
- Any programs, tournaments, or leagues being considered as part of the nomination must be registered with Racquetball Canada.
- Programs being considered as part of the nomination must be led by a coach who is trained at the appropriate level for that specific program (e.g., Badge Program Coach, NCCP Community Coach, NCCP Competitive - Introduction Coach) and has completed Safe Sport Training or Respect in Sport for Activity Leaders training.

Marc Caouette Award

Description:

The Marc Caouette Award honours a coach who makes significant contributions to programs for youth aged 21U at the community, provincial level or national level.

Marc Caouette made significant contributions to racquetball in Canada, particularly in junior development. He played a pivotal role in building a strong junior racquetball program in Edmonton. His dedication extended to successfully coaching Alberta's junior team at the national level and achieving personal success in national competitions. In recognition of his outstanding efforts, Racquetball Canada established the "Marc Caouette Award" for recognizing significant contributions to junior racquetball development in Canada in 2004, with Caouette being its inaugural recipient.

Criteria:

Nominees should exemplify activities deserving of recognition, including but not limited to:

- Demonstrated success in fostering quality athlete development in alignment with the Racquetball Canada Long-Term Development plan.
- Serving as a role model by promoting the values of Racquetball Canada and True Sport.

Eligibility:

- Individuals being nominated must be a participation member of Racquetball Canada.
- Any programs, tournaments, or leagues being considered as part of the nomination must be registered with Racquetball Canada.
- Programs being considered as part of the nomination must be led by a coach who is trained at the appropriate level for that specific program (e.g., Badge Program Coach, NCCP Community Coach, NCCP Competitive - Introduction Coach) and has completed Safe Sport Training or Respect in Sport for Activity Leaders training.

Internal Nomination Awards

Heather Stupp Award

Description:

The Heather Stupp Award is presented to a junior age female athlete at the National Championships who demonstrates excellence and good sportsmanship on and off the court.

Heather Stupp dominated the international racquetball scene throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, earning an impressive 11 World Championship medals, including two gold medals in singles and a gold in the overall team event. Stupp's achievements at the national level are equally remarkable, with seven Canadian Women's Open Singles titles and seven Women's Open Doubles titles. She is an inductee of both the Racquetball Canada and International Racquetball Federation Halls of Fame.

Criteria:

Nominees should demonstrate actions worthy of recognition, including but not limited to the following activities:

- Demonstrated sportsmanship and ethics in sport
- A level of consistent quality play
- Demonstration of inclusiveness

Eligibility:

- Nominees can be any female playing in either the junior age or skill categories at the National Championships.

Sherman Greenfeld Award

Description:

The Sherman Greenfeld Award is presented to a junior age male athlete at the National Championships who demonstrates excellence and good sportsmanship on and off the court.

Sherman Greenfeld was an outstanding athlete who represented Canada on the international stage from 1987 to 1999. Throughout his career, he secured 26 medals in international competition, including two gold medals in Men's Singles and two golds in the Men's Team event. Domestically, Greenfeld captured ten Canadian Men's Open Singles

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titles between 1986 and 1998. He is honored in both the Racquetball Canada and International Racquetball Federation Halls of Fame.

Criteria:

Nominees should demonstrate actions worthy of recognition, including but not limited to the following activities:

- Demonstrated sportsmanship and ethics in sport
- A level of consistent quality play
- Demonstration of inclusiveness

Eligibility:

- Nominees can be any male playing in either the junior age or skill categories at the National Championships.

Award of Excellence

Award Description:

The Awards of Excellence honour national team athletes and their coaches for achieving podium results in international competitions.

Criteria:

Nominations will be based on results in singles, doubles, and Team Competition (when applicable) at the following events:

- Junior World Championships
- World Championships
- Pan American Championships
- Pan American Games
- World Games

Eligibility:

- Athletes must have been selected to represent Racquetball Canada on an international team and have earned a medal at one or more international tournaments since the last National Championships
- Personal coaches, national team coaches and international team coaches of athlete eligible will also be recognized.

Provincial Award

Description:

The Provincial Award honours one sport leader, coach or organization from each province who has made an exceptional contribution at the provincial or community level. The award recipient is determined annually at the provincial level.

Criteria:

Nominees should demonstrate notable achievements in one or more of the following areas:

- Significant impact on racquetball development or promotion at the provincial or community level
- Outstanding leadership that positively influences others within the sport community
- Consistent dedication to advancing the sport
- Leading or contributing to programs, events, or initiatives that enhance racquetball participation, performance, or infrastructure.
- Making a lasting, positive impact by mentoring or supporting others in the sport

Eligibility:

- Open to individuals and organizations actively involved with racquetball in the province.
 - Individuals being nominated must be a participation member of Racquetball Canada.
 - Organizations being nominated must be an affiliated club or member of their provincial association.
 - Any programs, tournaments, or leagues included in the nomination must be registered in Racquetball Canada's tournament and program management software.
 - Programs must be led by a coach who is trained at the appropriate level for that specific program (e.g., Badge Program Coach, NCCP Community Coach, NCCP Competitive - Introduction Coach) and has completed the CAC's Safe Sport Training or Respect in Sport for Activity Leaders training.
- Those no longer involved may still be considered if recent contributions warrant recognition.