



**SPEED
SKATING
CANADA**

2020-2021 AWARDS PROGRAM

Updated

April 30, 2021

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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.

This year's SSC Awards Program will look to recognize nominees who have found unique ways to help members of their speed skating community overcome the challenges brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic. Be sure to tell us how your nominee adapted their approach to keep our sport active and engaging throughout this difficult time.

Nomination Process

Nominations for all awards can be completed by filling out this [online form](#).

For ease of reference, the questions to be answered for each award can be found in this document, while a list of previous recipients for each award can be found on our [website](#).

All nominations are due by midnight EST on Sunday, May 23.

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
- Speed Skating Canada Chief Executive Officer
- Speed Skating Canada Chief Sport Officer
- PTSO Representative
- Club Representative

SSC Advisory Councils (Sport Development, High Performance) will have the opportunity to submit recommendations to the selection panel for awards within their respective areas.

Timelines

Below are the timelines for the 2020-2021 SSC Awards Program, which includes the nomination period and dates when the finalists and winners will be announced.

- Nominations Open: April 30
- Nominations Close: May 23
- Selection Committee Meeting: Early June
- Finalists Announced: June 19
- Winners Announced: June-July



Award Presentation

Awards are typically presented during an Awards Gala held in conjunction with the SSC AGM & Congress. Given the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, SSC made the decision to cancel all in-person meetings and will instead host a virtual AGM in June 2021. As a result, we had to find an alternative way to present awards to the winning recipients that maintains the same level of prestige and recognition of their accomplishments.

This year's finalists will be unveiled to the speed skating community and general public during the virtual AGM and Congress. The winners in each category will then be revealed on our website and social media channels throughout the summer. We will work with each winner to develop a unique way to profile their accomplishments and contributions to the speed skating community in the digital space.

More Information

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Jill Lynch at jlynch@speedskating.ca.



AWARDS OVERVIEW

HALL OF FAME

The [Speed Skating Canada Hall of Fame](#) was established to honour and recognize 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 induction into the Speed Skating Canada Hall of Fame may be submitted in two categories: Athletes and Builders.

Athlete

A speed skater or team of speed skaters (three or more athletes competing together in relays, pursuits or sprints) who has/have demonstrated exceptional long-term success and leadership qualities in speed skating.

An athlete's nomination for the Hall of Fame will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Olympic Games (medals, ranking, participation)
- World Championships (medals, ranking, participation)
- World Cups (medals, ranking, participation)
- Records (world records, national records)
- International Regional Championships (titles, medals)
- National Championships (titles, medals)
- Sport Awards (international, national)
- Participation in SSC activities (athlete representative, board or committee member)

Builder

A person who has demonstrated meaningful long-term involvement and who has made exceptional contributions to the development of speed skating in Canada, as an executive, administrator, coach, official or volunteer.

Eligibility

Nomination of an athlete may be made, at the earliest, two years after the athlete has retired from active competition.

Nomination of a team may be made, at the earliest, two years after it competed for the last time in the same composition as a team. The induction of a team applies only to the team collectively and not to its members individually.

An individual (athlete or builder) may only be inducted into the Hall of Fame once, unless they are also inducted as a member of a team. A maximum of one (1) athlete and one (1) builder will be selected for induction into the Hall of Fame in a given year.

Prizing

- Inductee receives a trophy

ATHLETE AWARDS

The following awards will be presented to an athlete of each gender within each discipline:

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

Selection Criteria

The Athlete of the Year recognition is awarded to an athlete who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to success during the season through:


- Outstanding performance at national or international competitions (**see note in Eligibility section below*)
- Dedication to the training program
- Demonstration of integrity and commitment to Speed Skating Canada values
- Continued growth and development in physical and technical knowledge and abilities
- Support and encouragement of teammates
- Contributions to sport or community development

Eligibility

To be eligible for an Athlete of the Year award, athletes must have competed in a minimum of one national or international level competition in the current season* and must be a member in good standing of Speed Skating Canada.

** Exceptionally for the 2020-2021 Awards Program, athletes who were unable to participate in competitions during the current season due to the COVID-19 pandemic remain eligible for the Athlete of the Year Award and will be evaluated based on the other selection criteria outlined above.*

Athletes do not need to be members of the SSC National Team program to be considered for these awards; club and provincial-level athletes are also eligible.



Individuals may receive an Athlete of the Year award more than once. A maximum of one (1) winner will be selected for each award in a given year.

Prizing

- Winner receives a trophy

COACH AWARDS

Coach of the Year

Jack Walters Award

The [Jack Walters Award](#) for Coach of the Year is presented to a coach who has demonstrated meaningful, long-term involvement at the club, regional, provincial or national level.

Selection Criteria

Winners are not selected for this award based on athlete results.

Nominees for the Jack Walters Award will have displayed sustained leadership within the coaching environment, **at either the grassroots or high-performance level**, as evidenced by the following achievements:

- Presents a positive public image of the role coaching plays in the sport of speed skating
- Supports and mentors' other coaches to ensure the continued development of the coaching system
- Contributes to the advancement of the sport by presenting courses or clinics, writing publications, sitting on committees, etc.
- Creates a positive and safe training environment for all
- Demonstrates innovation and care in the development of both sport and life skills in athletes
- Adapted programming and coaching techniques to keep skaters active and engaged throughout the COVID-19 pandemic

Eligibility

To be considered for the Jack Walters Award, coaches must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Competition Development certified or higher
- Minimum of five years experience as a coach

Individuals may only receive the Jack Walters Award once. A maximum of one (1) winner will be selected for the award in a given year.

Prizing

- Winner receives a trophy

Coaching Award of Excellence

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

Selection Criteria

This award is intended to recognize coaching excellence within a given year and may be bestowed upon an individual based on one or more of the following criteria:

- Exceptional achievement of the coach's athlete(s), with a strong link to the coach's training program
- Innovative programming or initiatives that drive athlete recruitment or retention
- Coaching techniques that contribute to athlete development on and off the ice
- Adapted programming and coaching techniques to keep skaters active and engaged throughout the COVID-19 pandemic

Eligibility

To be considered for the Coaching Award of Excellence, coaches must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Fundamentals Coach certified or higher

Individuals may receive the Coaching Award of Excellence more than once. A maximum of three (3) winners will be selected for the award in a given year.

Prizing

- Winner(s) receive a plaque

OFFICIAL AWARDS

Official of the Year

René Marleau Award

The [René Marleau Award](#) is presented to an official who has demonstrated meaningful, long-term involvement at the club, regional, provincial or national level.

Selection Criteria

Nominees for the René Marleau Award will have displayed sustained leadership within the officiating environment, as evidenced by the following achievements:

- Presents a positive public image of the role officiating plays in the sport of speed skating
- Supports and mentors other officials to ensure the continued development of the officiating system
- Contributes to innovation or development of the officiating role by presenting courses or clinics, writing publications, sitting on committees, etc.
- Recruits participants or volunteers to the sport of speed skating
- Remained active within the officiating community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and assisted other officials in the maintenance or development of their skills despite a lack of competition opportunities

Eligibility

To be considered for the René Marleau Award, officials must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Full certification at Level 3 or higher
- Minimum of five years experience as an official

Individuals may only receive the René Marleau Award once. A maximum of one (1) winner will be selected for the award in a given year.

Prizing

- Winner receives a trophy

Officials Award of Excellence

In Honour of Guy Marcoux

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.

Selection Criteria

This award is intended to recognize officiating excellence within a given year and may be bestowed upon an individual based on one or more of the following criteria:

- Exceptional contribution to the competition system during the season
- Demonstration of problem-solving techniques and contribution of ideas to improve the role of officials
- Remained active within the officiating community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic
- Enhanced or refined their skill set by participating in professional development opportunities offered through SSC or other organizations

Eligibility

To be considered for the Guy Marcoux Officials Award of Excellence, officials must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Full Certification at Level 1 or higher

Individuals may receive the Officials Award of Excellence more than once. A maximum of three (3) winners will be selected for the award in a given year.

Prizing

- Winner(s) receive a plaque

COMMUNITY AWARDS

Volunteer of the Year

Jean Grenier Award

Named in honour of [Jean Grenier](#), a long-time volunteer to speed skating in Canada and a Canadian representative in the International Skating Union (ISU), this award was first established in 1999 and recognizes the importance of volunteers to our sport.

In 2019, the Jean Grenier Award was combined with the former [Jean R. Dupré Award](#) to incorporate the invaluable contributions of our administrators to the speed skating community.

Selection Criteria

The Jean Grenier Award is bestowed upon an outstanding volunteer or administrator who has made invaluable contributions to the betterment of our sport. Winners of this award are unsung heroes who work/worked tirelessly in capacities similar, but not limited to:

- Planning of competitions, clinics or events
- Activities to increase awareness, promote participation or foster athlete development
- Involvement with an executive or committee at the club, branch or national level
- Any other long-term initiative to advance speed skating in Canada
- Helped their speed skating community adapt to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic

Eligibility

Individuals may only receive the Jean Grenier Award once. A maximum of one (1) winner will be selected for the award in a given year.

Prizing

- Winner receives a trophy



Family of the Year

Gagné Family Award

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.

Named in honour of the Gagné Family – in particular brothers Maurice and Pierre, who are pioneers within the Canadian and Quebecois speed skating communities – this award was established in 1996 by John V. Sands, a Hall of Fame speed skater who represented Canada at the 1956 and 1960 Olympic Games.

Selection Criteria

This award, which will not necessarily be granted every year, will be bestowed upon a family whose members have made an outstanding contribution to the development of the sport of speed skating in Canada.

A minimum of three (3) family members must have been involved in the Canadian speed skating community as athletes, coaches, officials and/or volunteers.

Eligibility

A family may only receive the Gagné Family Award once. A maximum of one (1) winning family will be selected for the award in a given year.

Prizing

- Winner receives one (1) trophy per family, and up to a maximum of five (5) plaques



Partner of the Year

Sport Champion Award

The [Sport Champion Award](#) was established to help recognize and celebrate the valuable contributions that our partners – individuals and organizations that sponsor and support the sport of speed skating – make to help our sport thrive in Canada.

Selection Criteria

This award is bestowed upon a sponsor, supporter or partner who has demonstrated sustained commitment to advancing the sport of speed skating in Canada at the club, regional, provincial or national level. The individual or organization receiving this award is a champion for the power of sport in local communities and across the country.

A Sport Champion can be recognized for a number of activities, including but not limited to:

- Sponsoring an athlete, club, PTSO or Speed Skating Canada
- Providing cash or in-kind contributions to support speed skating events
- Engaging in volunteerism within the speed skating community
- Promoting our sport to new audiences (e.g., employees or the general public)
- Elevating the athlete and/or spectator experience through innovative programming

For the 2020-2021 Awards Program, special consideration will be given to partners who helped facilitate a return to sport or the continued engagement of the speed skating community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eligibility

An individual or organization may only receive the Sport Champion Award once. A maximum of one (1) winner will be selected for the award in a given year.

Prizing

- Winner receives a trophy

Club of the Year

Intact Insurance Club Excellence Award

Generously sponsored by SSC's longstanding partner, the [Intact Insurance Club Excellence Award](#) recognizes the contributions of local speed skating clubs to the development of our sport and the importance of grassroots programs to high-performance success.

Selection Criteria

This award is bestowed upon a club that has undertaken an initiative in the past year or has concrete plans to undertake an initiative in the next year that aligns with SSC's strategic objectives of Sport Excellence and/or Organizational Excellence.

Examples of initiatives that meet the criteria for this award include:

- **Sport Excellence:** safety enhancements, coach development initiatives, purchase of new equipment, athlete training camps, inclusion efforts, etc.
- **Organizational Excellence:** revenue generation projects, recruitment activities, advertising or promotion strategies, etc.

Initiatives will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- There is an identified need in the local community that this project will address
- The project will generate a positive impact on speed skating (safety, sport development, participation, awareness, etc.)
- The project will help the club overcome the challenges and setbacks it faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
- There is a realistic plan to put the project in place (budget, people, resources, etc.)
- The project's success can be measured

Eligibility

Five (5) finalists will be identified each year. From these finalists, one (1) winning club will be selected.

A club may only win the Club Excellence Award a maximum of once every five (5) years but may be considered a finalist for the award in any given year.

To be eligible for the award, a club must be in good standing and not have any outstanding payments due to Speed Skating Canada or its respective PTSO.

Prizing

The one (1) winning club will receive a \$10,000 grand prize and a visit from two (2) National Team athletes during the 2021-2022 season.

The remaining four (4) finalists will each receive a \$2,500 cash prize.



NOMINATION QUESTIONS

Hall of Fame

- Please select the Hall of Fame category for which you would like to nominate someone.
 - Athlete
 - Team
 - Builder
- Please provide information on the individual being nominated.
 - Name
 - Branch/Club
 - Hometown
 - Province/Territory
 - Email Address
 - Phone Number
- Please select the sport discipline(s) the nominee has been involved with the most throughout their career.
 - Short Track
 - Long Track
- Please list the nominee's major achievements (medals, results, records, awards) in the sport of speed skating, including those at the international, national, provincial and club level.
- Please detail the nominee's involvement in the sport of speed skating off the ice, including as a coach, official or administrator.
- Please detail the exceptional contributions, or explain the impact and influence, that the nominee has had on the sport of speed skating in Canada.
- Please share any additional information or comments that will further enhance this nomination.
- Please attach a few photos of the nominee, which may be used by Speed Skating Canada to publicly recognize the nominee (including on our website and digital platforms) as part of the 2020-2021 Awards Program.

Athlete Awards

Athlete of the Year

- Please select the Athlete of the Year award category for which you would like to nominate someone.
 - 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 Long Track Athlete of the Year (Marc Gagnon Award)
- Please provide information on the individual being nominated.
 - Name

- Branch/Club
- Hometown
- Province/Territory
- Email Address
- Phone Number

- Please list the athlete's major achievements in the sport of speed skating this past season, including outstanding performances, rankings, results and records.
- Please outline any contributions the athlete has made to the speed skating community off the ice this season (coaching, camps, appearances, volunteering, etc.).
- Please explain what sets this athlete apart from their teammates and why they should be considered "Athlete of the Year" this season.
- Please share any additional information or comments that will further enhance this nomination.


Coach Awards

Coach of the Year (Jack Walters Award)

- Please provide information on the individual being nominated.
 - Name
 - Branch/Club
 - Hometown
 - Province/Territory
 - Email Address
 - Phone Number
- Please list the coach's major achievements over their career in the sport of speed skating, including positions held, years of service, performance of athletes and impact on the sport.
- Please outline any contributions the coach has made to the speed skating community off the ice (courses, clinics, mentorship, committees, publications, etc.).
- Please explain what sets this coach apart from their colleagues and why they should be considered "Coach of the Year" this season.
- Please share any additional information or comments that will further enhance this nomination.
- Please attach a few photos of the nominee, which may be used by Speed Skating Canada to publicly recognize the nominee (including on our website and digital platforms) as part of the 2020-2021 Awards Program.

Coaching Award of Excellence

- Please provide information on the individual being nominated.

- 
- Name
 - Branch/Club
 - Hometown
 - Province/Territory
 - Email Address
 - Phone Number

- Please list the coach's major achievements in the sport of speed skating this season, including positions held, performance of athletes and impact on the sport.
- Please explain what sets this coach apart from their colleagues and why they should be considered for a "Coaching Award of Excellence" this season.
- Please share any additional information or comments that will further enhance this nomination.
- Please attach a few photos of the nominee, which may be used by Speed Skating Canada to publicly recognize the nominee (including on our website and digital platforms) as part of the 2020-2021 Awards Program.

Official Awards

Official of the Year (René Marleau Award)

- Please provide information on the individual being nominated.
 - Name
 - Branch/Club
 - Hometown
 - Province/Territory
 - Email Address
 - Phone Number
- Please list the official's major achievements over their career in the sport of speed skating, including positions held, years of service and impact on the sport.
- Please outline any contributions the official has made to the speed skating community off the ice (courses, clinics, mentorship, committees, publications, etc.).
- Please explain what sets this official apart from their colleagues and why they should be considered "Official of the Year" this season.
- Please share any additional information or comments that will further enhance this nomination.
- Please attach a few photos of the nominee, which may be used by Speed Skating Canada to publicly recognize the nominee (including on our website and digital platforms) as part of the 2020-2021 Awards Program.



Guy Marcoux Officials Award of Excellence

- Please provide information on the individual being nominated.
 - Name
 - Branch/Club
 - Hometown
 - Province/Territory
 - Email Address
 - Phone Number
- Please list the official's major achievements in the sport of speed skating this season, including positions held and impact on the sport.
- Please explain what sets this official apart from their colleagues and why they should be considered for an "Officials Award of Excellence" this season.
- Please share any additional information or comments that will further enhance this nomination.
- Please attach a few photos of the nominee, which may be used by Speed Skating Canada to publicly recognize the nominee (including on our website and digital platforms) as part of the 2020-2021 Awards Program.

Community Awards

Volunteer of the Year (Jean Grenier Award)

- Please provide information on the individual being nominated.
 - Name
 - Branch/Club
 - Hometown
 - Province/Territory
 - Email Address
 - Phone Number
- Please list the volunteer's achievements in the sport of speed skating, including positions held, years of service and major projects/initiatives.
- Please outline any additional contributions the volunteer has made to the speed skating community (competitions, clinics, projects, mentorship, committees, etc.).
- Please explain what sets this volunteer apart from their colleagues and why they should be considered "Volunteer of the Year" this season.
- Please share any additional information or comments that will further enhance this nomination.
- Please attach a few photos of the nominee, which may be used by Speed Skating Canada to publicly recognize the nominee (including on our website and digital platforms) as part of the 2020-2021 Awards Program.



Family of the Year (Gagné Family Award)

- Please provide information on the family being nominated.
 - Family Name
 - Branch/Club
 - Hometown
 - Province/Territory
 - Email Address
 - Phone Number
- Please list all of the family members included in this nomination and the primary role(s) that each of them have had within the speed skating community.
- Please list each of the family member's major achievements in the sport of speed skating, including those as athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers.
- Please explain the impact that this family has had on the speed skating community and why they should be considered for the "Gagné Family Award".
- Please share any additional information or comments that will further enhance this nomination.
- Please attach a few photos of the nominee, which may be used by Speed Skating Canada to publicly recognize the nominee (including on our website and digital platforms) as part of the 2020-2021 Awards Program.

Partner of the Year (Sport Champion Award)

- Please provide information on the individual or organization being nominated.
 - Name
 - Company
 - Hometown
 - Province/Territory
 - Email Address
 - Phone Number
- Please outline the partner's major contributions to the sport of speed skating in Canada, including those at the national, provincial and club level.
- Please explain how the partner's commitment to speed skating has advanced our participant (athlete, coach, official, volunteer, etc.) experience and helped the sport thrive in Canada.
- Please explain the impact that this partner has had on the speed skating community and why they should be considered for the "Partner of the Year" award this season.
- Please share any additional information or comments that will further enhance this nomination.

- Please attach a few photos of the nominee, which may be used by Speed Skating Canada to publicly recognize the nominee (including on our website and digital platforms) as part of the 2020-2021 Awards Program. If the nominee is a company, please include their logo as well.

Intact Insurance Club Excellence Award

- Please provide information on the club being nominated.
 - Club Name
 - City
 - Province/Territory
 - Club Contact Person
 - Email Address
 - Phone Number
- Please provide us with a brief overview (maximum 500 characters) of the initiative/project that your club has undertaken (or plans to undertake).
- Please provide details on how the initiative/project that your club has undertaken (or plans to undertake) will be implemented (timelines, resources, budget, etc.).
- Please identify some of the challenges that your club faces and explain how the funds received from this award will help address them.
- Please identify what the objectives of this initiative/project are and explain how you will go about measuring its impact and level of success.
- Please share any additional information or comments that will further enhance this nomination.
- Please upload any relevant documents to help support your nomination (project plan, project budget, etc.).
- Please attach a few photos of the nominated club and its members, which may be used by Speed Skating Canada to publicly recognize the nominee (including on our website and digital platforms) as part of the 2020-2021 Awards Program.
- Please attach your club logo.