



# Sport BC Announces 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Athlete of the Year Award Finalists

Media Advisory – January 18 , 2024 – (Vancouver, BC)

Sport BC announces the finalists to be celebrated at the upcoming 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Athlete of the Year Awards taking place on **Thursday, March 7, 2024** at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. The event, to be hosted by CBC’s Scott Russell, recognizes the province’s best in amateur sport including athletes, coaches, teams, and officials for outstanding performances in their sport in the 2023 season. Each finalist was nominated by their Provincial or Multi-Sport Organization, High School, College, or University. The Selection Committee, led by long-serving Chair Bernie Pascall, included a diverse group of highly experienced British Columbia sport leaders and media members.

An additional six awards will be presented at the ceremony including the Best of BC, KidSport BC Community Champion, Harry Jerome Comeback, Daryl Thompson Lifetime Achievement Award and In Her Footsteps Honourees and the Bobbie Steen Legacy Foundation Award recipient.

“The Athlete of the Year Awards is a true celebration of sport in our province. The finalists listed below will be honoured at the event and represent exceptional efforts and accomplishments in 2023. We congratulate our finalists and the organizations they represent”, shares Sport BC’s President and CEO, Rob Newman. “We look forward to celebrating as a sector together on **Thursday, March 7, 2024** at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. The finalists represent **24** sports from communities all throughout BC demonstrating the collective strength of our province’s sport sector.”

Sport BC gratefully acknowledges the support of the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Athlete of the Year Awards sponsors:

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**Athlete with a Disability**

Yuka Chokyu (Vancouver, BC) – Badminton  
Bo Hedges (Wonowon, BC) – Wheelchair Basketball  
Mel Pemble (Victoria, BC) – Para Cycling (Track)

**Female Coach of the Year**

Jane Gumley (Victoria, BC) – Rowing (UVIC)  
Sarah Hunter (Surrey, BC) – Wheelchair Tennis  
Keri Moffat (Richmond, BC) - Golf

**Male Coach of the Year**

Dylan Armstrong (Kamloops, BC) – Athletics  
Victor Gantsevich (Richmond, BC) – Fencing  
Graham Thomas (Calgary, AB) – Ice Hockey (UBC)

**High School Female Athlete of the Year**

Amelia Kristen (Vancouver, BC) – Athletics (Crofton House)  
Keira Pemberton (Langley, BC) – Basketball (Walnut Grove)  
Eva Ruse (North Vancouver, BC) – Basketball and Volleyball (Mulgrave)

**High School Male Athlete of the Year**

Mark Johnson (Vernon, BC) – Football (Vernon Secondary)  
Yemane Mulugeta (Surrey, BC) – Athletics (L.A. Matheson)  
Nash Semeniuk (Kelowna, BC) – Basketball and Volleyball (Kelowna Secondary)

**Junior Female Athlete of the Year**

Lauren Kim (Surrey, BC) – Golf  
Emmy Lan (Comox, BC) – Cycling  
Chloe Primerano (North Vancouver, BC) – Ice Hockey

**Junior Male Athlete of the Year**

Nicholas Bennett (Parksville, BC) – Para Swimming  
Gavin Dodd (Kamloops, BC) – Gymnastics  
Tyson Philpot (Delta, BC) - Football

**Senior Female Athlete of the Year**

Gabby Flynn (Burnaby, BC) – Gymnastics  
Megan Kinna (Maple Ridge, BC) – Lacrosse  
Camryn Rogers (Richmond, BC) - Athletics



### **Senior Male Athlete of the Year**

Jack Crawford – Alpine Skiing  
Dylan French (Richmond, BC) – Fencing  
Ethan Katzberg (Nanaimo, BC) - Athletics

### **Post Secondary Athlete of the Year**

Theo Benedet (North Vancouver, BC) – Football (UBC)  
Rowan Hamilton (Chilliwack, BC) – Athletics (UBC)  
Michael Henman (Victoria, BC) – Soccer (UNBC)

### **Team of the Year**

BC Female U18 Hockey  
TWU Spartans Men’s Volleyball  
UVIC Vikes Women’s Field Hockey

### **Master Athlete of the Year**

Betty Brussel (New Westminster, BC) – Swimming  
Malindi Elmore (Kelowna, BC) – Athletics  
Melanie McQuaid (Victoria, BC) - Triathlon

### **Official of the Year**

Shanda Assmus (Vancouver, BC) – Rugby  
Melanie Stewart (Port Coquitlam, BC) – Ringette  
Trevor Walmsley (Vancouver, BC) - Karate

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### **About Sport BC**

Sport BC believes in the power of sport and is committed to building stronger communities through positive sport experiences. Our goal is to enhance and support sport participation in British Columbia ensuring everyone has the opportunity to thrive. Through our KidSport BC, BC Amateur Sport Fund, and ProMOTION Plus along with our services Sport BC Insurance, and Payroll and Group Benefits; Sport BC supports our seventy plus member organizations. Keep up to date @SportBC

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#### **Athlete of the Year Awards**

Thursday, March 7, 2024  
Fairmont Hotel Vancouver  
#SportBC56thAOY  
<http://sportbc.com>