



# **Whitehorse Sport and Recreation Awards 2025**

## **Nomination Information Booklet**



## What are the Whitehorse Sport and Recreation Awards?

The Whitehorse Sport and Recreation Awards recognise the hard work and dedication of local athletes, sporting clubs, recreational groups, and their volunteers across the City of Whitehorse.

The awards highlight the important contribution local sporting clubs and recreational groups make to the community and the outstanding achievements of their members. They also acknowledge excellence in club management and the behind-the-scenes efforts of volunteers.

### Categories:

There are 13 award categories of awards that you can nominate a club, group, team or individual for, including:

- Participant of the Year – a person over the age of 18, with outstanding sport and recreation achievements, demonstrated sportsmanship and given back to the community.
- Junior Participant of the Year (under age 18 as at 1 July 2024) – a person under age of 18, with outstanding sport and recreation achievements, demonstrated sportsmanship and given back to the community
- Participant of the Year with a Disability– a person who has a disability with outstanding sport and recreation achievements, demonstrated sportsmanship and given back to the community.
- Masters Participant of the Year – a person who participates in the master's section as defined by their activities' guidelines or are aged over 40 as of 1 July 2025. With outstanding sport and recreation achievements, demonstrated sportsmanship and given back to the community
- Team of the Year - This category is open to a team or defined section who participate in a sport, recreation or leisure activity, with outstanding sport and recreation achievements – not the whole club.
- Official of the Year - A person who officiates a sporting or recreational event. Such as umpires and referees etc.
- Volunteer of the Year - A person over the age of 18, who provides a service to a club/group/activity for which they are not paid. Volunteers can include committee members, group leaders, etc.
- Junior Volunteer of the Year (under age 18 as at 1 July 2025) - A person under 18, who provides a service to a club/group/activity for which they are not paid. Volunteers can include committee members, group leaders, etc.
- Coach/Leader of the Year - A person who is in a position of leading a team or group in a non-participating capacity, without remuneration. Examples can include a sporting team coach or a Scout/Guide section leader.
- Sports Club of the Year - a club who participates in an **organised sporting activity** within the City of Whitehorse with outstanding on and off field achievements.
- Women in Community Leadership Award - A female volunteer (not paid) who has made a significant contribution in the local sport, recreation and leisure industry whilst holding a position of leadership such as president, coach, leader or official.
- Recreation Group of the Year – a group or club who participate in an activity which is **NOT** classified as organised sport. Examples include Scouts, Guides, Model Boat.

- Sport and Recreation Initiative of the Year - Initiatives are deliberate activities that achieve positive outcomes for the Whitehorse community through sport and recreation. Initiatives may encourage participation in a sport or activity to a person or persons who traditionally do not participate, support community members to connect with each other, raise awareness for important causes or promote healthy lifestyles for individuals.

### How to nominate:

Nominations can be submitted via <https://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/about-council/what-we-do/awards-grants-and-funding/whitehorse-sports-awards> . Select criteria which best reflects the work of the club/group/person you wish to nominate and then complete the questions before submitting.

Applications must be received by **11.59pm on Sunday 10 August 2025** – no late nominations will be considered.

### Eligibility for awards:

Eligibility for each award is as follows:

- Any club or team nomination – the club/group must be a not-for profit organisation with the City of Whitehorse.
- Individuals nominated must live or be a member of a sport, recreational or leisure group based within the City of Whitehorse.

To submit an application, you will need to provide:

- Nominators (Your) Name
- Nominators (Your) Email address
- Nominee's Name (and carer/guardian if nominee is under 18)
- Nominee's Email address (and carer/guardian if nominee is under 18)
- Responses to the relevant criteria for the chosen category
- A photo of the nominee (with relevant permissions)

Pages 4 to 10 outlines the exact questions asked for each award category to assist nominators when submitting a nomination.

### How are nominations assessed:

The Whitehorse Sport and Recreation Awards are assessed by the Whitehorse Sport and Recreation Reference Group (WSRRG). The WSRRG consists of 10 elected community members and two Councillors. Officers from Leisure and Recreation Services Department assist with the administration of the group and the awards.

Each member of the WSRRG award a score out of 10 for each of the questions in the category per nominee. Each nominee's scores are accumulated with the person, team or group with the highest score being name the recipient of that category award. There can be more than one winner per category.

Council officers do not participate in the voting of nominations. Any member of the WSRRG (community member or Councillor) who has a conflict of interest with a nominee are excluded from voting in that category.

### **Further information:**

If you would like further information on the Whitehorse Sport and Recreation Awards, please contact the Active Communities Project Officer via [Sports.Awards@whitehorse.vic.gov.au](mailto:Sports.Awards@whitehorse.vic.gov.au) or on 9262 6371.

## **Participant of the Year**

*This category is open to any person who lives or participates in a sport, recreation or leisure activity within the City of Whitehorse. As there is a junior participant category, we recommend nominee's in this category be aged over 18 as of 1 July 2025.*

**Outline the nominee's outstanding sport and recreation achievements from 1 July 2024 until 30 June 2025?** *Include as much detailed information as possible on the nominee's achievements. This specifically refers to on field or active achievements the person has made over the past 12 months. Mention any other awards or nominations the person may have received.*

**Detail the nominees' behaviours of sportsmanship, fair play, respect and integrity.** *Include examples of sportsmanship shown. Sportsmanship is both an on field and off field concept.*

**How has the nominee contributed more broadly to their Club/Group or the local sport, recreation and leisure community?** *Outline how the nominee has gone over and above their sporting prowess – leadership positions, role model, fundraising opportunities.*



*Last years winner Lachlan Chan with Cr Davenport and Guest Speaker Andrew Gaze*

## **Junior Participant of the Year (under 18 years)**

*This category is open to any person who lives or participates in a sport, recreation or leisure activity within the City of Whitehorse. The individual should be aged under 18 as of 1 July 2025.*

**Outline the nominee's outstanding sport and recreation achievements from 1 July 2024 until 30 June 2025?** *Include as much detailed information as possible on the nominee's achievements. This specifically refers to on field or active achievements the person has made over the past 12 months. Mention any other awards or nominations the person may have received.*

**Detail the nominees' behaviours of sportsmanship, fair play, respect and integrity.** *Include examples of sportsmanship shown. Sportsmanship is both an on field and off field concept.*

**How has the nominee contributed more broadly to their Club/Group or the local sport, recreation and leisure community?** *Outline how the nominee has gone over and above their sporting prowess – leadership positions, role model, fundraising opportunities.*

## **Participant of the Year with a Disability**

*This category is open to any person with a disability who lives or participates in a sport, recreation or leisure activity within the City of Whitehorse.*

**Outline the nominee's outstanding sport and recreation achievements from 1 July 2024 until 30 June 2025?** *Include as much detailed information as possible on the nominee's achievements. This specifically refers to on field or active achievements the person has made over the past 12 months. Mention any other awards or nominations the person may have received.*

**Detail the nominees' behaviours of sportsmanship, fair play, respect and integrity.** *Include examples of sportsmanship shown. Sportsmanship is both an on field and off field concept.*

**How has the nominee contributed more broadly to their Club/Group or the local sport, recreation and leisure community?** *Outline how the nominee has gone over and above their sporting prowess – leadership positions, role model, fundraising opportunities.*



*Last years winner Flynn Ireland with Cr Davenport and Guest Speaker Andrew Gaze*

## **Masters Participant of the Year (New category in 2025)**

*This category is open to any person who lives or participates in a sport, recreation or leisure activity within the City of Whitehorse. Nominees participate in the master's section as defined by their activities' guidelines or are aged over 40 as of 1 July 2025.*

**Outline the nominee's outstanding sport and recreation achievements from 1 July 2024 until 30 June 2025?** *Include as much detailed information as possible on the nominee's achievements. This specifically refers to on field or active achievements the person has made over the past 12 months. Mention any other awards or nominations the person may have received.*

**Detail the nominees' behaviours of sportsmanship, fair play, respect and integrity.** *Include examples of sportsmanship shown. Sportsmanship is both an on field and off field concept.*

**How has the nominee contributed more broadly to their Club/Group or the local sport, recreation and leisure community?** *Outline how the nominee has gone over and above their sporting prowess – leadership positions, role model, fundraising opportunities.*

## Team of the Year

*This category is open to any team or defined section who participate in a sport, recreation or leisure activity within the City of Whitehorse. Teams can include the boys under 14a basketball team or master's women's football team at your sporting club or a category / section of participants in a recreation group such as the Rover Scouts (18-25yo) etc. It is one team / section within a club which has had a significant achievement in the past 12 months, not the whole club.*

**Outline the teams significant sporting achievements from 1 July 2024 until 30 June 2025?** *Include as much detailed information as possible on the team's achievements, including any other awards or nominations they may have received.*

**Outline how the team develops a positive team experience for all participants?** *Include examples of how the team are inclusive to all participants regardless of skill level. How do they engage with each other and opposition teams. Sportsmanship, fair play, integrity.*

**Describe how the team has contributed more broadly to their Club/Group or the local sport, recreation and leisure industry?** *Outline how the team has gone over and above their sporting prowess – leadership positions, role model, fundraising opportunities.*



2024 Team of the year winners



2024 Official of the year winner

## Official of the Year

*This category is open to any person who lives or officiates in a sport, recreation or leisure activity within the City of Whitehorse. A person who officiates a sporting or recreational event. Such as umpires and referees etc.*

**Outline the achievements for the nominee from 1 July 2024 until 30 June 2025?** *Include as much detailed information as possible on the officials' achievements and success over the past 12 months. Include any information on other awards they have been nominated/received.*

**How does the nominee support strong governance in sport/recreation and actively perform at a high standard?** *Include examples the nominee demonstrates good governance and integrity with the activity that they officiate.*

**Describe how the official has contributed to the local sport, recreation and leisure industry and/or local community?** *Outline how the official has gone over and above their designated role – examples include mentoring, training other officials etc.*



## Volunteer of the Year

*This category is open to any person who lives or volunteers in a sport, recreation or leisure activity within the City of Whitehorse. A volunteer is a person who provides a service to a club/group/activity for which they are not paid. Volunteers can include committee members, group leaders, etc. As there is a junior volunteer category, we recommend nominee's in this category be aged over 18 as of 1 July 2025.*

**How has the nominee performed their role with excellence from 1 July 2024 until 30 June 2025?** *Include as much detailed information as possible on the role/s and service the person provides to the club/group/activity, including any other awards or nominations they may have received.*

**How has the nominee fulfilled their responsibilities with enthusiasm, professionalism and fairness?** *Include examples of these traits in the context of their voluntary role.*

**Describe how the nominee has contributed as a volunteer to the local sport, recreation or leisure industry and/or the local community?**

*Outline how the nominee has gone over and above their standard responsibilities – examples include training/mentoring other volunteers, giving up time in excess of what's expected of their voluntary role.*



2024 Volunteer winner Margaret Bevan



2024 Junior volunteer Andy Chesterfield

## Junior Volunteer of the Year (under 18)

*This category is open to any person who lives or volunteers in a sport, recreation or leisure activity within the City of Whitehorse. A volunteer is a person who provides a service to a club/group/activity for which they are not paid. Volunteers can include committee members, group leaders, etc. In this category, individuals must be under age of 18 as of 1 July 2025.*

**How has the nominee performed their role with excellence from 1 July 2024 until 30 June 2025?** *Include as much information as possible on the service and the role/s the person provides to the club/group/activity, including any other awards or nominations they have received.*

**How has the nominee fulfilled their responsibilities with enthusiasm, professionalism and fairness?** *Include examples of how of these traits in the context of their voluntary role.*

**Describe how the nominee has contributed as a volunteer to the local sport, recreation or leisure industry and/or the local community?** *Outline how the nominee has gone over and above their standard responsibilities – examples include training/mentoring other volunteers, giving up time more than what's expected of their voluntary role.*



## Coach/Leader of the Year

*This category is open to any person who lives or volunteers in a sport, recreation or leisure activity within the City of Whitehorse. A Coach/Leader is a person who is in a position of leading a team or group in a non-participating capacity, without remuneration. Examples can include a sporting team coach or a Scout/Guide section leader.*

**How has the nominee performed their role with excellence from 1 July 2024 until 30 June 2025?** *Include as much detailed information as possible on the service the person provides to the club/group/activity, including any other awards or nominations they may have received.*

**How has the nominee demonstrated strong leadership and instilled a positive and inclusive environment within their club/group/activity?** *Include examples of how they demonstrate these traits in the context of their coach/leader role.*

**Describe how has the nominee has contributed as a coach/leader to the local sport, recreation or leisure industry and/or local community?** *Outline how the nominee has gone over and above their standard responsibilities – examples include training/mentoring other coaches/leaders, giving up time in excess of what's expected of their role.*



2024 winner Matthew Burns



2024 Club of the Year

## Sports Club of the Year

*This category is open to any club who participates in an **organised sporting activity** within the City of Whitehorse. Examples include a Baseball, Basketball, Cricket or Football Club etc. Non-sporting groups can nominate for Recreation Group of the Year.*

**Outline the Clubs significant sporting achievements from 1 July 2024 until 30 June 2025** *Include as much information on entire club achievements – not just a specific team. Think broader than just premierships consider other 'achievements' the clubs have reached.*

**Describe how the club has developed behaviours of good sportsmanship, respect and integrity alongside strong governance and leadership?** *Include examples of how the entire club demonstrates these traits.*

**Describe how the Club has fostered participation and contributed to local sport and/or local community?** *Include examples of where the whole club have contributed to the wider community and to the sporting activity as a whole.*

## Women in Community Leadership Award

*This category is open to any person who lives or volunteers within the City of Whitehorse. Nominees are for a female volunteer (not paid) who has made a significant contribution in the local sport, recreation and leisure industry whilst holding a position of leadership such as president, coach, leader or official.*

**What position of leadership has the nominee held between 1 July 2024 until 30 June 2025** *Provide detail on the position of leadership the person holds for which they are being nominated. Also include any information on previous positions held.*

**How has the nominee played an active role in the development and delivery of programs for the betterment of the club and/or community?** *Consider whether the nominee has championed change in the club through any new strategies, initiatives or programs.*

**What are some of the key outcomes that have been achieved because of the nominees work at the club?** *Provide details on the benefits derived from the nominee's work – this could include increased membership, improved club culture etc. Provide examples.*



2024 Women in Leadership Award



2024 Recreation Group of the Year

## Recreation Group of the Year

*This category is open to any group who conducts their activity within the City of Whitehorse. Nominees are to be groups or clubs who participate in an activity which is **NOT** classified as organised sport. Examples include Scouts, Guides, Model Boat.*

**Outline the Groups significant achievements from 1 July 2024 until 30 June 2025** *Include as much information on entire groups achievements – not just a specific cohort and number of participants in the group's activity.*

**Describe how the group has created a positive and inclusive environment for all participants?** *Include examples of how the entire group demonstrates these traits.*

**Describe how the Group has fostered participation and contributed to the local community?** *Include examples the group has contributed to the wider community and the activity if applicable.*

## **Sport, Recreation and Leisure Initiative of the Year (NEW)**

*This category is open to any club/group who conducts their activity within the City of Whitehorse. Initiatives are deliberate activities that achieve positive outcomes for the Whitehorse community through sport and recreation. Initiatives may encourage participation in a sport or activity to a person or persons who traditionally do not participate, support community members to connect with each other, raise awareness for important causes or promote healthy lifestyles for individuals.*

**Describe the sport, recreation or leisure initiative your group/club delivered between 1 July 2024 until 30 June 2025? Include what was the aim of the initiative, who participated and how it was implemented.**

**What were the key goals and objectives of the initiative, and how successfully were they achieved? Provide detail on the objections and if they were met and if not why.**

**What were the main benefits of the initiative for your club/group and the wider local community? E.g. Increased membership, increased volunteers, better social connections, health improvements.**



*2024 Whitehorse Sport and Recreation Award winners, Whitehorse Councillors, Whitehorse Sport and Recreation Reference Group Members, Event Sponsors Deakin University and Guest Speaker Andrew Gaze.*

Whitehorse City Council would like to acknowledge event sponsors Deakin University and thank them for their continued support.

