



North Queensland SPORTSTAR AWARDS

An event proudly organised by the
North Queensland Sports Foundation
"Proud to Be North Queensland"

Public Guide 2026



**NORTH QUEENSLAND
SPORTS FOUNDATION.**





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2026 NORTH QUEENSLAND SPORTSTAR AWARDS Council Guidelines

CATEGORIES FOR NOMINATIONS

1. NQ Sportstar (18 years and over during the awards period)
2. NQ Junior Sportstar (Nominees must be under the age of 18 years during the awards period)
3. NQ Para Athlete of the Year Award
4. NQ Rural & Remote Sportstar
5. NQ Sports Team Award
6. NQ Masters of Sport Award
7. NQ Sport Impact Award
8. Alan Ticehurst Memorial Service to Sport Award (life time achievement/career recognition)
9. NQ Sporting Excellence Award (single milestone or achievement related to sport)

NOMINATIONS TO NQ SPORTS FOUNDATION

Nominations Open: 1st August - 1st September 2026

1. Nominations should be for the period **1st September 2025 to 1st September 2026**
2. Late nominations submitted after 1st September 2026 will not be accepted.

Refer to Page 2 for further T&Cs

AWARDS PRESENTATION

This year the **Cairns Regional Council** will be hosting the event. We encourage all nominees to attend.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

TROPHIES & PRIZES

- NQ Senior Sportstar of the Year: Winner Receives \$2,000 Runner Up \$500 (must be over 18 during the judging period)
- NQ Junior Sportstar of the Year: Winner Receives \$1,000 / Runner Up \$500 (must be under 18 during judging period)
- NQ Rural & Remote Sportstar of the Year: Winner Receives \$1,000 / Runner Up \$500
- NQ Para-Athlete of the Year: Winner Receives \$1,000 / Runner Up \$500
- NQ Sports Team of the Year:
- NQ Masters Sportstar of the Year:
- NQ Sports Impact Award of the Year:
- NQ Service to Sport Recognition:
- NQ Sporting Excellence:

BASIS OF SELECTION OF THE NORTH QUEENSLAND SPORTSTAR AWARD WINNERS

Nominees for the North Queensland Sportstar Awards will be judged on their achievements and performances during the period of 1st September 2025 to 1st September 2026. The following criteria in order of importance are used in the selection process: International representation, National representation, State representation. Nominations are considered by a panel appointed by the NQSF which determines the winners and runners up.

AWARD CATEGORIES

SENIOR, JUNIOR & RURAL SPORTSTAR OF THE YEAR

Nominated candidates for each award has attained a level of excellence greater than that achieved by their peers or other sports people or whose performance has been so exceptional that their achievements have identified them as being clearly outstanding from their peers. Nominees' performances **for the 1st September 2025 - 1st September 2026** must be of such a standard of excellence and achieved in an arena competitive enough to truly warrant them becoming the recipient of this award. Factors to consider in completing nominations include:

- level of competition i.e. regional, state, national or international
- type of competitor i.e. individual or part of a team
- achievement over the period
- significance of achievement

Please note all Sportstar nominations will automatically be accepted into the NQ Rural & Remote Sportstars of the Year category for judging if NQ Athlete resides in the NQ region but outside the three major cities (Cairns, Townsville, Mackay) and meets the above criteria.

Please note Junior has to be under the age of 18 during the period of 1st September 2025 to 1st September 2026.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

PARA-ATHLETE SPORTSTAR OF THE YEAR

Formally Sportstar Athlete with Disability - an athlete who has attained a level of excellence greater than that previously achieved by their peers or other sports people with a disability or whose performance has been so exceptional that their achievements have identified them as being clearly outstanding from their peers. The for the period for the 1st September 2025 - 1st September 2026 must be of such a standard of excellence and achieved in an arena competitive enough to truly warrant them becoming the recipient of this award. Factors to consider in completing nominations include:

- level of competition i.e. regional, state, national or international
- type of competitor i.e. individual or part of a team
- achievement over the period
- significance of achievement

SPORTS TEAM OF THE YEAR (Juniors & Seniors)

Team of two or more participants has attained a level of excellence greater than that achieved by other teams or whose performance has been so exceptional that their achievements have identified them as being clearly outstanding from their peers. Nominees' performances for the 1st September 2025- 1st September 2026 must be of such a standard of excellence and achieved in an arena competitive enough to truly warrant the team becoming the recipient of this award. Factors to consider in completing nominations include:

- level of competition i.e. regional, state, national or international
- type of competitor i.e. individual or part of a team
- achievement over the period
- significance of achievement

MASTERS OF SPORT AWARD

An individual participating in, or considered in the Masters Categories in their chosen sport/discipline with a level of excellence greater than that achieved by their peers or other sports people or whose performance has been so exceptional that their achievements have identified them as being clearly outstanding from their peers.

- level of competition i.e. regional, state, national or international
- type of competitor i.e. individual or part of a team
- achievement over the period
- significance of achievement

ALAN TICEHURST MEMORIAL SERVICE TO SPORT AWARD | LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

An individual who has contributed the most to an individual sport, or the industry as a whole, **over a lengthy period of time**. The recipients may be a volunteer, a competitor, a coach, a paid employee or anyone, as a result of whose contributions, a standard of excellence or continued achievement is to be recognised in a manner that surpassed others and therefore distinguishes the nominee from their peers. Factors to consider in completing nominations include:

- level of contribution i.e. regional, state, national or international
- sub-industry of contribution
- achievement over time
- significance of conduct or achievement(s)

TERMS & CONDITIONS

SPORTS IMPACT AWARD

Recognising individuals that have contributed to sport away from the competition.

This category is open for any **Sports Coach, Sports Volunteer, Sports Referee or Official or any Sports Administrator or Sports Manager** (or similar position) that has contributed at a high level in their field

While it's recognised that many potential nominees will have achieved distinguished results over several years, nominations will be judged heavily on recognising achievements in the past 12 months.

Factors to consider in completing nominations include:

- level of impact i.e. regional, state, national or international
- type of impact i.e. once off or reoccurring
- achievement over the period
- significance of achievement

SPORTING EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Sports Excellence Award recognises an achievement or moment, not an individual, that may not fit into any other category.

The NQSF Judging Panel reserves the right in the case of a lack of nominations for this particular award, to nominate significant moments achieved by other nominees for this award.

Factors to consider:

- level of achievement or moment i.e. regional, state, national or international
- uniqueness of achievement i.e. once off or reoccurring
- relevance to North Queensland
- significance of achievement



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TERMS & CONDITIONS

RESIDENCY

A nominee is a resident of a town/city/shire if they consider the town/city or shire their primary place of residence. For example, several nominees are required to train and compete for extended periods internationally to compete at the level they have attained; however, they return to their permanent residence within their host local authority when in the NQSF region. Membership of local sports club or association assists proof of residency. If the athlete trains away from their hometown but maintains a connection and regularly returns, they may still select their home region. North Queensland born Golf Star Karrie Webb is an example of a person who could not be nominated because she resides full time in another country. If you have any questions or unsure of eligibility, please contact the NQSF team.

APPLICATIONS

All applications are to be submitted via our online portal. <https://nqsports.com.au/sportstar> .

NOMINATION INFORMATION

Information provided as part of the nomination process will be used for media, programs, presentations and interviews within the North Queensland Sportstar Awards. Contact details provided as part of the nominations will be used to forward correspondence to nominees. The selected winner's information provided as part of the nomination will be used to automatically be nominated for the 2026 QSport Awards.

Please contact the North Queensland Sports Foundation should you have any enquiries:

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