

Swim England Awards 2027

- focus on regional awards

Overview

Swim England Awards will recognise and celebrate the incredible spirit of aquatic community and showcase individuals and groups across a number of categories.

Top Level Timeline

A flexible timeline is applied to allow for flexibility across eight regions and national requirements and may vary by region:

Activity	Overview	Timeline
Recognition Period	12 - 15 months recognition period	July 2025 – September 2026
Nominations Period	Nominations submission window will vary by region	July – September 2026
Regional Shortlisting	Regional shortlisting period	August – November 2026
Regional Nominees	Latest deadline for regional nominees confirmation to Swim England	December 2026
Regional Awarding	Regional awards ceremonies	October 2026 – February 2027
National Invites	National invites sent out	January 2027
Summit / Awards 2027		March 2027

Awards Categories and Process

Awards are structured in four sections:

1. Section 1: Regional awards to Swim England longlist
2. Section 2: Outstanding Achievement
3. Section 3: Other Awards
4. Section 4: Hall of Fame

Section 1: Regional awards to Swim England longlist

1.1 Process

1.1.1 As part of the Regional Awards, each region should offer the four awards categories listed within Section 1 Awards (see 1.2) and may also include additional regional awards, which will be recognised at regional level only.

1.1.2 Once the regional winners of the four award categories are determined and shared with Swim England, these regional winners will be added to the Swim England Awards longlist. This longlist will be reviewed and judged by Swim England Awards Judging Panel to determine top three shortlisted finalists.

1.1.3 The three finalists in each award category will be invited to Swim England Awards where one overall winner will be awarded per category.

1.2 Regionally shortlisted awards categories

1.2.1 Club of the year

- a. Regional Awards: having discipline specific club awards, where appropriate, is a strong recommendation. The winner (from each of the categories where applicable) from each region will progress to Swim England Awards longlist
- b. Swim England Awards: overall top three to be shortlisted from the longlist and invited to Swim England Awards, where one overall winner will be awarded

1.2.2 Volunteer of the year

- a. Regional Awards: recognition of volunteer and young volunteer at regional level is possible. The winner (from each of the categories where applicable) from each region will progress to Swim England Awards longlist
- b. Swim England Awards: overall top three to be shortlisted from the longlist and invited to Swim England Awards, where one overall winner will be awarded

1.2.3 Coach of the year

- a. Regional Awards: coaching awards are to be categorised as follows:
 - Participation and Community Coach
 - Children/Age Group Coach
 - Talent Development CoachThe winner from each of the above categories, from each region, will progress to Swim England Awards longlist
- b. Swim England Awards: overall top three to be shortlisted from the longlist and invited to Swim England Awards, where one overall winner will be awarded

1.2.4 Technical Official of the year

- a. Regional Awards: the regional winner from each region progresses to Swim England Awards longlist
- b. Swim England Awards: overall top three to be shortlisted from the longlist and invited to Swim England Awards, where one overall winner will be awarded

Section 2: Outstanding Achievement

2 Lifetime and Outstanding Contribution Awards

2.2 Regional Awards: an opportunity to recognise lifetime achievement with the awarding to be at regional level only and cannot be titled 'Harold Fern or Alfred H Turner awards.

2.3 **Harold Fern and Alfred H Turner Awards:** Regions to put forward two regional nominations, with the winners to be determined by Swim England Sport Operations Committee. Nominations must be submitted to Swim England by 7 August 2026.

3 Spirit of Commonwealth Games

To be determined by Swim England.

Section 3: Other Awards

Ranging from Swim School, Performance Coach, Operator to Impact award – to be determined separately.

Section 4: Hall of Fame

A separate process, promoted by Swim England.

Awards Criteria

Section 1: Regional awards to Swim England longlist

1. Club of the year

The Club of the Year Award focuses on recognising clubs affiliated to Swim England who continually go above and beyond for their members, delivering exceptional activities in the pool and/or on dry land. This award focuses on clubs which create and foster the community spirit of aquatics.

The nomination should highlight:

- How has the club delivered a great member experience at the core of its activities
- How has the club demonstrated commitment to supporting and developing volunteers
- How has the club demonstrated a commitment to engaging the wider community around it

Criteria:

- Must be an affiliated Swim England Club or a Section of an affiliated Club

2. Volunteer of the year

This award recognises a Swim England member whose activity and commitment contributed to creating great experiences in aquatics and played a major role in supporting the aquatic sports in England. Their volunteering and passion will have made a positive impact, and this volunteer will be a great example of a role model for others.

The nomination should highlight:

- A volunteer who is passionate about creating great experiences for all those involved in aquatics
- A volunteer who has stepped forward to support the delivery of aquatic sports for club members
- A volunteer who has committed to their personal development
- A volunteer who has given their time to support event planning
- A volunteer who supports other volunteers to have a great experience

Criteria:

- Must be a Swim England member
- Must be actively volunteering on a regular basis
- Can be an event volunteer at County, Regional or National level
- Must be a minimum of 14 years old
- Must not be paid

Please note, technical officials should be nominated in *Swim England Technical Official of the Year* award category.

3. Coach of the year

A coach may only be nominated in one of the below categories:

3.1 The Participation and Community Coach of the Year Award (for coaching people of all ages) shall be awarded to a coach who has skilfully created a welcoming and safe environment for all participants. They will have been inclusive and enabled greater access to aquatics. Through coaching, people will have enjoyed being physically active through great relationships in water, leading to enhanced wellbeing.

The nomination should highlight:

- How has the coach created a welcoming environment
- How has the coach embedded inclusive environment
- How has the coach created enjoyment and enhanced wellbeing

Criteria:

- Must be a Swim England member
- Must hold a recognised coaching qualification or certification relevant to their role and activity
- Hold a current enhanced DBS check and appropriate safeguarding certificate
- Must be coaching on a regular basis
- Can be any age

3.2 Children/Age Group Coach of the Year

The Children/Age Group Coach of the Year award (for coaching children aged 10-16 years) shall be awarded to a coach who has skilfully created a fun, positive and enjoyable learning environment – leading to high levels of participant retention and great experiences for each and every child through fostering a love for the sport.

The nomination should highlight:

- How has the coach created a fun, positive and enjoyable environment
- How has the coach created great experiences.
- How has the coach has met all the individual's child's needs

Criteria:

- Must be a Swim England member
- Must hold a recognised coaching qualification or certification relevant to their role and activity
- Hold a current enhanced DBS check and appropriate safeguarding certificate
- Must be coaching on a regular basis
- Can be any age

3.3 Talent Development Coach of the Year

The Talent Development Coach of the Year Award (coaching athletes on the national programme) shall be awarded to a coach who has skilfully created a person-centred learning environment. The coach will have been compassionate and attentive to people needs, challenging and supporting athletes as individuals. Positive outcomes will have been achieved by coaching the athlete to be a better learner.

The nomination should highlight:

- How has the coach created a person-centred learning environment
- How has the coach has challenged and supported people
- How positive outcomes have been achieved

Criteria:

- Must be a Swim England member
- Must hold a recognised coaching qualification or certification relevant to their role and activity
- Hold a current enhanced DBS check and appropriate safeguarding certificate
- Must be coaching on a regular basis
- Can be any age

4. Technical Official of the year

This award recognises a Swim England Technical Official, of any discipline, whose contributions are seen as invaluable and whose efforts are instrumental in the work of supporting the delivery of aquatic sport through Technical Officiating.

Their Officiating role(s) will be making a positive impact and this Official will be a great example of a role model for others.

The nomination should highlight:

- The activity of the nominee who has stepped forward to support the delivery of aquatic events at any level
- How the nominee has committed to their own personal development through training
- How the nominee has supports other Technical Officials in their training and development
- Examples of the nominee's drive and passion for the sport has inspired others to become Technical Officials

Criteria:

- Must be a Swim England member
- Must hold a recognised Technical Official qualification or certification relevant to their role and activity
- Must be Officiating on a regular basis
- Can be any age
- Must not be paid

Section 2: Outstanding achievement

Harold Fern and Alfred H Turner Awards

The Awards are given to the individuals or organisations making the most outstanding contribution to aquatics at Club, County, Regional, National or International level. In selecting the winners, consideration is given to:

- Outstanding achievement in advancing the sport through competition/coaching/officiating
- Outstanding achievement in the administration of the sport
- Outstanding achievement in advising the sport
- Outstanding achievement in the development of coaches and/or technical officials