

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Sport Nova Scotia announces 2020 *Support4Sport* Awards finalists**

Halifax, NS (June 22, 2020) – The greatest in the provincial sport sector will be recognized this Saturday, June 27 at the 2020 Sport Nova Scotia virtual *Support4Sport* Awards. Because of the inability to host gatherings due to the global pandemic, Nova Scotia's largest amateur sport recognition night will look a little different this year. World champions, leading officials, devoted coaches and faithful volunteers will be announced online via pre-recorded video at 6:00pm. Viewers can watch along at home by following Sport Nova Scotia on Twitter or Facebook. The results and winner biographies will also be available later Saturday evening on the Sport Nova Scotia website.

The *Support4Sport* Awards recognize the achievements of Nova Scotia's top athletes, teams, coaches, officials and volunteers in amateur sport over the past year. Each of the finalists were nominated by their provincial sport organization as the best in their sport. Their achievements were judged through a multi-level selection process that considers their complete athletic performance throughout the year, as well as their top achievement of the season.

Overall *Support4Sport* Awards finalistsOfficial of the Year

Soccer- Marie-Soleil Beaudoin (Halifax)

Softball- Darren Gerrior (Truro)

Table Tennis- Erica Ans (Dartmouth)

Coach of the Year

Gymnastics-David Kikuchi (Fall River)

Rowing-Patrick Cody (Dartmouth)

Rugby- Jack Hanratty (Halifax, Ireland)

Team of the Year

Baseball-Nova Scotia 17U Selects

Goalball- Nova Scotia Junior Boys Goalball Team

Junior Male Athlete of the Year

Canoe Kayak-Andrew Billard (Hammonds Plains)

Softball- Brody Fraser (Upper Nine Mile River)

TaeKwonDo- Django Meier (Kingston)

Junior Female Athlete of the Year

Athletics-Maggie Smith (Halifax)

Canoe Kayak-Julia Lilley Osende (Dartmouth)

TaeKwonDo-Carrington Carroll (Halifax)

Senior Male Athlete of the Year

Hockey- Jared MacIsaac (Truro)

Rowing- Andrew Todd (Dartmouth)

Speed Skate- Cooper Emin (Dartmouth)

Senior Female Athlete of the Year

Canoe Kayak-Michelle Russell (Dartmouth)

Gymnastics- Ellie Black (Halifax)

Rugby-Olivia DeMerchant (Halifax)

Additional awards to be announced on June 27 include the Sport Makes a Difference Award, the Community Sport Organization Award, and the Chair Award. Volunteers of the Year and Corporate Sponsors of the Year from each provincial sport organization will also be recognized.

Quotes

“With over 200 winners to recognize, this will be the second-largest *Support4Sport* Awards we’ve ever had. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we won’t be able to celebrate in person, but that does not diminish the incredible accomplishments that we’re recognizing now. We as Nova Scotians are so proud of these people and all they’ve accomplished. We hope everyone will follow along at home as we announce the overall winners through video the Sport Nova Scotia social media channels.”

-Jamie Ferguson, Sport Nova Scotia CEO

“All nominees should be proud of their accomplishments in sport. As Nova Scotians, we’re proud to celebrate the hard work, dedication and excellence of these athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers.”

-Bob MacKinnon, President & CEO, Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation

Quick Facts**Sport Nova Scotia**

- Sport Nova Scotia is a voice for amateur sport that promotes the benefits of health, personal development and achievement of all participants. Sport Nova Scotia is a non-profit, non-government federation representing over 55 provincial sport organizations and more than 160,000 member Nova Scotians.

Support4Sport

- The *Support4Sport* Awards are made possible by the Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation’s *Support4Sport* program, which was introduced in 2006. Funds are raised through the sale of designated lottery products. Each time one of those products are sold, 100 per cent of the proceeds help Nova Scotians get in the game. Since its inception, the program has helped raise over \$42 million. *Support4Sport* is the largest source of funding for amateur sport in Nova Scotia.

Associated Links

<https://bit.ly/3bkPXOM>

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