



## Awards Policy

### Scope

Row Ontario's annual awards program recognizes and honours the outstanding contributions and individual achievements of clubs, athletes, coaches, umpires and volunteers in the sport of rowing in Ontario. The annual awards program also recognizes the invaluable contributions of key stakeholders in the ongoing success of the sport of rowing in Ontario.

### Policy

On an annual basis, Row Ontario will determine award winners for the following awards:

- Chair's Award
- Claude Saunders Award
- Club of the Year
- Athlete of the Year
- Competitive Coach of the Year
- Recreational/Learn to Row Coach of the Year
- High School Bursary Award (Male and Female)
- Umpire of the Year Award
- Umpire Lifetime Achievement Award
- Performance of the Year Award
- Long Service Awards
- Volunteer Certificates

All award winners must be members in good standing with an Ontario-based rowing club. Even though these are annual awards, Row Ontario is under no obligation to distribute each award each year.

Unless otherwise stated in the specific award selection criteria (Appendix A), the awards winners will be determined by the Row Ontario Awards Committee and approved by Row Ontario's Chief Executive Officer.

---

## **Operational Procedures**

Row Ontario will circulate among the Ontario rowing community an annual call for Award nominations for those awards that nominees are sought. For some Awards categories, candidates must be nominated by an Ontario member club, a Row Ontario Board of Director/ Staff/ Committee representative and/or other rowing stakeholder. Self-nominations are permitted (Refer to Appendix A for each individual Award criteria).

All nominations submitted will be considered as long as:

- The nomination is submitted on the appropriate nominations form.
- The nomination form is fully completed.
- The nomination form is received by the stated deadline.
- The information on the nomination form is accurate and truthful

Row Ontario's Board of Directors and/or staff, after reviewing the submitted nominations, may solicit additional nominations if they believe a person or persons meriting consideration for the Annual Awards has not been nominated.

## Appendix A – Award Criteria

---

### **Chair's Award**

The Chair's Award is awarded at the discretion of the Chair of the Row Ontario Board of Directors to an individual, club, organization, or group from the Ontario rowing community. The Chair's Award is meant to recognize those deserving of special recognition for their significant contributions, resiliency, integrity, innovation and sportsmanship.

---

### **Claude Saunders Award**

The Claude Saunders Award is a monetary award of \$2,500 awarded to both an athlete and their club. The award is presented to a competitive junior athlete, who is a registered participant of Row Ontario and has exhibited distinguished and exemplary volunteer service to both their club and to the sport of rowing. The Claude Saunders Award will be determined by the following criteria:

- Number of years of involvement with rowing
- Significant rowing achievements and contributions including, but not limited to:
  - Additional awards and/or recognitions in rowing
  - Performance improvements from the previous year
  - Status as a member of a provincial or national team
- Demonstrated leadership and community/club involvement including, but not limited to:
  - Contributing to the growth of a program or programs
  - Interaction with crew members and other programs within the club
  - Commitment to personal development, teamwork and supporting the development of others
  - Community service/volunteering beyond participation in rowing
  - Integrity and sportsmanship on and off the water

---

### **Club of the Year**

The Row Ontario Club of the Year award is awarded to a registered rowing club in Ontario that excels in leadership, accountability, innovation, and excellence on and off the water throughout the nomination year. Row Ontario staff will determine the clubs eligible for nomination for the Club of the Year through the following criteria:

- Sport Development
  - Strength of programs running at the club, including but not, limited to recreational, competitive, masters, junior, youth, and para
  - Number of sanctioned Try-It days per year
  - Consistently active on social media and maintains a digital presence

- Athlete retention in year-to-year overall membership numbers
- Number of events or regattas attended as a rowing club
- Number of nominations submitted for Row Ontario awards, including Long Service and Volunteer Awards
- Proactive and creative in finding ways to support, promote, and grow the sport of rowing in local community
- Governance and Compliance
  - Club is a member in good standing with both Row Ontario and RCA
  - Improvements made in governance and compliance from previous year
  - Willingness to be proactive and work with Row Ontario to ensure club is in compliance with governance-related items
  - Timely execution of annual membership forms
  - Timely payment of invoices

Once clubs have been identified as a potential nominee for the Club of the Year Award, they will be required to submit a nomination form outlining the following:

- An outline of the programs offered at their club in the nomination year and any high points or achievements those programs reached throughout the year
- How the club has achieved/demonstrated excellence throughout the year
- How the club has grown its participation and capacity throughout the year (capacity can include growth in membership and/or staff, increased physical assets (equipment) and programs
- How the club has interacted and collaborated with other rowing clubs or stakeholders in the rowing community throughout the year
- How the club is helping to propel its members to success in rowing and other avenues of personal and professional development

Once the nomination forms from clubs have been submitted, the Row Ontario Awards Committee will determine the recipient of the Club of the Year award.

---

### **Athlete of the Year**

The Row Ontario Athlete of the Year award is awarded to a registered participant of a member club in good standing and is based on competitive performance results, leadership, and community involvement, including:

- Performance in regattas (not limited to Ontario regattas)
- Significant rowing achievements or contributions to the sport including, but not limited to:
  - Additional awards or recognitions
  - Performance improvements from previous rowing season
  - Earning a spot on a provincial or national team
- Level of leadership and community/club involvement including, but not limited to:

- Contributing to the growth of a program or programs
- Interaction with crew members and with programs at their club
- Commitment to personal development, teamwork, and supporting the development of others
- Community service/volunteering beyond participation in rowing
- Consistent display of integrity and sportsmanship on and off the water

---

### **Competitive Coach of the Year**

The Competitive Coach of the Year award will be awarded to a coach who has provided athletes with the guidance and leadership that is essential to the fulfillment of athletes' competitive aspirations. This coach not only recognizes talented individuals but creates an inspiring environment where all athletes can achieve greatness. Over the past year, they will have coached in the competitive program (program that has competed at regattas across the province) of a member club. The Competitive Coach of the Year award will be judged on the following criteria:

- Number of competitive programs coached
- Compliance with Row Ontario Coach Certification Policy
- Athlete performance in regattas (not limited to Ontario regattas)
- Demonstrated leadership as a coach, including, but not limited to:
  - Innovative program ideas
  - Contributions to the growth of a program or programs
  - Willingness to help athletes outside of scheduled training times
  - Interaction with other groups/programs at the club
  - Mentoring other coaches or rowing club members
  - Demonstrated commitment to the development of the 'whole' athlete, not just in a competitive rowing context
- How the nominee has successfully impacted athletes' performance and desire to continue to row, including, but not limited to:
  - Creation of inspiring and motivating training environment
  - Improved performance in program athletes
  - Tailored training plans to reflect athletes' goals and fitness levels
  - Inspiring communication during training sessions and competitions

---

### **Recreational/Learn to Row Coach of the Year**

The Recreational/Learn to Row Coach of the Year award recognizes coaching role models in the community who focus on creating inspiring environments and a life-long desire to be fit and active. Over the past year they will have coached in a non-competitive program of a member club. The Recreational/Learn to Row Coach of the Year award will be judged on the following criteria:

- Number of non-competitive programs coached

- Compliance with Row Ontario Coach Certification Policy
- Demonstrated leadership as a coach, including, but not limited to:
  - Innovative program ideas
  - Contributions to the growth of a program or programs
  - Interaction with other groups/programs at the club
  - Mentoring other coaches or rowing club members
  - Demonstrated commitment to the development of the 'whole' athlete, not just in a competitive rowing context
- How the nominee has successfully impacted athletes' performance and desire to continue to row, including, but not limited to:
  - Creation of inspiring and motivating training environment
  - Improved development in program athletes
  - Tailored training plans to reflect athletes' goals and fitness levels
  - Retention of athletes beyond and within recreational and LTR programs

---

### **High School Bursary**

The High School Bursary is an initiative that Row Ontario created to help support high school/junior rowers to continue rowing. Based on applications, up to two awards (one junior male competitor, one junior female competitor) will be given out each year. Each year, the award(s) will not exceed a combined total of \$5000. The recipients of the High School Bursary shall be a registered participant in good standing of a member club and will have competed in a competitive junior program in the past year. The nominees must be registered as a full-time student at an Ontario University with a rowing program in September of the nomination year. The High School Bursary will be determined by the following criteria:

- Performance at regattas during the nomination year (not limited to Ontario regattas)
- Any previous rowing or athletic awards
- Any previous academic awards
- Involvement in activities in the community (volunteering, school clubs, jobs, other sports, etc)
- Written statement on how the High School Bursary will help athletic and academic performance in the upcoming year
- Letter of recommendation from coach(es)
- Letter of recommendation from high school teacher(s)

---

### **Umpire of the Year Award**

The Umpire of the Year Award recognizes the contribution of an umpire who has made a significant and exemplary contribution to rowing in Ontario. The Umpire of the Year Award will be determined by the following:

## Eligibility Criteria

- Licensed for a minimum of three years
- Is registered with Row Ontario and Rowing Canada Aviron
- Meets all Row Ontario and RCA requirements to ensure our sport is conducted in a safe and respectful manner

## Other Considerations

- Ensured the RCA/Row Ontario codes of conduct, standards of umpiring and Rules of Racing were fairly and consistently interpreted and applied
- Attended a variety of regattas - large, small, head races etc. on a variety of courses including those that are marked and not marked
- Participated in all stations – on-water, start, finish, weigh-in, control commission, etc.
  - Applicable to Level 2 only
- Travelled to regattas in areas where there are limited resident umpires
- Assisted with other assignments, if asked or volunteered, such as:
  - Recruited new umpires
  - Acted as a Mentor to Associate umpires
- May have made an outstanding contribution or went 'above and beyond' their duties as an umpire

There is no limit to the number of times an umpire may be nominated for and awarded the Umpire of the Year Award. The Umpire of the Year award winner will be determined by the Row Ontario Umpires Committee and approved by the CEO.

---

## **Umpire Lifetime Achievement Award**

The Umpire Lifetime Achievement Award may be awarded to recognize a longstanding umpire who has made significant and exemplary contribution to the sport of rowing within Ontario. The Umpire Lifetime Achievement Award is awarded at the discretion of the Row Ontario Umpires Committee and approved by the CEO.

### Criteria

- Meets the Umpire of the Year criteria and
- Is a longstanding umpire who has consistently and positively contributed to the development of umpiring in Ontario as an umpire and may have also served as a Clinician, Chief Umpire, Mentor, and / or Row Ontario and/or RCA Board or Committee member.

A recipient may only receive this award once.

---

## **Performance of the Year Award**

The Performance of the Year Award recognizes an outstanding performance in a regatta by a member or members of the Ontario rowing community. The outstanding performance in a regatta may be held in Ontario or elsewhere.

Nominations for the Performance of the Year Award can come from any member of the Ontario rowing community, including Row Ontario staff and members of the Row Ontario Awards Committee. Once nominations have been received, the Chair of the Awards Committee and Row Ontario staff will compile a list of finalists for the Performance of the Year Award. Special consideration will be made to include nominees from all racing categories (Senior, U23, Junior, High School, Masters, Para) and rowing disciplines (flatwater, indoor, coastal rowing).

The winner of the Performance of the Year Award will be chosen by an online vote.

---

## **Long Service Awards**

Long Service Awards are distributed to members of the Ontario rowing community who have served an Ontario member club in any volunteer capacity for a period of 15 years or greater, in increments of 5 years (i.e., 20 years, 25 years, 30 years, 35 years, 40 years, 45 years and 50 years – longer if applicable)

In order to qualify for a long service award, the recipient will need to be a registered member with Row Ontario at the time of the award. Recognition will be awarded on the basis of confirmation of Row Ontario registration.

Nominations for Long Service Awards must be submitted by a registered Ontario-based rowing club.

---

## **Volunteer Certificates**

Volunteer Certificates are distributed to members of the Ontario rowing community who have served an Ontario member club in a volunteer capacity during the nomination year. Volunteer Certificates are meant to recognize individualized who have gone above and beyond in their duties as a club volunteer. The number of registered club members during the nomination year will determine how many volunteer certificates can be distributed by each club, as follows:

- 1-100 members: 1 Volunteer Certificate
- 101-200 members: 2 Volunteer Certificates
- 201-300 members: 3 Volunteer Certificates
- 301-400 members: 4 Volunteer Certificates
- 401-500 members: 5 Volunteer Certificates
- 501-600 members: 6 Volunteer Certificates

- 601-700 members: 7 Volunteer Certificates
- 701-800 members: 8 Volunteer Certificates
- 801-900 members: 9 Volunteer Certificates
- 901+ members: 10 Volunteer Certificates

Nominations for Volunteer Certificates must be submitted by a registered Ontario-based rowing club.

---