

Swim England National Awards 2025

Saturday 29 November, The Great Hall at the University of Birmingham

Overview

National Awards will recognise Swim England members and clubs, celebrate the incredible spirit of our aquatic community, and showcase individuals and groups across a number of categories. Awards fall into the following three categories and have a specific shortlisting process:

- **Section One:** nominations to be shortlisted by the Regions, with Regional winners progressing to National Awards Judging Panel.
- **Section Two:** long service awards, Harold Fern and Alfred H Turner Awards, to be shortlisted by the Regions and progressed to Sport Operations Committee for determining the winners
- **Section Three:** nominations do not form part of Regional shortlisting and winners to be determined centrally by the relevant judging panels.

	Section 1: Regional shortlisting
1	Sport Club of the Year (discipline specific)
2	Volunteer of the Year
3	Young Volunteer of the Year
4	Technical Official of the Year
5	Participation and Community Coach of the Year
6	Children/Age Group Coach of the Year
7	Talent Development Coach of the Year
	Section 2: Long Service Awards
8	Harold Fern
9	Alfred H Turner
	Section 3: central shortlisting
10	Performance Coach of the Year
11	Coach Mentor or Coach Developer of the Year
12	Swimming Teacher of the Year
13	Swim School of the Year
14	Health Impact Award
15	School Swimming Award
16	Educator of the Year
17	Inclusion Impact, 'For All', Award
18	Pool Operator Pioneer Award

Section 1 – Regionally shortlisted Awards

Nominations Process

- Nominations will be open between **Monday 2 June and Sunday 6 July 2025**
- Nominations recognition period is **3 July 2024 to 6 July 2025**
- Nominees must be Swim England members
- Nominators do not need to be club members or hold any official positions

Shortlisting Process

- Regional Nominations will be emailed to each region (from which they will select their regional winners) by Monday 14 July
- **Section 1 Awards:**
 - Regions to determine and confirm to Swim England their provisional regional winners within each Award category no later than Monday 4 August
 - Swim England will carry out safeguarding verification checks on regional provisional winners
- Swim England will confirm the results of the verification process to the Regions no later than Monday 18 August
- Confirmed regional winners will progress as finalists to the National Awards

Regional Awards

- Regions may announce and award their confirmed regional winners after Monday 18 August and by no later than Sunday 28 September

National Awards

- National Awards invitations to the finalists will be sent out by Swim England w/c 29 September
- National Awards will take place on Saturday 29 November, The Great Hall, University of Birmingham

Club Awards

Swim England Sport Club of the Year

Swim England Artistic Swimming Club of the Year

Swim England Diving Club of the Year

Swim England Swimming Club of the Year (inclusive of Masters Swimming & Para swimming)

Swim England Water Polo Club of the Year

This award celebrates Swim England affiliated clubs that exemplify the spirit of aquatics through inclusive, ambitious and community driven practice. These clubs go above and beyond to create exceptional experiences both in and out of the water, placing their members at the heart of everything they do.

The Club of the Year awards are discipline-specific, recognising the achievements from Artistic Swimming, Diving, Swimming (including Masters and Para Swimming) and Water Polo individually, highlighting the unique contributions of clubs across aquatics.

The nomination should highlight the following:

- How member experiences are placed at the club's core, creating safe and supportive environment
- How the club has strived for excellence in its delivery, development and impact
- How the club proactively supports and develops all members of the club, including athletes, coaches and volunteers
- Ways in which the club has built strong connections with the wider community and promoted access to aquatics

Criteria:

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

Why It Matters

Clubs are at the heart of delivering our sports and they make it possible for all to enjoy the water for life. Without our clubs, sport would simply not happen.

People Awards

Swim England Volunteer of the Year

This award honours a Swim England member whose dedication, generosity and passion have made an impact on the aquatics community. Through their selfless contribution, this individual has helped enable safe, enjoyable and successful experiences where everyone feels valued.

The volunteering activity can be at Club, County, Regional or National level. There is no requirement for the nomination to detail activity at every level and the importance is placed on the impact of the volunteering activity.

The nomination should highlight the following:

- How the volunteer demonstrated a clear passion for aquatics
- How they have helped create an inclusive and positive experiences for all
- How they stepped forward to support the delivery of aquatic sports for club members
- How they give their time to support fellow volunteers to create a stronger and more connected aquatic community
- How they have gone above and beyond to make a meaningful difference

Criteria:

- Must be a Swim England member
- Must be actively volunteering in an affiliated Club, County, Regional or National setting on a regular basis
- Must be at least 26 years old (volunteers aged 14 to 25 years should be nominated in the Young Volunteer Award)
- Must not be paid

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

Why It Matters

Our clubs are based on volunteer power. Without the considerable number of people who commit significant hours to the sport, club activity just wouldn't happen. Volunteers do a wide range of roles that are essential.

Swim England Young Volunteer of the Year

This award celebrates a young Swim England member who has shown a commitment to volunteering in aquatics at Club, County, Regional or National level. Through their energy, commitment and passion for aquatics, they have helped create meaningful experiences for others and are a great example of a role model for young people in their community.

There is no requirement for the nomination to detail activity at every level, as what truly matters is the impact their volunteering has had on individuals, their community and their sport as a whole.

The nomination should highlight the following:

- How they have demonstrated a clear passion for aquatics and a commitment to helping others enjoy the sport
- How their regular volunteering supports the delivery of aquatic activity
- How they have pursued their desire to learn, grow, and develop their skills
- How they have been a positive influence on peers
- Examples of their willingness to support fellow volunteers

Criteria:

- Must be a Swim England member
- Nominations can be submitted by anyone
- Must be actively volunteering in an affiliated Club, County, Regional or National setting on a regular basis
- Must be 14 – 25 years of age
- Must not be paid

Why It Matters

Young volunteers are the emerging generation who will take ownership of the clubs and the sports in the future. Their decision to step up and take a leading role should be encouraged.

Swim England Technical Official of the Year

This award honours a Swim England Technical Official, from any discipline, whose dedication and contributions are considered invaluable to the delivery of events at any level.

The recipient will be someone whose officiating work has made a meaningful and positive impact, serving as an inspiring role model for others.

Volunteering may take place at Club, County, Regional, or National level. While it is not necessary to demonstrate involvement at every level, the emphasis is placed on the significance and impact of their officiating contributions.

The nomination should highlight the following:

- How they have stepped forward to support the delivery of aquatic events at Club, County, Regional or National level
- How they have committed to their own personal development and pursuing excellence through their training
- How they have supported others in their training and development, either formally or informally
- How they have supported fellow technical officials and participants to have a great event experience
- A passion for the sport that inspires others to get involved in officiating

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

Why It Matters

Competition is an important part of sport and all competitions need technical officials. This group of people volunteer their time to learn the technical aspects of the role and then commit to supporting the delivery of competition. Technical Officials maintain the integrity of the competition rules.

Swim England Participation and Community Coach of the Year

This award celebrates a coach who has created a welcoming, inclusive and empowering environment for people of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy aquatics. Through their coaching, they have opened doors to ongoing participation and helped individuals to have great experiences in water, leading to enhanced wellbeing.

The nomination should highlight the following:

- How the coach has created a welcoming environment
- How the coach has embedded an inclusive environment
- How their coaching has created enjoyment and contributed to improved wellbeing

Criteria:

- Must be a Swim England member
- Can be a paid or voluntary coach
- Must hold a recognised coaching qualification or certification relevant to their role and activity
- Must be coaching on a regular basis
- Can be any age

Why It Matters

Participation and Community coaching is an important area in coaching as it enables more people to be healthy, happy and physically active. With many challenges in modern life, participation and community coaching will contribute to a better society.

Swim England Children/Age Group Coach of the Year

This award recognises a coach who has created a fun, safe and inspiring environment for children aged up to 16 years old to learn, grow and fall in love with aquatics. Their approach has led to great levels of participation, retention in the sport and created great experiences for every child in the water.

The nomination should highlight the following:

- How the coach has created a fun, positive and enjoyable environment
- How the coach has delivered great experiences that keep children engaged and motivated, leading to great levels of participant retention
- How the coach has adapted their coaching delivery to meet the individual needs of each child

Criteria:

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

Why It Matters

Children and young athletes have specific needs that are different to other areas of coaching. Specific approaches create an environment that will develop relevant and appropriate outcomes which are process orientated. These outcomes will lead to the development of life skills as well as long-term athlete development.

Swim England Talent Development Coach of the Year

This award celebrates a coach, working within the national talent pathway, 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 the following:

- How the coach has created a person-centred learning environment
- How the coach is attentive to their athlete's needs, challenging and supporting them as individuals
- Examples of positive outcomes and how they have helped their athletes to improve

Criteria:

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

Why It Matters

Talent development coaching has many important outcomes including the development of future potential. This is important to increase the breadth and depth of talented athletes in the sporting system.

Section 2 - Harold Fern and Alfred H Turner Awards

Nominations Process

- Public nominations will be open between **Monday 2 June and Sunday 6 July 2025**
- Nominations period can recognise activity great than 12 months
- Nominees must be Swim England members
- Nominators do not need to be club members or hold any official positions
- Regions and Swim England Discipline Leadership groups can also submit a nomination per award

Shortlisting Process

- A shortlist of public nominations will be sent to each Region and Swim England Discipline Leadership group by Monday 14 July
- Each Region and Swim England Discipline Leadership group will determine and share with Swim England their shortlisted nominees by no later than **Thursday 7 August**, who will then progress to the Sport Operations committee for determination
 - If a region intends to award these nominees at regional level, the Fern & Turner award titles cannot be used.
 - Instead, a Region may choose to have a lifelong achievement or outstanding commitment award. In this case, Regions to determine and confirm to Swim England their provisional regional winners no later than Thursday 7 August
 - Swim England will carry out safeguarding verification checks and will confirm the results of the verification process to the Regions no later than Monday 18 August
- Sport Operations Committee will confirm the winners, who will be awarded at the National Awards

National Awards

- National Awards invitations to the winners will be sent out by Swim England w/c 29 September
- National Awards will take place on Saturday 29 November, The Great Hall, University of Birmingham

Harold Fern and Alfred H Turner

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

Section 3 – National Awards

Nominations Process

- Nominations will be open between **Monday 2 June and Sunday 6 July 2025**
- Nominations recognition period is **3 July 2024 to 6 July 2025**
- Each award within Section 3 will detail specific award criteria and shortlisting process
- Nominators do not need to be club members or hold any official positions

Shortlisting Process

- Awards contained within *Section 3* will not form part of the regional shortlisting process
- Each award will be shortlisted and winners determined centrally by Swim England, unless stated otherwise

National Awards

- National Awards invitations to the finalists will be sent out by Swim England w/c 29 September
- National Awards will take place on Saturday 29 November, The Great Hall, University of Birmingham

People Awards

Swim England Performance Coach of the Year

This award recognises coaches who have led athletes towards international success, achieving outstanding competitive results (individual or team). They will have skilfully designed a performance environment that has led to holistic athlete development and have demonstrated the upmost integrity and values in the pursuit of performance.

The nomination should highlight the following:

- What results the athletes or team have achieved
- How have these results been achieved, including holistic outcomes
- The values led approach this coach has taken to achieve these goals and to create a safe, enjoyable and successful experience for their athletes

Criteria:

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

Why It Matters

Performance coaching creates opportunities for athletes to realise their biggest goals and aspirations. It exists to support people that want to dedicate themselves to the pursuit of performance excellence. Performance and performance coaching inspires and excites individuals and generations.

Swim England Coach Mentor or Coach Developer of the Year

This award will be given to a mentor or developer who has supported a coach to make meaningful and sustainable change. This input will have led to improvements in effective and/or ethical coaching practice.

The nomination should highlight the following:

- How the person has met the coach's needs
- How they have led the way and changed a coach's work through their mentoring and guidance
- How the coaching practice is more effective and ethical to enable a safer and more successful experience

Criteria:

- Must be a Swim England member
- Must be mentoring / supporting a Swim England Member
- Hold a current enhanced DBS check and appropriate safeguarding certificate

Why It Matters

Coach Mentors and Coach Developers work closely with coaches to support their desire for continual improvement. They promote and advance effective and ethical coaching to improve participant and performer experiences and outcomes. They are increasingly recognised as a valued role in the support of coaching.

Swim England Swimming Teacher of the Year

This award recognises a teacher who consistently provides quality lessons (including proficient demonstrations of technical knowledge) in a fun and dynamic way, demonstrating excellent communication skills throughout. Through their creativity, care and commitment, they bring learning to life, creating lessons that inspire confidence and lifelong love of the water.

The nomination should highlight the following:

- A participant focused approach, showing an ability to meet the needs of varied learners
- How does the teacher go the extra mile to deliver the best quality, inclusive learning experience
- How does the teacher set an example, leading the way as someone future swimming teachers aspire to be like
- Examples of a fun, dynamic and inclusive approach to teaching swimming
- How does the teacher provide support and mentoring to other swimming teachers and swimming assistants
- How has the teacher continued to seek ongoing personal/professional development

Criteria:

- Must be a Swim England (or formerly ASA) qualified swim teacher
- Must be delivering one or more of the four frameworks within the Swim England Learn to Swim Programme (Pre-School Framework, Learn to Swim Framework, Aquatic Skills Framework, or Adult Swimming Framework)
- Hold a current enhanced DBS check and appropriate safeguarding certificate

Please note – Selected candidates may be subjective to an observation and/or follow-up call from Swim England learn to swim team.

Why It Matters

Swim teachers are often the very first point of contact a child has with swimming, shaping not only their confidence in the water but their lifelong relationship with the sport. Through creative, inclusive, and engaging lessons, these teachers create safe and fun environments that inspire young swimmers to enjoy learning and keep progressing. Recognising swim

teachers honours the individuals who bring the One Swim England strategy to life on poolside, driving participation, supporting swimmer development, and building the future of aquatics from the very start

Other Awards

Swim England Swim School of the Year

This award recognises a swim school that consistently provides quality lessons (including proficient demonstrations of technical knowledge) in a fun and dynamic way, delivering exceptional experience to all their participants and also focusing on the development of their swim teachers.

The nomination should highlight the following:

- Examples of the offer that has quality, fun, progression and inclusion at its heart
- Examples of a participant focused approach that focuses on the progression of participants and their staff
- Evidence of strong commitment to inclusivity, safeguarding and welfare to create great experiences for all their learners
- Tangible evidence of innovative and inspiring ways of delivering Learn to Swim sessions
- Evidence of continual professional development for swimming teachers

Criteria:

- Must be an active Swim England Swim School Member
- Must be delivering lessons in one or more of the four frameworks within the Swim England Learn to Swim Programme (Pre-School Framework, Learn to Swim Framework, Aquatic Skills Framework, or Adult Swimming Framework)
- The Swim School must offer/reward learners with Swim England Awards

Please note: The shortlisted Swim Schools may receive a call and a visit from a Swim England Assessor as part of the judging process.

Why It Matters

Swim schools, of all sizes and settings, play a pivotal role in delivering high-quality Learn to Swim programmes that lay the foundation for a lifetime in swimming. From teaching core aquatic skills to nurturing the next generation of swimmers, their consistent dedication supports wide-reaching participation and local community impact in often unique settings. This award celebrates the swim schools that are not only aligned to our national strategy but also lead the way in excellence, innovation, and access for all.

Swim England Health Impact Award

This award recognises an organisation which has made a demonstrable contribution to health improvement and health outcomes through swimming or aquatic activity. By building strong health partnerships and creating inclusive and accessible opportunities, the nominee will be able to show how they have helped individuals with long term health conditions or impairments overcome specific barriers to participation. The nominee should be able to outline how their work has had a measurable impact on health and wellbeing outcomes and explain the wider impact and value of this change to individuals and communities.

The nomination should highlight the following:

- How local data and insight has shaped their approach and supported continuous improvement
- Who the key beneficiaries are and what benefits have been observed and measured

- The challenges faced and examples of good practice that have helped to overcome them
- The value of this work to local partners and the aquatics community, e.g. partnerships created, social value, return on investment, etc.
- Inclusion of wider options and specific exit strategies to encourage independent activity outside any formal/structured support

Criteria:

- Must outline examples of high-quality aquatic opportunities created and how the offer was made to be accessible, inclusive and welcoming to the target beneficiaries.

Why It Matters

The award recognises the efforts of provider organisations in creating meaningful change to services and support for people with specific health needs, tackling inequalities in health and increasing the recognition of the contribution of aquatics for health, by creating capacity and evidence to strengthen collaboration between leisure and healthcare.

Swim England School Swimming Award

This award celebrates exceptional individuals, schools, lesson providers, clubs or organisations who have made a positive impact on school swimming and water safety, either locally or nationally. Through their dedication, creativity and commitment, these schools are truly passionate about improving school swimming programmes and have demonstrated significant achievements in this area.

The nomination should highlight the following:

- An outstanding commitment to ensuring that all children have the skills and knowledge they need to stay safe in, on and around water by supporting or delivering fun, engaging and innovative school swimming opportunities
- Examples of inclusive practices that give every pupil the chance to succeed
- Examples of delivering high quality, inclusive school swimming and water safety lessons
- Investment in training and development to support the delivery of school swimming lessons
- Shows evidence of innovative ways of delivering school swimming and water safety lessons, for example; improving pupil experience, increasing active learning time within lessons or taking a transformative approach to lessons
- Excellent reporting of the year 6 School Swimming and Water Safety curriculum requirements and the improvement made by pupils

Criteria:

- Must be currently signed up to the Swim England School Swimming and Water Safety Charter
- Are actively using the Swim England School Swimming and Water Safety Charter Award Scheme

Why It Matters

School swimming providers contribute significantly to our national goal of ensuring every child leaves primary school with the skills to be safe, confident, and competent in and around the water. As key partners in the education system, they deliver vital curriculum swimming and water safety programmes that support both physical literacy and wider wellbeing. Recognising these providers underlines their strategic importance in achieving a society where every child has the opportunity to swim, aligning directly with the One Swim England vision of lifelong participation.

Swim England Educator of the Year

This award recognises an Educator who consistently surpasses the day-to-day requirements of their role for the benefit of their learners. Through inclusive, high-quality delivery and a commitment to continuous improvement they help shape the future of aquatics, developing confident teachers, coaches, volunteers and leaders.

The nomination should highlight the following:

- How the educator is committed to understanding and meeting diverse needs
- How the educator fosters an inclusive and supportive learning environment where every learner feels valued
- Examples of innovative course delivery that helps inspire the learners to create great experiences for the aquatics community
- Evidence of continual professional development
- Examples of delivering high-quality, inclusive courses

Criteria:

- Nominations are open to all Educators who deliver any Swim England training
- Must hold a current Swim England Educator license or be a volunteer presenter

Why It Matters

Educators are the backbone of aquatic sports, playing a vital role in developing the knowledge, skills, and confidence of everyone involved. Their expertise ensures that education opportunities are safe, inclusive, and inspiring, laying the foundation for lifelong learning. By nurturing talent and promoting best practices, educators help sustain and grow

the aquatic community, making them essential to the sport's continued success and evolution.

Inclusion Impact, 'For All', Award

This award recognises a club, affiliated swim school, operator or Approved Training Centre (ATC) connected to Swim England, which has championed Swim England vision and furthered inclusion and diversity within aquatics.

The nomination should highlight the following:

- Demonstrable examples of impacting positive change and commitment to making aquatics more accessible
- Examples of engagement with underrepresented communities to help dissolve the barriers that prevent engagement in aquatics
- Evidence of impact on the individuals involved and how it helped improve their experience in aquatics
- Examples of high quality, inclusive and engaging practices

Criteria:

- Must be a Swim England member or a Swim England affiliated club, Swim England Qualifications approved training centre, affiliated swim school or operator

Why It Matters

The 'For All' award recognises the life changing potential of aquatics by focusing on how inclusive practice has impacted an individual or group. Closely aligned with our organisational values of 'we include' and 'we do what's right', it celebrates those stakeholders that utilise aquatics as a tool for social change.

Swim England Pool Operator Pioneer Award

This award celebrates exceptional innovation, creativity and dedication in enhancing experiences in an aquatics setting. It recognises operators and owners who have developed and implemented pioneering programmes, offers or campaigns that have successfully attracted individuals to swimming facilities, resulting in a measurable increase in aquatic engagement.

The nomination should highlight the following:

- Examples of innovative programmes or delivery of unique initiatives that have effectively drawn new participants to swimming pools
- Clear evidence of increased participation and engagement in aquatic activity as a result of their programmes and campaigns
- The development of programmes that are not only successful but are also sustainable with long-term benefits for the community

Criteria

- Must be a recognised operator or owner of facilities
- Can be an operator or owner of any size

Voting Process

The recipient of this award is determined by the Swim England Pool Owner and Operator Network. This process allows members of the network to recognise and reward the most impactful initiatives in the sector.

Why It Matters

This award serves as a platform to showcase the transformative power of innovative aquatic programmes. By celebrating these achievements, Swim England aims to inspire other operators to develop creative solutions that increase participation and enable more people to have great experiences in water.