

BRITISH FENCING COMMUNITY AWARDS

2023-24

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1. THE 2023-24 AWARDS

The British Fencing Community Awards recognises some of the best clubs, coaches, fencers and volunteers for their contribution to fencing, for the Year 2023-24. Due it being an Olympic and Paralympic year this awards period will cover 1st September 2023 – 7th September 2024 to recognise this.

Please note that all nominees must have held the appropriate valid BF Membership for the Year 2023-24.

2. CATEGORY: ATHLETES

2.1 PERFORMANCE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

A nominee for 'Performance Athlete of the Year 2023-24' will meet some of the following criteria:

- Have achieved significant success at FIE level or World Abilitysport level
- Achieved significant success at International level
- Achieved success at Paralympic, World or Zonal Championships
- Achieved something no other GB fencer has previously achieved in a competitive environment
- Be a positive role model for young fencers
- Portray a positive image of fencing to those outside the sport

2.2 YOUNG ATHLETE OF THE YEAR (U20)

A nominee for 'Young Athlete of the Year (U20) 2023-24 must be aged 20 or below on 1st January 2024, and meet some of the following criteria:

- Achieved significant success at International level
- Achieved something no other GB fencer has previously in a competitive environment
- Be a positive role model for young fencers
- Portray a positive image of fencing to those outside the sport

3. CATEGORY: COACHING

3.1 GBR COACH OF THE YEAR

A nominee for 'GBR Coach of the Year 2023-24' must coach GBR athletes, and meet some of the below criteria:

- A coach who has played a role and supported the athlete(s) to gain significant results during the 2023/24 season
- Demonstrates a player-centred approach and are an example of innovative coaching practice
- A role model of best practice to others within the fencing coaching community

- Demonstrates a positive and continuous learning attitude in their development as a coach

3.2 COMMUNITY COACH OF THE YEAR

A nominee for 'Community Coach of the Year 2023-24' must coach at a community club. They must also meet some of the below criteria:

- A coach who works within a club or specific community, providing suitable and relevant coaching to meet the needs of the fencer(s) at their current stage of development, whilst delivering in their club or community setting
- Actively seeks to grow fencing within their local area, serving the needs of the wider community and has had a positive impact on widening access to fencing, through their role as a coach
- A role model of best practice to others within the fencing coaching community
- Demonstrates a positive and continuous learning attitude in their development as a coach

4. CATEGORY: OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEERS

4.1 OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION BY A REFEREE

The 'Outstanding Contribution by a Referee' category recognises the much-valued contribution and dedication to fencing. Nominees for this award must also meet some of the below criteria:

- Regularly supports the fencing community through officiation
- Respects all involved within fencing and demonstrates good sportsmanship
- Are a positive role model for other officials within the sport
- Involved in development activities, both for their own professional development, and that of other officials
- Demonstrates commitment to self-improvement, education and training

4.2 OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION BY A VOLUNTEER

The 'Outstanding Contribution by a Volunteer' category recognises those who have made a significant contribution of time and effort to their club and/or BF. Nominees for this award must also meet some of the below criteria:

- Have made a notable commitment of their personal time to volunteering
- Provide invaluable voluntary support to their club and/or BF
- Positively impacted their club/community/event
- Supported a number of competitions- local, regional, national or international and/or fencing within their local community

5. CATEGORY: CLUBS

5.1 CLUB OF THE YEAR

Nominees for 'Club of the Year 2023-24' must be a BF affiliated club, and meet some of the below criteria:

- Commitment to be an inclusive club and provide opportunities for all to take part in fencing in their local community.
- Are positive role models, particularly in areas such as safeguarding and athlete welfare
- Have a strong coach development structure, with evidence of coach progression
- Support their athletes in every way possible to achieve the best results

6. CATEGORY: OTHER

6.1 VIVECA ABRAHAMS MEMORIAL COMMUNITY AWARD

A nominee for the 'Viveca Abrahams Memorial community Award 2023-24' can be any project that provides fun and engaging experiences in fencing, helping people to start and achieve personal success in the sport. The project could have:

- Seen increased participation and enjoyment in the sport
- Demonstrated innovative practice or opportunities
- Had positive impact within their community for underrepresented groups such as ethnically diverse communities, disabled people or women and girls
- Used fencing as a tool to positively impact peoples lives e.g. improve wellbeing or increasing opportunities to be physically active.