

Soccer Nova Scotia
Night of Excellence
2022



Award Descriptions

Senior Female/Male Player of the Year - Recognizes a senior female/male player at any level of the game who has exhibited exceptional performance and embodies the Soccer NS values.

Youth Female/Male Performance Player of the Year - Recognizes a U13 to U18 female/male at the AAA/AA, provincial or national level that has exhibited exceptional performance in the sport, representing his team, province or nation with respect, integrity and excellence.

Community Regional Player of the Year - U13 to U18 community (A, B or C) player in each region with outstanding performance in their stage of LTPD and embodies the Soccer NS values.

True Sport Grassroots Regional Player of the Year – U8 to U12 grassroots player in each region who best exemplifies the True Sport principles; go for it, play fair, respect others, keep it fun, stay healthy, include everyone and give back.

Performance Coach of the Year - Recognizes a certified or trained coach working at the AAA/AA, provincial or national level. The coach should have aspirations of further development in the performance stream of coaching. This coach embodies the Soccer NS values.

Community Coach of the Year - Recognizes a trained coach at the community level (U13 to senior A, B or C) who is committed to player development and instilling a lifelong passion for the game. This coach embodies the Soccer NS values.

Grassroots Coach of the Year - Presented to a trained coach who is working or committed to LTPD Stages 1, 2 and 3 (Active Start, FUNdamentals or Learn to Train) and directs their program with sportsmanship and within the principles of the Long Term Player Development plan. This coach embodies the Soccer NS values.

Award Descriptions

Team of the Year Female/Male - Recognizes a Nova Scotia female/male team's outstanding performance in the team's respective stage of development. Open to teams at all levels of play.

Official of the Year - Recognizes a referee who is committed to development and has shown progress and achievement at the local, provincial, national or international level.

Young Official of the Year - Recognizes a youth referee who is committed to development and has shown progress at the local, provincial, or national level.

Regional Volunteer of the Year - Recognizes an individual that has given their time to impact and grow the game in their region of the province. This person embodies the Soccer NS values.

Innovative Project/Program Award - Awarded to a team or club that has created an innovative project or program, incorporating new and creative ways to improve the experience of members.

Woman of Distinction - The Woman of Distinction Award is nominated by the Nova Scotia soccer membership. The award is presented to a woman who has gone above and beyond to better the game of soccer across the province. This could be through, but not limited to technical leadership, fair play, coaching, excelling on the pitch, refereeing, and/or dedication to administration.

Scholarship Winners

Halifax King of Donair Scholarship

Xenia Theoharopoulos - Bachelor of Engineering, Saint Mary's University

Hartlen Family Scholarship

William Carruthers - Bachelor of Science, University of Ottawa

Stephenie Allt Memorial Scholarship

Jamie-Lee York - Bachelor of Science, Saint Mary's University

Dr. Irene Szuler Scholarship

Madalyn Hatfield - Bachelor of Science, Cape Breton University

Frank H. Bailey Memorial Scholarship

Bengt Johnsen - Bachelor of Science, University of Waterloo

Robert Sayer Scholarship

Bryanna Atkinson - Bachelor of Arts, Universite Sainte-Anne

VanRoy Tobitt Memorial Scholarship

Dan Bower - Business Administration, NSCC - Kingstec

Carol Shadbolt Scholarship

Marley McGillivray - Bachelor of Arts, Cape Breton University

Award Winners

True Sport Grassroots Players of the Year

Owen MacLean - Cape Breton FC

Owen is that rare combination of a high-level prospect who combines his excellent playing ability with the natural humility and empathy of a good team-mate. As a goalkeeper with the Capers U12 Boys Academy team he showed courage and commitment week in and week out to listen to his coaches and learn his position. He mixes that with a superb attitude to his work each night and always arrives with a smile on his face ready to practice or play. Owen lives up to the TrueSport values and is a shining example of the type of grounded and dedicated player we want to produce in our programs.

Lily Meeds - Halifax City SC

Lily Meeds is a young player who truly demonstrates the True Sport principles. She has a very good work ethic at practices and in games, always giving 100% and is ready to play any position on the field that is asked of her. She never complains and always remains positive. Lily elevates the level of the play for her peers, pushing them to do better while keeping it fun and positive. When other teams did not have enough players to compete against her HCSC team, she would volunteer to assist them. Lily is a true pleasure to coach!

Annie Walsh - United DFC

Annie Walsh is a strong, young leader in the United DFC Skills Center Under 11 Girls program. She was nominated on two different occasions by two different people for the United DFC True Sport Team for consistently demonstrating the true sport principles- especially Include Everyone, Respect Others, Play Fair and Keep It Fun. Annie leads by example through her hard work and dedication to each practice. She is also vocal in her support of her peers, encouraging and cheering on her teammates through the drills and games. Annie picks anyone and everyone to be her partner or be in her group. She is also highly sought out as a partner for how open and welcoming she is as an individual.

Award Winners

True Sport Grassroots Players of the Year

Ella Rafuse - South Shore

9-year-old Ella Rafuse is a consistently positive and hardworking player. She is always going for it, and is never afraid to take on a new challenge like playing full games. Ella displays leadership qualities, helping and encouraging her teammates when the opportunity presents. She is a team player and respects those around her. Ella not only loves to play but loves the sport and it shows on and off the pitch.

Aaron Marsh - Suburban FC

Aaron Marsh is a young SFC player who is well-beyond his years, not only in terms of his quality and abilities of the pitch, but his qualities as a person / human being. This summer, Aaron broke his wrist. Normally, this would be a detrimental experience for a young player who becomes sidelined from an injury of this nature, but Aaron didn't look at it that way. Through the troubles of this injury, Aaron found ways to continue to have the strong influence and support that he provides as a player, but this time off the field! Aaron was at every game and practice of his u12A team, always cheering on and supporting his friends. He helped his dad, Jeremy, who is a coach at our Skill Center sessions, and would even come out to support various teams such as his brother Luke's u11s, his brother Ben's u15s, and the SFC Men's team!

Aaron is a kid that always has a smile on his face and a ball at his feet. Aaron shows exemplary character and is a role model for all Suburban FC players.

Award Winners

Community Players of the Year

Avery Worobec - United DFC

Avery Worobec is a U18 community player for United DFC who embodies the values of Soccer NS. Avery volunteered early in the season to play keeper when her team needed someone to step up. She took on the position and worked hard to support her team, reliably showing up for every game. Avery then added keeper training to her busy schedule as well as volunteered to play for numerous teams throughout the club as a call up; stepping up to assist whenever needed which earned her a reputation as a teammate throughout various levels; and making friends on each squad. She truly loves the game. Avery stepped up and quickly took on the position of keeper coach for younger players and eventually all age groups in the UDFC community program. Avery Worobec is an exceptional young person and player who inspires young players and her teams and significantly contributes to community soccer at United DFC!

Landon Aarts - CC Riders Soccer Club

Landon Aarts is and has always been a pleasure to coach. Landon comes to practice the same way he comes to games; with a great attitude and prepared to do his best. This year Landon had a tremendous, stand-out year for the CC Riders and is really starting to come into his own as a soccer player. There is never a question about his athleticism, skillset, nor his understanding of the game. Landon has become one of the quiet leaders on his team who is always ready with a brilliant pass, a break-away, or scoring a solid goal. We've only begun to scratch the surface of his potential and can't wait to see what he has in store for the next season.

Award Winners

Performance Players of the Year

Mya Archibald - NS Canada Games, Whitecaps REX, U17 National Team
Mya had a truly outstanding 2022. Beginning the year as a striker with a huge amount of potential, a change in position to full back saw her flourish. She was invited to join the National Development Centre in Vancouver, and became a member of the U17 Canadian Women's National team, winning a bronze medal at the Concacaf Championship in Dominican Republic before starting for Canada at the World Cup in India. In addition to this Mya was a key component to the NS Women's team who took home a bronze medal at Canada Games

Isaac VanWychen - NS Canada Games, Suburban FC U17AAA Boys
Isaac was the standout performer for the Canada Games boys team as they finished 2nd in the NSSL summer season. Isaac led the team in goals, scoring 13 goals from midfield, lead to him being the youngest player involvement with the HFX Wanderers U23 program. Isaac recently signed his commitment to St FX for the fall of 2023.

Award Winners

Senior Players of the Year

Megan Chaisson - Dalhousie, Suburban FC Women

Meg was a stand-out player for the Suburban FC Sr Women this past season. Meg at time completely took over and controlled games from her central mid-field position and was a league dominant player. Meg's performances over the last year got her an invite to the Canadian U20 WNT Camp this past summer. Meg has been stellar for the DAL Womens Tigers team where she is currently leading them into the AUS playoffs. In addition to her on-field qualities, Meg is giving back to the next generation of players through her various coaching roles and positions with SFC. Meg is a role model for all on AND off the pitch!

Lewis Dye - Wanderers U23 Captain, St. FX, Suburban FC Men

Lewis has been a well-known top player through his years in Nova Scotia, and showed no-less this year for the SFC Premiership Mens. Lewis lead the SFC back-line to it's best defensive record in years, and even adding a few goals down the other end in the process. Lewis was a key player in Suburbans undefeated season winning both the league and the cup. Lewis's performances didn't go unnoticed as he was also given the opportunity and captains armband for the HFX Wanderers u23s.

Award Winners

Coaches of the Year

Jared Griffiths & Kaitlyn MacIsaac - Performance Coaches of the Year

As a coaching staff Jared and Kaitlyn had a lot to contest with in this Canada Games cycle. With the tournament pushed back a year due to Covid, the pair continued with their commitment to the players sacrificing time away from their families. On the field, the team went from strength to strength with Jared and Kaitlyn creating a culture where players aged 14-18 came together to achieve a bronze medal at Canada Games.

Bill & Jill Perry - Community Coaches of the Year

Bill and Jill Perry are a great example of the type of coaches, and more importantly people, community soccer clubs are reliant upon to provide a meaningful connection with the players and the sport. They have been dedicated to coaching their twin daughters group over the past several years and have been involved in the soccer community for longer than they would like me to reveal. Great coaches genuinely care for the children that they are trying to impact through sport and this is definitely the case with Bill and Jill.

Their commitment and passion to provide a positive experience and environment for the children that they work with has been felt at Halifax City SC. Players, parents and club staff could not speak highly enough of the time Bill and Jill have spent supporting their players and ensuring that the girls continue to grow and love the sport of soccer. They are the type of coaches that create players for life.

Award Winners

Coaches of the Year

Rosalyn Hayman - Grassroots Coach of the Year

Rosalyn coaches not 1 but 2 girls soccer teams with Halifax City Soccer Club and she does it with integrity, enthusiasm and commitment. Her passion for the game of soccer, and the kindness, care and compassion she shows all of her players, is simply awesome. Rosalyn gives endless amounts of time and energy to her young players, and is supportive and optimistic in the face of any scoreboard. Her focus is truly on the development of skill, respect, and teamwork both on and off the field. A former varsity soccer player herself, coach Rosalyn knows the game well, but more importantly understands the importance of encouraging and developing a love of sport in her young athletes.

Award Winners

Officials of the Year

Natalie Berry - Official of the Year

Natalie's attention to detail and composed manner makes for a well called game. New referees enjoy working with Natalie as she helps them in any way she can. This past year, Natalie has participated successfully at a U15 Conca-caf tournament (Orlando, FL) where she was one of the youngest officials at 20 years of age. She officiated at The Canada Games (Niagara Falls, ON) in August, as well as the U17 Club National Championship in Surrey, BC in October. With Natalie, players enjoy seeing the referee coming on to the pitch.

Allie Martin - Young Official of the Year

Allie Martin is the official that showed the most progress during this year, upgrading 3 Levels in 2022. She is an incredible athlete who is disciplined, hard working and talented. On top of the great work as an official, Allie was a driving force in helping the HCU women capture a provincial championship and berth at nationals for the first time since 2006. She also had a standout season for the SMU Huskies this fall with 3 goals, helping to lead the attack and secure a spot in AUS play-offs. Allie is an excellent ambassador of the game embodying SNS values as a promising referee with Soccer Nova Scotia.

Ben Hoskins - Support4Sport Sport NS - Official of the Year

In 2021, Ben proved himself at the professional level. He was included in the Canadian Premier League's bubble in Winnipeg and worked eight games. In the second half of last season, Ben was appointed to referee a national championship qualifying game. His ability to function at the professional level is recognized with his appointment to the national list of referees in December 2021. Ben got his first taste of CPL action in 2020 when he officiated a single game. In 2019, Ben was Canada's representative to the CONCACAF Program of Referee Excellence.

Award Winners

Regional Volunteers of the Year

Wilhemus Van Hal - Cape Breton FC

Over the last three years - and through all the hardships of COVID-19 - Wil van Hal has been a key figure in keeping soccer going on the island of Cape Breton.

On top of the pandemic the island had to cope with the collapse of the dome at CBU which meant no indoor facility for players to develop.

Soccer Cape Breton, now under Wil's leadership as President, kept the children engaged and then he steered the organisation back towards a new technical direction in 2022.

Wil is both selfless and humble and does not hold his position for plaudits but for a genuine love of the game and for furthering sport in his community.

Lan Gallagher - Halifax City

Lan has been heavily involved as a team manager and parent with HCSC for many years. Her positive and energetic outlook draws people in as well as her amazing ability to to organize any project she takes on with the club. Lan goes above and beyond to help keep families and players organized and informed of upcoming practices, games and events. She efficiently relays important communications between the club and players and does so diplomatically. Lan is a dedicated mum, fan, and manager who has given huge amounts of her time and in doing so made a significant and positive contribution to the players, families and coaches alike.

Award Winners

Regional Volunteers of the Year

Kelly Legatto - United DFC

Kelly Legatto has been a volunteer manager and volunteer board member for United DFC since its inception in 2018. She was the club registrar at the time of the merger and did an incredible volume of critical and meticulous work during that time. Kelly's love of the game and her realization of the positive impact soccer can have on teenage girls in terms of self-esteem make her exceptional. She is a positive role model who serves her community as a volunteer at the team and club level. She is a selfless person who, as a team manager, makes the challenging role of coaching easier for those who choose to take it on. In addition to her empathy, emotional intelligence and social connections, Kelly stands out for her dependability and work ethic. Kelly's service to our soccer community has been outstanding and absolutely embodies the principle of Soccer Nova Scotia.

Brendan Coyle - Highland

Brendan has provided countless volunteer hours in developing the sport of soccer in Northern Nova. From creating the grassroots program, to supporting the competitive coaches, recruiting volunteers and supervising the summer staff. Brendan has done it all by providing his time, and efforts in building the club culture in the region, which included working with the town to get a club house. He brings a passion and enthusiasm that the club and region is grateful for.

Award Winners

Regional Volunteers of the Year

Allison & Peter Craig - South Shore

Allison & Peter Craig have brought life back into a soccer community that is turning a page, to a bright future.

Allison stepped in the District President's role bringing a level of professionalism and true desire to help bring purpose, function and a vision to our area that will reap rewards. Her desire to not just be in the chair but to ask questions, task others with meaningful work, investigate the best solutions with a true desire to have everyone's input is amazing. We are becoming a functional and collective group who are looking to assist each other to improve for all!

Peter, also a longtime member of our soccer community, has taken on the role of vice president for South Shore United as well as a coach within the club and a member at large on the District board. Peter easily connects with players, parents, coaches and the community with positivity and an obvious desire to help anyone who needs it. His organization and expansion of programming through empowering others and drawing in great volunteer coaches and youth are a testament to his love of the game and helping others realize the benefits it can bring.

These two have stepped up far and above expectations. Their desire to have the game grow in quality, function and inclusion set an example for all.

Johnanne Lohnes - Suburban FC

Johnanne was an amazing volunteer for Suburban FC. Johnanne was our 'Manager of Managers' so she was integral to the on-boarding, support and operations for all of our Team Managers. On top of this role, Johnanne managed the U15AAA boys. Johnanne played a vital role in our club trips to the Umbro (70+ players) and the U15 National tournament. Johnanne was on top of every task and responsibility and things would not have gone so smoothly if it wasn't for Johnanne!

Award Winners

Innovative Program Award

Ignite Soccer - The Newcomers Program

Provinces across Canada are being transformed by immigration in all areas and it is the responsibility of all sport and physical activity leaders to ensure that the system is accessible to all Canadians. We all must become familiar with, and empathetic to, the unique circumstances that prevent some newcomers from fully participating in sport and physical activity. That's what Ignite Soccer did. They stepped up, with the help of a grant from Sport Nova Scotia, they chose to expand their programming to meet the needs of newcomers.

The Newcomers program was conceived as a program of up to one hour, twice a week, for children aged 4-18. Coached by apprentice newcomer coaches, supervised and mentored by experienced Ignite Soccer Club coaches and were provided with several opportunities such as exposure to the Halifax club environment, affiliation with a local club, coach development as well as potential coaching positions within the club.

Additionally, newcomer coaches looking for playing opportunities for themselves, children, family and/or friends were able to join our senior team or find a team with an established connection to their local club. The involvement in the club scene provides coaches with additional knowledge for how the soccer structure works in Nova Scotia and Canada.

Award Winners

Woman of Distinction

Chelsea Currie - Cape Breton FC

Chelsea Currie is a figure of inspiration for the young female soccer players of Cape Breton.

A Varsity player on the powerhouse Cape Breton University program, Chelsea has gone on to become a coach at Cape Breton FC and a hugely influential figure with the U18AA Girls squad.

This season her team won a Provincial silver medal and produced three more graduates into the CBU roster.

Chelsea goes above and beyond in her work with her players and designed and delivered sessions in mental strength and performance allied with sterling work on the field.

For now she has moved on in her career journey to work in Toronto and coach with the top-rated North Toronto Nitros club.

Chelsea, though, knows she has left behind a huge debt of gratitude from all of those who have played for her and coached with her on the island of Cape Breton.

Award Winners

Female Team of the Year

Canada Games Girls - Team Nova Scotia

The Women's Canada Games team had an exceptional tournament leading to a bronze medal for only the third time in Nova Scotia's history. The exceptional performances of each team member lead this group to their achievement.

They worked diligently for over 3 years to perform at the Canada Games, though what will be the most unique process in history due to the pandemic. Through twists and turns this group was unrelenting in their pursuit of excellent. During the process they won Canada Games Atlantic Championships going undefeated in the process. They were New York City Cup Champions, again going undefeated. Finally, the team finished in first place in the regular season in the senior women's league, only losing one game throughout the season.

During the Canada Games, the team turn in remarkable performances. Winning their opening game 2-0 over Newfoundland and then topped their group with a win over New Brunswick in penalties, where they didn't miss a shot to clinch victory. The group lost to Ontario in the Semi-Final, a team made up of mostly national team players, who had just won the league one championship in Ontario. In the bronze medal game they faced Alberta, and put together their most complete display as a group, ending up with a 1-0 victory.

The performance of this group can't be understated based on all they went through as a group to reach the games. The connection the group had on and off the field was a decisive factor in their ability to battle adversity and reach the podium.

Award Winners

Male Team of the Year

U15AA Boys - Cape Breton FC

Cape Breton FC's U15AA Boys emerged from a very competitive bracket to be crowned Provincial Champions this summer.

Coached by Alasdair Dunbar, Mary-Rose MacDonnell and Justin DePodesta the boys entertained in a free-scoring way in the Finals and were a credit to the island on and off the field.

Many of these players are part of the project now to develop over the next two years and then field a U17AAA Boys team from the island in 2024.