



## **Swim Yukon and Whitehorse Glacier Bears Swim Club Award Guidelines**

### **Background:**

In an effort to harmonize the annual award process, the two organizations have agreed to prepare a joint policy to outline the criteria to be applied to the award process and to ensure each organization's responsibility is clear. This will ensure that each organization will recognise the level of achievement desired with no duplication of effort and a coordinated approach.

For the purposes of this guideline there are two award events: The Sport Yukon Awards Night that is held annually in November of each year and the season end event the WGBSC holds annually at the end of each swim season.

Fundamentally Swim Yukon will award performance. The Whitehorse Glacier Bears Swim Club has indicated a desire to award the other beneficial aspects at the season end event. Swim Yukon is also called upon to nominate swimmers for various high performance awards sponsored by Yukon Community Services Sport and Recreation Branch and Sport Yukon.

The major award event of the year for sport in Yukon is the Sport Yukon awards night. At this event a number of awards are given out for various levels of achievement. These awards are listed below and give context to this event and to the awards that Swim Yukon (SY) and the Whitehorse Glacier Bears Swim Club (WGBSC) award at this event.

### **Sport Yukon Awards include:**

Hall of Fame Induction,  
Administrator of the Year,  
Coach of the Year,  
Team of the Year,  
International Male and Female Athletes of the Year,  
National / Territorial Female and Male Athletes of the Year.  
Awards of Distinction, these are at the discretion of the sport organisations

### **Government of Yukon Awards:**

Community Recreation Leadership Awards,  
Awards of Excellence,  
Awards of Recognition.

See appendix A for nomination criteria for these awards.

Each year Swim Yukon is sent nomination forms for both the Government of Yukon and Sport Yukon Awards. See appendix B for nomination criteria for these awards. (Yukon awards have defined criteria, Sport Yukon awards less so.)

For the Sport Yukon Awards of Distinction (the title of these awards changes from time to time) Swim Yukon's approach and practice to date has been to solely award based on high performance swimming results. This has varied depending on the level of achievement that swimmers have obtained, from a minimum of achieving BC Provincial AAA criteria to National criteria. In 2014 for example the SY Board decided on AAA criteria at any time during the swim season, regardless of whether the swimmer aged up. Swim Yukon must also take into account swimmers that are still Yukon residents but swimming or training at university, national or international level. This also could mean the swimmer is no longer swimming under the WGBSC or representing Yukon. Each season the SY Board reviews the accomplishments of all Yukon swimmers and makes the appropriate nominations. In recent years SY has awarded: international swimmer of the year to a swimmer or swimmers who have swam at an international level. An example would be representing Canada or a university at an international swim meet, national swimmer of the year to a swimmer or swimmers who have achieved national times and territorial to a swimmer or swimmers who have achieved Swim BC provincial championship level AAA or AA as determined by the Swim Yukon Board. The time-frame for considering these awards is September to August of each swim season.

#### **Whitehorse Glacier Bears Swim Club Awards:**

##### **WGB – Sport Yukon Awards.**

Historically, WGB has made provision for Development Awards at the Sport Yukon Award Evening. In some years it has been for both Junior Swimmers (1 to 2 awards) and Senior Swimmers (1 to 2 awards), but in other years, it has been only a total of 2 Development Awards. WGB has also consistently awarded a Volunteer of the year, over a number of years.

The Development Awards have been Head Coach nominated and in general are awarded to swimmers who have not achieved the level of performance that Sport Yukon are awarding, but are showing potential for that level.

WGB will continue to award the Development Level, with 2 to 6 awards dependent upon the number of potential recipients. For example, if Swim Yukon pick up all the AAA qualifiers, then the WGB Development Award should pick up the AA qualifiers. If Swim Yukon also pick up the AA qualifiers, then WGB pick up the highest A qualifiers.

## **WGB End of Season Awards.**

The WGB end of Season Awards, are usually held in June. The awards cover the period from May, the Long Course Season of the previous year, to April (just before the awards). The awards reflect the WGB Mission statement;-"**Our mission:** To provide the resources for swimmers to develop and excel in the sport of competitive swimming, to his or her potential." The awards reflect this mission, and reward improvement, achievement in competitive levels, and in the spirit of 'potentials', other skill development such as leadership. Rewarding excellence, improvement and leadership demonstrates to the emerging swimmers, the life lessons that our mission elucidates.

The WGB awards are as follows;

- One "Most Improved" (marked improvement in swimming ability and attitude) and one "Leadership" award for each Bear level – chosen by the coach of that group.
- "Rookie of the Year". Awarded to a first year swimmer with the greatest potential or improvement – chosen by the Head Coach in consultation with the other coaches.
- Kelly Patrick Spirit Award – Most Enthusiastic Teddy.
- "Ryan Downing Award" for most improvement in 200m IM for a male and a female. Recipients are determined based on times used from the Yukon Invitational Championship meet the year before to the Yukon Invitational Championship of the current year. This award is given in memory of Ryan Downing (former Whitehorse Glacier Bear) whose favourite event was the 200m IM.
- Swimmer of the Year – to the swimmer who places the best at the highest level of competition.