

Coaches of the Year – Selection Guidelines

The Selection Committee will generally be made up of:

- Chair of the USATT Coaching Committee, who shall chair the committee
- Chair of the USATT High Performance Committee
- Chair of the Athlete's Advisory Committee
- USATT High Performance Director

Schedule

1. The Call for Nominations should go up the first week in November.
2. Nominations are due on January 1.
3. Selections should be made the first week in January.

General Guidelines

1. Nominations can be sent in by USATT members, including letters of support, as well as by members of the High Performance Committee, Athletes Advisory Council, or Coaching Committee.
2. The Coaching Chair and High Performance Director shall be jointly responsible for putting out a Call for Nominations, and a news item publicizing the results.
3. If a member of the Selection Committee is not available, then the USATT CEO may appoint a replacement.
4. The High Performance Director will be in charge of collecting, tabulating, and distributing nominations to the Selection Committee.
5. The Selection Committee may discuss the nominees by email, teleconference, or any other method they choose.
6. Selections shall be based on a coach's work during the calendar year for which the award is given.
7. A coach may be selected in more than one category, although this will be reserved for instances of exceptional accomplishments.
8. A coach should generally not be selected for a category not nominated in.
9. Members of the Selection Committee may occasionally be nominated. If so, while under consideration that person shall be excused from discussions of that category, and shall leave any phone teleconference and not be CCed in email discussions.
10. All nominees must pass SafeSport.
11. Selections shall generally be made as follows: For each category, after adequate discussion, the Selection Committee shall vote on the nominees in each category, starting with the categories with the least nominations. If any coach receives a majority of the votes, that coach wins. If no coach receives a majority, then the coach or coaches with the least number of votes shall be taken out, and the committee shall vote again, and continue in this fashion until a coach wins a majority. If there is a tie that cannot be broken, then the two coaches shall be declared co-winners.

The coaches are selected annually in five categories:

- [National Coach of the Year](#)
- [Mark Nordby Developmental Coach of the Year](#)
- [Volunteer Coach of the Year](#)
- [Paralympic Coach of the Year](#)
- [Doc Counsilman \(Technology\) Coach of the Year](#)

Below are the specific criteria for selection in each category.

- **A National Coach of the Year** nominee is a coach of an Elite Level Club, Collegiate, Pan-Am, World Championship or Olympic Games coach or the coach of an elite athlete who competes at the highest level of your sport. The nominee must currently be coaching or within their first year of retirement.
- **A Mark Nordby Developmental Coach of the Year** nominee is coach of a youth club, school, or junior-level coach, or a coach directly responsible for coaching athletes to the junior and/or elite level. The nominee must currently be coaching or within their first year of retirement. The developmental coaches' applications should address the following areas: record/performance or athletes; service to their sport; coaching character; honors they receive as a coach; service to their community; honors/recognition of their athletes.
- **A Volunteer Coach of the Year** nominee is a coach who does not receive payment in any form for their involvement in coaching. The nominee must be actively coaching athletes or within their first year of retirement. The volunteer coaches' applications should address service to their sport, service to their community, coaching character, record/performance of their athletes, honors/recognition of their athletes, and honors they receive as a coach.
- **A National Paralympic Coach of the Year** nominee is a coach of an Elite Level Club, Collegiate, Para Pan-Am, World Championship or Paralympic Games coach or the coach of an elite athlete who competes at the highest level of your sport. The nominee must currently be coaching or within their first year of retirement.
- **The "Doc" Counsilman Award** is for a coach that utilizes scientific techniques/equipment as an integral part of his/her coaching methods, or has created innovative ways to use sport science which includes, biomechanics, nutrition, psychology, technology, strength and conditioning, and exercise physiology. The coaches' applications should address the integration of sport science, impact on performance, honors they receive as a coach, and contribution to the sport.