

Welsh Athletics Service Awards

Historical notes

An award scheme for athletics in Wales was first established in the 1950's by the Welsh Amateur Athletics Association. The Award of Honour was established in 1952 and was intended to mark outstanding service over a long period of time. The Meritorious Award followed two years later and was intended to reward individuals who had served for a shorter period.

For individuals who had made an exceptional contribution to the sport, further recognition was established whereby a small group of individuals were elected as Life Members of the association. The number of Life Members being restricted to a maximum of ten.

In the major reorganisation of athletics in Wales the Welsh AAA, the Welsh Women's AAA and the Welsh Cross Country Association was combined to form the Athletics Association of Wales. At this juncture the new body opted to continue with the Meritorious Award but delayed the continuation of the Award of Honour until 1995.

When Welsh Athletics became a limited company in 2007, the three categories cited above were retained.

As the sport evolved there have been discussions relating to the need for athletes to be recognised within the service awards framework. At the 2017 Annual General Meeting the Awards Panel presented a discussion document as a basis for the further development of the Service Awards portfolio. As a result, the Service Awards Panel were invited to submit a revised document to include a specific award for athletes who do not meet the criteria to be included in the Hall of Fame but have made a significant contribution to athletics in Wales. The addition of the Athlete Achievement Award was approved at the 2018 Annual General Meeting.

The criteria for the Service Awards cited below are also documented in the Welsh Athletics Byelaws.

Criteria for the Service Awards portfolio;

Award of Honour

- This award is open to individuals given in recognition of exceptional service to athletics in Wales.
- The award is made in recognition of a minimum of twenty five years of active service to the sport at club, schools, regional and or national level.
- Individuals would normally have already received Meritorious Award but in exceptional cases the award may be given for outstanding services to athletics in Wales.
- An individual may only receive an Award of Honour once but all achievements should be fully documented in the citation for the award and the records held by Welsh Athletics Ltd.

Meritorious Award

- This award is open to individuals for services to clubs, schools, regional or national level.
- This award is made in recognition for services to athletics over a minimum period of fifteen years of active service to our sport. All achievements relating to the individual should be fully documented in the citation for the award and the records held by Welsh Athletics Ltd.
- Individuals are only eligible to receive one Meritorious Award for services to athletics in Wales.

Athlete Achievement Award

- This award is open to athletes who have competed for Welsh Athletics at senior level who do not meet the criteria to be included in the Welsh Athletics Hall of Fame but have given outstanding service as an athlete to our sport.
- Athletes who have competed in at least two major championships, this will apply to all athletics disciplines.
- Athletes who have won at least ten Senior Welsh Championships in any of the recognised athletics disciplines.

LISTEN ENGAGE REPRESENT



- Consideration may also be given to an outstanding contribution given by an athlete to club, regional and national representation over an extended period of time.
- Selection for this award will not preclude an athlete being considered for the Hall of Fame later.

Life Membership

- Life membership of Welsh Athletics Ltd will be reserved for individuals who have given long, exceptional and distinguished service to athletics in Wales at either National or Regional level.

At any one time, the number of Life Members shall be restricted to a maximum of ten members.

**Please note that Welsh Athletics currently have ten Life Members
They are:**

Ivor Adams, Alan Currie, Hedydd Davies, Lynette Harries, Keith Matthews, Jan Nugent, Barrie Owen, John Penny, David Alun Williams, Clive Williams.

The Roll of Honour

The Roll of Honour prompted by the late Mrs Irene Lisle was established at an AAW AGM at Deeside College. This was set up to serve as a record of those individuals who have received an award; their names are listed each year in an updated form in the Welsh Athletics Limited Annual Report and on the Welsh Athletics website.

Who can nominate an individual for an award?

Any individual with a link to athletics in Wales can make a nomination.

A nomination form is included with these notes. Anyone planning to make a nomination is asked to complete the form as fully as possible and return it to the Welsh Athletics Office by the date indicated below. Clear evidence of the of the required length of service by a volunteer or the involvement of an athlete in the sport would be greatly appreciated.

What happens to nominations?

All nominations are considered by the Service Awards Panel.

The Service Awards Panel has three possible options

(a) To recommend the nomination to the AGM.

(b) To return the nomination to the nominating individual or organisation with a request for further information. In this case the nominator must provide the extra information in time for the Awards Panel to consider the nomination again before the AGM.

Or

(c) To reject the nomination because the evidence of the required criteria has not been met.

The panel reserve the right to nominate individuals for an award if it is felt that an individual has been overlooked.

A member of the panel will present its findings to the AGM.

For those awards approved by the AGM the President who chairs the panel will contact each individual within a month to inform him/her of the award and to ascertain when and where and by whom the individual wishes to receive the award.

Queries

If you wish to nominate an individual for an award but have a query, please contact Welsh Athletics on 02920644870.

Nomination form

The nomination form is now online. To nominate please complete the [2019 Welsh Athletics Service Awards nomination form](#).