

# Welsh Athletics & Run Wales Awards 2026

From standout athletes and dedicated volunteers to inspiring events and communities, the Welsh Athletics and Run Wales Awards celebrate achievements across the season.

## Submission notes

Please read the below carefully before submitting any nominations:

- The eligibility period for all awards is 1 September 2025 to 23 August 2026, i.e. evidenced activities and achievements will have taken place during this period
- Only submissions made via the online form will be accepted and no late entries can be considered.
- Please refer to the criteria prior to making a submission.
- The decision of the panel is final.
- For public submissions, please complete a new form for each nomination you wish to make (except for the Athletes' Athlete Award, where only one nomination per representative athlete will be accepted)
- The deadline for nominations is 23:59 on Sunday 23 August 2026.

## Club, Group and Event Awards

### Off-Track Club of the Year

This award recognises a club that has made an outstanding contribution to the sport away from the track. The awarded club demonstrates excellence in organisation, governance, and community engagement, providing a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment for athletes, members, volunteers, and families. It shows strong commitment to athlete welfare, development opportunities, and positive club culture, alongside effective communication and collaboration with volunteers and officials. Through innovative initiatives, sustained volunteering effort, and a clear dedication to growing and promoting athletics, the club has had a meaningful and lasting impact beyond the track or field.

Eligibility criteria:

- The nominated club must primarily focus on off-track disciplines
- Must be a Welsh Athletics affiliated club that holds all seven club standards

### Club of the Year

This award recognises a club that has demonstrated outstanding overall excellence and made a significant contribution to athletics throughout the season. The recipient club shows strong leadership, effective organisation, and a positive, inclusive culture that supports athletes of all ages and abilities, including juniors. It provides high-quality coaching, officiating and development opportunities, promotes athlete welfare, and encourages participation, performance, and enjoyment of the sport. The club values and supports its volunteers and

officials, works collaboratively within the athletics community, and represents the sport with pride, integrity, and commitment both on and off the track or field.

Eligibility criteria:

- Must be a Welsh Athletics affiliated club that holds all seven club standards

### **Group of the Year**

This award is given to a group that consistently encourages participation and enjoyment of running, regardless of ability or experience, and creates a positive and friendly atmosphere for its members. The group demonstrates strong organisation and commitment through regular, well-run sessions and activities, promotes wellbeing and social connection, and actively supports new and existing runners. Through its enthusiasm, inclusivity, and community spirit, the group helps grow and promote recreational running and leaves a lasting positive impact beyond performance or competition.

Eligibility criteria:

- Must be a registered as a Run Wales Group

### **Event of the Year**

This award recognises an outstanding event that has delivered excellence across all aspects. This includes the standard of event organisation, the atmosphere and engagement of spectators, and the reach and impact of media coverage. Events that demonstrate innovation in presentation, promote inclusivity, and leave a lasting legacy by inspiring participation and raising the profile of athletics will stand out as worthy recipients of this award.

Eligibility criteria:

- When relating to a competitive event it must have been awarded a Welsh Athletics licence

## **Workforce Awards**

### **Run Wales Run Leader/Coach of the Year**

This award celebrates a Run Wales Leader who brings energy, enthusiasm, and a strong sense of community to every session. More than just leading runs, this individual plays a vital role in making running accessible, enjoyable, and inclusive for all. Whether supporting newcomers, leading parkrun tourism, encouraging regulars, or creating a welcoming environment week after week, they embody the spirit of social running. Their commitment helps build confidence, connection, and wellbeing across their running community.

Eligibility criteria:

- Hold an active LiRF or CiRF qualification

### **Coach of the Year (regionally selected)**

This award recognises a coach who has demonstrated outstanding commitment, expertise, and impact throughout the season. The recipient consistently supports the development and wellbeing of their athletes, creating a positive, inclusive, and motivating training environment. They show strong technical knowledge, effective communication, and professionalism, helping athletes progress and achieve their potential. Beyond results, the award acknowledges leadership, dedication, and the ability to inspire confidence, enjoyment, and long-term engagement in athletics.

**NOTE:** For 2026, the Regional Athletics Councils will select regional winners who will then be automatically shortlisted for the National award.

Eligibility criteria:

- The individual must hold an active athletics coaching licence (Coaching Assistant as minimum)

### **Performance Coach of the Year**

This award recognises a coach who has demonstrated exceptional skill, dedication, and impact over the past year. Through their expert guidance and high-level coaching, they have helped athletes reach elite standards, achieving success on national and international stages. Beyond results, this coach exemplifies professionalism, innovation, and a deep commitment to athlete welfare, fostering environments where high performance and personal growth go hand in hand.

Eligibility criteria:

- The individual must hold an active athletics coaching licence (Athletics Coach as minimum)

### **Official of the Year**

This award recognises an official who is highly respected for their fairness, consistency, and professionalism throughout the season. The recipient demonstrates excellent knowledge and application of the rules, makes clear and confident decisions under pressure, and ensures competitions are conducted safely, smoothly, and impartially. They are reliable, well-prepared, and committed to officiating at events, often going above and beyond what is required. The official treats athletes, coaches, and fellow officials with respect, contributes positively to the officiating team, and acts as a role model and ambassador for athletics both on and off the field of play.

Eligibility criteria:

- The individual must be qualified to a minimum of Level 1 standard

## Volunteer of the Year

This award recognises an individual whose commitment and selfless contribution have had a significant positive impact on the sport. The recipient consistently gives their time and energy willingly, showing reliability, enthusiasm, and pride in supporting athletics events, programmes, or operations. They carry out their role with dedication and professionalism, often going above and beyond what is expected, and are highly valued by their community. Through their positive attitude, support of others, and passion for athletics, they help create a welcoming, inclusive, and well-run environment and serve as an outstanding ambassador for the sport.

## Young Volunteer of the Year

This award recognises an individual aged **25 or under** whose enthusiasm, commitment, and positive attitude have made a meaningful contribution to athletics. The recipient consistently gives their time willingly, demonstrates reliability and initiative, and approaches their volunteering role with energy and professionalism beyond their years. They show a genuine passion for supporting events, athletes, officials, or programmes, and are respected for their willingness to learn, take responsibility, and help wherever needed. Through their positivity, teamwork, and dedication, they enhance the experience of others and represent the future of athletics volunteering in an outstanding way.

Eligibility criteria:

- The individual must be aged 25 or under on 23 August 2026.

## Athlete Awards

### Male and Female Rising Star Awards – selected by Welsh Athletics

The awards recognise a young male and female athlete who have shown exceptional promise, progression, and potential in athletics during the season. The recipients will have demonstrated significant improvement in performance, a strong competitive attitude, and a clear commitment to training and development. They will approach competition with focus, determination, and respect for the sport, earning recognition from coaches and peers alike. Beyond results, the award acknowledges positive behaviour, coachability, and a willingness to learn, marking the athletes as an exciting prospect and a role model for other young athletes within the sport.

Eligibility criteria:

- The individual must be affiliated to Welsh Athletics
- The individual must be an U20 athlete or younger

### Off-Track Athlete of the Year – selected by Welsh Athletics

This award recognises an athlete who has delivered outstanding performances and made an exceptional overall contribution to athletics away from the track during the season. The recipient will demonstrate a consistently high standard of competition, commitment to training, and a strong competitive mindset, achieving results that reflect excellence and progression.

Beyond performance, they show professionalism, integrity, and respect for the sport, acting as a positive role model for others.

Eligibility criteria:

- The individual must be affiliated to Welsh Athletics

### **Male and Female Athlete of the Year Awards – selected by Welsh Athletics**

The awards recognise a male and female athlete who have delivered outstanding performances and made an exceptional overall contribution to athletics during the season. The recipients demonstrate a consistently high standard of competition, commitment to training, and a strong competitive mindset, achieving results that reflect excellence and progression. Beyond performance, they show professionalism, integrity, and respect for the sport, acting as a positive role model for others. Through their dedication, conduct, and impact on and off the track or field, the athletes represent the very best of athletics.

Eligibility criteria:

- The individual must be affiliated to Welsh Athletics

### **Athletes' Athlete of the Year – selected by representative athletes**

This award recognises an individual who has earned the respect and admiration of their peers through exceptional performances, unwavering dedication, and a positive presence within the sport. Successful nominations will demonstrate inspiring achievements, sportsmanship, leadership, or support for others and how this athlete stands out not just for what they do, but for how they make those around them feel.

Eligibility criteria:

- The nominated athlete must have represented Wales or Great Britain at senior level between 1 September 2025 and 23 August 2026.
- This award is open to nominations only from athletes that have represented Wales or Great Britain at senior level between 1 September 2025 and 23 August 2026.
  - All athletes eligible to vote in this category will be contacted in August.