



British Rowing Awards

2025 Award Criteria

TEAMWORK | OPEN TO ALL | COMMITMENT



Welcome to the British Rowing Awards! Click on the individual award name for further info.

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*New award for 2025.

Two additional awards are decided by British Rowing's Junior Rowing and Rowing Safety Committees. These are **The Beryl Crockford Award** for outstanding contribution to junior rowing, and the **National Safety Award**.

The panel awarding the British Rowing Medal of Merit may take the decision for any exceptional nominations to be put forward for the **Medal of Honour**. This is awarded for Outstanding Service to Rowing and is not presented lightly.

Not sure which category your nominee fits best in? Email us at awards@britishrowing.org. You have until [midnight on Monday, 10 November 2025](#) to get your nominations in, so don't delay!

Nominate Now



Key information for nominations

- Multiple nominations of the same nominee for any award do not influence the Judging Panels. Decisions will be based on the quality of the nomination. Where groups wish to nominate an individual/crew/coach, this should be reflected within a single high-quality nomination.
- **To help the panels assess all nominations, please ensure that your supporting text is no longer than 2500 characters.**

Volunteer of the Year

This award is for volunteers of every kind who have contributed significantly to the sport, for the benefit of the wider rowing community, during October 2024 to September 2025.

The criteria for this award are intentionally broad, to include as wide a potential group of nominees as possible.

- As guidance, we anticipate that nominees will be individuals who have contributed significant time and effort to a community club, school or university, or another organisation or project connected to rowing, or to their Regional Rowing Council, or to a local or national competition, during October 2024 to September 2025.
- Nominees could be a visible leader, but equally they can also be an unsung hero. They may have delivered a project or an outcome, or have been exceptionally dedicated in a behind-the-scenes role. They will have been a positive influence on their rowing peers, and should demonstrate a strong alignment with the core values of their club and of British Rowing.
- Nominees should be unpaid volunteers who are current members of British Rowing.
- Regional winners for this category from all 10 British Rowing Regions will be selected by our Regional Chairs. All Regional winners will be invited to join us at the British Rowing Awards.

Young Volunteer of the Year

This award is for exceptional young volunteers that have contributed significantly to the sport, for the benefit of the rowing community, during October 2024 to September 2025. Nominees should be 25 or under by 10 November 2025 (although nominees that fall just outside of this age group may be accepted at British Rowing's discretion).



- These young people could have been involved at a club, school or university, or another organisation or project connected to rowing, including local and national competitions.
- Although they may currently be rowing or coxing, the Young Volunteer Award is mainly for individuals who have helped others in a rowing context through their actions. The award is both for their existing contribution, and the future potential that you see in them.
- This award is for unpaid volunteers only who are current members of British Rowing.
- Regional winners for this category from all 10 British Rowing Regions will be selected by our Regional Chairs. All Regional winners will be invited to join us at the British Rowing Awards.

Lifetime Achievement Award

This award is for volunteers of every kind, to recognise a lifetime of achievement and dedication to the sport of rowing.

The criteria for this award are intentionally broad, to include as wide a potential group of nominees as possible.

- As a guide, nominees for this award may be individuals that have helped to grow the sport significantly, or contributed many years' service to a club, school or university, or a Regional Rowing Council, or to a local or national competition.
- They may be individuals who stand out in the rowing community for their exceptional dedication and commitment, but equally they could be unsung heroes who have put in many years of work behind the scenes.
- They will have been a positive influence on their rowing peers, and should demonstrate a strong alignment with the core values of their club and of British Rowing.
- All nominees in this category should be current members of British Rowing.

British Rowing Medal of Merit

The British Rowing Medal of Merit recognises those who have made an exceptional contribution to rowing in their club, region or at a national level. The contribution may have been over a period of many years or as part of delivering a specific outcome in the past year.

- As guidance, we anticipate that nominees will be individuals or organisations who have contributed significant time and effort to rowing.



- Nominees could be a visible leader, but equally they can also be an unsung hero or have been exceptionally dedicated behind-the-scenes who have provided an outstanding contribution to the sport.
- The British Rowing Medal of Merit is awarded for outstanding service to rowing and is not presented lightly.

Affiliated Club of the Year

This award is an open category for clubs that are currently affiliated to British Rowing. The criteria for this award are intentionally broad, to include as wide a potential group of clubs as possible.

The British Rowing Affiliated Club of the Year will be forward-thinking and well-run, with a thriving membership base of any size.

- We particularly encourage nominations from clubs that reflect the British Rowing value of being 'Open to all', and can cite examples in their nomination of how they demonstrate this through their club activities, through links to their community, or through other means.
- Anyone can nominate an affiliated club for this award, and a club can nominate itself.
- From the list of nominated clubs, a shortlist will be chosen by our Awards Panel, with one club selected and announced as Club of the Year.

Club Crew of the Year

This award is for adult club crews with outstanding achievements over the course of October 2024 to September 2025 (for junior club crews, please see the School or Junior Crew of the Year category).

- Club crews can be nominated for their achievements over a successful year of racing, however we also encourage nominations for crews with notable achievements of other kinds, e.g. crews that have faced and overcome adversity, have achieved beyond their expectations, etc.
- Any level of adult crew can be nominated, from beginners upwards, and any category, e.g. Coastal, Masters, adaptive, etc. To qualify for this award, crews must be, or have been, based at a British Rowing affiliated club.
- From the list of nominations, a shortlist of club crews will be chosen by our Awards Panel, with one crew selected and announced as Club Crew of the Year.



University Crew of the Year

This award is for university crews with outstanding achievements between October 2024 to September 2025.

- Crews can be nominated for their achievements over a successful year of racing, however, we also encourage nominations for crews with notable achievements of other kinds, e.g. crews that have faced and overcome adversity, have achieved beyond their expectations, etc.
- Any level of university crew can be nominated, from beginners upwards. To qualify for this award, crews must be, or have been, based at a British Rowing affiliated university.
- From the list of nominations, a shortlist of university crews will be chosen by our Awards Panel, with one crew selected and announced as University Crew of the Year.

Junior or School Crew of the Year

This award is for junior club and school crews with outstanding achievements in the 2025 calendar year, or over the course of the 2024/2025 season.

- Crews can be nominated for their achievements over a successful year of racing, however, we also encourage nominations for crews with notable achievements of other kinds, e.g. crews who have faced and overcome adversity, have achieved beyond their expectations, etc.
- Any level of crew can be nominated, from beginners upwards. To qualify for this award, crews must have been based in J18 age groups or under at the time of their achievements (i.e. they can be of any junior age). They must also be, or have been, based at a British Rowing affiliated school or club.
- From the list of nominations, a shortlist of crews will be chosen by our Awards Panel, with one crew selected and announced as Junior or School Crew of the Year.



Environmental Sustainability Award

This award will recognise outstanding contributions to sustainability and environmental protection. This award celebrates individuals, affiliated clubs, and initiatives that are leading the way in eco-friendly practices, showcasing their commitment to a more sustainable future.

Examples may include:

- ❖ A project that has had a wide impact at the club/in the local community.
 - ❖ An individual who has led the club in sustainable projects/behaviours.
 - ❖ A club that has embraced environmental sustainability with a series of initiatives.
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- Nominations should describe the above and its impact or progress towards the goal, including how the project or individual has engaged people either in the environment and/or the community more broadly.
 - Anyone can nominate a person, club or project from any region (self-nominations are also welcome).
 - From the list of nominations, a shortlist will be chosen by our Awards Panel, with one crew selected and announced as winner of the Environmental Sustainability Award.

Welfare, Wellbeing, and Inclusion Award

This award will recognise outstanding contributions to welfare, well-being, and inclusion and celebrate individuals, affiliated clubs, and initiatives that are leading the way in promoting dignity within the sport of rowing.

Examples may include:

- ❖ An individual / project that demonstrates robust safeguarding practices in line with British Rowing's guidance and fosters a culture of trust and accountability.
- ❖ An individual who is driving positive cultural change within the club, region, or wider rowing community by introducing new initiatives, partnerships, or programmes that improve welfare, wellbeing, or inclusion.
- ❖ An individual / project that promotes positive physical, mental, and emotional well-being across the club or programme (provides resources, signposts members to initiatives like peer support networks, encourages healthy training environments that balance performance with participation and personal welfare).



- ❖ An individual / project that demonstrates a clear commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion by encouraging best practice and ensuring rowing is accessible to all.
 - ❖ An individual / project that creates opportunities for those in underrepresented groups or celebrates the diversity of its members, allowing them to thrive.
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- Nominations should describe the above and its impact or progress towards the goal, including how the project or individual has engaged people either in welfare, inclusion and/or the community more broadly.
 - Anyone can nominate a person, club or project from any region (self-nominations are also welcome).
 - From the list of nominations, a shortlist will be chosen by our Awards Panel, with one crew selected and announced as the winner of the Welfare, Wellbeing and Inclusion Award.



Coaching Awards

There are five Coaching awards, based on the type of activity the coach, or coaches, are involved in. These are:

- Talent Development Coach
- Community Coach
- Coaching Team
- Young Coach
- Inclusive Coach

You can nominate yourself for these awards, or nominate a coach (or team) you want to recognise. To nominate, please fill in the form via the button above, letting us know who you're nominating and why. The recipients will be chosen by a British Rowing coaching panel.

NB: Decisions will be made on the quality of the nomination and not the number of nominations for a coach/ing team. Where groups wish to nominate a coach/team, this should be reflected within one nomination form.

Talent Development Coach of the Year

This award is for coaches who have led the development of a programme in a club, school or university, which supports rowers to understand performance, and recognises success at every stage of the talent development process.

Nominees should be current British Rowing Coach members and over the age of 18. They should have a coaching qualification relevant to rowing and recognised by British Rowing. All nominees who are coaching junior crews must have current DBS clearance with British Rowing.

The judging panel will base their decision on the following criteria:

- Evidence of coaching which understands the needs of each individual athlete.
- A coach who has committed to their own development and wellbeing.
- Dedication to improving the sport of rowing and the experiences of those in it.
- Consistent exemplary ethical coaching behaviours.
- An understanding of the impact of coaching beyond the speed of the boat.
- A significant impact on athletes involved in higher level performance.
- An ambitious and inspiring vision being brought to life.



Community Coach of the Year

This award is for coaches who have made the most significant impact on their local community by providing opportunities to become involved in the sport of rowing.

Nominees should be current British Rowing members and over the age of 18. They should have a coaching qualification relevant to rowing and recognised by British Rowing. All nominees who are coaching junior crews must have current DBS clearance with British Rowing.

The judging panel will base their decision the following criteria:

- Evidence that the coach has inspired inclusivity in the sport.
- Use of creative coaching to engage people in the sport.
- Evidence of coaching which understands the needs of the local community and each individual participant.
- A coach who has committed to their own development and wellbeing.
- Dedication to improving the sport of rowing and the experiences of those in it.
- Consistently shows exemplary ethical coaching behaviours.
- Demonstrated a commitment to making rowing an accessible and inclusive sport.

Young Coach of the Year

This award is for exceptional young coaches who have contributed significantly to the sport, for the benefit of the rowing community, during October 2024 to September 2025. Nominees should be a British Rowing Coach member and 25 years old or under by 10 November 2025 (although nominees that fall just outside of this age group may be accepted at British Rowing's discretion). All nominees over 18 years old, who are coaching junior crews must have current DBS clearance with British Rowing.

This young coach could have been involved at a club, school or university, or another organisation or project connected to rowing, including, but not limited to; youth rowing, coastal sculling academies and indoor rowing projects and programmes. Although they may currently be coaching, the Young Coach award is mainly for individuals' existing contribution, and the future potential that you see in them.

The judging panel will base their decision on the following criteria:

- Evidence of leadership and/or teamwork skills in a rowing environment.
- Evidence of a person-centred approach to coaching.
- Evidence of an ongoing passion for learning.
- A coach who has committed to their own development and wellbeing.



- Consistently shows exemplary ethical coaching behaviours.
- Examples of innovative practice.

Inclusive Coach of the Year

This award is for a coach that uses inclusive coaching behaviours to encourage more people from diverse backgrounds to get into and stay active through rowing. Nominees should be a current British Rowing Coach member and over the age of 18.

The judging panel will base their decision on the following criteria:

- Evidence that the coach has encouraged people from under-represented groups to take part in rowing such as women, people from lower socio-economic backgrounds, people with disabilities or long-term health conditions, people from LGBTQ+ or ethnically diverse communities, religious people, people of faith and people from various age groups.
- Evidence of a sustained positive impact on the local community (such as on community cohesion, social development, activity levels or health and well-being).
- Evidence of coaching which understands the needs of specific communities and each individual participant.
- Evidence of an appreciation of the wider benefits of being involved in sport.
- Examples of innovative practice.
- Clear examples of programmes or legacies which enables the coaches' work to be continued.
- A coach who has committed to their own development and wellbeing.
- Consistently shows exemplary ethical coaching behaviours.
- Evidence that the coach has increased opportunities for other coaches/rowers through informal and formal mentoring support.

Coaching Team of the Year

This award is for a team of coaches who have made the most significant impact on their local community, or the performance of the athletes they coach. This award is open to coaching teams and may include a maximum of one salaried coach.

Nominees should be current British Rowing Coach members and over the age of 18. They should have a coaching qualification relevant to rowing and recognised by British Rowing. All nominees who are coaching junior crews must have current DBS clearance with British Rowing.



The judging panel will base their decision on the following criteria:

- Coaches who work collaboratively to engage with the wider rowing community.
- Evidence of coaching which understands the needs of the local community and each individual participant.
- A coaching team who have committed to the development and wellbeing of the team.
- Dedicated to improving the sport of rowing and the experiences of those in it.
- Consistently show exemplary ethical coaching behaviours.
- Demonstrated a commitment to making rowing an accessible and inclusive sport.