Most Outstanding Inclusion Initiative

Award period: 1 March 2023 – 29 February 2024

Eligibility criteria

This award is to recognise an outstanding inclusion initiative within the Victorian Tennis Community. Nominations are welcome from Tennis Victoria affiliates, partner programs of Tennis Victoria, Local Government Authorities or Tennis Australia qualified coaches, who go above and beyond to create and support inclusive tennis environments for underrepresented\* groups.

Nominees must:

* Have no outstanding moneys due to Tennis Victoria
* Have no matters impacting on the suitability of the nominee as per Tennis Australia integrity records

\*Underrepresented groups include but are not limited to;

* People with a physical and/or intellectual disability
* Culturally and Racially Marginalised (CARM) backgrounds
* People who identify as LGBTQI+
* Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Peoples
* Low socioeconomic communities
* Women and Girls
* Geographically isolated communities.

\*Inclusion Initiative examples

* Participation program
* Participation/Club event
* Education program
* Volunteer program
* Leadership program

Selection Criteria

The selection panel will consider the following in assessing nominations:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Description** |
| 1 | Measurable benefits to the underrepresented group and to tennis in general |
| 2 | The initiative has an ongoing participation plan and/or supports a connection to pathway opportunities linked with continued participation. |
| 3 | If appropriate, media and promotional activities are undertaken prior to, during and following the program. |
| 4 | Shows evidence of engaging people with lived experience and/or working with partner/community organisations in the development of the program. |
| 5 | Contribute to making Tennis more accessible, welcoming and inclusive. |

**All** nominations for the 2024 Victorian Community Tennis Awards are to be submitted online via [the Tennis Victoria website.](https://www.tennis.com.au/vic/victoriantennisawards)

**The form on page 3 of this document can be used to collate your nomination information before submitting online. The online submission will not save your information as you go and must be completed in one attempt. Please note word restrictions are in place to keep nominations succinct.**

Only information provided via the online nomination portal and the supporting information attached to the submission will be considered by the selection panel. A maximum of three (3) attachments may be submitted. One **must** be a high-resolution photo of the nominee. If the nomination is named as a finalist, this image will be used for event collateral related to the Victorian Tennis Awards.

Tennis Victoria reserves the right to submit nominations for each award category.

All decisions in relation to the 2024 Victorian Community Tennis Awards (including any questions in relation to eligibility) will be determined by the selection panel in its absolute discretion. All decisions are final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

***Timeline***

* The award period is 1 March 2023 – 29 February 2024
* Nominations Open – Thursday 29 February 2024
* Nominations Close – 10am Tuesday 2 April 2024
* All finalists will be notified in writing by Monday 29 April 2024
* Awards will be presented at the Victorian Community Tennis Awards on Thursday 23 May 2024

***Requirements of award recipients***

Finalists will be entitled to two (2) free of charge tickets to attend the Victorian Community Tennis Awards event. Further tickets will be available for purchase subject to capacity.

Successful recipients may be required to participate in marketing and promotional activities in the 12 months following the award.

The winner of this award will be nominated (if eligible) for the national Most Outstanding Inclusion Initiative award to be presented at the 2024 Newcombe Medal (Australian Tennis Awards).

***Nomination form***

Please use the below to collate your responses addressing the criteria before completing online. The online portal will not save responses as you go, so collating answers first and then pasting into the online form will assist with your submission.

Please limit responses to strictly 200 words per criteria. The online portal will not accept entries outside of these parameters.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Description** |
| 1 | Please describe the measurable benefits to the underrepresented groups. |
|  |
| 2 | The initiative has an ongoing participation plan and/or supports a connection to pathway opportunities linked with continued participation. |
|  |
| 3 | If appropriate, media and promotional activities are undertaken prior to, during and following the program. |
|  |
| 4 | Shows evidence of engaging people with lived experience and/or working with partner/community organisations in the development of the program. |
|  |
| 5 | Contribute to making Tennis more accessible, welcoming and inclusive. |
|  |
| 6 | What was the highlight of this program that you as the nominator are most proud of? |
|  |

\*\* Complete responses in space provided before pasting into the online submission portal. Two (2) additional supporting documents and one (1) nominee image may be attached separately in the online submission\*\*