

2025 TENNIS WEST AWARDS NIGHT



Please see below the selection and eligibility criteria for each award featured at the 2025 Tennis West Awards Night. Please note that any reference to the Award Period covers 1st April, 2024 to 31st March, 2025.

Nominees may self-nominate or be nominated by another person (note: if you self-nominate you will require a seconder to support your nomination).

2025 Tennis West Awards Night Awards

Nominated Awards

1. Coaching Excellence – Development
2. Coaching Excellence – Performance
3. Coaching Excellence – Club
4. Volunteer Achievement Award
5. Most Outstanding Tennis Club – Large
6. Most Outstanding Tennis Club – Small
7. Excellence in Officiating
8. Dawn Hay Medal – Officiating
9. Most Outstanding Competitive Play Event
10. Most Outstanding School
11. Most Outstanding Inclusion Initiative
12. Most Outstanding Senior (30+)
13. Service to Tennis Award

Closed Awards

14. Karen Bucens Award
15. Kent Yamazaki Award
16. Junior Tennis Star- Male
17. Junior Tennis Star - Female
18. State League MVP – Men's
19. State League MVP – Women's
20. Hall of Champions
21. Pro Player of the Year

COACHING EXCELLENCE – DEVELOPMENT

The Talent Development Coach is instrumental in developing successful high performance tennis players. The recipient of this award is delivering a quality, comprehensive, holistic coaching program that focuses on the technical, tactical, physical and psychological development of talented athletes primarily 14 years and under. In addition, the coach will currently be coaching junior players who have achieved outstanding results, travels to events with their players and be engaged in Talent initiatives.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for consideration, the nominee must:

- Be delivering a quality, holistic coaching program which focuses on the technical, tactical, physical and psychological development of high performance junior athletes
- Be currently coaching junior athletes who have achieved outstanding results during the award period (State, National or International level athletes)
- Travel to events with their high performance junior athletes
- Be a continuous learner who always displays growth mindset characteristics and who has led the industry with their consistent professional development
- All nominees must hold a Tennis Australia recognised qualification (High performance preferred) combined with appropriate screenings (WWCC and National Police Clearance)
- Nominees must be an Australia citizen or permanent resident

Selection Criteria

The selection panel will consider the following in assessing nominations:

Note: information regarding the athlete's and coach's program will remain confidential and will only be seen by the selection panel.

- Talent Development program provided by the coach including but not limited to:
 - Athlete development philosophy;
 - Plan and pathway for athletes entering Tennis Hot Shots through to 12s/14s Nationals (i.e. Athlete Development Pathway);
 - Tennis-specific education provided to athletes and parents; and
 - Description of high performance environment created by coach which fosters athlete learning, performance and independence
- Development of athletes as evidenced by participation in State, National and International level events including but not limited to results, rankings and ranking improvement
- Quality and quantity of athletes participating in Talent programs during the award period
- Submission of one athlete's program including but not limited to:
 - Athlete profile (including athlete's goals, coaching priorities, competencies and deficiencies as per the Tennis Australia Athlete Development Matrix);
 - Athlete annual plan and tournament schedule for the past 12 months;
 - Letter of support from athlete; and
 - Letter of support from parent (including confirmation and length of coaching relationship)
- Attendance at junior state and national events
- Involvement in Talent which may include:
 - Attendance at Talent camps;
 - Participation in Super 10s and bridging programs; and
 - Demonstrated participation in professional development opportunities

All entries must be able to accommodate a site visit if requested by the selection panel.

COACHING EXCELLENCE – PERFORMANCE

The high performance coach is instrumental in producing successful elite tennis players. The recipient of this award is delivering a quality, comprehensive, holistic coaching program that focuses on the technical, tactical, physical and psychological development of high performance players. In addition, the coach will currently be coaching junior and/or adult players who have achieved outstanding results and travel regularly to events with their high performance players.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for consideration, the nominee must:

- Be delivering a quality, comprehensive, holistic coaching program which focuses on the technical, tactical, physical and psychological development of high performance players
- Be currently coaching junior and/or adult players who have achieved outstanding results during the award period (e.g. Pro Tour, National or International level players)
- Travel regularly to events with their high performance players
- Be a continuous learner who always displays growth mindset characteristics and who has led the industry with their consistent professional development
- All nominees must hold a Tennis Australia qualification OR a TA recognised qualification (High Performance preferred) combined with appropriate screenings (WWCC and National Police Clearance)
- Part-time and full-time coaches may apply
- Nominees must be an Australia citizen or permanent resident

Selection Criteria

The selection panel will consider the following in assessing and comparing nominations:

- The quality of the high performance program provided by the coach
- Results, rankings, and ranking improvement of players from 1st April 2024 to 31 March 2025 (award period)
- The submission of an individual player's program during the award period which will include aspects of or all of the following:
 - Player profile (including player goals, competencies and deficiencies as per the Tennis Australia Athlete Development Matrix)
 - Specific coaching program delivered to players during the Award Period
 - Player tournament schedule
 - Player results and ranking improvements
 - Player plan for next 12 months

Please note: information regarding the player's program will remain confidential and will only be seen by the selection panel.

ARTHUR MARSHALL COACHING EXCELLENCE – CLUB

This award recognises the coaches who work within their local communities. The coach provides quality coaching programs, is actively involved in growing the game and provides competition opportunities for players to progress their game.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for consideration, the nominee must:

- Be a current Tennis Australia qualified or business coach member
- Be a current Tennis Hot Shots coach
- Be delivering quality coaching programs and providing holistic pathways which cater for the needs of players within their community
- Have a strong relationship with the club/facility committee/management
- Be actively involved in his/her club/facility in growing the game of tennis
- Actively seek positive relationships with local schools and the general community
- Provide opportunities for players to move from coaching programs to competitions and events
- Contribute to making Tennis more welcoming and inclusive by actively seeking to engage underrepresented groups in tennis (i.e. people with disability, First Nations Australians, multicultural communities, lower socio-economic communities, people who identify as LGBTQI+)
- Be a continuous learner who always displays growth mindset characteristics and who has led the industry with their consistent professional development over the last twelve months.

Selection Criteria

The selection panel will give consideration to the following in assessing and comparing nominations:

- Overview of coaching program provided including Tennis Hot Shots, Cardio Tennis, Inclusion and Talent Development, if applicable
- Roles and responsibilities at Club/Centre
- Contribution to Club/Community including involvement in events and activities which drive greater participation and membership
- Total number of registered coaching participants in award period (broken into categories of program type, by age and gender)
- Overview of the transition pathway for coaching participants to social and Competitive Play (e.g. Tennis Hot Shots Match Play, leagues and events) including specific metrics/outcomes (e.g. conversion rates, participation numbers)
- Number of Schools Partnership Program schools and overview of transition pathway from schools to club, coaching programs and play activities
 - Demonstrated success (e.g. Sporting Schools feedback)
- Qualifications of coaching team and ongoing professional development opportunities provided
 - Demonstration that all coaching team are TA coach members
 - On boarding process for new team members in addition to yearly training on key policies and procedures (e.g. Safeguarding, social media)
 - Regular within business team development
 - Clear and articulated pathway/support for the development of assistant coaches from within coaching business including specific case studies
 - Support for professional team to access coaching courses and qualifications
- Coaching business website, marketing and communication materials
 - Demonstration of customer focused materials (e.g. infographics) and processes (e.g. online registration) to ensure growth in participation
- Overview of programs and initiatives delivered to engage underrepresented groups in tennis (i.e. people with disability, First Nations Australians, multicultural communities, lower socio-economic communities, people who identify as LGBTQI+)

Evidence of continuous learning and professional development

VOLUNTEER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The volunteer often goes unrewarded for the many hours of work that they contribute to tennis. This award honours the volunteers within tennis—those people who foster relationships within and between their club and the community and for the contribution they make to the sport.

Eligibility Criteria

Nominees must show that they:

- Work on an entirely voluntary basis and have done so for the 12 months prior to nomination
- Are supported by at least one member of the current management committee by providing documented evidence to substantiate meeting the selection criteria (e.g. letters of thanks, supporting evidence from current administrators of the club/association, publications depicting the nominee's position within the club/association)

Selection Criteria

The selection panel will consider the following in assessing and comparing nominations:

- The leadership qualities shown in continuing to grow the club or facilitate successful change
- The leadership qualities shown in building and/or maintaining facilities and/or operating procedures
- The impact of the time spent both short term and long term and how that benefits the club, community and the sport
- Evidence of fostered relationships within and between the club/association and the community
- Evidence of engagement with Tennis West, if applicable
- If applicable, the contribution to making Tennis inclusive for diverse communities (i.e. people with a disability, multicultural communities, First Nations Australians, people who identify as LGBTQI+, low socio-economic communities)
- Have made a considerable contribution to the sport, specifically in the area of delivering more active players
- Have demonstrated significant achievement while in the roles held within the club/association

MOST OUTSTANDING CLUB – LARGE CLUB

Tennis clubs and centres provide facilities and programs to the community that get people playing tennis. This award recognises clubs that have an inviting culture, are accessible to the public, have implemented Tennis Australia programs and have increased competitive opportunities for players.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for consideration the tennis club must:

- Be affiliated and engaged with Tennis West
- Have 13 or more tennis courts
- Employ/engage qualified Tennis Australia coach members or is a Community Play Venue
- Have implemented Tennis Australia participation programs and competitions providing a range of opportunities to the whole community
- Have actively engaged with underrepresented groups (i.e. people with disabilities, First Nations Australians, multicultural communities, lower socio-economic communities, people who identify as LGBTQI+) to ensure the club is inclusive for diverse communities
- Use a range of Tennis (or equivalent) systems, e.g. ClubSpark, League Manager, Tournament Planner
- Be accessible to the broader community, allowing for public court hire via ClubSpark and/or play.tennis.com.au
- Have a partnership with a local school through the School Partnership Program or School Play Program and ideally have run a Tennis Hot Shots Red Ball Competition
- Have an active social media presence

Selection Criteria

The selection panel will give consideration to the following in assessing and comparing nominations:

- Demonstration of participation growth (number of unique participants)
- The range and quality of programs delivered including pathways for junior tennis players, Hot Shots, Cardio Tennis, social opportunities, events and competitions, across a variety of days, times and formats
- Ongoing commitment to engage with the Thriving Tennis Communities initiative in collaboration with the Tennis West team
- Strategic planning for the club, with particular respect to infrastructure planning, operational programming and committee/management training and succession planning
- The level of stakeholder engagement and strength of relationships the club holds to assist in continuing to grow the club such as local government engagement, community partnerships
- The level of club accessibility to the different user groups including but not limited to schools, diverse community user groups, community outreach (away from physical club location)
- Demonstrated engagement with diverse communities (people with disabilities, First Nations Australians, multicultural communities, lower socio-economic communities, people who identify as LGBTQI+) to facilitate their meaningful involvement in tennis
- Evidence of the welcoming environment that the club provides e.g. hosting a free tennis day, initiatives to welcome new participants, school engagement and transition events
- The digital presence of the club
- The direct customer feedback the club has received via independent responses from customers and members. Responses and references should be provided as part of submission.

MOST OUTSTANDING CLUB – SMALL CLUB

Tennis clubs and centres provide facilities and programs to the community that get people playing tennis. This award recognises clubs that have an inviting culture, are accessible to the public, have implemented Tennis Australia programs and have increased competitive opportunities for players.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for consideration the tennis club must:

- Be affiliated with Tennis West
- Have 12 or fewer tennis courts
- Have a healthy court-to-member ratio (ideally a minimum of 1 court : 10 members)
- Employ/engage qualified Tennis Australia coach members or is a Community Play Venue
- Have implemented Tennis Australia participation programs and competitions providing a range of opportunities to the whole community
- Be accessible to the broader community, allowing for public court hire via ClubSpark and/or play.tennis.com.au
- Have an active social media presence

Additionally, clubs may meet the following desirable criteria:

- Have actively engaged with underrepresented groups (i.e. people with disabilities, First Nations Australians, multicultural communities, lower socio-economic communities, people who identify as LGBTQI+) to ensure the club is inclusive for diverse communities
- Use a range of other tennis systems, e.g. ClubSpark, League Manager, Tournament Planner
- Have a partnership with the local school through the School Partnership Program or School Play Program, and ideally have run a Tennis Hot Shots Red Ball Competition

Selection Criteria

The selection panel will give consideration to the following in assessing and comparing nominations:

- Demonstration of participation growth (number of unique participants)
- The range and quality of programs delivered including pathways for junior tennis players, Hot Shots, Cardio Tennis, social opportunities, events and competitions
- The level of stakeholder engagement and strength of relationships the club holds to assist in continuing to grow the club such as local government engagement and community partnerships
- The level of club accessibility to the different user groups including but not limited to schools, diverse community user groups, community outreach (away from physical club location)
- Demonstrated engagement with diverse communities (people with disabilities, First Nations Australians, multicultural communities, lower socio-economic communities, people who identify as LGBTQI+) to facilitate their meaningful involvement in tennis
- Evidence of the welcoming environment that the club provides e.g. hosting a free tennis day, transition events and initiatives to welcome new participants
- The digital presence of the club
- The direct customer feedback the club has received via independent responses from customers and members. Responses and references should be provided as part of submission

EXCELLENCE IN OFFICIATING (NEWCOMBE MEDAL)

Officials play an important role in tennis and set the standards at events of all levels. The recipient of this award has provided an outstanding contribution to tennis officiating in Australia through their dedication, skill, attitude and knowledge. Their performances set them apart from their peers at either a local, domestic or international level and they have been a positive role model for other tennis officials.

Eligibility Criteria

Nominees must show that they:

- Are 18 years or over as at the beginning of the award period
- Are a citizen of, or hold permanent residency in, Australia
- Are a TA Officials Member

Selection Criteria

The selection panel will give consideration to the following in assessing and comparing nominations:

- Outstanding contributions to tennis officiating WA and/or Australia and/or internationally through their dedication, skill, attitude and knowledge
- Performances that set them apart from their peers domestically and/or nationally
- Been a positive role model for other tennis officials
- Consistently contributing to a welcoming, inclusive and supportive environment for officials, event staff and event participants
- Demonstrating an advanced level of knowledge of rules, procedures and match protocols, and the ability to apply skill to a high standard
- Consistently modelling behaviour in line with Tennis Australia's Values Framework and being a positive role model
- Consistently demonstrate an openness to learning and a willingness to improve, and supports and encourages others to do same

DAWN HAY MEDAL (WA OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR)

Officials play an important role in tennis and set the standards at events of all levels. The recipient of this award has provided an outstanding contribution to tennis officiating in Australia through their dedication, skill, attitude and knowledge. Their performances set them apart from their peers at either a local, domestic or international level and they have been a positive role model for other tennis officials.

Eligibility Criteria

Nominees must show that they:

- Are 18 years or over as at the beginning of the award period
- Are a citizen of, or hold permanent residency in, Australia
- Are a TA Officials Member

Selection Criteria

Contribute to tennis officiating in Western Australia and Australia by:

- Consistently contributing to a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment for officials, event staff, and event participants.
- Demonstrating an advanced level of knowledge of rules, procedures, and match protocols, and the ability to apply skill to a high standard.
- Consistently modelling behaviour in line with Tennis Australia's Values Framework and being a positive role model.
- Consistently demonstrate an openness to learning and a willingness to improve, support and encourage others to do the same.

MOST OUTSTANDING COMPETITIVE PLAY EVENT

Australian Competitive Play events are the stepping stones for players to develop their games. The recipient of this award will have offered a complete package of on and off court activities and player amenities to a high standard allowing for a positive tournament atmosphere and implemented strategies to engage local sponsors, media attention and community involvement.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for consideration for the Most Outstanding Competitive Play Event, the event must show that it:

- Is an Open Event, Junior Series event or ITF Junior event and is endorsed by Tennis West
- Held the final day of the event during the award period
- Used a tournament software program and integrated online registration system in coordinating their event to ensure efficient administration
- Has complied with all rules and regulations as set by Tennis Australia and Tennis West
- Has offered players a high-quality experience both on and off the court with activities and amenities to a high standard, allowing for a positive event atmosphere
- Obtained sponsorship for the event and implemented strategies to service these sponsors
- Had a proactive event committee
- Fulfilled all officiating requirements or went above to provide their own accredited officials

Selection Criteria

The selection panel will consider the following in assessing and comparing nominations:

- The overall quality of the event delivered, ensuring an outstanding experience for athletes, coaches, parents and officials
- The type, volume and level of success of media and promotional activities undertaken
- The type of social activities and the standard of player amenities provided and how this contributed to a positive event atmosphere
- The standard of the event sponsorship program and the level of service provided to the sponsors
- The level of proactiveness shown by the event committee and the success of the proactive actions
- Demonstrated commitment to quality customer service throughout the event as well as leadership, innovation and creativity

MOST OUTSTANDING SCHOOL

Schools play an important role in the tennis community by introducing primary and secondary students to tennis and providing links to their local club and coach. This award recognises schools that have aligned with a Tennis Australia qualified coach, have a dedicated staff member assigned to tennis, have strong links with the local club and coach and have incorporated tennis as part of the curriculum.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for consideration, the school must demonstrate:

- Tennis is incorporated into the health and physical education curriculum via the School Partnership Program or other means
- A Tennis Australia qualified coach is connected to the school
- Tennis is supported by the Principal and driven by the teacher
- The school can demonstrate a link between the school, coach and local club
- Intra and/or inter school competition pathway is being delivered
- School has completed the Annual School Participation Survey in Term 2 2024.

The nomination may come from the school involved in the program, a Tennis Australia qualified coach, Tennis Australia registered Tennis Hot Shots provider, parent of the school or a State Tennis Association.

Selection Criteria

The selection panel will consider the following in assessing and comparing nominations:

- Demonstration that the school has embraced tennis as a sport of choice in their school, involving teachers (professional development, implementation and relationship building with external partners) and students (leadership values, registration and enthusiasm for the sport)
- Demonstration of the importance and value of health and physical education within the school
- How active the school has been with initiatives which have been set up to enhance the sport at a local level
- The overall experience by the students involved in the program
- Demonstration of an increase in the number of students participating and then going onto local community-based programs
- How the school promotes and communicates messages to the school and community around their participation in tennis
- Where applicable, demonstration of program modification to allow the inclusion of children with disabilities and other underrepresented groups to participate.
- Consideration given to the performance of the school in the respective team tennis competition
- Consideration given to the overall tennis pathway through the school from Pre-Primary – Year 12 (if applicable)

MOST OUTSTANDING INCLUSION INITIATIVE

This award recognises and rewards the individuals, Clubs and Associations that go above and beyond to create accessible, welcoming and inclusive tennis opportunities for communities that may experience barriers to participation. They include coaches, officials, parents and committee members who work behind the scenes to ensure underrepresented groups including but not limited to people with disability, culturally and linguistically diverse communities (CALD), older adults (65+), LGBTQI+ community, First Nations Australians are engaged in tennis.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for consideration, the nominee must:

- Be actively involved in their club/facility in growing the game of tennis
- Actively seek positive relationships with the general community
- Contribute to making tennis more welcoming and inclusive

Selection Criteria

The selection panel will give consideration to the following in assessing and comparing nominations:

- Measurable benefits to the underrepresented group and to tennis in general
- Media and promotional activities undertaken prior, during and following the program
- Engagement from additional organisations/partners outside of tennis (e.g. advocate and representative groups)
- Sustainability of the program
- The initiative provides a pathway to ongoing participation

MOST OUTSTANDING 30+ TENNIS SENIOR

The mission of 30+ Seniors Tennis is to increase the playing opportunities and social interaction for tennis players of all standards over age 30. This award recognises involvement in 30+ Seniors Tennis as a player, administrator or both. The recipient of this award has been involved in raising the public profile of 30+ Seniors Tennis through demonstrated excellence in playing performance or administration and demonstrated behaviours that exhibit a high level of integrity.

Eligibility Criteria

This award is open to male and female players and administrators who are:

- Current members of Tennis Seniors Australia; and
- Registered to Tennis Australia via My Tennis (desirable)

Selection Criteria

The selection panel will give consideration to the following in assessing and comparing nominations:

- Continued involvement in 30+ Seniors Tennis over a prolonged period of time whether it be as a player or administrator or both
- Assisted in raising the public profile of 30+ Seniors Tennis through demonstrated excellence in playing performance or administration or both
- Demonstrated a high level of integrity in all circumstances, on and off the court

SERVICE TO TENNIS AWARD

The Service to Tennis Award recognises a person who has personified the essence of leadership, passion, sportsmanship, goodwill and dedication to the sport while making a major contribution to the stature of tennis for over 10 years.

Selection Criteria

Nominees must show that they:

- Have been involved in tennis for a period of over 10 years
- Have made a significant contribution to the sport over a prolonged period of time
- Personify the essence of leadership, passion for tennis, sportsmanship and dedication
- Are highly regarded within the tennis community and have fostered relationships within and between the club/association and the community
- Have performed various roles within the club/association
- Have demonstrated significant achievement while in the roles held within the club/association
- Have provided documentary evidence to substantiate meeting the selection criteria, such as letters of thanks, supporting evidence from current administrators of the club/association, publications depicting the nominee's position within the club/association

KAREN BUCENS AWARD

This is a closed award.

The Karen Bucens Award is a special award created in memory of the late Karen Bucens who passed away at the tender age of 21. Karen represented the state in Reid, Wilson and Pizzey Cup events and whilst she was not a great technician nor a super athlete, she fought every match to the bitter end. This award recognises young female athletes who have shown commitment, dedication and perseverance on and off the court.

Selection Process

All decisions in relation to the Karen Bucens Award (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.

Any matters which arise and which are not covered in this document will be determined by the selection panel in consultation with Tennis West Management.

KENT YAMAZAKI AWARD

This is a closed award.

The Kent Yamazaki Award is a special award created in memory of Kent Yamazaki who tragically passed away in 2020 at the age of 15. Kent represented Western Australia at the National Team Championships, The Pizzey Cup and the National Schools Championships where they won the National Championships. Kent was one of the top players in Australia and regularly attended National Camps and ITF events. Kent was an incredibly hard worker who maximised his ability through his dedication to the game, 100% effort and being a true professional. The award embodies Kent's spirit and the foundation's three key values of Grit, Passion and Friendship. This award recognises a male WA athlete who portrays these three values.

Selection Process

All decisions in relation to the Kent Yamazaki Award (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.

Any matters which arise and which are not covered in this document will be determined by the selection panel in consultation with Tennis West Management.

JUNIOR TENNIS STAR – MALE & FEMALE

This is a closed award.

The Junior Tennis Star is awarded to a player 18 years and under with a commendable ranking level (ATP/WTa/ITF/AR), a demonstrated record of playing for Australia in teams events, and a positive attitude in line with our player values of Compete, Commit and Respect.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for consideration, the nominee must:

- Be 18 years and under as at the end of the award period;
- Be a citizen of, or hold permanent residency in Australia

Selection Criteria

The selection panel will consider the following in assessing nominations:

- Commendable ranking level (ATP/WTa/ITF/AR)
- Demonstrated record playing for Australia (if applicable)
- Appropriate and commendable attitude in line with our player values of Compete, Commit and Respect
- Has complied with all rules, national policies and conduct standards set by Tennis Australia.