

BRITISH FENCING COMMUNITY AWARDS

2022-23

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1. THE 2022-23 AWARDS

The British Fencing Community Awards recognises some of the best clubs, coaches, fencers and volunteers for their contribution to fencing, for the Year 2022-23 (1st October 2022 – 31st August 2023).

Please note that all nominees must have held the appropriate valid BF Membership for the Year 2022-2023.

2. CATEGORY: ATHLETES

2.1 PERFORMANCE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

A nominee for 'Performance Athlete of the Year 2022-23' must meet the following criteria:

- Have achieved significant success at FIE level
- Achieved significant success at International level
- Achieved success at Paralympic, World or Zonal Championships
- Achieved something no other GB fencer has previously achieved in a competitive environment
- Be a positive role model for young fencers
- Portray a positive image of fencing to those outside the sport

2.2 YOUNG ATHLETE OF THE YEAR (JUNIOR/U20)

A nominee for 'Young Athlete of the Year (Junior/U20) 2022-23' must be aged 20 or below on 1st January 2023, and meet the following criteria:

- Achieved significant success at International level
- Achieved something no other GB fencer has previously in a competitive environment
- Be a positive role model for young fencers
- Portray a positive image of fencing to those outside the sport

3. CATEGORY: COACHING

3.1 GBR COACH OF THE YEAR

A nominee for 'GBR Coach of the Year 2022-23' must coach GBR athletes, and demonstrate the below criteria:

- A coach who has played a role and supported the athlete(s) to gain significant results during the 22/23 season
- Demonstrates a player-centred approach and are an example of innovative coaching practice
- A role model of best practice to others within the fencing coaching community
- Demonstrates a positive and continuous learning attitude in their development as a coach

3.2 COMMUNITY COACH OF THE YEAR

A nominee for 'Community Coach of the Year 2022-23' must coach at a community club. They must also meet the following criteria:

- A coach who works within a club or specific community, providing suitable and relevant coaching to meet the needs of the fencer(s) at their current stage of development, whilst delivering in their club or community setting
- Actively seeks to grow fencing within their local area, serving the needs of the wider community and has had a positive impact on widening access to fencing, through their role as a coach
- A role model of best practice to others within the fencing coaching community
- Demonstrates a positive and continuous learning attitude in their development as a coach

4. CATEGORY: OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEERS

4.1 OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION BY A REFEREE

The 'Outstanding Contribution by a Referee' category recognises the much-valued contribution and dedication to fencing and the development of refereeing within fencing. Nominees for this award must also meet the following criteria:

- Regularly supports the fencing community through officiation
- Respects all involved within fencing and demonstrates good sportsmanship
- Are a positive role model for other officials within the sport
- Involved in development activities, both for their own professional development, and that of other officials
- Demonstrates commitment to self-improvement, education and training

4.2 OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION BY A VOLUNTEER

The 'Outstanding Contribution by a Volunteer' category recognises those who have made a significant contribution of time and effort to their club and/or BF. Nominees for this award must also meet the following criteria:

- Have made a notable commitment of their personal time to volunteering
- Provide invaluable voluntary support to their club and/or BF
- Positively impacted their club/community/event
- Supported a number of competitions- local, regional, national or international and/or fencing within their local community

5. CATEGORY: CLUBS

5.1 CLUB OF THE YEAR

Nominees for 'Club of the Year 2022-23' must be a BF affiliated club where athletes compete at the highest levels within the sport, and meet the following criteria:

- Support their athletes in every way possible to achieve the best results
- Are positive role models, particularly in areas such as safeguarding and athlete welfare
- Commitment to be an inclusive club and provide opportunities for all to take part in fencing
- Actively seeks to grow fencing within their area and widen access to the sport. Having strong links within the local community, for example with local schools, uniformed groups such as the Scouts, or local youth groups
- Focuses on grass root development of the fencers
- Have a strong coach development structure, with evidence of coach progression

5.2 UNIVERSITY CLUB OF THE YEAR

Nominees for 'University Club of the Year 2022-23' must be a BF affiliated club who demonstrate a commitment to the developing their club, resulting in increased participation and inclusion and diversity within its membership. They must also meet the following criteria:

- Evidence the club has contributed to both the development of fencing within the university and the sustainability of the club through developing coaches, as well as providing a wide range of activities for the membership which are well organised and successful
- Innovative, student led projects that have increased participation, membership and inclusion within the club
- Proactive and creative marketing and communication that has increased participation and recruited new students to the club
- Are positive role models, particularly in areas such as safeguarding and athlete welfare

6. CATEGORY: OTHER

6.1 FENCING PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

A nominee for 'Fencing Personality of the Year 2022-23' can be any member of BF who promotes fencing in the UK in a positive light. Nominees should be seen as a positive role model, who engages with those from within the fencing community and those outside the sport.

Nominations are to be submitted through the online nomination form, where you will have the opportunity to explain why the nominee should be considered for the Fencing Personality of the Year award. Once nominations have closed, a shortlist of nominees will be created. From the shortlist, the recipient of this award will be decided by public vote.

6.2 VIVECA ABRAHAMS MEMORIAL INNOVATION AWARD

A nominee for the 'Viveca Abrahams Memorial Innovation Award 2022-23' can be any project that has used innovative practice to provide fun and engaging experiences in fencing, which helps participants to start and achieve personal success in fencing. They must also meet the following criteria:

- Evidence of disciplined collaboration that enhances the project
- Has seen increased participation and enjoyment in the sport as a result of the project
- Demonstrates innovative practice or opportunities through the running of the project
- A positive impact on a particular area of the community in which this project took place
- Evidence of the wider social impacts of the project, such as wellbeing

6.3 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

A nominee for the 'Lifetime Achievement Award 2022-23' can be any member of the fencing community whose involvement and dedication to fencing has had a positive impact on the community. They must also meet the following criteria:

- Evidence that they have dedicated a significant amount of time to fencing
- Benefitted the sport of fencing in the UK
- Can evidence a positive effect on Fencing in the UK