

Mitre 10 MEGA Whanganui WSS Sports Awards 2026 Nomination Guidelines.

General Criteria

1. The qualifying period for the 2026 awards is 1st October 2025 – 30th September 2026.
2. Nominees must have been a student in years 9 to 13 at a Whanganui Regional Secondary School/ alternative education setting (**e.g., home schooled, correspondence**) within the qualifying period.
3. All nominations must be submitted by a Whanganui Regional Secondary School. If a student attends alternative education, the nomination must be submitted and endorsed by the sporting body/club or RSO.
4. The Whanganui region also includes the Rangitikei and Ruapehu regions.
5. Sportspeople can be nominated for more than one category,

NOTE: Nominees who have represented New Zealand in their sport within the qualifying period **must be nominated in the international category**.

NOTE: For International Athlete nominations, specify whether the athlete was selected for an official New Zealand representative team (selected by the recognised National Sporting Organisation), a development squad, or an identification programme. Please also include all relevant national achievements alongside international results

6. Schools can make multiple nominations in each category.
7. The awards are open to all student sportspeople including those with disabilities.
8. In the event of any dispute over what activity constitutes a 'sport' the judgement will be based on Sport Whanganui & Sport New Zealand's views on what is considered a sport.

WSS National & International Junior & Senior Sportswoman & Sportsman, Junior & Senior Team.

1. These categories are judged solely on sporting performances defined by the judges.
 2. The judging panel will consider several factors including the level of competition (national or international), the strength of the sport/event, and the context of the achievement(s).
 3. In the team categories, nominations will be accepted for any collective achievement involving more than one direct participant.
 4. Nominees who have represented New Zealand in their sport within the qualifying period **must be nominated in the international category**.
 5. Students nominated in the Junior age category must be aged under 16 as at 1st January 2026.
 6. Students nominated in the Senior age category must be aged 16 and over as at 1st January 2026.
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WSS Coach of the Year.

1. The judging panel will consider coaches level of competition and their achievement(s).
2. Students nominated in this category must have taken steps to further their coach development through training or certification with a regional or national body.
3. Coaches must demonstrate fair play and a positive coaching style that enhances their athletes' skills and game development.

WSS Official of the Year.

1. The judging panel will consider officials level of competition and their achievement(s).
2. Referees/umpires/judges have taken steps to further their development as an official through training or certification with a regional or national body. Qualities and characteristics of an official include (e.g. Fairness, communication, consistency, confidence, integrity, enjoyment, development).

WSS Disabled Sportsperson of the Year.

1. An individual with an intellectual or physical impairment who has excelled in one or more sports (at a national or international level) as a disabled athlete within the qualifying period.
2. Nominees for this category must have been enrolled in a Whanganui Regional Secondary School/alternative education setting (e.g., home schooled, correspondence) within the qualifying period.
3. Nominees can be up to the age of 21, so long as they meet the requirements.

WSS Contribution to Leadership Recognition.

1. A student who has demonstrated strong leadership and has contributed to supporting sport initiatives within the qualifying period. Nominees will display the following qualities: positivity, inclusiveness, encouragement, vision, empathy, passion, leadership, role modelling, service before self and a high level of commitment to supporting and promoting sport at their school.
2. There may be multiple recipients for this recognition category.

Additional Information

Disclaimer: Students nominated in a particular category may be reassigned to the *WSS Contribution to Leadership Recognition* award at the discretion of the judging panel if they do not meet the criteria for their original nomination. Sports Coordinators will be informed of any changes by the Event Coordinator.

It is recommended to include proof of training or certification from the regional or national body when nominating a student in the Coach of the Year and/or Official of the Year Awards.

All applications are considered by an independent panel of judges from a range of backgrounds who are deemed to have appropriate knowledge and expertise. The panel is appointed by Sport Whanganui. The above criteria have been put together to provide schools and judges with some guidance. The final decision in all cases will be made at the judges' discretion. For any further

clarification in relation to any of the above criteria, please contact Paula Darlington at Sport Whanganui – 021 2727100 OR paula@sportwhanganui.co.nz

List of Sports

1. Nominations must be made for individuals or teams that have competed in the following sports. If you wish to nominate an individual or team for a sport that is not listed, please let us know and it will be taken into consideration.

8 Ball	Cross Country	Indoor Hockey	Rugby League
Adapted Sports	Curling	Indoor Netball	Rugby Sevens
Adventure Racing	Gymnastics (Rhythmic)	Indoor Rowing	Rugby Union
Aerobics	Cycling	Indoor Soccer	Running
AFL	Cycling – Cyclocross	Inline Hockey	Sailing
Archery		Inline Skating	Shooting
Cricket – Outdoor	Cycling – Mountain Biking	Judo	Skating
Artistic Skating		Kart Sport	Skateboarding
Artistic Swimming	Cycling – Mountain Biking	Kayaking	Skiing
	Cycling – Road	Kayaking – Sprint	Snooker
Athletics	Cycling – Track	Kayaking – White Water	Snowboarding
Badminton	Dance	Ki o Rahi	Softball
Baseball	Darts	Kilikiti	Sport Climbing
Basketball	Diving	Korfball	Squash
Basketball 3x3	Dragon Boats	Lacrosse	Surfing
Beach Volleyball	Equestrian	Lifesaving – Royal	Swimming
Bocce	Fencing	Lifesaving – Surf	Table Tennis
Boccia (Awd)	Karate	Marching	Tag Football
Bowls – Indoor	Floorball	Moto-cross	Ten Pin Bowling
Bowls – Lawn	Football – Outdoor	Multi Sports	Tennis
Boxing		Netball – Outdoor	Touch
Canoe Polo	Futsal	Orienteering	Trampoline
Canoeing	Gliding Sports	Pétanque	Triathlon
Cheerleading	Gymnastics (Artistic)	Polo	Ultimate Frisbee
Chess		Powerlifting	Underwater Hockey
Clay Target	Gym sports		
Cricket	Handball	Road Racing	Volleyball
Croquet	Ice Hockey	Roller Hockey	
Golf	Indoor Cricket	Rowing	Waka Ama

Water Polo

Weightlifting

Windsurfing

X Country Skiing

Wrestling

Yachting