

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 are reviewed and endorsed by the student's secondary school before progressing to judging. 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.

Awarded to the top 3–4 students per school who have gone above and beyond in their contribution to sport. Nominees should be outstanding role models who consistently give back, show initiative, go beyond expectations and stand out from others through the positive difference they make to sport within their school.

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