



CENTRE CIRCLE
AWARDS



ONTARIO SOCCER

PRESENTED BY:
NOTHERS
THE AWARD STORE

2026 Centre Circle Awards Information Package



ONTARIO
SOCCER

EST. 1901

Nominations Procedures

Award nominations may be submitted by Clubs, Member Organizations and Ontario Soccer Standing or Operational Committees, or by an Officer or Director of Ontario Soccer as outlined in each individual award criteria.

Nominations for The Future Leaders Awards Presented by Milk may also be submitted by a peer between the ages of 15 and 18 years old.

Ontario Soccer is committed to fostering an inclusive and accessible environment; as such, Ontario Soccer will strive to select award recipients that reflect and support the diversity of the soccer community.

Presentations

Award Winners will be recognized at the Centre Circle Awards event on September 19, 2026.

Nomination Deadline

All nominations for the Centre Circle Awards must be submitted **online by March 31st, 2026**. Please attach a colour photograph of the Nominee, their completed soccer bio and a high-res colour logo of their respective organization.

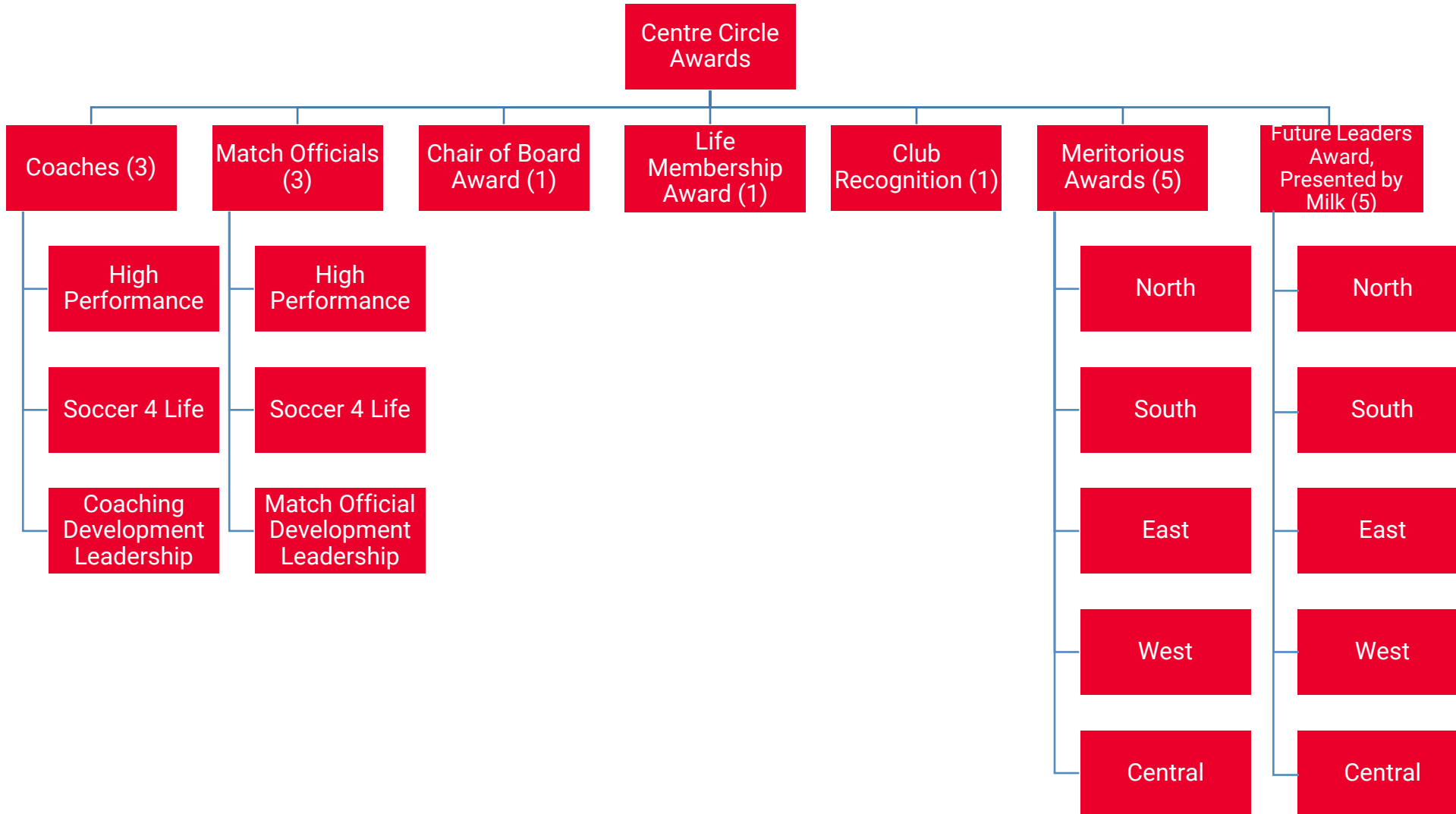
Notes:

On a case-by-case basis and at the discretion of the Ontario Soccer Board of Directors, to acknowledge the depth of the candidate field in any given year, more than one Meritorious winner may be recognized in each region.

Awards may not be presented annually, depending on eligible nominations received.



Awards Structure



Regional Breakdown

Meritorious and Youth Leadership Awards



East

Eastern Ontario & District S.A.

Southeast Ontario S.A.

South

Peel Halton S.A.

Hamilton Soccer

Niagara S.A.

Central

East Central Ontario S.A.

Durham Region S.A.

Scarborough S.A.

Toronto S.A.

North York S.A.

York Region S.A.

Huron District S.A.

West

Essex County S.A.

Lambton Kent S.A.

Elgin Middlesex S.A.

Southwest Soccer

North

Soccer Northwest Ontario

Greater North S.A.

Life Membership Award

- The Life Membership Award recognizes an individual, who has exemplified the values of Ontario Soccer and has acted as a pinnacle example of the Association. This individual has rendered special service and significant overall contribution to the game of soccer in Ontario to an extent beyond normal participation.

Criteria:

- Past President or past Chair, Board of Directors of Ontario Soccer (minimum 1-year term)
or
- Minimum 25 years of service, comprised of contribution at all levels of soccer in Ontario
- Service to soccer in Ontario shall include service on any of the following roles; Ontario Soccer Board Member, Ontario Soccer Committee, or Ontario Soccer Working Groups.
- Does not need to be awarded annually

Nomination:

- Can be nominated by a District Association; Ontario Soccer Standing or Operational Committee

Selection:

- Ontario Soccer Board of Directors

Active Life Membership Recipients

- 2022 – Sandy Arrowsmith, Oshawa
- 2022 – Joyce Stewart, London
- 2020 – Bill Spiers, Toronto
- 2015 – John Knox, Scarborough
- 2012 – Colin Linford, Kitchener
- 2006 – Les Wilkinson, Callander
- 2004 – Edward Grenda, Kingston
- 2002 – Clive Wilkinson, Sault Ste. Marie
- 2001 – Tom Doyle, Thunder Bay
- 1999 – Les Digby, Toronto
- 1998 – Lewis Edwards, Niagara Falls
- 1981 – Jim Ellis, Toronto
- 1975 – George MacDonald, Burlington



Chair of the Board Award

The recipient of the Chair of the Board Award, while may not be an official Member of Ontario Soccer, is a tremendous contributor to the organization. A true embodiment of an organization or individual that fully embraces the game of soccer in Ontario, the awardee can be a league or a partner from the corporate, media, sport and/or philanthropic community.

Criteria:

- An individual or organization that has given significant time, funds or resources to Ontario Soccer for at least 5+ years to assist the Association in improving and building the game of soccer
- Acting as an ambassador for the game of soccer in their respective communities and beyond
- Does not need to be awarded annually

Selection:

- Sitting Ontario Soccer Chair of the Board and Chief Executive Officer



Club Recognition Award

The Club Recognition Award shines a spotlight on an organization that has contributed in innovative ways to deliver the game of soccer in Ontario. The awardee will provide solid programming with the community it serves and additionally demonstrate ground-breaking, inclusive, accessible and philanthropic initiatives. The organization will live the mantra of a 'full service Club' by enhancing the quality of life in its community for a period of ten years or more.

Criteria:

- Club must have been in existence for at least 10 years and in good standing
- Requires letters of support from their appropriate District Association, and one (1) partner organization which details the club's exceptional achievements
- Evidence of inclusive, accessible and/or innovative programs

Nomination:

- Must be nominated by their District organization

Selection:

- Ontario Soccer Board of Directors



Meritorious Awards

Reflecting the momentous contribution of an individual to Ontario Soccer, and most importantly, to soccer in Ontario, the Meritorious Awards showcase our greatest sport leaders. These individuals have elevated the meaning of commitment to the community, dedicating themselves to the assistance of others and the promotion and leadership in multiple facets of the game in the province.

Criteria:

- Minimum 15 years of service, comprised of contribution at all levels of soccer in Ontario (at Ontario Soccer, District/Provincial or Regional League, and Club)
- One recipient in each of 5 regions (more than one winner per region may be awarded as determined by a case-by-case basis)
- While the Meritorious Awards celebrate volunteerism, the awardee may also be a paid staff person at their respective soccer organization

Nomination:

- Can be nominated by a Club, District Association, Provincial or Regional League, Board Member, Ontario Soccer Standing or Operational Committee Chair
- Nominations from a Club must include a letter of support from the District Association

Selection:

- Selected by Ontario Soccer Board of Directors (NOTE: At the discretion of this Board, more than one winner may be awarded per region)



Future Leaders Award and Education Grant, Presented by Milk

Celebrating the outstanding achievements of youth in the soccer community. The award strives to actively acknowledge the selfless display of civic care, pride in one's sport and leadership, an attitude of resilience and strong work ethic, and constant desire for impact and improvement.

This category recognizes youth in their graduating year of high school who have made an outstanding impact on the local soccer community as a leader, player, coach, match official, or administrator.

An Education Grant of \$2,500 is included with this award.

Criteria:

- One recipient will be selected in each of 5 regions (more than one winner per region may be awarded as determined on a case-by-case basis)
- Eligibility:
 - Must be a registered member of Ontario Soccer
 - Started in Club as Player, Coach, Match Official, Volunteer
 - Must be graduating high school in spring or fall of the award year
 - Must plan to attend (or be enrolled in) a University, College, Technical school or recognized post-secondary institution/trades school/certificate program after graduating from high school



Cont'd next page

Future Leaders Award and Education Grant, Presented by Milk

Considerations and Contributions:

- Nominees will exemplify the Ontario Soccer organizational values of inclusive, respectful, ethical, integrity, and community builder.
 - **Inclusive** – Demonstrated commitment to cross-cultural relationship building within the broader community, on his/her team, or within the soccer community
 - **Respectful** – Provided ongoing leadership, direction, encouragement and support of soccer for all abilities and backgrounds, within the soccer community
 - **Ethical** – Made a positive, valuable and considerable impact on the skill development, ability and attitude of others in soccer
 - **Integrity** – Acted as a role model and mentor (on or off the playing field), embodying “Play. Inspire. United.” to motivate or inspire participation in soccer
 - **Community Builder** – Must excel in a leadership role on a team, in a Club, as well as in school or in the community

Nomination:

- Can be nominated by a member organization or Club of Ontario Soccer, or
- A peer (age 15-18) who is not a relative of the nominee

Selection:

- Selected by a selection panel from the Ontario Soccer Board of Directors in consultation the Milk partners.



Coaches – High Performance Award

This Coaching Award recognizes one Coach who has devoted tremendous time and energy to improve the players whom they coach along the Talented Pathway. These individuals assist in advancing their players to the next level of soccer, displaying exceptional leadership, technical expertise, and organizational skills.

Criteria:

- Must possess a minimum Provincial B license
- Must be a coach in one or both of Ontario provincial high performance leagues (OPDL/League1 Ontario) for at least two (2) years

Nomination:

- Can be nominated by a District Association, Club, Provincial or Regional League
- Nominations from a Club must include a letter of support from the District Association

Selection:

- Ontario Soccer Technical Advisory Committee



Coaches - Soccer 4 Life Award

This Coaching Award recognizes a Coach who has devoted tremendous time and energy to improve the experience of their players. They play a key role in inspiring and bettering their players, both on and off the field of play.

Criteria:

- Must possess a minimum Learn to Train or Soccer for Life Certification
- Must have coached for at least 10 years for Ontario Soccer member clubs

Nomination:

- Can be nominated by a District Association, Club, Provincial or Regional League
- Nominations from a Club must include a letter of support from the District Association

Selection:

- Ontario Soccer Technical Advisory Committee



Coaches - Development Award

This Coaching Development Award recognizes someone who has made significant contributions to the development of coaching in Ontario. An ambassador of Long Term Player Development (LTPD), they are truly someone who approaches coaching with a player-centric focus in mind.

Criteria:

- Must have been a Learning Facilitator or Coach Educator for 3+ years

Nomination:

- Can be nominated by a District Association, Club, Provincial or Regional League
- Nominations from a Club must include a letter of support from the District Association

Selection:

- Ontario Soccer Technical Advisory Committee



Match Officials – High Performance Award



This award recognizes one Match Official that plays an integral part in the Talented Pathway. They are invaluable contributors in OPDL and/or League1 Ontario's league play. Steadfast leaders on and off the field, their match official contributions elevate high performance soccer to another level.

Criteria:

- Must be a Match Official with a minimum Grade 8 designation
- Must have at least two (2) years experience officiating in the OPDL or League1 Ontario

Nomination:

- Can be nominated by a District Association, Club, Provincial or Regional League Nominations from a Club must include a letter of support from the District Association

Selection:

- Match Official Development Committee



Match Officials – Mike Bremer Award

Michael (Mike) Bremer was a mentor, leader, national assessor and retired national referee, referee coach, community advocate and more. Mike passed away in November 2015, and the legacy he created in the Ottawa Region and across the country was one of fairness, respect, compassion and passion for developing match officials. The Mike Bremer award honours a Match Official who embodies Mike's incredible values.

Criteria:

- Friendship, willingness to help others, and ability to resolve issues & differences in an amicable manner.
- Admiration and respect from their peers in the referee community
- An ambassador for the Match Officials community
- The nominee does not have to be a referee, but instead could be assessor, instructor, mentor, club administrator, association leader or volunteer involved in the Match Officials community.

Nomination:

- Can be nominated by a Club, District Association, Provincial or Regional League
- Nominations from a Club must include a letter of support from the District Association

Selection:

- Match Official Development Committee



Match Officials – Carol Anne Chénard Award

Carol Anne Chénard is one of Canada’s most accomplished Match Officials, with Olympic, FIFA and CONCACAF experience, but that does not stop Carol Anne from giving back to the more local officiating community. Her enthusiasm for the game creates passion amongst all she meets and inspires future generations of match officials. The Carol Anne Chénard Award recognizes a Match Official who gives more than 90 minutes per game.

Criteria:

- Exemplification of an outstanding contribution to soccer in Ontario.
- A significant donation of their time and talents to make a difference
- Contributes to the health and vibrancy of the soccer community
- Projects a leadership image and embraces the community.
- This nominee does not have to be a Match Official, and could be an assessor, instructor, mentor, club administrator, association leader or volunteer involved in match officials development

Nomination:

- Can be nominated by a District Association, Club, Provincial or Regional League
- Nominations from a Club must include a letter of support from the District Association

Selection:

- Match Official Development Committee





Thank You!

Thank you to our Partners who help us #PlayInspireUnite.

PREMIER PARTNERS



APPAREL AND EQUIPMENT PARTNER



OFFICIAL MEMBER REGISTRATION TECHNOLOGY PARTNER



OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS



SPORT PARTNERS

