

# Eunice Kennedy Shriver Award

Nomination Guidelines

Celebrating Athlete Leaders





# The Beginning

In 2006, to mark the 30th anniversary of Special Olympics Australia, volunteer Dr John Day presented the organisation with a medal he had received from Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the founder of the global Special Olympics movement.

On behalf of Dr John Day the Eunice Kennedy Shriver (EKS) Award is now awarded annually to an athlete (or athletes) who embody the spirit of Special Olympics. The award is presented annually to celebrate EKS Day in September.

Photo by Peter Muhlbock,  
Special Olympics Australia

# Eligibility and Selection Criteria



## Athlete Eligibility

Athletes to be considered for the EKS Award must be a registered and active member of Special Olympics Australia and have been involved for at least four years.

## Selection Criteria

To be considered for the EKS Award an athlete must have shown significant achievements in the following categories:

- ❑ Leadership
- ❑ Sport and Coaching
- ❑ Advocacy
- ❑ Fundraising

# Nomination Guidelines



## Nomination Process

Nominations may be submitted by anyone and individuals may nominate themselves.

All nominations must include at least two contact details of referees willing to provide a testimonial.

Financial donations will not be considered as part of the application process.

All fields must be completed on the nomination form to be considered for judging.

SOA may use information collected during the nomination process for SOA communication purposes.

Only one nomination per club will be accepted and the nomination must be endorsed by the Club Committee.

# Judging Process



All completed nominations submitted by the deadline will be reviewed by the National Awards Committee. There must be at least two nominations for the EKS to be awarded and there is no monetary prize associated with this award.

The National Awards Committee has a framework in place to review nominations and select a winner, with the winner then being recommended to the CEO for endorsement.

All nominations are de-identified before being sent to the National Awards Committee. The steps in the judging process are:

1. Each National Awards Committee member independently scores the nominee against all of the relevant selection criteria.
3. Scores are collated by the SOA facilitator and reported back to the National Awards Committee.
4. The nominee with the highest overall score is reviewed by the National Awards Committee and if agreed is put forward to the CEO for endorsement.
5. Once the CEO endorses the nomination, the finalists and winners are notified.

The decisions of the National Awards Committee are final.

# How to Nominate and Winner Announcements



## How to Nominate

Identify an eligible athlete and discuss this with the club.

Complete the nomination form online by visiting: <http://www.specialolympics.com.au/index.php/awards>

If you are unable to complete the nomination online you can either email to [volunteers@specialolympics.com.au](mailto:volunteers@specialolympics.com.au) or mail to: Special Olympics Australia, Attn: National Awards Committee, PO Box 62, Concord West NSW 2138

## Winner Announcements

The National Awards Committee will contact the nominees and nominators once the judging process has completed. The nominees will be contacted to congratulate them on their achievements.

The EKS winner will be announced and award will be presented at a suitable ceremony as determined by Special Olympics Australia.

# Tips For Completing a Nomination



To ensure that every nominee is given an opportunity to be judged in the best light the following tips have been provided below:

**Athlete Details:** Information about the nominees involvement, accomplishments and achievements should be supported with detailed examples. Don't assume that the athlete will be known to the National Awards Committee. The information will be de-identified so don't leave out anything that might be relevant.

Information received outside of the nomination form may not be considered.

**Selection Criteria:** The section on Leadership, Sport and Coaching, Advocacy and Fundraising all form an important part of the judging process. You should endeavour to provide as much relevant information to support each section. This is an opportunity to highlight the nominees contribution and a typical response will be several paragraphs long.

**Testimonials:** You do not need to obtain testimonials prior to lodgment of the nomination. You are required to provide contact details for two referees. The two referee's may be contacted to support the nomination after it is received.

**Endorsement:** It is suggested that the nomination is discussed with the club prior to lodgment. All nominations must be endorsed by a Club Leadership Team prior to acceptance with the National Awards Committee. The National Awards Committee will manage other endorsements as required.



# Nominate Today

Let an athlete leader know their efforts are making a difference and nominate them today.