

ISFELD ATHLETICS

Awards Criteria

(Updated May 2026)

At the conclusion of each team's season, the coach(s) will fill out an evaluation sheet, rating all of his/her players based on ten criteria. These criteria include: attitude towards coach (coachability) and teammates, leadership, consistency, practice attendance, responsibility and helpfulness, motivation, athletic ability, performance, and intensity. The coach determines which of the criteria the athlete has met. One mark is given for each of the criteria met for a total of ten. The criteria are strictly adhered to and normally coaches give only one or two perfect ten evaluations per team. It is on this coach's evaluation that many of the major athletic awards are based. (See Coaching Evaluation Sheet)

- 1) **Big Bear Award** winners are intended for students who have made significant athletic contributions in addition to those recognized by the major awards. Recipients are directly drawn from coaching evaluations. Successful candidates must be among the top 2-3 athletes evaluated on a minimum of two teams with major season commitments. A mediocre effort on multiple teams does not merit a Big Bear Award. Length of the season is considered when determining a major commitment. For example, it is noted that a junior season requires more commitment than a grade 9 season, and a senior season is a greater commitment than a junior season. Furthermore, a 3-4 month sporting season will hold more weight in evaluation than a 3-4 week season. An average will then be determined. Athletes must average over 9 out of 10 points for two major seasons. Participation on more than two teams will be considered in exceptional cases but will not lower the average. Most of the Major Athletic Award Winners will be chosen from this pool of athletes.
- 2) **Senior Athletes of the Year Awards, Junior Athletes of the Year and Grade 8 Athletes of the Year Awards** are determined directly from coach evaluations. Eligible athletes must have competed on a minimum of two teams, and must be among the top players evaluated on both of these teams. If an athlete played on more than two teams, then the top two coaching evaluations are considered. Evaluations from sport requiring a major season commitment on behalf of the school will be given priority. In the event of a tie between two or more athletes, participation on a third (or more) team and the coaching evaluation will be considered. At this time, individual coaches will be consulted and their comments taken into consideration. In the exceptional event that there is no difference determined between two athletes, a situation

of two co-recipients may occur. If there is no clear winner a meeting of the coaches will be required.

****Please note:** if there are NO BIG BEAR AWARD WINNERS for a certain level/gender (i.e. Junior Boys), then strong consideration for an Outstanding Athlete in a single sport will be given for Athlete of the Year nomination. Physical fitness training as it contributes to his/her/their sport will also be a factor in determining a candidate (May 2014).

The following are NOMINATION-BASED Awards...

Furthermore, for the following “nomination-based” awards. It is acknowledged that a variety of different athletic opportunities exist within our program. All are valued and we encourage student-athlete participation. However, preference in consideration will be given to “major athletic seasons.” For example, a nomination for an athlete from a sport(s) that practices multiple times per week, attends multiple exhibition tournaments, and follows through will playoffs in a full season BCSS sport will carry more weight than an athlete who participates in a sport that practices once per week and attends one tournament in their season, or a sport where the majority of training takes place outside of our program. The latter examples would be a “lesser season” sport. An athlete’s nomination would also be strengthened by participation in multiple “major athletic seasons”. In short, time committed to practice, competition, playoffs and training is a strong factor to consider.

Updated May 2025: only one person per nomination can present/speak to this nomination. Speakers are asked to keep their speech to a maximum of 3 minutes. Athletic Director can speak to how this nomination reflects this criteria. Quick questions and comments are allowed for feedback but not an extensive secondary statement. In the case of multiples strong nominations, it will go to a vote and/or co-recipients will be considered. Nominations that are presented after established deadline will not be accepted

NOMINATION AWARDS: *The following are based on a coach’s nomination. Coaches will be given a chance to speak on their nominee at the year-end athletics meeting. In the case of multiple nominations, a vote of those attending will be held. If there is a clear winner, there will be one recipient. If results are within one or two votes (or 10-20%), an additional vote will be held for those in favor of a co-recipient result for the award (added June 2024)*

**only one vote representing each team should be considered (if multiple coaches from one team are present, one vote should be represented).

- 3) **Most Improved Senior Athlete Award** is based on individual coach's nomination. Things to consider are inspiration/motivation, practice intensity, and effort to improve skill and performance outcomes. This athlete should also end the season as a top performer for their team. It is noted that consideration for senior athletes is made due to the fact that first time players at a junior sport level may have more room to improve simply because it is their first time playing. This award is given to the athlete who is committed and dedicated to improving at their chosen sport. Inspiration, motivation, grit and hard work encompass this award. This award is chosen through coach's nomination. In the case of multiple nominations, a meeting of the coaches will be required.
- 4) **Most Improved Junior Athlete** (added May 2019) this recognizes a Junior (8-10) Athlete who embodies all of the criteria listed above but may or may not have improved dramatically in a given sport due to finding their passion and applying themselves, committing to improvement. All athletic criteria should be taken into account when nominating for most improved athletes.
- 5) **Volunteer of the Year Award** is based on individual or multiple coach(s) nominations. This student does not have to participate on any athletic team; rather he/she is someone who has given up their time and effort in supporting one or more of the athletic teams. Likely candidates are team managers, trainers, scorekeepers, or referees. This candidate should be unquestionably reliable and dependable, positive and consistent. Magnitude of commitment (number of hours) will also be carefully considered. This award is chosen through nomination. In the case of multiple nominations, a meeting between coaches will be needed.
- 6) **Pinnacle Award** celebrates excellence in athletics and academics. It is based on the athlete's overall academic average (GPA) for all four terms. Furthermore, this candidate must be a significant contributor to more than one sports team. Academic Averages will be taken from the pool of "Big Bear" Award Winners and a winner determined from this grouping. (See Big Bear Award Criteria). In the event of a tie between candidates, individual course averages will be consulted. This award is given to a *senior* student in consideration that this student-athlete has successfully managed to balance

commitment to athletics while managing an *academically challenging course load*. *** This is not a nomination award, rather transcripts are thoroughly vetted with the help of main office staff.

- 7) **Robson Award** for Excellence in Athletics is awarded to the senior student who has excelled in a sport not necessarily offered by the school. The recipient will have participated on one or more of the school's athletic teams, but have reached a premier standing in an area of athletics not offered by the school. The athletic program would like to recognize this exceptional achievement while at the same time take some credit for supporting this athlete through his/her sporting endeavors outside of the school's athletic program. Recipients will be at or near the top tier of competition for their chosen sport (i.e. provincial or national team level) and also make a significant contribution to one or more of the school's athletic teams. This award will be decided through coach's nomination. In the case of multiple nominations, a meeting of the coaches will be required. Note: this award is not necessarily given every year.

- 8) **Summit Cup for Athletic Leadership** is given to the senior student who best represents their school on the field/court and off. They consistently display exemplary sportsmanship and respect and model this behavior for their teammates. The recipient of this award provides exceptional leadership for their team in addition to being one of the top performers in their sport (s). This award is chosen through coach's nomination. In the case of multiple nominations, a meeting of the coaches will be required.

- 9) **Blizzard Award** is given to the athlete that best exhibits grit and determination in their sport. This student has exceptional commitment and skill but excels on setting the example for intensity and hard work. The recipient maximizes their contribution to the team through sheer effort. This person should be amongst the top athletes evaluated on their team. Consideration is given to senior athletes, but participants at every level may be considered for this award.

***Following a criteria review meeting in May 2015, it was unanimously supported that a top athlete in a single sport be given consideration to be nominated for a major award if deserving.

10) Inspirational Team of the Year: this award is given to the Most Inspirational Team for the year in Athletics. Nominations should include a clear description of why this team is “Inspirational”. Anyone in the school can nominate a team and consideration/merit will be discussed at the year-end meeting. For example, inaugural recipients were members of the 2010 Girls Snowboarding Team, Isfeld’s first Provincial Championship Team, however strictly achievement does not necessarily define Inspirational. In the case of multiple strong nominations, a vote will be in place, usually with time to consider and response by email.

11) Top Individual Athlete Award: (Added May 2019) this recognizes exceptional athletic achievement in one of our individual pursuits (X Country, Aquatics, Wrestling, Golf, Ski/Snowboard, Track and Field, Mountain Biking, Triathlon). It is acknowledged that sometimes individual athletes are developed more outside of the school, but this recognizes a high level (Island or Provincial Champion) of achievement representing the school and Isfeld’s Athletic Program in their pursuit. Note: this award is not necessarily given every year.

12) Builder Award: a member of the athletic department or administration can nominate an individual for a “Builder Award”. This is to recognize significant contributions of volunteerism, including coaching over an extended time. To nominate for a Builder Award, please contact Athletic Director directly.

Note: these awards will be presented at the year-end Athletic Banquet. Individual coaches are free to exercise their discretion and give individual awards at a team function, however these are the only awards to be given at the banquet. The Athletic Director or Master of Ceremonies will recognize team achievements at the banquet, but no special presentations please.

MAY 2010: Discussion results such that SPECIAL CONSIDERATION should be given to Junior Players playing up to a more senior team especially in the areas of SKILL, ABILITY, INTENSITY and COMMITMENT. In some cases, a discussion with the junior coach as to whether or not a player would be ranked higher if they had stayed with their age group. This is to ensure that Junior players are given fair consideration when compared to their peers.

