



*Volunteers are the driving force of everything that we do, and our sport would simply not exist without them. The Annual Awards are an effort to recognise outstanding contributions and express heartfelt gratitude to all the volunteers for their dedicated time and effort in fostering a welcoming and vibrant volleyball community!*

Please follow this [link](#) to submit nominations for the Annual Awards 2026!

### **Categories**

Coach of the Year for Adults

Coach of the Year for Children and Young People

Young Coach of the Year

Referee of the Year

Young Referee of the Year

Volunteer of the Year

Young Volunteer of the Year

HEVO of the Year

Club of the Year

Contribution to Volleyball

Serena Morten Inclusion Award

Unsung Hero

*Peter Wardale Memorial Award*

## **General Criteria**

We are looking for someone who:

- Is **innovative** and has gone above and beyond to help people develop across various aspects in volleyball within their team/club/community.
- Has worked towards creating a culture where people feel like they **belong**.
- Has shown **commitment** and a desire to **upskill** themselves and gained **respect** in the community.

Note: Nominees for Coach, Referee, and Club awards must be **registered with Volleyball England**.

## **Coach of the Year for Adults**

This award recognizes the outstanding contribution of someone who mainly coaches players/ participants over 18 and has had a significant positive impact in the last 12 months. We are looking for someone who:

- Involves players and volunteers to create a positive environment.
- Encourages fair play and sportsmanship.
- Demonstrates patience and creativity in their coaching methods to motivate and fit the needs of the participants.
- Helps people take part more regularly, or helped them to start or stay, in sport and physical activity despite various fitness levels, and through multiple time constraints.
- Fosters a strong sense of friendship and community within adult athletes.

## **Coach of the Year for Children and Young People**

This award recognises the outstanding contribution of someone who coaches players/ participants under 18 and has had a significant positive impact in the last 12 months. We are looking for someone who:

- Involves caregivers, and other volunteers to create a positive environment.
- Encourages fair play and sportsmanship.
- Demonstrates patience and creativity in their coaching methods to motivate and fit the needs of the participants.
- Prioritises safety, enjoyment, and overall growth and well-being of young people alongside sports coaching.
- Positively influences attitudes and behaviours in young people, while imparting life skills learnt through sport.

### **Young Coach of the Year**

This award recognizes the outstanding contribution of a young coach (under the age of 25) who has had a significant positive impact in the last 12 months. We are looking for someone who:

- Involves players and volunteers to create a positive environment.
- Encourages fair play and sportsmanship.
- Demonstrates patience and creativity in their coaching methods to motivate and fit the needs of the participants.
- Is 25 years of age or under (as of 31st July 2026, end of current season).
- Has strong ethics and is a great ambassador for other young coaches and Volleyball England.

### **Referee of the Year**

This award recognizes the outstanding contribution of a referee who has had a significant positive impact in the last 12 months. We are looking for someone who:

- Has demonstrated availability, reliability, and competency in their role as a referee.
- Is willing to give back to the sport and has made a significant commitment to refereeing while motivating others to referee or develop their skills.
- Demonstrates a strong ethic and fairness and is a great ambassador for young referees and Volleyball England.

### **Young Referee of the Year**

This award recognises the outstanding contribution of a young referee (under the age of 25) who has had a significant positive impact in the last 12 months. We are looking for someone who:

- Has demonstrated availability, reliability, and competency in their role as a referee.
- Is willing to give back to the sport and has made a significant commitment to refereeing while motivating others to referee or develop their skills.
- Demonstrates a strong ethic and fairness and is a great ambassador for young referees and Volleyball England.
- Is 25 years of age or under (as of 31st July 2026, end of current season).

### **Volunteer of the Year**

This award recognizes the outstanding contribution of a volunteer who has had a significant positive impact in the last 12 months. We are looking for someone who:

- Is *passionate* about volleyball and *inspires* others to get/ be more involved.
- Dedicates considerable *time and effort* to positively impact their club/ community/ event in *any voluntary capacity* within volleyball.
- Shows *integrity* and *good sportsmanship* in all interactions within the wider volleyball community.

### **Young Volunteer of the Year**

This award recognizes the outstanding contribution of a volunteer (under the age of 25) who has had a significant positive impact in the last 12 months. We are looking for someone who:

- Is *passionate* about volleyball and *inspires* others to get/ be more involved.
- Dedicates considerable *time and effort* to positively impact their club/ community/ event in *any voluntary capacity* within volleyball.
- Shows *integrity* and *good sportsmanship* in all interactions within the wider volleyball community.
- Is *25 years of age or under* (as of 31st July 2026, end of current season).

### **HEVO of the Year**

This award recognizes the outstanding contribution of a HEVO or a Senior HEVO who has had a significant positive impact in the last 12 months. We are looking for someone who has:

- Created a *welcoming, enjoyable, and inclusive* environment for players to keep coming back for the sessions.
- *Developed links* between the university and community volleyball.
- Set high personal standards of *professional and administrative* behavior, thus *inspiring* peers.

### **Club of the Year**

This award recognizes the outstanding contribution of a club that has had a significant positive impact in the last 12 months. We are looking for a club which:

- Is *inclusive* and can *adapt* to member needs.
- Has demonstrated *successful partnerships* with local and community organizations.
- Has strong *governance*, a commitment to *sustainability*, and a *diverse* committee.
- *Has grown* in terms of *impact* on the community by getting more people involved and retaining old members.

### **Contribution to Volleyball**

This award recognizes the outstanding contribution of a volunteer who has had a significant impact in the volleyball community for a long period of time. We are looking for someone who:

- Has shown outstanding *dedication* and *commitment* over a period of at least 20 years.
- Has been involved in volleyball in *various roles* or at *different levels*.
- Has devoted considerable *time and effort* to the *recruitment or support* of other volunteers.

### **Serena Morten Inclusion Award**

This award recognizes the outstanding contribution of a volunteer who has actively created an inclusive environment in the last 12 months. We are looking for someone who:

- Has *empowered* and *inspired* people from *diverse* communities.
- Has provided *practical help and support* in enhancing and promoting positive *wellbeing*.
- Has *dedicatedly* and *enthusiastically advocated* and developed *safeguarding and/or* enabled *inclusion* in a club/community/ region/ county.

### **Unsung Hero**

This award recognizes the outstanding contribution of a volunteer who has had a notable impact on other people in the last 12 months. We are looking for someone who:

- Has created a positive, respectful, and cheerful environment for the volleyball community.
- Has created a lasting impact, by inspiring others through their actions.
- Has been supporting and encouraging others without actively seeking the spotlight.
- Has been a role-model for people and gone above and beyond to ensure people feel supported and cared for.

### **Peter Wardale Memorial Award**

The Peter Wardale Memorial Award is the highest accolade which can be given to a volunteer. The recipients of this Award are shortlisted by members of the Heritage Project working group, and the winner is selected by the Board. This is awarded to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the sport of volleyball.

*\*The Peter Wardale Memorial Award is not awarded every year.*

----- X -----