



**CAPITAL
FOOTBALL**

**FRAMEWORK
REWARD &
RECOGNITION**

**AUGUST 2026
VERSION 3**

VERSION CONTROL

VERSION	DATE	AUTHOR	RATIONALE
1	August 2024	Capital Football	New Document
2	August 2025	Capital Football	Update of dates, and amendments to awards & categories
3	August 2026	Capital Football	Update of dates, and amendments to awards & categories

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GENERAL CONDITIONS

Notes

- Nominations for all Awards (except the Meritorious Award) should focus on activities between the period 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026.
 - This date range has been set to ensure Futsal community is recognised.
- All nominees must be current financial members of Capital Football or affiliated clubs during the nomination period.
- Where a Youth category is included, this refers to the members age on 31 August 2026.
- Where nominations are submitted by
 - Clubs: Capital Football will accept one nomination from each Club, per category to ensure the process is streamlined and transparent.
 - Anyone: Capital Football will accept one nomination per person, per category to ensure the process is streamlined and transparent.
- Paid employees at any level may nominate for the awards listed. However, paid service will only be counted if nominating for Coach of the Year or Referee of the Year awards – all other awards recognise voluntary contributions only. Unless otherwise specified, these awards are in recognition of individual achievements, team submissions will not be considered.
- As winners may be called upon to serve as ambassadors for Capital Football, both within the organisation and to external audiences, Capital Football reserves the right to decline the selection of a winner.
- Capital Football reserves the right to withhold an Award if suitable nominations are not received or if the nominees do not demonstrate good character and the ability to represent the football community in good faith.
- If you require further support, enquiries should be directed to Capital Football, info@capitalfootball.com.au

Nomination Summary

Who can submit Nomination?	Name of Award
Anyone	• Hall of Fame • Coach of the Year • Volunteer of the Year
Club	• Innovative Program of the Year • Club of the Year
Head Coach	• Team of the Year • Player of the Year
Capital Football	• Golden Boot • Club Championship • Referee of the Year

Guidelines for Submission

- Nominations are to be submitted as per the outlined process for the relevant award.
 - To access the Online Form, please [click here](#).
- Hall of Fame Nominations are to include a digital profile image of the nominee via the [online form](#). Please ensure all nominee photographs are from the shoulders up and of a high-resolution quality.
- **Nominations close at 9.00am on Wednesday 2 September 2026.**

Capital Football Awards Night

- When: Friday 18 September
- Where: QT Hotel, 6 Marcus Clarke St, Canberra
- Time: 6.30pm – 10.30pm
- Dress Code: Cocktail
- More details on additional tickets and entertainment to be released shortly.

MERITORIOUS AWARD

Hall of Fame

Award Summary

Hall of Fame acknowledges an individual's outstanding involvement in football or futsal in the ACT and surrounding region. Players, coaches, referees, administrators, and volunteers affiliated with Capital Football are eligible for nomination from their clubs, committees, and individuals.

Award Eligibility

Nominees may be players, coaches, referees, administrators and volunteers of Capital Football and the wider footballing community – provided there has been a link to Capital Football.

The nominee must have documented evidence of outstanding contribution to their competition (as a player), to their club and / or to the ACT footballing environment.

Individuals are only eligible for nomination to the Hall of Fame if they have not been involved in the highest level of competition relevant to their nomination for a period of not less than three years prior to their nomination.

Only current or past individual members of Capital Football are eligible for induction into the Hall of Fame. Nominations not endorsed may only be resubmitted for consideration after a period of two (2) years. Nominations being resubmitted should be enhanced to meet the standard of the award.

It is important that the complete career of the nominee is put forward to allow for a total assessment. Nominees are to be in good standing with Capital Football.

Nomination Process

Nominations for the Hall of Fame can be completed by anyone through the prescribed [online form](#).

All nomination forms should be accompanied by the following supporting materials:

- A photograph of the nominee,
- A conclusive history of the nominee (maximum of two pages)
- Displayed exceptional service to football in the specific category (player, coach, referee, volunteer).
- Achieved outstanding individual or team accomplishments which sets the individual or team apart from other footballers.
- Displayed sustained excellence over an extended period of time to the category for which they are nominated.

Selection Process

All nominations will be submitted to the Capital Football Board for consideration.

A nominee is elevated to the Hall of Fame if a majority of Directors, in attendance at the meeting the nominations are considered, approve the elevation to the Hall of Fame.

Award Presentation

This Award will be presented at the Capital Football Awards Night.

AWARDS NOMINATED BY ANYONE

Coach of the Year

Award Summary

The Coach of the Year awards recognises accredited coaches that have demonstrated a significant contribution to the growth and success of their team and individual player performance, as well as by fostering a positive club culture by building an environment conducive to technical and personal development.

More than team success will be required to win this Award.

A Coach of the Year Award will be awarded in each of the following categories – NPL Senior (Men & Women), NPL Youth (Boys & Girls), Community and Futsal.

NPL Senior Coach of the Year	NPL Youth Coach of the Year	Community Coach of the Year	Futsal Coach of the Year
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Eligibility

The nominated coach must:

- Hold the relevant coaching qualifications for the level at which they are coaching.
- Hold a valid working with vulnerable people card.
- Have coached at least ten games in that competition across the season.
- Have not been involved in formal or informal disciplinary issues during the season.
- Must be regarded as a good ambassador for the football community.

Nomination Process

Nominations for these Awards can be submitted by any member of Capital Football or our affiliated Clubs.

Please submit your nominations for each Coach of the Year categories via an [online form](#).

1. NPL Senior Coach of the Year (NPL Men & NPL Women)
2. NPL Youth Coach of the Year (NPL Boys & NPL Girls)
3. Community Coach of the Year
4. Futsal Coach of the Year

The following questions will be asked:

- What coaching qualification does the member currently hold?
- What coaching roles has the member fulfilled during the 2026 season, can be Club and State level?
 - List the competition results attributed to this coach.
- Describe their coaching achievements during the 2026 season, including examples, areas of achievement may be in mentoring, training, documentation and process, innovative programs, solving etc.
 - How has this person contributed to their team's development, culture, and success?

- Please provide examples of where the coach has shown a positive and supportive attitude, behaviour, and actions (including who it has impacted and how) in the 2026 season?
- Has the coach undertaken any personal development to improve themselves as a coach in the 2026 season?

Selection Process

All nominees will go through a selection panel which will involve a review of applications.

Capital Football will form at least a three-member Selection Panel that will assess the recipient of the Award. Any member nominated for the Award will be ineligible for the Selection Panel.

If a Panel Member has a conflict of interest with any of the nominations, that conflict of interest is to be noted by the other members of the Panel prior to assessing nominations. The Panel member with the conflict of interest may be removed from the process or be excluded from assessing a nominee's application.

Award Presentation

These Awards will be presented on the Capital Football Awards Night.

Volunteer of the Year

Award Summary

The Volunteer of the Year Award recognises an individual who has given their time and effort to support the football community whether through an administrative and/or operational capacity. This could include helping to organise events, fundraising, or other volunteer activities.

Awarded to an impressive member who has made a difference through their volunteering efforts.

Volunteer of the Year Award will be awarded in two age groups – open and youth.



Please note: Nominations that focus on significant achievements in one particular area may not be considered if this area is also covered by other awards (e.g., Coach, Referee of the Year).

Eligibility

Nominees must:

- Have given notable voluntary service to football in Canberra.
- Be a willing, voluntary contributor, having received no income from football (note: honorarium excepted).
- Be an ambassador for the game of football who acts and works for the best interest of the game, never bringing the game into disrepute.

To be eligible for the Youth Volunteer of the Year, the nominee must also be under the age of 21 on 31 August 2026.

Nomination Process

Nominations for these Awards can be submitted by any member of Capital Football or our affiliated Clubs.

Please submit your nominations via an [online form](#).

1. Volunteer of the Year
2. Youth Volunteer of the Year

The following questions will be asked:

- Tell us about the member being nominated.
- What has been achieved?
- What impact has this had, and for whom?

When showcasing a member, consider the questions below to boost the quality of your nomination:

- What relevant positions, roles or responsibilities do they hold?
- Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?
- Have they done something new or different to achieve results?
- Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?
- Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?
- Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours, and actions?

Selection Process

All nominees will go through a selection panel which will involve a review of applications.

Capital Football will form at least a three-member Selection Panel that will assess the recipient of the Award. Any member nominated for the Award will be ineligible for the Selection Panel.

If a Panel Member has a conflict of interest with any of the nominations, that conflict of interest is to be noted by the other members of the Panel prior to assessing nominations. The Panel member with the conflict of interest may be removed from the process or be excluded from assessing a nominee's application.

Award Presentation

These Awards will be presented at the Capital Football Awards Night.

AWARDS NOMINATED BY CLUB

Innovative Program of the Year

Award Summary

The Innovative Program of the Year award is presented to a Club that has developed the most unique and forward-looking football-related initiative, program or event across the season that has been implemented to improve any facet of the operations of a Club and/or community.

Eligibility

Nominated programs must be able to demonstrate that the aims and objectives align with growing and improving the footballing community of a club both on and off the pitch.

The following are provided as examples only and are not an exhaustive list development of women's football, development of inclusive programs, safeguarding children education campaign or events that support cultural recognition.

Preference will be given to programs that can demonstrate numerous interactions across a period of time rather than a one-off event.

Nomination Process

Clubs will be encouraged to submit their nominations via an [online form](#).

The following questions will be asked:

- Tell us about the innovation being nominated.
- What has been achieved?
- What impact has this had, and for whom?

When showcasing the achievements of the innovation, you may want to consider the questions below to boost the quality of your nomination:

- What was the motivation or research which drove the innovation?
- What were the aims and objectives?
- What did it look like (location, duration, resources required etc.)?
- How was it evaluated to ensure it achieved its aims and objectives?
- Were there any challenges which needed to be overcome to achieve success?
- You may wish to attach photographs, include links to any promotional material created or media coverage received.

Selection Process

All nominees will go through a selection panel which will involve a review of applications.

Capital Football will form at least a three-member Selection Panel that will assess the recipient of the Award. Any member nominated for the Award will be ineligible for the Selection Panel.

If a Panel Member has a conflict of interest with any of the nominations, that conflict of interest is to be noted by the other members of the Panel prior to assessing nominations. The Panel member with the conflict of interest may be removed from the process or be excluded from assessing a nominee's application.

Award Presentation

This Award will be presented on the Capital Football Awards Night.

Club of the Year

Award Summary

The Club of the Year is awarded to the Club that is committed to improving the experience of its members and can demonstrate exemplary contributions to the wider footballing community by epitomising the spirit and values of the game both on and off the pitch.

Award Eligibility

To be eligible, Clubs must:

- Have achieved at least a 1-Star Club Changer status.
- Have a demonstrated record of positive treatment and relationships with opposition players and referees.
- Promote football excellence across their club throughout the season by providing a high standard of club management and organisation, governance, membership support + inclusivity and community engagement.
- Have a commitment to promoting the physical/mental/social development of players and members.

More than overall team performance and size of the Club are required to win this Award.

Nomination Process

Clubs will be encouraged to submit their nominations via an [online form](#).

The following questions will be asked:

- Tell us about the club.
- What has been achieved?
- Why and how it has made a difference, and to whom?
- What are your plans for future development and continuous improvement?
- What is the ONE lesson that your club can teach and share with all other football clubs?

When showcasing club achievements, you may want to consider the questions below to boost the quality of your nomination:

- What new initiatives, programs or events did your club implement this season that furthered your strategic objectives? How did you identify the need for this?
- How does your club deliver a range of sustainability and improvement measures across areas of governance, leadership, development, community engagement and delivery of services?
- What, if any, challenges did the club had to overcome to achieve success?
- How does your club management team model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours, and actions?
- You may wish to attach any photographs, reference letters or media coverage to your nomination.

Selection Process

All nominees will go through a selection panel which will involve a review of applications.

Capital Football will form at least a three-member Selection Panel that will assess the recipient of the Award. Any member nominated for the Award will be ineligible for the Selection Panel.

If a Panel Member has a conflict of interest with any of the nominations, that conflict of interest is to be noted by the other members of the Panel prior to assessing nominations. The Panel member with the conflict of interest may be removed from the process or be excluded from assessing a nominee's application.

Capital Football will accept one nomination from each Club to ensure the process is streamlined and transparent.

Award Presentation

This Award will be presented on the Capital Football Awards Night.

AWARDS NOMINATED BY CLUB HEAD COACH

Team of the Year

Award Summary

The Team of the Year is recognition of the players who in their league, excelled throughout the entirety of the league season. Teams are voted on by the Head Coaches of each team.

A Team of the Year will be awarded in the first division of each of the following competitions - NPL Men, NPL Women, CFL Men and CFL Women.

The final 11 (eleven) players selected in the Outdoor Team of the Year will include 1x Goalkeeper, 4x Defenders, 3x Midfielders and 3x Forwards.

The final five players selected in the Futsal Team of the Year will include 1x Goalkeeper, 1 x Fixo (Defender), 2 x Ala (Wingers), 1 x Pivot (Forward).

Eligibility

Futsal nominees must have played at least five matches during the season.

Outdoor nominees must have started at least ten matches during the season.

Nomination & Selection Process

Outdoor

Capital Football will invite each Head Coach to nominate eligible players from their own club for consideration for the relevant Team of the Year.

For NPL Men, Head Coaches will nominate up to five (5) players from their First Team and U23 Tea, comprising one (1) goalkeeper and four (4) outfield players.

For NPL Women, Head Coaches will nominate up to six (6) players from their First Team and Reserves team, comprising one (1) goalkeeper and five (5) outfield players.

Capital Football will collate all eligible nominations and provide the relevant list to Head Coaches for voting.

Each Head Coach will select their Team of the Year in the following formation - 1 Goalkeeper, 4 Defenders, 3 Midfielders and 3 Forwards.

A Head Coach may select a maximum of three (3) players from their own team.

Futsal

Capital Football will invite each Head Coaches to nominate eligible players from their own club from the 2025 Summer Futsal season.

Head Coaches will nominate up to four (4) players from their Team, comprising of one (1) goalkeeper and three (3) outfield players.

Capital Football will collate all eligible nominations and provide the relevant list to Head Coaches for voting.

Each Head Coach will select their Team of the Year in the following formation - 1x Goalkeeper, 1 x Fixo (Defender), 2 x Ala (Wingers) and 1 x Pivot (Forward).

A Head Coach may select a maximum of two (2) players from their own team.

General

The player with the highest number of votes for each position will be named in the Team of the Year.

In case of a tied vote between players, Capital Football will determine the recipient.

Award Presentation

These Awards will be presented on the Capital Football Awards Night.

Player of the Year

Award Summary

The Player of the Year Award is given to the individual whom player who has excelled throughout the season to an extent to be named as the season's best player.

A Player of the Year will be awarded in each age grade of the following competitions: NPL Men, NPL Women, NPL Boys, NPL Girls, CFL Men and CFL Women.

Eligibility

Futsal nominees must have played at least five matches in their respective competition.

Outdoor nominees must have started at least ten matches in their respective competition.

Nomination & Selection Process

Capital Football will invite each Head Coach to nominate eligible players from their own club for consideration for the relevant Player of the Year.

All CFL and NPL Head Coaches will nominate two (2) Players from each of their respective teams.

Capital Football will then create a spreadsheet of Players for each competition and age group listing these nominations and send back to Head Coaches, who will then be required to vote (3,2,1) for the nominated Players in each competition.

Head Coaches are not permitted to vote for their own Players.

The Player with the highest number of votes received will be deemed the Player of the Year.

Should there be two Players on an equal number of votes received, they will be classed as joint winners.

Should three (3) or more Players be on an equal number of votes received, the Player with the most three (3) votes received will be deemed the Player of the Year.

Should three (3) or more Players receive the same number of three (3) votes, a re-vote will take place for those Players.

Should a Club not vote during the voting process, then their Players will be ineligible to receive the award.

Award Presentation

The Awards for NPL Men, NPL Women, CFL Men and CFL Women will be presented at the Capital Football Awards Night.

The Awards for NPL Boys and NPL Girls will be presented on Grand Final Day.

AWARDS NOMINATED BY CAPITAL FOOTBALL

Golden Boot

Award Summary

The Golden Boot Award is presented to the player who scored the highest number of goals in their respective competition.

A Golden Boot Award will be awarded in each division of the following competitions - NPL Men, NPL Boys, NPL Women, and NPL Girls.

Selection Process

Capital Football will select the Award winner for each competition based on data within DRIBL. Only data from the regular season (no finals) will be considered.

Award Presentation

This Award will be presented on Grand Final Day.

Club Championship

Award Summary

The Club Championship is awarded to the club that has excelled across all divisions of their respective competition.

A Club Championship Award will be awarded in all competitions - NPL Men, NPL Boys, NPL Women, NPL Girls, Community League Men, Community League Masters, Community League Women's & Masters, Junior League Open and Junior League Girls.

Selection Process

Capital Football will select the Award winner for each competition based on data within DRIBL. Only data from the regular season (no finals) will be considered.

The following points will be awarded for each game played as follows Win = 3 Points, Draw = 1 points, Loss = 0 points. The Club who finishes with the highest points in each competition will be awarded the Club Championship.

A Club can have multiple teams in multiple divisions, however if a Club has more than one team in a division, only the highest placed team in the division will have their points added to the total Club tally for that competition.

Award Presentation

This Award will be presented on Grand Final Day.

Referee of the Year

Award Summary

The Referee of the Year Awards recognise accredited referees and assistant referees who have demonstrated outstanding performance, professionalism and commitment to officiating throughout the season.

The Awards recognise achievement across the Men's and Women's competition structures and acknowledge the important and distinct contribution of both Referees and Assistant Referees.

A Referee of the Year Award will be awarded in each of the following categories:

NPL Men's Assistant Referee of the Year	NPL Women's Assistant Referee of the Year	Capital League Women's Referee of the Year
NPL Men's Referee of the Year	NPL Women's Referee of the Year	Capital League Open Referee of the Year

Eligibility

To be eligible for an award, an official must:

- Hold the relevant referee qualification for the level at which they are officiating.
- Have officiated at least ten matches in the relevant competition during the season.
- Hold a valid Working with Vulnerable People registration.
- Have not been involved in formal or informal disciplinary issues during the season.
- Have demonstrated a commitment to their own professional standards, including attendance at relevant training and education sessions and the timely submission of required reports.

Selection Process

Capital Football will determine the recipient of each Award based on performance and contribution across the season.

In making its determination, Capital Football will consider:

- Consistency and quality of on-field performance.
- Level and significance of appointments.
- Performance assessments and feedback, where applicable.
- Professionalism, reliability and conduct.
- Commitment to ongoing training and development.
- Contribution to the competition and broader refereeing environment.

NPL

The NPL Men and NPL Women Referee of the Year Awards, appointment to the respective Grand Final will be given significant consideration as an indicator of an official's performance and standing during the season.

For the NPL Men and NPL Women Assistant Referee of the Year Awards, appointment as Assistant Referee 1 to the respective Grand Final will similarly be given significant consideration.

A Grand Final appointment will not automatically determine the recipient of an Award. Officials who are not appointed or are unavailable for the Grand Final remain eligible, with the Award determined on performance across the season.

Capital League

For the Capital League Open and Capital League Women's Referee of the Year Awards, the number of matches officiated in the relevant competition will be given significant consideration.

Match numbers will not be the sole determining factor, with the recipient also required to demonstrate the performance, professionalism and commitment expected of a Referee of the Year.

Award Presentation

These Awards will be presented at the Capital Football Awards Night.