

2026 Awards Committee Report Madison, WI

First, I would like to say thank you to Amy Oliver for asking me to serve as the Awards Committee chair. I have enjoyed this role and look forward to continuing to work with my committee members in the future. The following members are on the Awards Committee: Eugenia Gillan (East), Gail Emery (West), Rachel Cordo (North), Beth Moore (South), as well as athlete reps Natalia Vega, Elisa Brunel, and Kennah Burdette.

In late fall, our committee was asked to review and possibly update the current descriptions and qualifications for the various USAAS awards. Although our committee did not recommend any amendments to Appendix R, we are in discussion to streamline the procedures to gain high-quality nominations, as well as the process we would like to follow to identify the best recipients for each award.

Communication regarding the various awards that USAAS presents at Convention each year and nomination forms were sent out to Zone Chairs in May. Two additional reminders were sent out, and the deadline for nominations for all awards was July 17. We received a total of 72 total nominations for the following awards:

- USAAS Athlete of the Year Award
- USAAS Coach of the Year Award
- USAAS Developmental Coach of the Year Award
- USAAS Hall of Fame Athlete Award
- USAAS Hall of Fame Contributor Award
- USAAS Community Service Award
- Lillian MacKellar Distinguished Service Award

The MacKellar Committee met on July 23 to review the nominations for that award. The 2026 recipient for the Lillian MacKellar Distinguished Service Award was selected, and the award will be presented at the MacKellar Celebration luncheon on Friday, September 4th.

The Awards Committee met on July 28 to discuss the nominations for each USAAS award. I would like to thank the members who were in attendance for this selection process: Rachel Cordo, Gail Emery, Eugenia Gillen, Beth Moore, and Natalia Vega. It is not an easy process! We selected recipients for each of the remaining awards, and they will be announced at the Awards Reception on September 5th.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Latchford
Awards Committee Chair