

## **U.S. Figure Skating/PSA Annual Coaching Awards Nomination Procedure and Criteria**

Every year, U.S. Figure Skating and the Professional Skaters Association (PSA) recognize exceptional coaching achievement through the annual coaching awards. This is a function of the U.S. Figure Skating Coaches Committee and the PSA Board of Directors.

### **Nominations subcommittee**

Following the ISU World Figure Skating Championships in March, members of the awards nominations subcommittee will participate in a conference call to nominate coaches for the coach of the year, developmental coach of the year, choreographer of the year and sports science coaching awards. Appointees for the nominations subcommittee are members of the U.S. Figure Skating Coaches Committee, PSA Board of Directors, coaching members of the U.S. Figure Skating Board of Directors, and staff members of U.S. Figure Skating and the PSA. The subcommittee will consist of seven to nine members and represent all four disciplines (singles, pairs, dance and synchronized) and all three sections.

### **Nominees and criteria**

Nominees for all four awards are selected using specific criteria (see attached). There is no set number of nominees for each award, but the Coach of the Year and Developmental Coach of the Year awards must have at least one nominee from each discipline (singles, pairs, dance and synchronized).

### **The ballot**

All nominees for all four awards are put on a ballot, which is sent to all members of the Coaches Committee and the PSA Board of Directors. In addition, the choreographer of the year award ballot is sent to the International Committee and the sports science coaching award ballot is sent to the Sports Sciences and Medicine Committee. Ballots detail coaching records for the appropriate season as well as other award criteria.

### **Determining the winners**

Votes are tabulated by the U.S. Figure Skating office to determine the award winners. Nominees are announced at Governing Council and the winners are announced and honored at the PSA International Conference at the end of May. Winners of the coach of the year, developmental coach of the year and sports science coaching award are then nominated for the USOC coaching awards in December.

## **Criteria for the Paul McGrath Choreographer of the Year Award**

The Paul McGrath Award for Choreographer of the Year is given each year to the choreographer who best exemplifies the dedication to artistic excellence that was portrayed by Paul McGrath in his coaching and choreography. The Professional Skaters Association Board of Directors, the U.S. Figure Skating Coaches Committee and the U.S. Figure Skating International Committee select the Choreographer of Year each spring.

### **Nominations may be:**

- ✓ For a specific program at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships or U.S. Synchronized Team Skating Championships, or for a specific program of a member of Team USA at an ISU-sanctioned competition during the past season.
- ✓ For a body of work over the past season.

### **Nominees must:**

- ✓ Be a current member of U.S. Figure Skating and/or the PSA
- ✓ Serve as a role model for skaters and other coaches
- ✓ Promote integrity for the sport of figure skating and the profession of coaching
- ✓ Exemplify good sportsmanship

### **Past recipients are:**

|      |               |      |                |      |                |
|------|---------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|
| 1992 | Sandra Bezic  | 1998 | Lori Nichol    | 2004 | Tom Dickson    |
| 1993 | Sara Kawahara | 1999 | Lee Ann Miller | 2005 | Igor Shpilband |
| 1994 | Brian Wright  | 2000 | Igor Shpilband | 2006 | Tom Dickson    |
| 1995 | Jill Cosgrove | 2001 | Lori Nichol    | 2007 | Braden Overett |
| 1996 | Lori Nichol   | 2002 | Tom Dickson    | 2008 | Lori Nichol    |
| 1997 | Peter Opegard | 2003 | Tom Dickson    | 2009 | David Wilson   |

## Criteria for Coach of the Year:

### Nominees must:

- I. Have had one or more skaters medal at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships (senior level), the U.S. Synchronized Team Skating Championships (senior level), or at an ISU-sanctioned competition (senior level) representing Team USA. Nominees must have coached the skaters since the beginning of the season.
  
- II. Show support for U.S. Figure Skating and the PSA by:
  1. Being a current member of U.S. Figure Skating and the PSA
  2. Attending or presenting at a U.S. Figure Skating or PSA event within the past year
  3. Holding a PSA rating and/or a PSA ranking
  4. Volunteering for U.S. Figure Skating or the PSA within the past year
  
- III. Meet appropriate USOC/NGB professional coaching standards including:
  1. Serving as a role model for skaters and other coaches
  2. Promoting integrity for the sport of figure skating and the profession of coaching
  3. Exemplifying good sportsmanship

\*Coaches who coach in teams can be nominated individually or as a team. In order to be nominated as a team, both coaches must meet all criteria.

### Past recipients are:

|      |                                      |      |                |      |                     |
|------|--------------------------------------|------|----------------|------|---------------------|
| 1996 | Carol Heiss Jenkins                  | 2000 | Frank Carroll  | 2005 | Igor Shpilband      |
| 1997 | Frank Carroll                        | 2001 | Frank Carroll  | 2006 | Pam Gregory         |
| 1998 | Igor Shpilband<br>& Elizabeth Coates | 2002 | Robin Wagner   | 2007 | Vicki Korn          |
| 1999 | Audrey Weisiger                      | 2003 | Lynn Benson    | 2008 | Dalilah Sappenfield |
|      |                                      | 2004 | Priscilla Hill | 2009 | Tom Zakrajsek       |

## Criteria for Developmental Coach of the Year:

### Nominees must:

- I. Have had one or more skaters medal at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships (novice or junior level), the U.S. Synchronized Team Skating Championships (juvenile, intermediate, novice or junior level), the U.S. Junior Figure Skating Championships (juvenile or intermediate level) or at an ISU-sanctioned competition (novice or junior level) representing Team USA. Nominees must have coached these skaters since the beginning of the season.
  
- II. Show support for U.S. Figure Skating and the PSA by:
  1. Being a current member of U.S. Figure Skating and the PSA
  2. Attending or presenting at a U.S. Figure Skating or PSA event within the past year
  3. Holding a PSA rating and/or a PSA ranking
  4. Volunteering for U.S. Figure Skating or the PSA within the past year
  
- III. Meet appropriate USOC/NGB professional coaching standards including:
  1. Serving as a role model for skaters and other coaches
  2. Promoting integrity for the sport of figure skating and the profession of coaching
  3. Exemplifying good sportsmanship

\*Coaches who coach in teams can be nominated individually or as a team. In order to be nominated as a team, both coaches must meet all criteria.

### The past recipients are:

|      |                                   |      |                                  |      |   |
|------|-----------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|------|---|
| 1996 | Peter Oppedard                    | 2001 | Pamela Gregory & Jeff DiGregorio | 2007 | Mark Mitchell & Peter Johansson           |
| 1997 | Megan Faulkner                    | 2003 | Mark Mitchell & Peter Johansson  | 2008 | Yaroslava Nechaeva & Iouri Tchesnitchenko |
| 1998 | Igor Shpilband & Elizabeth Coates | 2004 | Pamela Gregory                   | 2009 | Jim Peterson                              |
| 1999 | Tom Zakrajsek                     | 2005 | Tammy Gambill                    |      |   |
| 2000 | Barret Brown & Thomas Lescinski   | 2006 | Mark Mitchell & Peter Johansson  |      |   |

## **Criteria for the Pieter Kollen Sport Science Coaching Award:**

The Pieter Kollen Sport Science Coaching Award is for a coach who utilizes scientific techniques and/or equipment as an integral part of his/her coaching methods and/or is involved in research, development, publication and education in the areas of sport science and medicine as it relates to figure skating and coaching.

### **In addition to the above criteria, nominees must:**

- I. Be actively working with figure skaters and a current member of both U.S. Figure Skating and the PSA. (The nominee does not need to be the head coach of any athletes to be nominated.)
  
- II. Show support for U.S. Figure Skating and the PSA by:
  1. Being a current member of U.S. Figure Skating and the PSA
  2. Attending or presenting at a U.S. Figure Skating or PSA event, or publishing an article in SKATING magazine, PS Magazine, or another publication within the past year
  3. Holding a PSA rating and/or a PSA ranking
  4. Volunteering for U.S. Figure Skating or the PSA within the past year
  
- III. Meet appropriate USOC/NGB professional coaching standards including:
  1. Serving as a role model for skaters and other coaches
  2. Promoting integrity for the sport of figure skating and the profession of coaching
  3. Exemplifying good sportsmanship

### **The past recipients are:**

|      |             |      |                 |
|------|-------------|------|-----------------|
| 2004 | Mitch Moyer | 2007 | Debbie Pitsos   |
| 2005 | Kathy Casey | 2008 | Christine Krall |
| 2006 | Kat Arbour  | 2009 | Heidi Thibert   |