

LACOMBE MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



Awards Handbook

Last updated: February 2026

Program Overview

The Lacombe Minor Hockey Awards Program celebrates the outstanding achievements, character, and contributions of our hockey community. Unless otherwise noted, awards apply to players, coaches, and volunteers within Lacombe Minor Hockey (LMHA) and its hub associations - Central Alberta Selects, and Central Alberta Warriors.

Our awards recognize excellence in performance, leadership, sportsmanship, teamwork, development, and community involvement. By celebrating individuals across all levels of our association, we reinforce the values that define our programs both on and off the ice.

Association Level Awards

Association-level awards recognize the exceptional individuals or families who make a lasting impact across Lacombe Minor Hockey, Central Alberta Selects, and Central Alberta Warriors. These awards — including Volunteer of the Year, Coach of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement — celebrate leadership, dedication, and meaningful contributions that strengthen our entire hockey community.

Nominations can be submitted by any member of the association, ensuring every voice has the opportunity to recognize someone who has made a difference. Recipients are selected by the Executive Committee through a thoughtful and objective review process based on the selection criteria outlined.

These awards reflect our commitment to celebrating those who go above and beyond in support of our players, families, and programs.

Lin Luymes Volunteer of the Year Award

Description

The Volunteer of the Year Award has been renamed the Lin Luymes Volunteer of the Year Award. Lin passed away in 2023 and was instrumental as a volunteer for Lacombe Minor Hockey for years and in recent years volunteered for Hockey Alberta. She actually won the Volunteer of the Year Award for LMHA and her name appears on the current plaque found in the arena lobby.

This award recognizes an individual who demonstrates exceptional commitment, leadership, and meaningful impact through voluntary service during the current season. This award honours a volunteer who goes above and beyond regular responsibilities—often serving in multiple team and/or association roles—while inspiring others, strengthening the organization, and advancing

its mission. The recipient exemplifies reliability, initiative, inclusivity, and integrity in service to players, families, and the broader hockey community.

Selection Criteria

The nominee:

- Demonstrates exceptional commitment of time and effort, consistently exceeding expectations
- Contributes beyond a single role, often supporting multiple teams and/or association initiatives
- Produces measurable or visible improvements to programs, operations, or events
- Shows leadership and initiative by proactively solving problems or leading new efforts
- Inspires and positively influences fellow volunteers, players, and families
- Performs responsibilities with reliability, professionalism, and care
- Embodies ethical values, inclusivity, and strong alignment with the association's mission

Nomination submissions should include specific examples demonstrating the impact and significance of the volunteer's contributions.

Coach of the Year Award

Description

Recognizes an eligible head or assistant coach registered during the current season who demonstrates excellence in leadership, player development, sportsmanship, and commitment to the association's values. This award honours a coach who prioritizes character, growth, and a safe, positive hockey experience over winning records—serving not only as a strategist, but as a mentor and role model who “walks the walk.”

Selection Criteria

The nominee:

- Demonstrates strong leadership and effective communication with players, parents, and officials

- Prioritizes age- and skill-appropriate player development and fosters a love of the game
- Creates a safe, inclusive, respectful, and team-first environment
- Models integrity, accountability, dependability, and sportsmanship
- Promotes teamwork, responsibility, and respect for self and others
- Positively influences players' development both on and off the ice
- Meets all required certifications and remains in good standing
- Actively supports and aligns with association policies, guidelines, and values

This award recognizes a coach who understands that hockey is more than a game — it is an opportunity to build character, community, and lifelong skills.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Description

Recognizes an eligible individual or family who has provided sustained and exceptional service to the association over a minimum of ten (10) years. This prestigious honour celebrates long-term dedication, leadership, mentorship, and transformative impact on the growth and betterment of the association and the game of hockey.

The award may recognize families whose collective contributions over time have significantly strengthened the organization. It is reserved for those whose service clearly exceeds standard volunteer involvement and may not be presented annually.

Selection Criteria

The nominee:

- Demonstrates a minimum of ten (10) years of sustained service and high-level contribution
- Shows long-term commitment across one or more roles (volunteer, coach, board, committee, etc.)
- Has created meaningful, measurable, or lasting improvements within the association

- Demonstrates exceptional leadership, integrity, and character
- Has mentored, inspired, or developed others within the hockey community
- Has made significant contributions that positively influence programs, culture, and operations
- Is recognized as a role model whose impact extends to players, families, volunteers, and the broader hockey community

Supporting documentation may include letters of support and examples of the nominee's lasting impact.

Team Awards

Team-level awards recognize the contributions and development of players within each individual team across Lacombe Minor Hockey, Central Alberta Selects, and Central Alberta Warriors. These awards celebrate qualities such as leadership, sportsmanship, teamwork, work ethic, and overall commitment throughout the season.

Recipients are selected by the coaching staff of each team, who are best positioned to assess player growth, attitude, and impact both on and off the ice.

Overview of Awards by Division

Team awards are given out for U11-U18 CAS, CAW and LMHA teams. They are:

U11

- Most Dedicated
- Most Improved
- Most Sportsmanlike

U13

- Most Dedicated
- Most Improved
- Most Sportsmanlike
- Outstanding Defenceman
- Most Contribution/Least Recognition

Note: U13AA Outstanding Defenceman is the Keith Randall Memorial Award

U15

- Most Dedicated
- Most Improved

- Most Sportsmanlike
- Outstanding Defenceman
- Most Contribution/Least Recognition

Note: U15AA Outstanding Defenceman is the Clayton White Memorial Trophy and the U15AA Most Dedicated is the Byron Greff Memorial Trophy

U18

- Most Dedicated
- Most Improved
- Most Sportsmanlike
- Outstanding Defenceman
- Most Contribution/Least Recognition
- Most Valuable Player

Team Award Descriptions and Selection Criteria

Name	Description	Selection Criteria
Most Dedicated	Recognizes the player who consistently demonstrates commitment, effort, and a strong work ethic throughout the season. This player leads by example through preparation, perseverance, and a positive attitude toward improvement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistently attends practices, games, and team activities • Demonstrates strong effort regardless of score, role, or ice time • Shows commitment to skill development and personal improvement • Maintains a positive attitude and resilience during challenges • Models team values both on and off the ice
Most Improved	Recognizes the player who has shown the greatest overall development during the season through effort, coachability, and dedication to learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates noticeable improvement in skills, confidence, or game understanding • Actively applies coaching feedback and instruction • Shows growth in one or more areas (e.g., skating, positioning, decision-making) • Displays increased confidence and consistency over the season • Improvement is evident relative to the player's starting

		point
Most Sportsmanlike	Recognizes the player who best exemplifies respect, fairness, and integrity in all aspects of the game, serving as a positive role model for teammates and opponents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates respect toward teammates, opponents, officials, and coaches • Maintains composure and positive behavior in competitive situations • Plays within the rules and accepts decisions gracefully • Encourages teammates and promotes fair play • Consistently represents the spirit of the game
Outstanding Defenceman	Recognizes the defenceman who demonstrates strong positional play, reliability, and contribution to team success through defensive responsibility and smart decision-making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistently demonstrates sound defensive positioning and awareness • Effectively supports teammates and contributes to team defence • Makes smart, responsible decisions with and without the puck • Shows effort, competitiveness, and consistency throughout the season • Contributes positively to transitions and overall team play
Most Contribution /Least Recognition	Recognizes a player whose contributions to the team are significant but may not be reflected in statistics or public recognition. This player makes the team better through effort, attitude, and reliability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes consistent, meaningful contributions that may go unnoticed • Demonstrates strong teamwork, selflessness, and reliability • Positively influences team culture and morale • Willingly supports team needs in any role • Consistently gives strong effort regardless of recognition or role
Most Valuable Player	Recognizes the player who has the greatest overall impact on the team's success through performance, leadership, and consistency throughout the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates strong, consistent performance in games and practices • Positively influences team outcomes and

	season.	competitiveness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displays leadership through actions, attitude, and accountability • Contributes in multiple facets of the game (on-ice and off-ice) • Embodies team values and sets a positive example for others
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Central Alberta Warriors

Warrior of the Year - Lynden Fischer Memorial Female Hockey Award

Starting in the 24/25 season the Central Alberta Warriors (CAW) and the U15 CAW team created an award to memorialize a coach that left us too soon in December of 2025. Lynden started coaching his daughter Quinn from a young age with the Red Deer Chiefs, Ponoka Stampede, Lacombe Rockets and the U15 Central Alberta Warriors.

The award exemplifies coach Lynden's qualities and those that he passed on down to his daughter.

The 'Warrior of the Year Lynden Fischer Memorial Female Hockey Award' is a resiliency-focused award with the Central Alberta Warriors Female Hockey Program. The award focuses on character, dedication, hard work and leadership. It's when everyone says that after the game 'that player was a warrior out there!'

The criteria for this award will be shared with all the CAW coaches with all the divisions formed in the current hockey season and sent to the CAW Governor (or other board members if there is a conflict of interest.) The results will be collected, and the final decision on who will be the recipient of the awards will be made by the board (those without a conflict of interest). The decision will be made mainly based on the reason why the player deserves the award and not as much on the number of nominations the player receives. A player can be nominated based on any of the criteria listed below.

Criteria:

- **Strength and Focus:** mentally able to maintain high-level performance, confidence, and focus under pressure, adversity or fatigue. It enables players to quickly recover from mistakes (like a bad goal or penalty), adapt to challenging game situations, ignoring distractions like crowd noise or bad officiating, manage emotions and stay composed to making split-second, effective decisions.

- **Resilience, Determination and Overcoming Adversity:** Bounced back from mistakes and setbacks without losing confidence, maintained a positive attitude and continued to support their team. Setbacks could be from injury, illness, person loss that may have impacted their ability to participate fully. View setbacks as opportunities to learn rather than to stop.
- **Consistent Effort and Perseverance:** A strong work ethic shown in practices and games. 110% effort always, hard work, passion, discipline, and the refusal to quit. Transforming challenges into necessary, hard-earned experiences for success. The love of the game.
- **Grit:** Combination of physical toughness, resilience and determination. Essentially a gritty player is hard to play against, durable and consistently outworks opponents. Battling in corners, blocking shots, and playing with an edge. 'Never-die' attitude, focusing on persistence, winning puck battles, winning puck races, protecting the puck, and performing well under pressure. Playing in high traffic 'greasy' areas and sacrificing the body to make plays. The player wanted on your team, but never as an opponent.
- **Sportsmanship:** Respect for opponents, officials, and teammates.
- **Leadership and Mentorship:** Acting as a role model on and off the ice, supporting teammates and coaches. Demonstrating strong character, consistently acting with integrity, courage, and accountability.

Eligibility

- **Registration:** the players nominated and the coaches making the nominations must be a registered member in good standing with the Lacombe Minor Hockey Association.
- **Nomination:** Requires a formal nomination of a player from a coach outlining the reasons for the nomination. Each coach is permitted to only submit one nomination.

Official Awards

Officials Awards recognize the important role our referees and linesmen play in supporting a safe, fair, and respectful game environment across Lacombe Minor Hockey, Central Alberta Selects, and Central Alberta Warriors. These awards celebrate professionalism, integrity, consistency, leadership, and commitment to ongoing development.

Recipients are selected by the Referee in Chief and Referee Assignor, who evaluate performance, reliability, rule knowledge, and overall contribution throughout the season.

By recognizing our officials, we acknowledge the critical impact they have on the experience of our players, coaches, and families, and we reinforce our commitment to respect and excellence within the game.

Name	Description	Selection Criteria
Official of the Year	This award is presented to the official who has demonstrated dedication and commitment to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Demonstrates dedication and commitment to the role of an official

	his or her role as an official in the Lacombe Minor Hockey Association. This official has excelled in his or her duties on the ice and demonstrated a proper attitude as a representative of LMHA both on and off the ice. Their commitment goes beyond showing up to the rink and extends to personal growth, professionalism, overcoming challenges, and giving back to minor hockey and to the official's program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excels in duties on the ice • Demonstrates a proper attitude as a representative of LMHA both on and off the ice • Shows commitment beyond attendance, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal growth • Professionalism • Overcoming challenges • Giving back to minor hockey and the official's program
Officials Mentorship	This award was created to recognize an individual who is committed to developing officials within the Lacombe Minor Hockey Association, acknowledging their dedication to mentoring new and existing officials. It is presented to a leader who demonstrates devotion to mentoring, supervising, and inspiring officiating leadership both on and off the ice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates commitment to developing officials within the association • Shows dedication to mentoring new and existing officials • Demonstrates leadership through mentoring, supervising, and inspiring others • Exhibits officiating leadership both on and off the ice
Rookie of the Year	This award recognizes the most outstanding 1st or 2nd Year Official within the Lacombe Minor Hockey Association. It highlights exceptional performance, quick development, and positive impact on the game during their first or second season as an official, demonstrating a strong commitment to learning and displaying high-quality officiating skills while navigating the challenges of a rookie season.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is a 1st or 2nd Year Official within the association • Demonstrates exceptional performance during the season • Shows quick development as an official • Makes a positive impact on the game • Demonstrates a strong commitment to learning • Displays high-quality officiating skills while navigating the challenges of a rookie season
Rising Star	The Rising Star Award recognizes a high-achieving, up-and-coming junior official in the Lacombe Minor Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recipient must demonstrate a combination of the following: • Quality of performance that

	<p>Association. This award is presented to an individual who has attained a level of excellence greater than that achieved by their peers during the year, either at the regional or provincial level, complemented by success in other areas of their life.</p>	<p>indicates they will continue to develop in officiating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passion and dedication to the field in order to achieve their goals • Initiative, both on and off the ice • A level of excellence greater than that achieved by their peers during the year, either at the regional or provincial level • Success in other areas of their life
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