

Media Release



Celebrating Local Champions of Irish Sport: Volunteers in Sport Awards Honour 35 Exceptional Volunteers Nationwide

- **35 volunteers to be honoured, €200 donation to each recipient's local club**
- **Every week, 460,000 volunteers dedicate their time to support 1.47 million club members**
- **Economic contribution of volunteers in sport valued at €1.5 billion annually**

For immediate release – February 7, 2025: The Federation of Irish Sport proudly announces the recipients of the **2024 Volunteers in Sport Awards**, recognising 35 outstanding volunteers from every county in Ireland (four in Dublin) for their tireless dedication to sport and physical activity in their local communities. These inspiring individuals will be celebrated at a special ceremony on **Friday, 28th February 2025**, at the **Crowne Plaza Hotel, Blanchardstown**. The prestigious Outstanding Achievement Award, which highlights one individual's extraordinary contribution to Irish sport will be revealed on the day.

A Nation of Sporting Volunteers

Every week, 460,000 volunteers generously dedicate their time to support 1.47 million club members across Ireland, keeping local communities active, engaged, and connected. From coaching youth teams to managing operations and promoting child safety, these volunteers form the backbone of Irish sport, making an extraordinary impact at the grassroots level.

Honouring Volunteers Who Keep Irish Sport Thriving

Throughout November and December 2024, the Federation of Irish Sport called on the public, sports clubs, Local Sports Partnerships and National Governing Bodies in Sport to nominate volunteers whose contributions have made a meaningful difference. This year's awards saw a record number of nominations from over 53 sporting disciplines, reflecting the incredible diversity of volunteering in Ireland.

Speaking about the importance of the awards, **CEO of the Federation of Irish Sport, Mary O'Connor** said: *"The Federation of Irish Sport is proud to celebrate our volunteers in sport and to pay tribute to these incredible individuals who give their time and energy to enrich Irish sport and strengthen communities. These awards are a vital nationwide recognition of the scale of volunteering that is required every week to support 1.47 million club members around the country."*

Sport Ireland CEO Dr Úna May said: *“Volunteers are the lifeblood of Irish sport, driving participation across all disciplines. Sport Ireland research reveals unprecedented levels of engagement, with nearly two million adults participating in sport weekly. That’s a real testament to the tireless efforts of volunteers. They don’t merely contribute – they transform aspirations into achievements, making sport accessible and enjoyable for all. We all owe them a debt of gratitude and we’re happy to play our part in recognising their dedication.”*

Head of Louth Sports Partnership, representative of the Sport Ireland National Network of 29 Local Sports Partnerships and member of the judging panel, Graham Russell said: *“The Volunteers in Sport Awards is a unique opportunity for the National Network of 29 Local Sports Partnerships each year to collectively celebrate the terrific work being done in every county in Ireland to drive greater and more inclusive participation in sport and physical activity. The National Network of Local Sports Partnerships work closely with volunteers in the community and see the impact they have at grass roots level and in breaking down boundaries to participation. We are proud to champion the unsung heroes of sport.”*

Brought to you by:



NATIONAL NETWORK OF 29
LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIPS



See below for full list of County recipients.

#DedicatedtotheDedicated

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To keep up to date with all the latest awards news visit: www.volunteersinsport.ie

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FULL LIST OF 2024 VOLUNTEERS IN SPORT AWARDS COUNTY RECIPIENTS

County	First	Surname	Club	Sport
Antrim	Paddy Joe	Branney	Belfast's Star Boxing Club	IABA
Armagh	Francis	Reynolds	Sarsfields GAC	GAA
Carlow	Justine	Collins	Carlow Hockey	Hockey
Cavan	Brian	McKeown	Cavan Boxing Club	IABA

Clare	Nicola	Welford	Derg Athletics Club	Athletics
Cork	John Bosco	Hurley	Liscarroll Handball Club	GAA Handball
Derry	Alan	Nash	Na Piarasigh Doire Trasna	GAA/LGFA
Donegal	Audrey	Magee	Raphoe Badminton Club	Badminton
Down	Alwynne	Shannon	The Feel Good Factor	Mountaineering
Dublin City Sports & Wellbeing	Paddy	O Reilly	Ballymun Health & Fitness community group	Multi-sport
Dublin Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown	Ruby	Morrow	Monkstown Hockey Club	Hockey
Dublin Fingal	Emily	Crawley	Swords BC	Basketball
Active South Dublin	Denis	Commins	Peamount United	FAI
Fermanagh	Phil	Flanagan	Tempo Maguires GAA Club	GAA
Galway	Frances	Daly	Special Olympics Swimming	Special Olympics
Kerry	Lynda	McGrath	Tralee Boxing Club	IABA
Kildare	Suzanne	Whelan	Naas Pythons Basketball Special Olympics Club	Special Olympics
Kilkenny	Mick	O'Keeffe	Thomastown Athletics Club	Athletics
Laois	Patrick	Brennan	Crettyard CLG GAA	GAA
Leitrim	Mark	Butler	Carrick on Shannon Rowing Club	Rowing
Limerick	Martin	Casey	Limerick Local Sports Partnership	Multi-sport
Longford	Gerry	Doyle	Heartland Wheelers Cycling Club	Cycling
Louth	Pat	Greene	Seapoint Pitch and Putt Club	Pitch and Putt
Mayo	Myles	Cresham	Castlebar Boxing Club	IABA
Meath	Pat	Comey	Trim AC	Athletics
Monaghan	Pat	McCabe	Clones Town FC	FAI
Offaly	Jude	Feehan	Offaly community games	Community Games
Roscommon	Tony	Christie	Ballinameen GAA Club	GAA
Sligo	Jean	McConnell	Sligo RFC	IRFU
Tipperary	Paddy	Fitzgerald	Knockavilla Donaskeigh Kickhams GAA Club	GAA
Tyrone	Kenny	Curran	Loughmacrory Handball Club	GAA Handball
Waterford	Gavin	Loneragan	Little Vikings special Olympics	Special Olympics
Westmeath	Aoife	McCarthy	Mullingar Handball Club	GAA Handball
Wexford	Nicky	Haberlin	New Ross Rugby Football Club	IRFU
Wicklow	Brian	Whelan	Irish Federation of Sea Anglers	Irish Federation of Sea Anglers