



Guidance Notes & Criteria – Northern Ireland

Introduction

The RYA Northern Ireland Impact Awards celebrate outstanding efforts that make sailing and boating in Northern Ireland more successful, sustainable, inclusive, and valued; ranging from grassroots engagement to broader community initiatives. These awards honour individuals and/or groups who go above and beyond to create a positive and lasting impact on everyone's time afloat.

Presented regularly throughout the year, these awards shine a well-deserved spotlight on those whose hard work and dedication help our sport thrive. Nominations are open now, don't miss the opportunity to celebrate the heroes of our waters!

Who can be nominated?

Nominations are open to those at the heart of our sport in Northern Ireland, including:

- Participants
- Paid staff and volunteers
- Instructors, coaches, and race officials
- Clubs, classes, and training centres
- Anyone who has made a positive difference to the boating community

Nominations may serve as a personal thank you or as wider recognition of an individual's or organisation's impact on the sport.

Nomination process

- Nominations are open throughout the year and reviewed on a rolling basis.
- Each successful nomination will receive a certificate to present to their nominee as a token of appreciation.
- All individual nominations received by 1 October will automatically be considered for the RYA National Individual Awards (presented at the Dinghy & Watersports Show).

- Successful nominations will receive a certificate for the nominator to present to their nominee.
- Please note that individuals may not nominate themselves. All nominations must be made by someone else.

Assessment criteria

Nominations will be reviewed by the RYA Northern Ireland Awards Panel using the following criteria:

- Demonstrated impact on the sport or wider community
- Evidence of sustainability, inclusivity, or innovation
- Levels of engagement, leadership, or commitment shown
- Alignment with RYA Northern Ireland values and Navigating the Future strategic outcomes
- Nominations must be made by someone else. Individuals are unable to nominate themselves.

Nominations in other Home Countries

If you wish to nominate someone in England, Wales or Scotland, please visit the appropriate Home Country awards hub:

- [RYA Cymru Wales Impact Awards](#)
- [RYA Scotland Impact Awards](#)
- [RYA Impact Awards England](#)

Final note

We encourage everyone to take a moment to recognise those making a difference on and off the water. Submit your nomination today and help us celebrate the champions of boating in Northern Ireland.