

## **BACKGROUND**

The LETR International Executive Council Athlete Award was created to recognize outstanding Special Olympics Athletes who have contributed to the success of the Law Enforcement Torch Run® on a local, state or national level. The LETR International Executive Council Athlete Award nominee should be someone who contributes to Torch Run and Special Olympics in spirit, dedication and enthusiasm in an effective fashion.

#### NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominations for the Council Athlete Award may be submitted by an individual, a Torch Run Program or a Special Olympics Program.

All nominations must, at the time of submission, include a completed nomination application that is available for download from the LETR website, two (2) letters of recommendation from people who have worked closely with the nominee and six (6) to eight (8) digital photos of the nominee meeting the listed photograph requirements and approval of the nominee's Special Olympics Program CEO and LETR Director as applicable.

All these items must be received by the due date for the nomination to be considered. Failure to include requisite materials will be considered an incomplete nomination packet and could result in the nominee not being considered for the award.

#### **CARRYOVER NOMINEES**

Council Athlete Award nominees will remain in consideration for two years in total. Nominees not selected in their first year of eligibility will remain in consideration for one (1) additional year. It is the responsibility of the nominator to update the nomination application for the second year of eligibility. It is strongly recommended (in the best interests of the nominees) that this is done.

The eligible nominees for 2024 carried over from 2023 requiring updated applications are:

- Jacob BABCOCK, New York
- Ray CARLSON, North Dakota
- Christy COUGHLIN, North Dakota
- Ryan HANSON, New Mexico
- Ryan MacBEAN, Ontario
- Jose MORENO, Illinois
- Fernando NUNEZ, Florida
- Chad VANSCOTER, Florida
- Stephanie WILKERSON, North Carolina

## **CRITERIA**

This award is sponsored by the LETR International Executive Council and is intended to highlight and recognize the contributions of Special Olympics Athletes from around the world. The focus of this award is to recognize a special athlete, someone who has contributed to the success of their respective Law Enforcement Torch Run at a local, state, provincial or national level.

To be eligible for consideration, a nominee must have participated for at least five (5) years in the Law Enforcement Torch Run and the nominee's involvement must demonstrate a substantive contribution to the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

## **TIMEFRAMES**

The nomination process opens to all LETR Programs on Monday, May 6, 2024. All nominations applications and their required support materials must be submitted online using the LETR website (www.letr.org) and received no later than 5:00pm, EST, Friday, June 21, 2024.

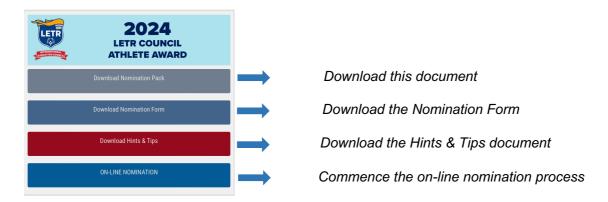
The Selection Committee will convene in July to consider the nominations and the award presentation will be conducted during the Honors Luncheon held at the LETR International Conference on Friday, November 15, 2024.

# **PROCESS**

To obtain the official Council Athlete Award nomination application, follow these steps:

- Go to the LETR website (<u>www.letr.org</u>)
- Click on the AWARDS, ELECTIONS & SUBMISSIONS link on the home page of the website.
- Click on the LETR AWARDS image on the left side of the page.
- This section contains instructions, nomination forms and the specific detailed information regarding the nomination processes. At the bottom of this section are a series of buttons.

The buttons relating to nominations for the Athlete Award are shown below:



## PHOTO REQUIREMENTS

In order to create the highest quality presentation, Programs should submit only high resolution digital photos in JPG file format.

Photos that have been compressed for emailing or do not meet the above minimum file size requirements are unusable for this project as the quality and clarity of these compressed files is severely compromised and therefore cannot be used.

Additionally, submitted photos of your candidate should be "semi-close-ups" with a relatively uncluttered background so that they are readily recognizable in the photo. At least one photo should be a close-up of the nominee. Your assistance in providing digital images with your application for nomination that meet these minimum requirements is much appreciated.

# **QUESTIONS**

If you have any questions about the selection process, please direct them in the first instance to Natalie Palmer (Chair of the Athlete Awards Selection Committee) who can be contacted at natalie.palmer@jcf.gov.jm.