

The SPORTS 'N SPOKES Junior Athlete of the Year Award recognizes an outstanding junior athlete living with a disability who has demonstrated exceptional performance and sportsmanship in adaptive sports.

To be eligible for nomination, athletes must meet the following criteria:

Age Requirement:

- Nominees must be 21 years old or younger as of June 15th of the nomination year.

Disability Eligibility:

- Nominees must be living with a spinal-cord injury and/or disease, or other disability that requires the use of adaptive sports equipment to participate.

Sport Participation:

- Nominees must actively compete in adaptive sports that require the use of adaptive equipment specifically designed for athletes with disabilities.
- All adaptive sports disciplines will be considered (e.g. wheelchair basketball, para-swimming, para-athletics, etc.)

Additional Criteria:

- Nominees should demonstrate exceptional athletic ability, a strong work/school ethic, perseverance and sportsmanship on and off the field of play.
- Academic achievement and community involvement may also be favorable factors in the selection process.

Nomination Process:

- Nominations can be submitted by coaches, parents, teammates, club/team administrators or the athletes themselves.
- A complete nomination package includes:
 - Completed online nomination form
 - Athlete bio/background information
 - Supporting documents (e.g. competition results, news articles, letters of recommendation)
 - A recent photo/headshot
- All nomination materials must be received by June 15 of the nomination year for consideration.

The winner will be selected by a panel of judges consisting of SPORTS 'N SPOKES staff. The Junior Athlete of the Year will be featured in an upcoming issue of SPORTS 'N SPOKES magazine.

Recipient Prizes

The Junior Athlete of the Year winner will be notified by email and officially announced during the closing ceremony of The Hartford Nationals. Winners will receive a handcrafted engraved

plaque, a one-year complimentary print and digital subscription to SPORTS 'N SPOKES, will appear on the cover of the September issue and receive \$2500 grand prize.

Please refer all nomination questions to junior.nominations@pvamag.com.