

Preparing a good nomination for Club Letters or Blues

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March 2018

Overview

AU Sport awards 'Club Letters', and 'Blues' every year. These awards recognise the many varied ways that an individual can make significant contributions to a University sporting club. Any club member is entitled to be recognised with one of these awards, provided they meet the qualifying criteria of the club and AU Sport. AU Sport's Blues Committee reviews every nomination before approval of the award.

Purpose of Club Letters and Blues

Club Letters and Blues recognise the individuals who make their clubs great.

- Think about the person(s) who make your club run smoothly (Committee members, coaches, team managers and uniform-washers etc). If they have done it for long enough, '**Club Letters (Service)**' is the right award for them.
- Think about the athletes in your club who have been playing for years-and-years. '**Club Letters (Competition)**' is the right award for them.
- Think about the athletes in your club who have been playing at a high level. A '**Blue**', '**Half Blue**', is the right award if they are a student at Adelaide. A '**Club Letters (Competition)**' is the right award for them otherwise.

Every club wants these people. Every club has these people. Recognising their contribution is important: the awardee gets a warm-fuzzy feeling from the recognition, and the club gets to celebrate those people who are important. Celebrations and warm-fuzzy feelings help create a great club atmosphere of which people want to be part.

Making a nomination for Club Letters or Blues

First, think about the people in your club who are making a significant contribution to your club. Think about those who are helping the club run smoothly. Think about the high-performance athletes. Think about the long serving athletes. Write down their names in the space below. Then discuss them at your next training/social event with another club member.

Possible nominees: _____

Second, find out the criteria for making a nomination for your club. Establish if the people you have thought about meet those criteria. (And if your club standards/criteria are out of date, change them and then seek Blues Committee approval!). Talk with AU Sport about your proposal, if that would be helpful.

Third, if someone is eligible, fill in the nomination form. Fill it in as accurately as possible, and give useful information. More on this on the reverse page. If someone is eligible this year, fill it in this year. Don't wait till later. Nominations need to be timely.

Fourth. Those who are deserving will be recognised. Make it a priority within your club to announce their achievement. It is worthy of a celebration.

Fifth. Next year, do it again. Nominate someone else. You might find that forming a club sub-committee for Blues nominations will help your club make nominations every year.

The Blues Committee for AU Sport

A complete nomination goes straight to the Blues Committee. We are a diverse bunch of individuals. We all read every nomination form, *in detail*. We all form an opinion. We meet to discuss. We normally come to a consensus about every nomination. We generally say yes to a nomination. We sometimes ask for more information. We rarely say no. Most importantly, we like to see people and achievements recognised. Providing a complete and accurate nomination will help us say yes.



Tips for putting together a good nomination

Use dates. For example, tell us the year the person joined the club. Give the dates of the National Championships they attended or the date they were issued their black belt. Specify the number of membership years exactly. Try and be as accurate as possible.

Describe the achievement for someone unfamiliar with your sport. Most of the Blues Committee probably won't be familiar with the details of your sporting calendar.

- Eg "Victoria Cup participant", is too vague. "Member of South Australian Women's Lightweight Quad boat. Competed in the Australian National championships (Victoria Cup) (placed 4th) March 2017, Sydney" is much more descriptive.
- Eg. "Captain of Stingrays MO" is not useful. "Captain of South Australian State League Men's Open Touch team, 'The stingrays', 2017-18 season." Is very helpful.

Write in 3rd person. Or better yet, if you meet your club's criteria, get someone else at the club to fill in a nomination for you.

Use the wording of the club standard/s. You should copy-and-paste the wording from the club standards into this part of the nomination form. Then you should elaborate. Tell us when (date) and how (for someone unfamiliar with your particular sport) the nominee achieved the standard. Do this for every item in the club's criteria that they meet.

Use the additional information question. For example, if the person is being nominated as an athlete, but is also a club coach and on the club committee, write it down. It is important. But don't be flippant: "The applicant is very handsome" was written on one nomination form once. It was not helpful. Treat the nomination with the dignity it deserves.

Provide additional material. If you think it would be useful, provide some additional information in an attachment sent to the Sports office. An example might be a copy of an official athletics qualifying time.

Give accurate participant information. Names, addresses, and student ids etc. for both the nominee and the nominators. This makes sending invitations to the Blues dinner much easier.

Talk with someone who can help, if you need it. The Sports office will help. Or you can contact me: jeffrey.dutschke@gmail.com.

Good luck. Think about who is eligible, and start filling in their nomination today.