

Athletics Ireland is delighted to announce that the fourth edition of the biennial European Athletics Women's Leadership Awards will be given in 2015.

European Athletics Women's Leadership Awards General Guidelines & Selection Criteria

Aims

The European Athletics Women's Leadership Awards have been created to recognise and celebrate women leaders in athletics. The main aims are to highlight the invaluable contributions women make on the local and national levels and to inspire others to work for the benefit of the sport. Ultimately, we hope the awards will help to change attitudes and increase the numbers of women serving our sport.

Awards

The awards are given by European Athletics, normally to one winner per country, based on a selection process managed by the Member Federations. The prizes associated with the awards are presented by the Member Federations at the national level. The awards are given biennially in the odd-numbered years. Athletics Ireland will award each Regional Nominee with a National Award

Award Criteria

The awards should be given for outstanding contributions to the sport by women of any age working as coaches, competition officials, club volunteers, event organisers, journalists, administrators, federation leaders, etc. The recognised contributions may be a single activity, a recent period of work or a career-long commitment.

Regional Boards may wish to model their selection criteria on the key aspects of the European Athletics Brand "Motivation, Participation & Aspiration". It is not intended for the award to reward accomplishments in competition. In rare cases where a particular project is being recognised and more than one woman is responsible, it is possible to name joint winners from a Region. An individual may win the award one time only.

Winners do not need to be nationally or internationally famous and, indeed, one of the objectives of these awards is to raise awareness of the work of lesser-known women leaders throughout the sport, even at a local level.

Profiles of previous winners can be found at: <http://www.european-athletics.org/previous-winners.html>

Notification

The public announcement of the award winners will be made during the European Athletics Convention in Lausanne, Switzerland on 17 October 2015.

Presentation

A representative of all winners will be invited to receive the first award, which will be presented at a ceremony in Lausanne. European Athletics will provide the awards to be presented at the national level in Lausanne.

Application Procedure

Each Region may nominate one candidate. A National Candidate will be selected by Athletics Ireland from the nominations submitted by the Regional Boards.

Nominations must be received by Athletics Ireland by **Friday 31st July at 5pm**. **Provincial Nominations to be emailed to moiraaston@athleticsireland.ie**

Future Women Leaders Scholarships

Regional Boards are also invited to nominate candidates for Future Women Leaders Scholarships. The three available scholarships will entitle the winners to participate in a programme of activities to develop leadership skills, knowledge about athletics and contacts with other women leaders that will take place in 2016.

Aim

The European Athletics Future Women Leaders Scholarship Programme has been created to help Member Federations prepare young women to take on leadership roles in the sport of athletics. The ultimate aim is to increase the number of women serving our sport in leadership positions.

Selection Criteria

The scholarships are intended for women who are currently involved in the sport of athletics, are perceived to have the abilities, ambition and commitment to become a leader, and have the strong backing of their Member Federation.

Although there is no specific age limit, candidates who will be able to make a contribution to the sport for a long period in the future will be favoured.

It is mandatory that applicants are able to communicate fluently in English, as the education and training programme will be conducted solely in that language.

Scholarships and Programme Activities

Three scholarships will be given in 2015 by European Athletics based on nominations submitted by Member Federations. The scholarships will cover the associated costs for the recipients to participate in a programme of activities to take place in 2016. Details of the programme will be published on the European Athletics website as soon as it is confirmed.

Application Procedure

Candidates must be nominated by their Region. A National Candidate will be selected by Athletics Ireland from the nominations submitted by the Regional Boards.

Nominations must be received by Athletics Ireland by **Friday 31st July at 5pm. Provincial Nominations to be emailed to moiraaston@athleticsireland.ie**