



THE GEELONG FOOTBALL CLUB

AWARDS PROGRAM

The Geelong Football Club has a long and proud history which we celebrate in a number of ways including through our annual Awards program. The annual Awards program was created to ensure that the icons of our Club and of our great game of Aussie Rules are celebrated for their significant contribution as part of the team at the Geelong Football Club. We also participate in the annual AFL and Australian Football Awards program to assist with their program's success.

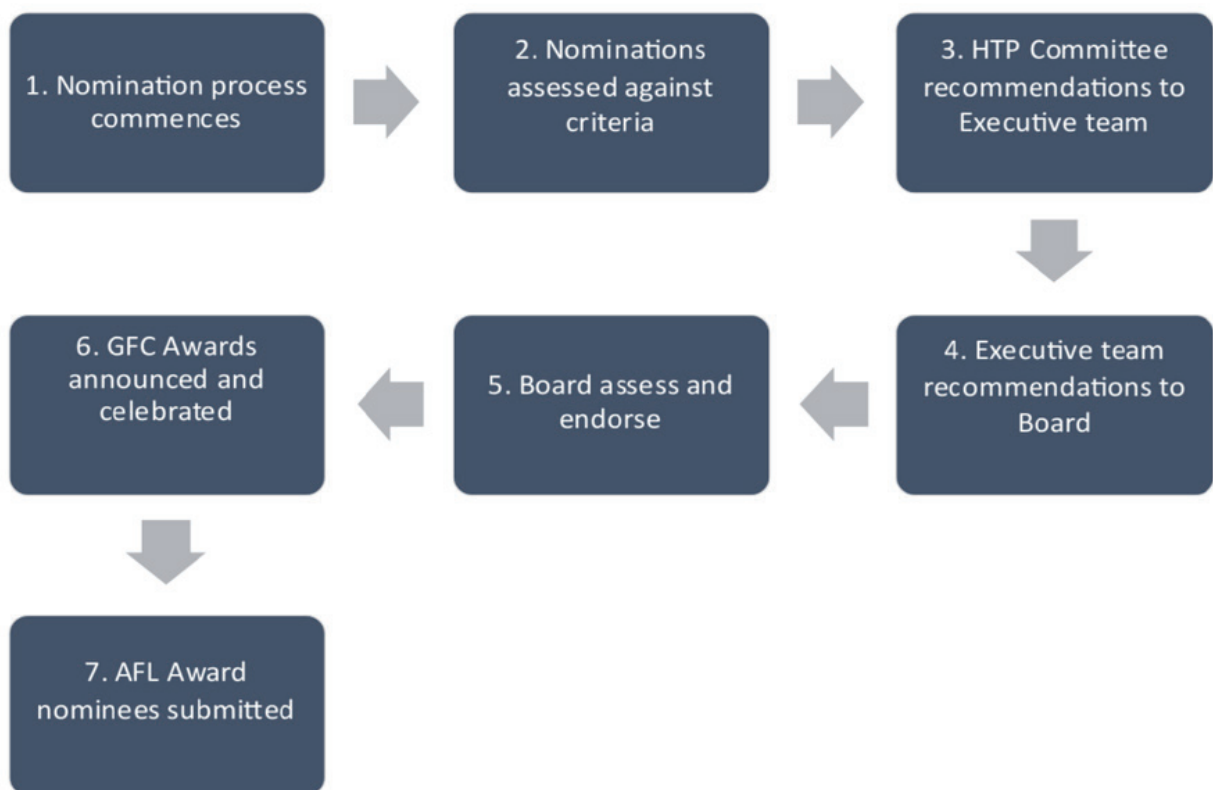
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1. Governance responsibilities:

- a. The Honouring the Hoops (HTH) Working Group are responsible for the coordination of the annual Award nomination process.
- b. The Executive team responsible for reviewing and deliberating the HTH Working Group recommendations.
- c. The Executive team are also responsible for making a final recommendation to the Board.
- d. The Board are then responsible for considering and endorsing all category nominations and Award recipients.

2. Nomination and selection process:

- a. Our process is outlined in the diagram below.



3. Alignment to our Guiding Principles:

Our Guiding Principles (GPs) help to guide our decision making in all aspects of our daily work at the Club. In the context of the selection of appropriate Award nominees and recipients, each layer within the Governance responsibilities (HTH Working Group, Executive team and Board) should reflect on the nominee’s alignment to our GPs. They are:

- Team of all. (Legit inclusion. Diversity seekers. Collective Identity. Win Together.)
- Unlock excellence. (Progressive thinking. Fierce alignment. Energy management. Environment and edge.)
- Connected in calm & chaos. (Care for our culture. Clear communication. Assume good intent. Geelong Hospitality.)
- Kardinia spirit. (Embrace new dawns. Honour heritage. Service mindset. Humble custodians.)
- Be the catalyst. (Get in the equation. Awake and accountable. Seize opportunity. Make magic.)

Section One — Geelong Football Club Awards

R J Hickey Award

This Award is named in the honour of one of our great past Players, Premiership Coach and Captain Reg Hickey, whose contribution to the game of Australian Football and to the Geelong Football Club was profound over 3 + decades from 1926 to 1959. Hickey played a key role in four Geelong Premiership victories – one as a Player, one as Captain-Coach and two as a non-playing Coach. Hickey’s career matches tally for the Geelong Cats stood as a record for over 30 seasons (total Premiership 245 and Interstate 18).

View past winners here: <https://www.geelongcats.com.au/history/rj-hickey-award/>

Criteria:

- The R J Hickey Award is awarded annually by the Geelong Football Club to an individual in recognition of their “outstanding service to Australian Football” particularly, but not limited for their contribution to football in the Geelong region.
- Roles held in Australian Football such as Player, Coach, Administrator; a member of the Media or a Volunteer at all levels of our game are eligible for consideration.
- Geelong FC Officials / Staff / Players and Volunteers are ineligible during their tenure with the Club.
- Nominations will be sought from the following:
 - Honouring the Hoops Working Group members
 - Executive Team
 - Board of Directors
 - AFL Barwon Commission and Clubs
 - Members of the public can submit nominations via the Honouring the Hoops Working Group
- Geelong FC officials / volunteers are ineligible during their tenure with the Club

Award presentations and entitlements:

- The Recipient of the R J Hickey Award:
 - is announced at the Annual General Meeting or other appropriate event
 - may invite a guest and family members to the presentation
 - direct descendants of the late Reg Hickey are also invited to the presentation
 - receives a engraved medal, a framed certificate, signed by the CEO and the President of the Board
 - receives a personalised RJ Hickey medal
 - recognition on the RJ Hickey plaque
- Appropriate media to be coordinated by the GFC Marketing and Communications team.

The Carter / Costa Service Award

This Award is named to recognise the exceptional voluntary service to GFC by two of our Club's long-serving Directors; Colin Carter and Frank Costa.

Carter served as GFC Director from 1988 to 1993 before joining the AFL Commission. Costa joined the Geelong FC Board in 1996 and was elected President in 1998 and remained President until the end of 2010 when he retired from the Board. He then went on to become the Club's Patron. Following Carter's retirement from the Commission in 2008, he re-joined the Cats Board and then served a further term until his retirement as President in 2021.

Both Colin Carter and Frank Costa were able to celebrate GFC premierships whilst they were Presidents of the Club.

Criteria:

- The Carter / Costa Service Award is awarded annually to an individual in recognition of their exceptional service at Club or Community level within the Geelong region.
- By demonstrating commitment to teamwork and for their outstanding personal values.
- This Award seeks to recognise either an Employee or Volunteer at Club or Community level.
- Nominations will be sought from the following:
 - Honouring the Hoops Working Group members
 - Executive Team
 - Board of Directors
 - AFL Barwon Commission
 - Volunteers at Club or Community level
 - Members of the public can submit nominations via the Honouring the Hoops Working Group

Award presentations and entitlements:

Recipients of the Carter / Costa Award:

- is announced at the Annual General Meeting or other appropriate event
- may invite a guest and family members to the presentation
- Colin Carter and the family members of the late Frank Costa are also invited to the presentation
- receive an engraved medal, a framed certificate, signed by the CEO and the President of the Board

Appropriate media to be coordinated by the GFC Marketing and Communications team.

GFC Life Membership

Criteria:

- Pursuit to Clause 5.4 of the GFC's Constitution:
 - The Board will confer the privileges of the Life Membership on those who were Life Members of the Club on adoption of this Constitution
 - The Board may at its discretion annually elect as Life Members any person who has rendered outstanding service to the Club
 - The name of each Life Member shall be entered onto the Register
 - Any person elected to Life Membership shall be exempt from payment of any further subscription and shall upon election by the Board under sub-section (b) become an Ordinary Voting Member.
- Nominations will be sought from the following:
 - Honouring the Hoops Working Group members
 - Executive Team
 - Board of Directors
 - Past Players and Officials Association Committee
 - Current Employees of the GFC
 - Current Life Members

View past inductees here: <https://www.geelongcats.com.au/history/life-memberships/>

GFC Guidelines for AFL players:

- A player will be eligible for consideration of Life Membership upon meeting the criteria outlined below:
 - 150 senior games for the GFC or,
 - 100 senior games plus selection in a Premiership team for the GFC or,
 - 100 senior games for the GFC, plus satisfaction of any one of the following criteria whilst playing for GFC:
 - Brownlow medallist
 - Best and Fairest / 'Carji' Greeves medallist
 - All Australian selection or State selection for Victoria (only up until the formation of the AFL in 1990)
 - Appointed or acting GFC Club Captain
 - AFL Leading Goal Kicker at the end of the final series
 - 10 years' service as an AFL listed player for the Geelong Cats
 - A second GFC Premiership.

GFC Guidelines for AFLW players:

Our AFLW team was established in 2019. Given that the AFLW competition is in its infancy, we will recognise the contribution of players to the Club during our Pioneer years (2017 and 2018).

- An AFLW player will be eligible for consideration of Life Membership upon meeting the criteria outlined below:
 - Seven (7) seasons as a listed player for the GFC (including Pioneer VFLW teams) or,
 - Five (5) seasons (including Pioneer VFLW) plus selection in a Premiership team for the GFC or,
 - Three (3) seasons plus selection in a Premiership team, plus satisfaction of any one of the following criteria whilst playing for Geelong Football Club:
 - W medallist (AFLW league best and fairest)
 - Club best and fairest winner
 - All Australian Selection or State Selection
 - Appointed or Acting GFC Club Captain (including VFLW captain)
 - AFLW Leading Goal Kicker
 - A second Premiership

Note: Due to the likely fluctuations in length of season as the competition evolves it is recommended that the above metrics are reviewed annually.

GFC Guidelines for non-players:

The Board may at its discretion annually elect as Life Members any person who they consider has rendered outstanding service to the Club.

Award presentations and entitlements:

Recipients of GFC Life Membership:

- AFL and AFLW players are announced at the Hall of Fame celebration which is held every second year
- all other life members (non-players) are announced at the Annual General Meeting and then recognised at the Hall of Fame celebration (or at an appropriately identified event throughout the year)
- receive a personalised Life Member medal
- their name on the Life Member Honour Board
- 2x annual GFC Home and Away Memberships
- access to purchase two tickets (via the Club member ballot) at face value to an AFL Grand Final that the GFC compete in

Appropriate media to be coordinated by the GFC marketing and communications team.

GFC Hall of Fame

Criteria:

- Induction to the GFC Hall of Fame is considered on a case-by-case basis as there is no provision for automatic inclusion into the GFC Hall of Fame
- Consideration for induction into the GFC Hall of Fame will be given to a Player or Coach or Non-Player / Coach no less than three (3) years after their retirement from the AFL competition
- If State Representative matches are reintroduced, the guidelines may be amended at the discretion of the Board.
- Goal kicking records have not been included for the following reasons:
 - In the early years goal totals were generally much smaller than in the later years
 - Goal kicking, naturally favours particular playing positions
- Nominations will be sought from the following:
 - Honouring the Hoops Working Group members
 - Executive Team
 - Board of Directors
 - Past Players and Officials Association Committee

View past inductees here: <https://www.geelongcats.com.au/history/hall-of-fame/>

GFC Guidelines for AFL players:

- An AFL Player will be deemed eligible for consideration if he satisfies any four (4) of the following ten (10) guidelines:
 - Ten (10) years of service as an AFL / Rookie listed player for the GFC.
 - A total of two hundred (200) senior premiership / finals matches (out of season matches are not included). A more discretionary approach will be applied to those players who played between 1859-1886.
 - Official service as Appointed or Acting Captain for two (2) years. Special consideration will be given to Captains who played prior to the inception of coaches in 1910, since Captains service as both Coach and Captain prior to that year.
 - GFC Best and Fairest Winner. A more discretionary approach will be applied to players who played prior to the 1920's, when there were no regular Best and Fairest award.
 - Top three (3) placing in GFC Best and Fairest on four (4) occasions, where records are recorded accurately. Some flexibility will apply to players prior to 1960.
 - Premiership player – each Premiership will count as one (1) guideline being met, e.g., three (3) Premierships equals three (3) guidelines met.
 - All-Australian selection
 - AFL Brownlow Medal winner
 - Top three (3) placements in the AFL Brownlow count on two (2) occasions. A more discretionary approach will be applied to players who played prior to the awarding of the Brownlow Medal in 1924.
 - AFL Coleman medallist and / or competition leading goal scorer.

GFC Guidelines for AFLW players:

- Our AFLW team was established in 2019. Given that the AFLW competition is in its infancy, we will recognise the contribution of players to the Club during our Pioneer years (2017 and 2018).
- An AFLW player is eligible for consideration if they satisfy any four (4) of the following ten (10) guidelines:
 - Ten (10) years of service as an AFLW / Rookie listed player and taking into account our Pioneer years (2017 and 2018) for the GFC.
 - A total of 60 senior premierships / finals matches (out of season matches are not included). Additional consideration will be applied to those players who played in our Pioneer period.
 - Official service as Captain for two (2) years. Special consideration will be given to Captains who played in our Pioneer period.
 - GFC AFLW Best and Fairest Winner. Additional consideration will be given to those who played in our Pioneer period.
 - Top three (3) placing in GFC AFLW Best and Fairest on four (4) occasions
 - Premiership player: Each Premiership will count as one (1) guideline being met, e.g. three (3) Premierships equals three (3) guidelines met.
 - All-Australian selection
 - AFLW league Best and Fairest
 - Top three (3) placements in the AFLW Best and Fairest count on two (2) occasions
 - Competition leading goal scorer.

Note: Due to the likely fluctuations in length of season as the competition evolves it is recommended that the above metrics are reviewed annually.

GFC Guidelines for AFL coach:

- An AFL Coach will be deemed eligible for consideration if s/he satisfies three (3) of the following criteria:
 - Six (6) years as the Senior Coach for the GFC.
 - Premiership Coach. Each Premiership will count as one guideline met.eg. three (3) Premierships equals three (3) guidelines met.
 - Senior Coach who has coached teams to the finals in five (5) years in the course of their career.
 - A coach who has also been a player may have his/her records combined for consideration.

GFC Guidelines for AFLW coach:

- An AFLW Coach will be deemed eligible for consideration if s/he satisfies three (3) of the following three criteria:
 - Six (6) years as the Senior Coach including Pioneer period for the GFC.
 - Premiership Coach. Each Premiership will count as one guideline met.eg. three (3) Premierships equals three (3) guidelines met.
 - Senior Coach who has coached our AFLW team to finals in five (5) seasons in the course of his/her career. Additional consideration will be given to the coach of our Pioneer period.
 - A coach who has also been a player may have his/her records combined for consideration.

Award presentations and entitlements:

Recipients of GFC Hall of Fame:

- are announced at an appropriately identified event (generally the Hall of Fame celebration which is held every second (2) year) and no less than 3 years after retirement from the GFC
- receive a personalised Hall of Fame medal
- an invitation to the Hall of Fame dinner

Appropriate media to be coordinated by the GFC marketing and communications team.

GFC Club Legend

Criteria:

- The primary consideration for the status of Club Legend will be that the individual has had a significant, positive impact on the Club by demonstrating outstanding a genuine alignment to our Club's Guiding Principles.
- It is recommended that the percentage of Club Legends to Hall of Fame inductees is approximately 20%
- GFC Officials / Staff / Players and Volunteers are ineligible during their tenure with the Club.
- The following will also be taken into consideration:
 - Best and Fairest awards and consistent top ten placings in the Best and Fairest results
 - Captaincy
 - Brownlow Medal or AFLW Best and Fairest awards and performance
 - Number of games played
 - Premierships
 - Members of the Hall of Fame can be considered for elevation to Legend status. Therefore, any nominations for Legend status should come from the Hall of Fame list. View the list here: <https://www.geelongcats.com.au/history/hall-of-fame/>
 - Players, Coaches and Administrators may be nominated for Club Legend. In the instance where a Player also becomes a Coach, and / or Administrator of the GFC, the combined record of all appointments in all areas will be considered in respect of any nomination.
- Nominations will be sought from the following:
 - Honouring the Hoops Working Group members
 - Executive Team
 - Board of Directors
 - Past Players and Officials Association Committee
 - Current Hall of Fame Inductees

View past inductees here: <https://www.geelongcats.com.au/history/club-legends/>

Award presentations and entitlements:

Recipients of GFC Club Legend Inductees:

- are announced at an appropriately identified event (Generally the Hall of Fame celebration which is held every second (2) year and no less than 3 years after retirement from the GFC receive a personalised Club Legend medal
- an invitation to the Hall of Fame dinner

Appropriate media to be coordinated by the GFC marketing and communications team.

Section Two — AFL and Australian Football Awards

John Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Award

The John Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Award is presented periodically to an individual who has made an extraordinary and positive contribution to the AFL competition and/or the game of Australian football as an administrator, media representative, player, coach or field umpire or any combination thereof. The award was introduced by the AFL Commission to recognise an individual who has made an extraordinary contribution to the game in multiple fields of endeavour and to honour the contribution of John Kennedy Snr to the game in a number of capacities.

Special considerations and guidelines:

- This Award is managed by the AFL and is not automatically awarded on an annual basis. Therefore, the timing of this Award is at the AFL's discretion.
- According to the AFL, candidates with a history of extraordinary contributions to the game in more than one area of the game will be preferred over candidates whose contribution to the game has been in one field.
- The John Kennedy Lifetime Achievement award is one of the highest honours the League can bestow. As such the GFC nominee should be an individual not only for what they have contributed to but also for the manner in how they have conducted themselves.
- Nominations will be sought from the following:
 - Honouring the Hoops Working Group members
 - Executive Team
 - Board of Directors

Award presentations and entitlements:

- The timing, presentation and any entitlements of this Award is at the discretion of the AFL
- Should the GFC nominee be successful, any media will be coordinated between the AFL and the GFC marketing team.

Jack Titus Recognition of Service Award

The Jack Titus Service Award is presented annually for outstanding service to the game, particularly at Club level.

The Jack Titus Award is in honour of one of the great forwards of the game during the golden era of the 1930s. Titus played 294 games and kicked 970 goals for Richmond between 1926 and 1943. He also served the Richmond FC as a Coach and also as a Committee member and continued to be a significant contributor for decades after his retirement.

Special considerations and guidelines:

- This award is managed by the AFL and is not automatically awarded on an annual basis. Therefore, the timing of this award is at the AFL's discretion.
- Any individual nominated by the GFC for this award will recognise the person's contribution at Club level.

- Nominations will be sought from the following:
 - Honouring the Hoops Working Group members
 - Executive Team
 - Board of Directors

Award presentations and entitlements:

- The timing, presentation and any entitlements of this Award is at the discretion of the AFL
- Should the GFC nominee be successful, any media will be coordinated between the AFL and the GFC marketing team.

AFL Life Membership

Please note: The AFL have established a criteria for AFLW Life Membership which are yet to be published.

Special considerations and guidelines:

- Induction as an AFL Life Member is managed by the AFL.
- GFC's responsibility is to undertake an annual nomination process.
- Nominations will be sought from the following:
 - Honouring the Hoops Working Group members
 - Executive Team
 - Board of Directors

Criteria:

As outlined by the AFL, "the Appointees may elect three Life Members in each year, the qualification for each of whom shall be that the person has been:

- a. Awarded the Charles Brownlow Medal on three occasions, or
- b. Has rendered special services to the League or to Football.

In addition to the Life Members elected as aforesaid, the Appointees may elect Life Members, the qualification for each being that the person has participated in not less than three hundred matches in any of the capacities of a player, a coach or a field umpire. For this purpose "matches" shall include all official matches of the League including Pre-Season, Home & Away and Finals matches and matches where the player has represented the League as a player in an Interstate or State of Origin Match.

A person shall not be deemed to have been elected as a Life Member unless he has completed an application for membership and delivered same to the Commission. A Life Member shall be elected by a three-fourths majority of Appointees present at the Annual General Meeting of the League. Notice of the Annual General Meeting of the League shall be sent to Life Members.

Life Members shall be entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting of the League. Save as aforesaid Life Members shall not be entitled to receive notice of meetings of the League nor to attend such meetings. Life Members shall not be entitled to vote at any meetings of the League".

Award presentations and entitlements:

- The timing, presentation and any entitlements of this Award is at the discretion of the AFL
- Should the GFC nominee/s be successful, any media will be coordinated between the AFL and the GFC marketing team.

Australian Football Hall of Fame, Hall of Fame Legend and Pioneer

Special considerations and guidelines:

- Induction to the Australian Football Hall of Fame, Hall of Fame Legend and Pioneer is managed by the AFL.
- There are currently 2 categories for nomination:
 - Player, Coach, Administrator, Umpire or Media
 - Australian Football Hall of Fame elevation to Legend
- There is also opportunity for Pioneers to be acknowledged across these categories.
- GFC's responsibility is to undertake an annual nomination process.
- Nominations will be sought from the following:
 - Honouring the Hoops Working Group members
 - Executive Team
 - Board of Directors

Australian Football Hall of Fame criteria is:

Selection Criteria for Induction into the Hall of Fame (clause 5 in the Charter):

- 5.1 The Committee may elect up to eight (8) inductees in any given year provided that:
 - a. There must be at least one (1) inductee selected from the category of administrator, umpire or media every two (2) years.
- 5.2 The Committee shall consider a candidate's outstanding service and overall contribution to the game of Australian Football in determining a candidate's eligibility for induction into the Hall of Fame.
- 5.3 Without limiting clause 5.2, the Committee may consider a candidate's individual record, ability, integrity, sportsmanship and character.
- 5.4 The number of football games played, coached or umpired or the years of service provided shall only be a consideration and shall not be determinative in assessing a candidate's eligibility.
- 5.5 A player, coach, umpire, administrator or media representative involved at any level of Australian Football may be eligible for induction into the Hall of Fame.
- 5.6 Candidates shall be adjudged on the basis of their overall contribution to Australian Football, as opposed to one specific aspect.
- 5.7 The Committee shall consider candidates from all parts of Australia and from all Australian Football competitions within Australia.
- 5.8 A player from the men's competition may only be eligible for induction into the Australian Football Hall of Fame if that player has retired from playing Australian Football for a minimum period of five (5) years. However there is no waiting period for a retired player from the women's competition
- 5.9 Coaches and umpires may only be eligible for induction into the Hall of Fame upon retirement.
- 5.10 A member of the Committee may be a candidate but shall not vote for his or her induction into the Hall of Fame.
- 5.11 There shall be no special order of precedence given to Hall of Fame inductees.

Australian Football Hall of Fame Legend criteria is:

Selection Criteria for Induction into the Hall of Fame (clause 7 in the Charter):

- 1.1 There shall be a special category of inductees of the Hall of Fame known as “Legends”.
- 7.2 The classification of Legend will be applied to honour those players and coaches who have had the most significant impact on the game of Australian Football and caused the game to change significantly for the better. Legends should be players and coaches who immediately come to mind when players and coaches at the very pinnacle are discussed.
- 7.3 Subject to 7.4, the process for selecting and enshrining Legends shall be the same as the process for selecting and enshrining inductees.
- 7.4 The title of “Legend” shall be bestowed on no more than one Hall of Fame inductee every two years.
- 7.5 The Committee shall recommend to the AFL Commission how to recognise “Legends” in the Hall of Fame. Recognition may take the form of full statues or significant busts.

Australian Football Hall of Fame Pioneer criteria is:

Selection Criteria for Induction into the Hall of Fame (clause 8 in the Charter):

- 8.1 There shall be an additional category of inductees elected into the Hall of Fame known as “Pioneers”.
- 8.2 The classification of Pioneer will be applied to recognise and enshrine players, coaches, umpires, administrators and media representatives who have made a most significant contribution to the early development of the code of Australian Football since its inception in 1858.
- 8.3 “Early development” of Australian Football is taken to mean the foundation of the game in the colonies, states and territories of Australia.
- 8.4 The process for selecting and enshrining Pioneers shall be the same as the process for selecting and enshrining inductees.”

Award presentations and entitlements:

- The timing, presentation and any entitlements of this Award is at the discretion of the AFL
- Should the GFC nominee be successful, any media will be coordinated between the AFL and the GFC marketing team.

Section three — Nomination and selection process

Nomination process commences:

- a. As part of the HTH Working Group annual meeting schedule, the Awards Program is to be included as an Agenda item in the Working Groups last meeting of the year. This inclusion ensures that all Working Groups members are familiar with the information and process (in case that there is a change of Working Group membership).
- b. Minutes of Meetings are taken by a nominated staff member, usually the Honouring the Hoops Coordinator.
- c. In December of each year the nomination forms for all GFC, AFL and Australian Football Award categories are distributed by the Honouring the Hoops Coordinator with a closing date of February 15th as outlined in the Award criteria.

Nominations assessed against criteria:

- a. At the first scheduled meeting of the new year, the HTH Working Group reviews the nominations and supporting documentation to ensure that nominees meet the category criteria.
- b. Nominations from previous years are not automatically carried over to the next year.
- c. The HTH Working Group considers each nomination against the criteria and identifies their preferred nominee/s.
- d. Should the HTH Working Group not be able to narrow down to a single preferred nominee, then a short list can be developed for consideration in the next stage of the process.

HTH recommendations to the Executive Team:

- a. The HTH Working Group's preferred recipient (or a short list) for a GFC Award will be presented at the next Executive team meeting for deliberation and endorsement.
- b. In addition, the HTH Working Group's preferred nominee (or a short list) for an AFL or Australian Football Award will be presented to the Executive team for consideration.

Executive Team recommendations to the Board:

- a. The Executive team may elect not to support the HTH Working Group's recommendation, based on information that they may have access to, or knowledge of, and choose to recommend an alternative nominee to the Board.
- b. A report will be presented to the Board including the list of nominees and the selection criteria; plus any rationale if the Executive team does not support the HTH Working Group recommendations.

Board assess and endorse:

- a. During the next Board meeting (or another meeting depending on time available), the Board will review the final recommendation (from the Executive team), consider and endorse.
- b. The Board may elect not to support the Executive team's recommendation based on information that they are privy to. The decision will be conveyed to the HTH Working Group as deemed appropriate.
- c. The Board's process cannot be conducted by Circular Resolution.
- d. The Board's decision will be communicated to the HTH Working Group at their next scheduled meeting.

GFC Awards announced and celebrated:

- a. The process should be concluded no later than June each year to appropriately plan for the announcements and celebrations.

AFL and Australian Football Award nominees submitted:

- a. The GFC nominations for the AFL and Australian Football Awards are submitted by a nominated staff member, usually the Honouring the Hoops Coordinator to align with the AFL requirements.

Nomination form

Please include any supporting information:

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Your name and relationship to the Nominee:

Date of nomination:

Please send the completed Nomination Form to the Club’s Honouring the Hoops Coordinator at the following email address, no later than 15th February. honouringthehoops@geelongcats.com.au

Thank you.

**ONE IN
HOOPS**



ONE IN
HOOPS



Ford