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## MEDIA RELEASE

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# SP Sports Awards Launched with New Category

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With the success of Team PNG at the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa being the highest international achievement for the country in 2019 apart from a host of other international sporting successes, this year's SP Sports Awards is anticipated to be a tight contest among PNG's elite sports people.

Among the 12 award categories on offer for nomination, the SP Sports Awards will introduce a new category which will recognize organisations that provide outstanding support through their continued partnership and collaboration with sport in PNG.

This announcement was made during the launch of the 2020 SP Sports Awards held today (Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February) at the SP Brewery head office in Port Moresby.

Known as the Stan Joyce Award, this new category will be presented every two years. Nominations will be submitted by a special panel of experts from the PNG Olympic Committee, PNG Sports Foundation and SP Brewery.

President of the PNG Olympic Committee, Sir John Dawanincura said corporate organisations provide an important lifeline to sports through their sponsorships and partnerships.

"Most sporting organisations are run by volunteers who strive to raise much needed funds to carry out their program, PNG's elite athletes also need a lot of support to realise their dreams by attending high level training and competitions internationally.

"We are grateful to all our sponsors and partners who continue to breathe life to sports in PNG. Sporting achievements and eventual success will not be possible without the support of sponsors and partners," said Sir John.

The Award is named after former Managing Director of SP Brewery, Stan Joyce, CSM. The Stan Joyce Award brings in total the number of categories to 13 and will be presented before the Team of the Year Award during the presentation ceremony on May 30<sup>th</sup> 2020.

During the launch, SP Brewery Corporate Affairs Manager, John Nilkare said: "This award recognizes the commitment and efforts from the corporate community in promoting and developing sport in the country through their corporate social responsibility programs.

"The criteria of the Award includes: Longevity, Creativity, Impact in the Community and achievement. A panel consisting of the PNGOC, PNGSF, SP Brewery and independent reps will assemble to judge," said Nilkare.

Sir John and Mr Nilkare extended a call from the Organising Committee to the public to participate in this year's SP Sports Awards by nominating their sports officials, team, athlete or media personnel as per the Awards categories on offer.

Nomination forms can be collected from the PNG Olympic Haus in Boroko, NCD or through the PNG Olympic Committee website; [www.pngolympic.org](http://www.pngolympic.org), Facebook and Twitter pages or email: [events@pngoc.org.pg](mailto:events@pngoc.org.pg). Nomination forms are also available at all SP Brewery offices throughout the country.

All completed nomination forms can be dropped off either at the PNG Olympic Committee office in Boroko, PNG Sports Foundation office at the Sir John Guise Stadium and at any SP Brewery office throughout PNG.

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