



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday 5th February, 2019

Public encouraged to participate in the Awards

Fans, supporters and followers of sports are encouraged to nominate a sports person of their choice for the SP Sports Awards this year.

Nominations for the 2019 SP Sports Awards are now open following the launch in Port Moresby today. The nomination period will end on March 22.

11 award categories are on offer for athletes, officials and media based on their performance and achievements in 2018. The selection panel will meet after the close of nominations to select the finalists for each category.

These categories are;

1. Male Athlete of the Year
2. Female Athlete of the Year
3. Team of the Year
4. Community Sports Initiative Award
5. Junior Male Athlete of the Year
6. Junior Female Athlete of the Year
7. National Performance of the year
8. Best Sportsperson with a Disability
9. Sports Official of the Year
10. Sports Media Award
11. Sports Photo of the Year

Also on offer is the People's Choice of the Year award, which is open to the public to vote using their mobile phone. SMS voting for this category will open in April after names of the finalists for each category are confirmed.

SP Brewery Corporate Affairs Manager, John Nilkare and President of the Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee, Sir John Dawanincura, have both expressed their desire to see the public and various stakeholders participate more in the nomination period.

“Every achievement is a great success and must be recognized and celebrated accordingly. We would like to see our sports men and women given that acknowledgement.

“SP Brewery is proud to be sponsoring this prestigious Sports Awards in the last 27 years. Our athletes work hard every year to represent Papua New Guinea through sports therefore, the annual SP Sports Awards is a great platform to recognise athletes and to show our appreciation,” Nilkare said.

“It gives me great pleasure to welcome on board this year, other business houses that have joined our family of SPSA sponsors. Most of them are not new to the event, as they have contributed in one way or another over the years.

“The sponsors are:

- City Pharmacy Ltd, sponsor of the Best Sports Person with a Disability category and
- Total Colour, sponsor of the Sports Media of the Year and Sports Photo of the Year awards and also our official provider of the winners’ medallions.

“I would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to our other sponsors that have supported the SPSA for over 20 years.

- Air Niugini
- Crowne Hotel
- Westpac
- EMTEK & EMTV
- FM100
- Theodist
- Pacific Palms Property
- Graffiti Signs.”

This year’s Awards are hosted with the theme ‘*Aspire to Inspire.*’

There were a number of international and national sporting events in 2018 which featured some of Papua New Guinea’s best sporting talents. Nominations can feature from any of these or other international events.

They include;

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games – Team PNG

Argentina Youth Olympic Games – Team PNG

Rugby League - Pacific Test (PNG Vs Fiji),

Rugby League - Prime Ministers 13 (PNG Vs Australia)

Rugby League – PNG Kumuls Vs English Knights (PNG Vs England)

Basketball - FIBA Oceania U15 – PNG U15 Men and Women

A few national events hosted in PNG included;

Athletics National Championships – POM

Hockey National Championships – POM

Sir John said sports federations, clubs, teams, families and friends are closer to each of the sporting personalities and should be able to submit good nominations for their sports person of choice.

“We want the achievements of our sports men and women to inspire our nation and the next generation of sporting elites to excel in their respective fields,” Sir John said.

Everyone is reminded to include supporting documents such as news articles, photos and other references with the filled-out nomination form to enhance their nomination.

Nominations can be dropped at specially marked boxes at the PNG Olympic Committee office at 4 Mile, NCD or other selected locations.

For more information contact the PNG Olympic Committee on 323 0114/ 325 1449 or 325 1449 or email events@pngoc.org.pg.

The nomination forms can also be collected at the PNG Olympic Committee Office in Port Moresby or downloaded from the website: www.pngolympic.org .

END.

###