

National Junior Athlete Sponsorship Programme

Thursday, June 12th 2025



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

Ministry of Tourism & Transport, Culture & Sport



SPORTMATTERS



National Junior Athlete Sponsorship Programme

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*Butterfield & Vallis Conference Room
inside the Bermuda College at 6:00pm*



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Programme of Events

WELCOME

Jekon Edness – Senior Sports Development Officer

REMARKS

The Hon. Owen K. Darrell, JP – Minister of Tourism & Transport, Culture & Sport

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

National Junior Athlete Sponsorship Awards, Flora Duffy Awards

The Hon. Owen K. Darrell, JP, MP – Minister of Tourism & Transport, Culture & Sport

DINNER CLOSING REMARKS

Jekon Edness – Senior Sports Development Officer

Names of Recipients

(BASA) – Elijah Daley

(BBA) – Ralph Scott

(BCB) – Andre Coley

(BEF) – Tyler James

(BFA) – John Moreira

(BRFU) – Nyindae Smith

(BSA) – Muryah Swan

(BVA) – Lorenzo Pesci

(NAAofB) – Larry Wise

(BHF) – Owen Curley

(BTA) – Michael Harlow

(BMRA) – Aeziah Divine

(BNAA) – Tatiana Sousa

(BMA) – Jazuri Easton-Thompson

(PAOB) – Lee Whitwell

Flora Duffy Award 2025 – (BNAA) Ryan Outerbridge

Foreword

Thursday, June 12th 2025,



The Hon. Owen K. Darrell, JP, MP
Minister of Tourism & Transport, Culture & Sport

NATIONAL JUNIOR SPONSORSHIP AWARDS 2025

On behalf of the Government and the people of Bermuda, I take this opportunity to congratulate the 2025 National Junior Athlete Sponsorship Programme recipients. This year's awards continue our strong tradition of identifying and investing in Bermuda's most promising young sportsmen and women.

This year, the Ministry has allocated a total of \$50,000 to support ten junior athletes and five National Sports Governing Bodies (NSGBs). These funds will assist with equipment purchases, coaching fees, international training and competition travel, and other vital resources. Our Programme goal remains clear: to provide encouragement and development opportunities to Bermudian junior athletes, aged 15 to 19, who demonstrate commitment, notable achievement, and strong potential in their chosen sport.

In some cases, funding will support an individual male or female athlete. In others, it will assist NSGBs to bring in overseas coaching expertise for cohorts of junior athletes who meet the Programme's criteria. This dual approach allows us to tailor support based on the specific needs of our developing talent, ensuring that no opportunity for growth is left untapped.

We are also pleased to announce the fourth presentation of the Flora Duffy Award, named in honour of one of Bermuda's most accomplished Olympians and sporting ambassadors. This year, \$10,000 has been allocated to support one athlete between the ages of 19 and 23 who shows clear promise, commitment, and achievement. The award is intended to assist a Bermudian athlete not currently receiving elite athlete assistance, providing crucial support as they progress toward elite status.

As always, we are proud to celebrate the dedication, discipline, and passion demonstrated by our junior athletes. They continue to be shining examples of what is possible with the right support and perseverance. With the encouragement of their families, coaches, NSGBs, and the wider community, these athletes are not only excelling individually but also helping to raise the standard of sport in Bermuda.

In closing, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Department of Sport and Recreation and all those who continue to go above and beyond in supporting the growth and development of our young people. The National Junior Athlete Sponsorship Programme is not just an investment in sport, it is an investment in Bermuda's future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Owen K. Darrell', written over a horizontal line.

The Hon. Owen K. Darrell, JP, MP
Minister of Tourism & Transport, Culture & Sport



Bermuda Amateur Swimming Association

Elijah Daley

Elijah, now 18 years old, is a dedicated student-athlete at Bill Crothers Sports School in Ontario. Following his standout performance representing Bermuda at the 2024 Carifta Games, he has qualified to compete at two major international competitions: the World Swimming Championships in Singapore (July 26 – August 3, 2025) and the Junior Pan American Games in Asuncion, Paraguay (August 9 – 23, 2025). These prestigious events mark a significant step forward in Elijah's journey and reflect both his elite potential and his relentless pursuit of excellence.

To assist our recipient, the **Bermuda Amateur Swimming Association** has been allocated a sum of **\$5,010** for **Elijah Daley** to attend the Barbados training camp which includes air travel, accommodations, coaching fees and swim gear.



Bermuda Basketball Association

Ralph Scott

At 17 years old, Ralph Scott stands as a beacon of Bermuda's burgeoning basketball talent. A 6'7" small forward/power forward, Ralph has made significant strides in his athletic journey, currently honing his skills at IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida.

In 2025, Ralph achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first Bermudian selected for the prestigious Basketball Without Borders (BWB) Americas Camp. With a 3.7 GPA, Ralph exemplifies the balance of academic excellence and athletic prowess as he continues to develop his game and pursue higher levels of competition.

To assist our recipient, the **Bermuda Basketball Association** has been allocated a sum of **\$3,699** for **Ralph Scott** to attend the IMG Summer Basketball Camp in Florida.



Bermuda Motorcycle Racing Association

Aeziah Divine

Aeziah Divine is 15 years old and continues his academic studies through Oak Academy's homeschool program. In 2025, Aeziah continues to make impressive strides in his career. He had a strong debut season in the British Talent Cup, where he consistently placed in the top 15 and earned his first top 10 finish at Donnington Park.

Looking ahead, Aeziah aims to qualify for the Red Bull MotoGP Rookies Cup selection event later this year, an important step toward his long-term goal of racing professionally on the MotoGP pathway.

To assist our recipient, the **Bermuda Motorcycle Racing Association** has been allocated a sum of **\$2,088** for **Aeziah Divine** to race at the British Talent Cup.

Bermuda National Athletics Association

Tatiana Sousa

Tatiana Sousa is a 16-year-old emerging talent in Bermudian athletics, specializing in the javelin throw. A student at Warwick Academy, Tatiana quickly established herself as one of the island's top young throwers, combining natural ability with strong technical development.

In April 2025, she delivered a standout performance at the Carifta Games, earning a silver medal in the Under-17 Girls' Javelin event. Her throw marked a personal best and secured Bermuda's second medal at the 2025 competition. With continued focus and training, she is poised to become a key figure in the island's athletics success on the regional and international stage.

To assist our recipient, the **Bermuda National Athletics Association** has been allocated a sum of **\$2,548** for **Tatiana Sousa** to attend a throwing camp which includes air travel, gear, camp fees and transport.



Bermuda Equestrian Federation

Tyler James

18 year old Tyler James is a rising star in Bermuda's equestrian scene, making significant strides both locally and internationally. In October 2024, Tyler showcased his talent at the Bruce's Field II Horse Show in Aiken, South Carolina. Riding his horse, Vino Blanco, he clinched first place in the Junior/Amateur 1.30m Jumping Class and secured third in the Jr/Am Classic 1.30m class.

Continuing his competitive journey, Tyler participated in the 2025 Ocala Winter Festival at the World Equestrian Center in Florida. Competing with two horses, Vino Blanco and Remington Bay, he achieved commendable placements: second and fifth in the hunter ring with Remington Bay, and a fifth-place finish in the 1.20m Amateur Jumping division with Vino Blanco.

To assist our recipient, the **Bermuda Equestrian Federation** has been allocated a sum of **\$5,000** for **Tyler James** to compete in Columbia, South Carolina which includes accommodation.



Bermuda Motocross Association

Jazuri Easton-Thompson

Jazuri Easton-Thompson is a 17-year-old Bermudian motocross rider making strides both locally and internationally. In November 2024, he achieved a major milestone by securing third place in the Supercross 250cc Limited class at the prestigious Thor Mini O's at Gatorback Cycle Park in Florida.

Jazuri continues to balance his athletic pursuits with academics, studying through Penn Foster High School. With his sights set on a professional motocross career, he remains a prominent figure representing Bermuda on the international stage.

To assist our recipient, the **Bermuda Motorcross Association** has been allocated a sum of **\$2,730** for **Jazuri Easton-Thompson** to train at the South of the Border facility which includes accommodation, coaching fees and transport.





Bermuda Rugby Football Union

Nyindae Smith

Nyindae Smith is a promising young Bermudian rugby player who has made significant contributions to Bermuda's Under-19 national team. In July 2024, at the RAN Under-19 Championship in Mexico, Smith played as the left wing in the final against USA South.

This year he has also been selected for Bermuda's National U20 7s team that is set to take part in the Junior PANAM Games in August.

To assist our recipient, the **Bermuda Rugby Football Union** has been allocated a sum of **\$1,718** for **Nyindae Smith** to attend a training camp in Jacksonville, Florida which includes air travel, accommodation and coaching fees.



Bermuda Sanshou Association

Muryah Swan

Muryah Swan is a 16-year-old martial artist who is emerging as a standout in the sport of San Da kickboxing. A student at The Berkeley Institute, she trains with the Bermuda Sanshou Association (BSA) at Aries Sports Centre in Hamilton.

In 2024, Muryah made her international debut at the Pan American Kungfu Championships in Markham, Ontario. She followed this with a good performance at the Pan American Wushu Championships in Santa Clara, California, competing in the 15 to 17-year-old, 123.4 lbs. female division.

To assist our recipient, the **Bermuda Sanshou Association** has been allocated a sum of **\$2,088** for **Muryah Swan** to train at the Goh's Kung fu in Baltimore which includes air travel, accommodations, gear, coaching fees and transport.

Bermuda Volleyball Association

Lorenzo Pesci

Lorenzo Pesci is a dedicated young volleyball player who has represented Saltus Grammar School's Junior Varsity team, winning the interschool tournament in Grade 9 and placing second in Grade 10. He continued to develop his skills as a 'middle blocker' with the U16 National Team during the 2024/25 seasons, which led to multiple selections for regional tournaments abroad.

Lorenzo also competed at the Nike Boston Volleyball Festival for two consecutive years, where he helped his team qualify for the Bronze Bracket—highlighting his growth and leadership on the court.

To assist our recipient, the **Bermuda Volleyball Association** has been allocated a sum of **\$3,141** for **Lorenzo Pesci** to attend the IMG Academy Training Camp in Bradenton, Florida.



Bermuda Hockey Federation

Owen Curley

Owen Curley is a standout field hockey player making significant contributions both domestically and internationally. In the Bermuda Hockey Federation league, Curley delivered a remarkable performance by scoring all four goals in the Griffins' 4–2 victory over the reigning champions, Ravens.

On the international stage, Curley represents Bermuda's senior men's national team. He participated in the 2025 Central American and Caribbean (CAC) Games Qualifiers, wearing jersey number 99. Curley's dual impact at both the club and national levels underscores his pivotal role in advancing Bermuda's presence in field hockey.

To assist our recipient, the **Bermuda Hockey Federation** has been allocated a sum of **\$3,200** for **Owen Curley** to attend the Sportsway Training Camp in the Netherlands which includes air travel and coaching fees.



INCOMING COACHES

Bermuda Cricket Board

Andre Coley

Andre Coley is the former Head Coach of the West Indies Men's Test Team and current Head Coach of the West Indies Senior Men's A-Team. Andre is a Level 3 cricket coach who has held coaching roles in the West Indies, from youth to senior levels in male and female programs between 2010 to present.

Andre has been working with the BCB Senior Men's team to provide feedback on the status of the national team, program, and to plan the way forward. To ensure that there is synergy between the developmental pathway to the senior men's team, he will facilitate a similar program for the U19 boys. The BCB High-Performance Training Camp will aid the preparation of the U19 boys for the ICC Americas U19 World Cup qualifiers.

A sum of **\$3,982** has been allocated to the **Bermuda Cricket Board**, High Performance Training Camp, featuring **Andre Coley**.

Bermuda Football Association

John Moreira

The Bermuda Football Association's aim is to provide additional coaching and training that will benefit goalkeepers on the island. With that in mind, the BFA enlisted the services of goalkeeper expert and current National Team goalkeeper coach, John Moreira. With a high number of local goalkeepers attaining scholarships to university, the Bermuda Football Association will use coach Moreira to not only develop goalkeepers, but to also establish a Bermuda Goalkeeper Coaching License.

A sum of **\$3,666** has been allocated to **Bermuda Football Association** to host a goalkeeper training camp on island featuring **John Moreira** which includes air travel, accommodations and coaching fees.

Bermuda Triathlon Association

Micheal Harlow

Michael Harlow is the Founder and Director of Endorphin Fitness and is a USA Triathlon Level 3 Certified Coach, Race Director, and Youth & Junior Certified coach. Michael is the head coach of the Endorphin Fitness Junior Elite High Performance Team, which has consistently placed in the top 5 nationally for the past 6 years. He has taken athletes from beginner to top honors at National & World Championships. Michael's success lies in his ability to motivate and communicate knowledge effectively across all levels.

The camp will provide opportunities to enhance technical skills, race tactics and mental preparation. The aim is to provide every athlete the opportunity to prepare appropriately so that they can reach their personal potential. It is also an opportunity for our local coaches to learn best practices from a very experienced coach.

A sum of **\$4,038** has been granted to **Bermuda Triathlon Association**, to host the Youth Development Camp featuring **Micheal Harlow** and local coaches.



INCOMING COACHES

Pickleball Association of Bermuda

Lee Whitwell

Lee Whitwell is a Gibraltar-born professional pickleball player who has become a prominent figure in the sport. Transitioning from a successful tennis career—where she was a Division II national champion at Francis Marion University—Whitwell discovered pickleball in 2017 and quickly made her mark by winning her first tournament. Beyond her playing career, Whitwell is dedicated to coaching and mentoring the next generation of players. She serves as the Next Gen National Team Coach and co-founded Game ChangeHER Events.

Focusing on advanced technical training and competitive strategy for pickleball, the local camp will include a mix of on-court training, off-court match analysis, and competitive play designed to elevate young players' game understanding and performance.

A sum of **\$3,050** has been granted to the **Pickleball Association of Bermuda**, to host a Technical and Strategy Training Camp featuring **Lee Whitwell** which includes air travel and coaching fees.

National Archery Association Bermuda

Larry Wise

Larry Wise is a renowned figure in the world of archery as he is celebrated for his extensive contributions as a coach, author, and educator. Wise holds certifications as an NFAA Master Coach and a USA Archery Level 4 Coach, with National Training System (NTS) credentials for both recurve and compound disciplines.

Beyond his writing, Wise is dedicated to coaching archers of all levels. He offers two-day shooting schools and individual coaching sessions, focusing on biomechanically efficient techniques and mental strategies to enhance performance.

This upcoming training camp will support NAAB preparation for several key international competitions, including the Junior Pan American Games and the World Youth Games—both scheduled for August 2025—as well as the Caribbean Development Championships in October 2025.

A sum of **\$2,806** has been granted to the **National Archery Association Bermuda**, to host a Technical and Strategy Training Camp featuring **Larry Wise** which includes air travel and coaching fees.



Flora Duffy Award

The Flora Duffy Award is made available through the National Junior Athlete Sponsorship Committee, to assist a Bermudian athlete who is not receiving elite athlete assistance. This contribution is intended to provide training/competition inducements to a promising athlete, who is likely to achieve elite athlete status at senior level given their continued participation and commitment to their sport.



2025 Recipient

Ryan Outerbridge



BERMUDA NATIONAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Ryan Outerbridge is a standout distance runner who has made significant strides in both national and collegiate athletics. A senior at Franklin Pierce University, Outerbridge has earned NCAA Division II All-Region honors in the 1500 meters, steeplechase, and 5000 meters, underscoring his versatility and endurance.

At the 2025 Northeast-10 Indoor Championships, he secured gold medals in the mile and 5000 meters, and a bronze in the 800 meters. His exceptional performance earned him the title of Most Valuable Performer and Outstanding Track Athlete of the meet. In addition to his track accomplishments, Outerbridge demonstrated his road racing prowess by finishing second in the 2024 Bermuda Half-Marathon Derby, narrowly trailing veteran runner Lamont Marshall in 2024 and Sean Trott in 2025. It is hoped that Outerbridge will represent Bermuda at major festivals in the near future.



Flora Duffy Award **2024 Recipient**

Sam Williamson



BERMUDA AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

Sam Williamson is 20 years of age and attends the University of Bath in the UK. Sam is a 2019 National Junior Athlete Sponsorship recipient. He is steadily developing into an international swimmer and has represented Bermuda at the 2023 Pan American Games and Carifta Games. In his last Carifta Games, he won 5 medals and is now competing for Bermuda at the senior level.

Sam holds several national records and now trains with Andrei Vorontsov, who was the Olympic coach for Russia and Sweden since which he continues to improve his times.

This award will assist him with the necessary technical equipment required for his training regime so that he can continue to improve his times in preparation to represent Bermuda at the World Aquatics Short Course Championships in Budapest in December 2024.

Flora Duffy Award 2024 Recipient

BERMUDA RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Aiden Kendall has played on the National Team 7s squad as an 18-year-old and is also training as part of both the U19s squad travelling to Mexico this year to compete in the RAN U19 XVs tournament. He consistently demonstrates all the qualities of an incredible athlete and rugby player. Aiden also participates in the senior domestic league as part of Teachers RFC and is a bright young prospect working his way up Bermuda Rugby's elite player pathway.

This award will support his participation at a professional talent ID camp at the Freejacks Academy, a Regional Training Group hosted in New England. The camp aims to narrow the gap between amateur rugby participants and the professional/international game.

The development program will push Aiden's rugby to the highest level to achieve his goals of competing at a pro level and will support both Bermuda Rugby's National Team and Under 23s team.

Aiden Kendall





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