

Gatorade Player of the Year

FAQ

1. What is the Gatorade Player of the Year program?

The Gatorade Player of the Year program is an athletic award program that annually recognizes one state winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states in 12 different sports for both male and female student-athletes.

Of the state winners, the Player of the Year program awards one national winner in each of the 12 sports. Winners are selected based on athletic excellence, academic achievement and exemplary character. Since its inception in 1985, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has become one of the most prestigious high school athletic awards in the nation.

2. How are state and national Players of the Year chosen?

The Gatorade Player of the Year award is presented to high school student-athletes who have achieved athletic excellence in conjunction with high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character.

All final selections are determined by The Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee. The Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee is an elite group of experienced high school sport evaluators who have more than 100 total years of experience assessing thousands of student-athletes in the country based on their statistics, GPAs and community service. This committee will work closely with the Gatorade High School Sports Leadership Team and sport-specific experts to determine the state and national winners in each sport.

3. Who can nominate a high school athlete?

Anyone can nominate a high school athlete for this award.

4. What is the Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year award?

In addition to the annual Gatorade Player of the Year awards, Gatorade will name one male and one female athlete as the Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. Each year, all 12 Gatorade National Player of the Year winners are invited to Los Angeles on behalf of Gatorade to attend the Gatorade Athlete of the Year awards, prior to the ESPYs, where they'll also all have the chance to walk the Red Carpet amongst many of today's top sports figures.

5. Which 12 sports does the Gatorade Player of the Year award honor? Why these 12?

The 12 sports that the Gatorade Player of the Year program recognizes are football, volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball and boys and girls track & field. The sports recognized by the Gatorade Player of the Year program have the highest participation rates among American high school student-athletes.

6. Why do you not honor athletes in sports such as swimming, field hockey or lacrosse? Are there plans to add those sports?

The sports recognized by the Gatorade Player of the Year program have the highest participation rates among American high school student-athletes. Our hope over time is to add new sports to the program to continue honoring the top high school student-athletes across the country.

7. What does a Gatorade Player of the Year win?

All Gatorade State Players of the Year win a trophy, and their schools also receive a trophy and banner to display. Gatorade National Players of the Year receive an additional trophy, banner and trip to Los Angeles for the Gatorade Athlete of the Year Awards with tickets to the ESPY Awards, accompanied by two parents/legal guardians.

As part of the newly-launched “Play It Forward” Program, all 606 Gatorade Player of the Year winners will be able to select a youth sports organization to receive a \$1,000 grant to help the next generation of athletes reap the benefits of sport. National winners will receive an additional \$10,000 grant.

All state and national Player of the Year winners will also have the opportunity to enter their organization of choice for an additional \$10,000 grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization is deserving. At the end of the school year, Gatorade and a board of experts will select 10 athlete-recommended organizations to receive the additional funds.

8. What is the “Play It Forward” Program?

The Gatorade “Play It Forward” Program gives Player of the Year athletes the opportunity to provide resources to youth athletes in their community, by helping youth-based sports organizations and their programming.

9. Why was the “Play It Forward” Program Created?

Youth sport participation has seen a steep decline in the past decade, largely due to a lack of resources and limited access to athletic programs. Gatorade is committed to assisting Players of the Year in their service efforts and helping youth-based sports organizations in an effort to increase youth sport participation.

10. Do Gatorade Players of the Year receive scholarships?

No, Gatorade Player of the Year winners do not receive scholarships.

11. How do I nominate an athlete?

Please complete the online form at gatorade.com/poy to nominate a student-athlete.

12. When is the deadline to nominate a student-athlete?

Nomination deadlines are rolling throughout the year and depend on the sport. Please visit gatorade.com/poy for a full schedule.

13. Where can I learn who the winners are?

Please visit gatorade.com/poy to see our latest and past winners.

If you need any additional information, please reach out to John.manzo@fleishmanhillard.com