**BENDIGO ACADEMY OF SPORT**

**Coaches’ Encouragement Awards**

**Rationale:**

The Bendigo Academy of Sport shall recognize an athlete within each sport through the presentation of a “Coaches’ Encouragement” award.

These awards are presented to promote the sport, the individual recipients and the BAS.

**Aims:**

1. To promote and recognize an athlete’s achievements, endeavor, development, team spirit and sportsmanship
2. To maintain and enhance the positive image of the Bendigo Academy of Sport in the community.
3. To promote equality amongst all athletes and sporting programs.

**Criteria:**

1. The Bendigo Academy of Sport “Coaches’ Encouragement” award shall be awarded annually to one recipient in each of the BAS sporting programs.
2. Sports with both male and female athletes with a squad number >25 shall award a female Athlete of the Year and a male Athlete of the Year.
3. All athletes who participate in the Bendigo Academy of Sport programs in the 12 month period prior to the presentation are eligible to be considered.
4. The criteria used to select the Bendigo Academy of Coaches’ Encouragement recipient for each sport. These will include the athlete’s

* Athlete achievements
* endeavor,
* development,
* team spirit
* sportsmanship

1. Each Bendigo Academy of Sport “Coaches’ Encouragement” award recipient shall receive a trophy.
2. The recipients will be presented at the Annual Presentation Evening.

**Selection Process:**

1. The Head Coach will, in consultation with other coaching staff, select a recipient of this award.
2. Recipient names shall be forwarded to the Executive Office no later than **7th April** of the year of Presentation Evening
3. The Board reserves the right to reject the nomination if required.
4. This selection process will be outlined briefly at the Annual presentation Evening prior to announcing the Bendigo Academy of Sport Athlete of the Year for each sport.

***This policy was ratified by the Board of the Bendigo Academy of Sport in November 2015***

***Review Date: Nov 2019***