**UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX SPORTS AWARDS 2025**

**TONY RICH OUTSTANDING SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT (OSA)**

**NOMINATION FORM**

The University of Essex annually confer awards in recognition of individual sporting achievement and contributions to the sporting life of the University.

There are three awards that individuals may nominate themselves for: i) Full Colours; ii) Exceptional Service to Sport Award; iii) Tony Rich Outstanding Sporting Achievement Award.

Applications for the Tony Rich Outstanding Sporting Achievement Award can be submitted at any time. This award can be conferred upon an individual more than once in those circumstances where distinct instances of outstanding performance can be evidenced.

**Awards:** OSA Awards will be presented at the Sports Awards held on Wednesday 7th May 2025. The Tony Rich Outstanding Sporting Achievement Award will not be recorded on the degree transcript but will appear in the graduation ceremony programme.

**Application Process**

**Deadline: 12:00 Monday 24th March 2025**

Individuals who wish to be considered for an Outstanding Sporting Achievement award must submit a completed application form along with all of the required supporting documents and endorsements before the published deadline **12:00** **Monday 24th March 2025**. Applications that are received after the deadline will not be considered. Applications need to be submitted electronically to **blades@essex.ac.uk.**

**Initial Screening:** Any application that is incomplete or has not met the relevant criteria will be rejected without any further review. Applications that are rejected at this stage cannot be resubmitted until the following year and can only be done so once the original reason for rejection has been addressed. Please ensure you have completed the application check list below.

**Consideration of Nominations:** All OSA applications that pass the initial screening will then be considered by an awards panel. The subgroup will comprise of:

a) Chair

b) Vice President Student Experience

c) One member of University staff

d) One member of SU staff

e) Sports Performance manager

f) Two student members of the Essex Blades Executive

Nominees must not attempt to discuss their application with any member of the subgroup before the decisions have been announced, either directly or through a third party. Any nominee found to have breached this requirement will have their application immediately rejected.

**Appeal Process:** Once all applications have been considered by the subgroup, successful nominations will be publicly announced. Unsuccessful nominees will be notified individually and will be provided with the reason(s) why their application was unsuccessful. A nominee may appeal a decision, which must be submitted in writing by the **Individual** **Appeal Deadline of 12:00 on Sunday 13th April 2025**. Appellants should clearly explain why they are appealing, and they may submit further information or evidence in support of their appeal. All appeals will be considered by the full Sports Awards Committee. Decisions about appeals made by the full group are final and there is no further right to appeal. An unsuccessful application or appeal for the Tony Rich Outstanding Sporting Achievement Awards does not affect an individuals right to submit an application for any award in subsequent years.

**Eligibility**

To be considered for any of the awards, nominees must satisfy all of the eligibility criteria stated below. Meeting the eligibility criteria does not guarantee that at an award will be granted, only that the application will be reviewed. Applications from nominees who do not meet the eligibility criteria will be immediately rejected and may not be resubmitted until the following year, and only providing all of the criteria are met.

Nominees for Outstanding Sporting Achievement OSA awards must meet the following criteria:

1. To be a registered student of the University of Essex.

2. To have an unblemished disciplinary record.

3. To be a registered member of Essex Blades and a playing member of a sports club 1st team (where applicable) with no outstanding membership fees due.

4. To demonstrate one or more instances of outstanding achievement or performance in their sport at a Regional, National or International level. Nominees should note that participation alone at regional level or above does not necessarily constitute evidence of outstanding achievement.

5. For the application to be endorsed by the President or Vice-President of the nominee’s club (where applicable or if not registered Essex Blades Club to be endorsed by a qualified representative of Sport Governing body) who can vouch for i) their good character and capability as a sportsperson, ii) their commitment to University sport, and iii) the accuracy of their application.

6. To have submitted a completed nomination form, including the appropriate quality and quantity of evidence to support the award being applied for.

7. To have submitted a checklist, showing the completeness of the application.

**Application Checklist:**

☐ I have read all Outstanding Sporting Achievement procedures and criteria

☐ I have fully completed the Outstanding Sporting Achievement nomination form, including my 500 word statement that incorporates **evidence of individual outstanding sporting achievement**

☐ My club president or vice president has completed the endorsement section.

**TONY RICH OUTSTANDING SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT NOMINATION FORM**

**THIS SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY ALL NOMINEES**

Name:

Student/Registration Number:

School/Department/Centre:

Course Studying:

Year Due to Graduate:

University Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_@essex.ac.uk

Contact Telephone Number:

☐ I confirm that I have an unblemished disciplinary record at the University and that I have no disciplinary procedures pending or outstanding NB: Checks will be made with departments and/or Student Progress Team (right click the box, select ‘properties’ then ‘checked’).

☐ I am applying for OSA in the following Sport: **[ insert sport ]**

**Evidence of outstanding achievement:**

In no more than 500 words, provide evidence of one or more instances of outstanding achievement in your sport at a regional, national or international level.

**NOTE:** Participation alone at regional level or above is not necessarily evidence of outstanding achievement. You must articulate and provide evidence of achievement. For example, podium positions in individual events or individual contributions to team successes. Very few of these awards are made, so applications that do not provide sufficient evidence of individual outstanding sporting achievement that can be verified are unlikely to be successful. Nominees for the Tony Rich Outstanding Sporting Achievement Award who have also consistently represented the University with unusual distinction are encouraged to apply for full colours as well (see criteria above). Please provide your evidence below (include a word count and delete any blank lines):

**PRESIDENT / VICE-PRESIDENT ENDORSEMENT**

**(TO BE COMPLETED BY REPRESENTATIVE OF NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY IF NO ESSEX BLADES CLUB EXISTS)**

**Endorsement of the President or Vice-President of the nominee’s club:**

How long have you known the nominee? ☐1 year ☐2 years ☐3 years +

In your view, is the nominee of good character? ☐ Yes ☐ No

To your knowledge, are the nominee’s claims accurate? ☐ Yes ☐ No

On a scale of 0-10, please rate the nominee where 0 = poor and 10 = excellent:

Sporting ability & potential:

Actual sporting performance:

Sportsmanship:

Leadership:

Commitment to the Club:

Willingness to help others in the club:

Commitment to training:

Commitment to competition:

**Please indicate whether you believe the nominee’s ability, achievements and contributions warrant the following awards (mark N/A for those not being applied for):**

Tony Rich Outstanding Sporting Achievement ☐ Yes ☐ No

Thank you for completing this endorsement. Please add some brief comments here about the nominee’s suitability for the award or colour being applied for, particularly with regard to their character, achievements and commitment (please do not exceed this page and delete any blank lines).

Name: Date:

President / Vice-President (Delete) Email Address: