

2025 USA Water Polo Zone Award Winners Announced

Alex Ellison

Irvine, CA - February 26 - USA Water Polo is excited to announce the 2025 Zone Award Winners. The winners, representing zones from all across the country, honor contributions in a variety of areas including coaching, officiating, volunteering, masters water polo, and more. The USA Water Polo National Award winners will come from this pool of zone award winners. Congratulations to all of our award winners!

Brenda Villa Award (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion - Individual)

Zone	Recipient
Central	Josh Ford
Coastal	Brandy Mosteller
Hawaii	La'akea Gum
Midwest	Brian Drumm
Mountain	Nick Balasanyan
Northeast	Adrian Cummins
Pacific NW	Austin Sechrest
Pacific SW	Jorge Perez
Pacific	Victor Adler
Southeast	Felipe Lerena
Southern Pacific	Marc Hunt
Southwest	Stephan Dean

Brenda Villa Award - Club (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion - Team)

Zone	Recipient
Central	N/A
Coastal	Next Generation Aquatics
Hawaii	808 WPC

Midwest	Wolverine
Mountain	Denver Squid
Northeast	District Blossoms
Pacific NW	Northwest Water Polo
Pacific SW	Del Mar WPC
Pacific	San Jose Express
Southeast	Team Orlando WPC
Southern Pacific	Hieland WPC
Southwest	Kraken WPC

Monte Nitzkowski Award (Elite Men's Coach)

Zone	Recipient
Central	Dan Leyson
Coastal	Adam Wright
Hawaii	N/A
Midwest	Ryan Pryor
Mountain	N/A
Northeast	Dustin Litvak
Pacific NW	N/A
Pacific SW	Scott McCollum
Pacific	N/A
Southeast	Michael Goldenberg
Southern Pacific	Brett Ormsby
Southwest	Maxton Wade

Sandy Nitta Award (Elite Women's Coach)

Zone	Recipient
Central	Natalie Benson
Coastal	Casey Moon
Hawaii	Candice Vorbeck

Midwest	Taylor McInerney
Mountain	N/A
Northeast	Kaysie Stuba
Pacific NW	N/A
Pacific SW	Sarah Lizotte
Pacific	N/A
Southeast	Stephanie Possell
Southern Pacific	Andrew Rowe
Southwest	Sabrina Carlile

Bill Barnett Award (Scholastic Men's Coach)

Zone	Recipient
Central	Rick Eoff
Coastal	Tom Davis
Hawaii	Hayden Comerford
Midwest	Stefano Di Loreto
Mountain	Ken Bixel
Northeast	Damir Matanovic
Pacific NW	Gary Muzzy
Pacific SW	Tom Atwell
Pacific	Seth Tasman
Southeast	Dani Cercols
Southern Pacific	Christian Macias
Southwest	Anthony "Ty" Halford

Doc Hunkler Award (Scholastic Women's Coach)

Zone	Recipient
Central	Heather Moody
Coastal	Jack Kocur

Hawaii	Ken Smith
Midwest	Robert Juhas
Mountain	Kailin Isaacson
Northeast	Dan Fleck
Pacific NW	Hayes Vertulfo
Pacific SW	Ian Davidson
Pacific	Kathryn Tasman
Southeast	Ryan Ackerson
Southern Pacific	Christina O'Beck
Southwest	Will Koelzer

Ted Newland Award (Development Men's Coach)

Zone	Recipient
Central	Jack Felsted
Coastal	Trevor Campbell
Hawaii	Luca Petko
Midwest	Sigfredo Cruz
Mountain	Chris Seipp
Northeast	Ilija Duretic
Pacific NW	David Carson
Pacific SW	Chad Salley
Pacific	Brodin Jasper
Southeast	Jose Garcia Soto
Southern Pacific	Gavin McKenzie

Southwest	Molly Wilkinson
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Brent Bohlender Award (Development Women's Coach)

Zone	Recipient
Central	Erik Baymiller
Coastal	Jason Rosenthal
Hawaii	Kelsey O'Brien- Robinson
Midwest	Laszlo Hruza
Mountain	Randy Hyre
Northeast	Gabe Maldonado
Pacific NW	Josh Newman
Pacific SW	Jenna Williamson
Pacific	Cathy Cantoni
Southeast	Stephanie Possell
Southern Pacific	Steven Magdaleno
Southwest	Erik Kroh

Bret Bernard Award (Elite Referee)

Zone	Recipient
Central	Ross Spiritosanto
Coastal	Gary O'Brien
Hawaii	N/A
Midwest	Jonathan Kieffer Smith
Mountain	Connor Roberson
Northeast	Irakli Sanadze

Pacific NW	Dannette Schreib
Pacific SW	Gary Hull
Pacific	N/A
Southeast	Mark Veszi
Southern Pacific	Peter Sophabmixay
Southwest	John Rightmyer

Tom Hermstad Award (Scholastic Referee)

Zone	Recipient
Central	Dominic Guerra
Coastal	Mike McMahon
Hawaii	Jake Steiner
Midwest	Eric Fischer
Mountain	Matt Langford
Northeast	Jennifer Halcoverage
Pacific NW	Courtney Bird
Pacific SW	Connor Levoff
Pacific	N/A
Southeast	Mosaab Omar
Southern Pacific	David Brown
Southwest	Dustin Devaney

Aaron Chaney Award (Development Referee)

Zone	Recipient
Central	Michael Salvador
Coastal	Eugene Sedov
Hawaii	Emma Kaahaaina
Midwest	Catherine Wallace
Mountain	Audrey Hall
Northeast	Dawson Clark
Pacific NW	Samuel Abbott
Pacific SW	Cole Duffett
Pacific	Nicholas Bea
Southeast	Keith Jordan-Wilkinson
Southern Pacific	Mario Ruiz
Southwest	Jeff Kacerek

Club Sportsmanship Award

Zone	Recipient
Central	Praetorian
Coastal	Channel Islands United
Hawaii	Lokahi
Midwest	Evanston Water Polo (Wildkit Water Polo)
Mountain	Sierra Nevada WPC

Northeast	WCAC United
Pacific NW	Narrows
Pacific SW	Chula Vista Premier
Pacific	TPCM SHARKS
Southeast	Team Orlando WPC
Southern Pacific	Riptide
Southwest	Longhorn Aquatics

Barbara Kalbus Award (Volunteer of the Year)

Zone	Recipient
Central	N/A
Coastal	Peggy McClintick
Hawaii	Chris Lee
Midwest	Patrick Storey
Mountain	Carla Gamet
Northeast	Andy Lewandowski
Pacific NW	Corrin Beaumont
Pacific SW	Sean Green
Pacific	Amanda Boyd
Southeast	Jarod Stentiford
Southern Pacific	Randy Galza
Southwest	Staci Brode

Bryan Weaver Award (Male Masters Athlete of the Year)

Zone	Recipient
Central	Derek Scott
Coastal	Kelly Stater
Hawaii	Zain Vally-Mahomed

Midwest	Austin Travers
Mountain	David Pietsch
Northeast	Val Horvath
Pacific NW	Brandon Loveless
Pacific SW	Dan Diemer
Pacific	N/A
Southeast	Sergey Bushuev
Southern Pacific	Christian Macias
Southwest	Carl Matthews

Dion Gray Award (Female Masters Athlete of the Year)

Zone	Recipient
Central	N/A
Coastal	N/A
Hawaii	Kelcie O'Brien-Robinson
Midwest	Tammy Stelnicki
Mountain	Valerie Johnson
Northeast	Lauren Picard
Pacific NW	N/A
Pacific SW	Carla Gilmore
Pacific	Jennie White
Southeast	Paloma Szivos
Southern Pacific	Jackie Frank
Southwest	Molly Wilkinson