Australian Sports Medal

The Australian Sports Medal commemorates the efforts of Australians who have made our country a nation of sporting excellence.

Nominations were called for in 2000 – the year in which Sydney hosted the Olympic and Paralympic games.

About the award

This commemorative sports medal was introduced to recognise Australian sporting achievements. The medal acknowledged a range of Australians who, in different ways, contributed to the nation's sporting success. These include former competitors, coaches, sports scientists, office holders, and people who maintain sporting facilities and services.

The Prime Minister announced the creation of the Australian Sports Medal on 31 December 1998. It was formally introduced on 23 December 1999 and awarded in the year 2000.

How it is awarded

Most of the medals were presented to people following their nomination by the sports community. Peak sports bodies recognised or funded by the Australian Sports Commission were given quotas according to a formula based on the number of their registered competitors.

All Australian parliamentarians were able to make nominations. The medals were progressively awarded during the year 2000.

Past recipient story

Belinda Clark, Captain of the Australian Women's Cricket Team, is one of more than 18,000 medal recipients.

She was awarded the medal in 2000 for her achievements on the field as player and captain, and for her tireless work as advocate and administrator of the game of cricket.

Belinda has always led by example, averaging more than 50 runs in test matches and 40 in one-day internationals. She holds the women's record one-day score of 229, made against Denmark in Mumbai in 1997.

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Medal design

The medal design symbolises Australian sport with lines depicting the athletics track at the Australian Sports Stadium and the stars of the Southern Cross. The words 'to commemorate Australian sporting achievement' appear in the raised rim of the medal.

The back of the nickel-silver circular medal bears the same imagery and includes the year '2000'.

Medal ribbon

The Australian Sports Medal is suspended from a 32 millimetre ribbon by a connector piece and ring. The ribbon's colours are Australia's national colours green and gold.

Fast facts

INTRODUCED INTO THE AUSTRALIAN HONOURS SYSTEM:

1999

NUMBER AWARDED:

18000

POST NOMINAL:

Recipients are not entitled to post-nominals.

DESCRIPTION:

The medal shows the lines of the Australian Sports Stadium's athletics tracks and the Southern Cross. The circular nickel-silver medal is suspended by a green and gold ribbon.

More information

IT'S AN HONOUR WEBSITE: www.itsanhonour.gov.au