

Wayde van Niekerk nominated for Laureus World Sports Award

A number of Olympic and Paralympic participants in the Rio de Janeiro games have been nominated for the Laureus World Sports Awards. Amongst these is South African Olympic world-record breaker, Wayde van Niekerk, who has been nominated for a Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award. Other nominees for this award include Nico Rosberg, last year's winner of the Formula One World Championship; Almaz Ayana, Ethiopian Olympic world-record breaker; and three teams who showed top performance in 2016 including English Premier League Champions Leicester City, European Championship quarter-finalists Iceland and Olympic Rugby Sevens gold medal winners Fiji.



On the note of football, Cristiano Ronaldo has been involved in three nominations; both individually and through his teams Portugal and Real Madrid.

Laureus World Sportsman of the Year Award

Nominees for the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year Award include Rio de Janeiro heroes Usain Bolt, already a three-time Laureus winner, 5k and 10k Olympic champion Mo Farah and tennis gold medal winner Andy Murray. Also shortlisted with Ronaldo are basketball duo Stephen Curry and LeBron James.

Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year Award

Olympians fill all six nomination places for the Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year Award, including Americans Simone Biles, Katie Ledecky and Allyson Felix, German world tennis number one Angelique Kerber, Jamaican sprint star Elaine Thompson and British cyclist Laura Kenny.

Laureus World Comeback of the Year

Michael Phelps, the most successful Olympian ever, heads the nominees in the Laureus World Comeback of the Year category, after winning another five golds and a silver medal in Rio. Others selected by the media are Spain's high jumper Ruth Beitia, Argentina's Davis Cup winner Juan Martin del Potro, British show jumper Nick Skelton, Mauritius triathlete

Fabienne St Louis and Norwegian skier Aksel Lund Svindal.

Laureus World Team of the Year Award

In another strong category, Mercedes AMG Petronas are nominated for the third straight year for the Laureus World Team of the Year Award, along with three football teams; European Champions Portugal, Champions League winners Real Madrid and Neymar-inspired Olympic gold medal winners Brazil. American teams Chicago Cubs, winner of their first baseball World Series for 108 years, and NBA Champions Cleveland Cavaliers, led by LeBron James, are also shortlisted.

Laureus World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award

The Rio Paralympic Games provide all six nominees for the highly respected Laureus World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award; swimmers Ihar Boki from Belarus and New Zealand's Sophie Pascoe; visually impaired Cuban sprinter Omara Durand, Iran weightlifter Siamand Rahman, Swiss wheelchair racer Marcel Hug and Italian fencer Beatrice Vio.

Laureus Action Sportsperson of the Year Award

The men's and women's surfing world champions John John Florence and Tyler Wright are nominated for the Laureus Action Sportsperson of the Year Award, along with snowboarder Chloe Kim, skateboarder Pedro Barras, mountain biker Rachel Atherton and Estonia's freestyle skier Kelly Sildaru who at 13 became the youngest ever winner of a gold medal at the Winter X-Games.

The eventual winners, as voted for by members of the Laureus World Sports Academy, will be revealed in Monaco on February 14.

Best Sporting Moment of the Year Award

For the first time ever, sports fans will have the chance to make their voices heard in a brand new Best Sporting Moment of the Year Award, which will celebrate the power of sport. More information on this will be coming soon.

While celebrating the greatest sporting successes of the year, the Laureus Awards Ceremony also showcases the work of Laureus Sport for Good, which uses the power of sport to end violence, discrimination and disadvantage, proving that sport can change the world. Today Laureus supports more than 100 programmes, in around 40 countries. This work to transform society is championed by the Laureus World Sports Academy of over 60 legends of sport. They are supported by more than 180 Laureus Ambassadors.