



PRESS RELEASE

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Florida Region of USA Volleyball Announces Class of 2023 Regional Award Winners

The Florida Region of USA Volleyball announces the winners for their 22nd annual awards program.

Eustis, FL – March 28, 2023 – The Florida Region of USA Volleyball is proud to recognize some outstanding members for their hard work and commitment to further the sport of volleyball in Florida. Many thankless hours go into coaching a team, running a club, attending clinics, getting certified, planning events, and improving the region every year. This year, the Florida Region will be awarding twelve (12) awards at the 2023 Florida Region Awards Ceremony. The ceremony will be held at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL on April 28, 2023 at 6:30 PM EST in conjunction with the 2023 ASICS Florida Volleyball Challenge event.

2023 Florida Region Awards Ceremony tickets are limited and can be purchased here: [LaunchTrack Tickets](#)

Below is a list of the 2023 Award Recipients:

- **Ben Jordan Golden Whistle Award (Outstanding Adult Referee)** – Gil Wartell (Winter Park, FL)
- **Outstanding Male Coach Award** – Tony Gaetan (Clermont, FL)
- **Outstanding Male Coach Award** – Ross Usie (Winter Garden, FL)
- **Outstanding Female Coach Award** – Brenda Winkeler (Tampa, FL)
- **Outstanding Club Director Award** – Luiz Da Silva (Orlando, FL)
- **Outstanding Service Award** – Alisha Wintersdorf (Eustis, FL)
- **Norelli Family Extra Mile Award** – Carlos Rolon (Hudson, FL)
- **Ernest Langford Pioneer Award** – Michelle Goodall (Cedar Rapids, IA)
- **Meritorious Service Award** – Jeff Reavis (Ocala, FL)
- **Bruce Perry Volleyball Ambassador Award** – Ricky Cruz (Minneola, FL)
- **Florida Region Hall of Fame Inductee** – Darin Clark (Cocoa, FL)
- **Florida Region Hall of Fame Inductee** – James Phillips (Clermont, FL)

The Executive Director/President of the Florida Region, **Steve Bishop**, commented, “Each year we look forward to honoring those that make our organization better. This year’s class of award recipients is another list of outstanding people that are making an extraordinary impact on the sport of volleyball and those around them here in Florida and around the country. We look forward to telling their stories and taking a brief pause in everyone’s busy life to celebrate and be reminded about why we all love this sport so much. Many of our great partners and past award winners will be on hand to help us present the 2023 awards. I invite you to join us in Orlando as we bring the volleyball family together for a special night in honor of our award and scholarship recipients. It will be a magical night in Orlando!”

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In addition to celebrating these outstanding individuals at the Orlando ceremony, the Florida Region will also be dedicating a day to each of the 2023 award recipients beginning on June 5, 2023. Those who are interested will be able to find the dedicated posts on their social media platforms (@floridaregion) as well as on the home page of their website (www.floridavolleyball.org).

You can check out the schedule of posts below:

- **June 5th** - Gil Wartell (Ben Jordan Golden Whistle Award)
- **June 6th** - Tony Gaetan (Outstanding Male Coach Award)
- **June 7th** - Ross Usie (Outstanding Male Coach Award)
- **June 8th** - Brenda Winkeler (Outstanding Female Coach Award)
- **June 9th** - Luiz Da Silva (Outstanding Club Director Award)
- **June 12th** - Alisha Wintersdorf (Outstanding Service Award)
- **June 13th** - Carlos Rolon (Norelli Family Extra Mile Award)
- **June 14th** - Michelle Goodall (Ernest Langford Pioneer Award)
- **June 15th** - Jeff Reavis (Meritorious Service Award)
- **June 16th** - Ricky Cruz (Bruce Perry Volleyball Ambassador Award)
- **June 19th** - Darin Clark (Florida Region Hall of Fame Inductee)
- **June 20th** - James Phillips (Florida Region Hall of Fame Inductee)

While at the ceremony in Orlando, the Florida Region will also be presenting \$121,000 in scholarship awards to high school seniors during the evening. The scholarship program began in 2007 and has benefitted 252 student-athletes through 2022. After this year's addition of 26 new names, that number will be 278 with a total scholarship amount of \$725,100 awarded over 17 years.

About Florida Region of USA Volleyball:

The Florida Region of USA Volleyball is a 501c3 non-profit that began operations in 1977 and was officially incorporated in 1982 to promote the sport of volleyball and to create competitive playing opportunities for volleyball enthusiasts of all ages throughout the State of Florida. The Florida Region is one of the 40 regional volleyball associations under the umbrella of USA Volleyball and currently serves 17,500 members. Indoor, outdoor, and para programming is available for adults, juniors, coaches and officials. The Florida Region of USA Volleyball is headquartered in Eustis, FL and manages the 21-court Hickory Point Beach Sand Volleyball Complex in Tavares, FL. Additional information on the Florida Region can be found at: www.floridavolleyball.org.

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