



Len Everett Sportsmanship – Coaching Excellence Award

The purpose of the Greater Richmond Aquatic League is to promote the sport of summer swimming and to provide an opportunity for young people to compete against others of similar ability in an atmosphere of fair play, good sportsmanship and safety. This mission is accomplished each year by the coordinated efforts of many people. It is the coach, however, who has the greatest opportunity to fulfill this mission and who ultimately has the greatest impact on the experience each swimmer has in our league.

The GRAL Excellence in Coaching Award is voted on by the league’s coaches. It is designed to recognize the effort of our most outstanding coaches. Its purpose is to inspire coaches to strive for excellence in the job they do at practices, meets, and all activities in which he or she is involved. Because the role and tasks of coaching a team rarely falls upon the shoulders of a single individual, this award is given to the coaching staff that best exemplifies the mission and high standards which GRAL seeks to achieve.

Some of the criteria that is considered when voting includes the coaching staff’s effectiveness and display of:

- Fair play and good sportsmanship
- Technical knowledge and skill development
- Knowledge of league rules and regulations and adherence to the spirit and intent of the rules
- Willingness to help others
- Respect for other coaches, officials, parents, and individual swimmers
- Professional demeanor and attitude at all times

Simply put, this award is one in which a coach’s peers recognize and express their appreciation for a job well done. Former recipients of the Coaching Award are:

The Excellence in Coaching Award was established in 2006. At the end of each Season, each Club's Coaching Staff shall cast a single first and second place vote and each Club’s Board Members or Parent Reps also cast a vote. A Club cannot vote for themselves. If a Coaching staff does not cast a vote, that staff shall not be eligible to win this award. At Champs, the winning Coaches are recognized and presented with an award for their efforts. Note that this award was not presented in 2020 or 2021 due to virtual meets.

| Year | Division 1 | Division 2 | Division 3 | Division 4 | Division 5 |
|------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 2023 | Ashland | Kings Charter | Chestnut Oaks | Hanover | |
| 2022 | Church Run | Kings Charter | Atlee | Old Church | |
| 2019 | Ashland | Kings Charter | Old Church | Battlefield Green | |
| 2018 | Twin Hickory | Wellesley | Tuckahoe Village West | Old Church | Gochland YMCA |
| 2017 | AshCreek | Kings Charter | Atlee | Wembly | |
| 2016 | AshCreek | Kings Charter | Fox Hall | Battlefield Green | |

| Year | Division 1 | Division 2 | Division 3 | Division 4 | Division 5 |
|-------------|--|---|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 2015 | Church Run | Kings Charter | Fox Hall | Old Church | |
| 2014 | AshCreek | Pebble Creek | Wembly | Tuckahoe Village | |
| 2013 | West: Dominion Club East: AshCreek | West: Wembly East: Atlee | | | |
| 2012 | West: Canterbury East: Pebble Creek | West: Tuckahoe Village East: Old Church | | | |
| 2011 | West: Twin Hickory East: Ashland | West: Dolphin Club East: Old Church | | | |
| 2010 | West: Church Run, Colonies East: AshCreek | Wembly, Dolphin Club | | | |
| 2009 | West: Church Run East: Ashland | West: Rockville East: Old Church | | | |
| 2008 | Hungary Creek | Pebble Creek, Milestone, Tuckahoe Village West | Rockville | | |
| 2007 | Wyndham | Ashland | Short Pump | | |
| 2006 | Church Run, Twin Hickory | Ashland, Fox Hall | Tuckahoe Village West | Mechanicsville | |