

National Junior Athlete Sponsorship Programme

Wednesday, May 22nd 2024

Hamilton Princess and Beach Club



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FURTHER RECOGNIZING OUR 2024-2025 ELITE ATHLETE SPONSORSHIP RECIPIENTS



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Wednesday, May 22nd 2024

Hamilton Princess and Beach Club



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport

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Programme of Events

WELCOME

Jekon Edness – Senior Sports Development Officer

REMARKS

Senator the Hon. Owen K. Darrell, JP – Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport

GUEST SPEAKER

Past Recipient Gavin Manders

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

National Junior Athlete Sponsorship Awards, Flora Duffy Awards and Elite Athlete Sponsorship

Senator the Hon. Owen K. Darrell, JP – Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport

DINNER

CLOSING REMARKS

K. Charryse Bean, Director – The Department of Sport and Recreation

Names of Recipients

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| (BASA) – Elijah Daley | (BVA) – Hailey Trott |
| (BBA) – Cameron Basden | (NAAofB) – Robin Selley |
| (BBicA) – Gabriella Arnold | (BHF) – Sportsways Camp |
| (BCB) – Maheshkumar Hatkar | (BTA) – Parker Spencer |
| (BEF) – Tyler James | (BMRA) – Aeziah Divine |
| (BFA) – John Moreira | (BNAA) – Jake Smith |
| (BRFU) – Samir Tavares-Place | (BMA) – Aiden Simmons |
| (BSA) – Enzi Johnston | (PAOB) – Andrei Daescu |
| (BSanA) – Miguel Power | |

Flora Duffy Award 2024 – (BRFU) Aiden Kendall and (BASA) Sam Williamson

Foreword

Wednesday, May 22nd 2024,



The Hon. Owen K. Darrell, JP
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport

National Junior Sponsorship Awards 2024

On behalf of the Government and the people of Bermuda, I take this opportunity to congratulate the 2024 National Junior Athlete Sponsorship Programme recipients. This year, the committee has selected seventeen awards from across a diverse sporting ecosystem. The Ministry is pleased to provide just over \$59,600 towards the programme. The award scheme was first held in 1994 to support the dedicated efforts of junior athletes who have demonstrated the talent, dedication, and will to succeed in their chosen sport. With the steady support of their families, coaches, and National sports governing bodies, our junior athletes go on to represent their country proudly.

We will also present The Flora Duffy Award for a third year, which will provide \$10,000 in financial support to two Bermudians for their sports endeavors. The award is named after one of our most celebrated Olympians, who continues to inspire all young people. We appreciate the hard work of our recipients in improving their skills to shape them into the best athletes they can be and take Bermuda's talent pool to a higher level.

With that in mind, I am pleased to announce a substantial increase in funding for our Elite Athlete Programme, which has risen from \$87,000 to \$187,500 this fiscal year. This significant boost in funding underscores our Government's unwavering commitment to supporting our Elite Athletes. Eleven athletes benefitted from the program in 2023.

In conclusion, I express my gratitude to the Department of Sport and Recreation staff members who go above and beyond to support the development of our young athletes. Over the past three decades, we have remained committed to creating a brighter future for all Bermudian athletes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Owen K. Darrell', written over a white background.

The Hon. Owen K. Darrell, JP
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport



National Archery Association of Bermuda

Robin Selley

Robin Selley is 15 years of age and attends Bermuda High School for Girls. She has demonstrated plenty of potential thus far and it is hoped that specific technical, psychological, tactical, physical, and social development will expedite her development. Robin has personal ambitions of attaining a qualification spot for the 2025 Pan American Junior Games and the 2026 Junior Olympic Games.

To assist our recipient, the **National Archery Association of Bermuda** has been allocated a sum of **\$3,081** for **Robin Selley** to attend the Lancaster Archery Academy in Pennsylvania and to compete at the Las Vegas Indoor Shoot.



Bermuda Amateur Swimming Association

Elijah Daley

Elijah is 17 years of age and attends the Bill Crothers Sports School in Ontario. Fresh from representing Bermuda at the 2024 Carifta Games where he represented Bermuda with distinction. Elijah has demonstrated consistent progress and has his sights set on representing Bermuda at major Youth festivals, particularly, the Worlds Short Course Swimming Championships in Budapest in December.

To assist our recipient, the **Bermuda Amateur Swimming Association** has been allocated a sum of **\$3,192** for **Elijah Daley** to attend the Swimming World Cup in Budapest, Hungary.



Bermuda Basketball Association

Cameron Basden

Cameron Basden is 18 years of age and attends Foundation Academy in Florida. Cameron has made a huge step in his development since attending Foundation Academy where he has been excelling in track as well as basketball. Cameron graduates from high school this year and plans on continuing to play basketball at the next level. At the same time, he hopes to continue playing for the Bermuda U19 National team and eventually make the Sr. Men's National team.

To assist our recipient, the **Bermuda Basketball Association** has been allocated a sum of **\$2,670** for **Cameron Basden** to attend the IMG Summer Basketball Camp in Florida.

Bermuda Motorcycle Racing Association

Aeziah Divine

Aeziah Divine is 14 years of age and attends homeschool with Oak Academy. Aeziah has been on a journey towards high-level racing since 2016 as he is training with the Pakosta 37 Riders Factory based in Murcia, Spain. This year is a big step forward in Aeziah's race career as he officially steps up from 'grassroots' racing to a British national and high-level junior program where he will compete against top riders from the UK, US, New Zealand and India.

To assist our recipient, the **Bermuda Motorcycle Racing Association** has been allocated a sum of **\$3,500** for **Aeziah Divine** to race at the British Talent Cup.



Bermuda National Athletics Association

Jake Smith

Jake Smith is 17 years of age and attends Warwick Academy. Jake has demonstrated consistent performances on the local scene which has seen him crowned the National Champion in 1500m and Cross Country.

Jake is an avid runner focusing on the middle-distance events. He has competed at the last two Carifta Games and has shown great promise. He is keen on further developing in all aspects including injury prevention, nutrition, and mental preparation.

To assist our recipient, the **Bermuda National Athletics Association** has been allocated a sum of **\$2,022** for **Jake Smith** to attend the Young Athlete's Summer Camp in Tonbridge, UK.



Bermuda Equestrian Federation

Tyler James

Tyler James is 17 years of age and attends Warwick Academy. Tyler has demonstrated his ability whilst representing Bermuda in the FEI World Jumping Challenge in the 'B' Category. He is keen on representing Bermuda at the highest level of the sport, which also aligns with the goals of the Bermuda Equestrian Federation. Tyler's long-term goal is to progressively jump at higher heights and represent Bermuda at major festivals including the CAC and Olympic Games.

To assist our recipient, the **Bermuda Equestrian Federation** has been allocated a sum of **\$4,625** for **Tyler James** to train with coach Wendy Arndt in Ireland.





Bermuda Motocross Association

Aiden Simmons

Aiden Simmons is 15 years of age and attends Bermuda Centre for Creative Learning (BCCL). Aiden has been a consistent performer at the Southside track and has demonstrated riding ability that belies his age. He has completed each season on the podium since 2017. By accessing advanced

training facilities through the National Junior Athlete Sponsorship Program, Aiden is expected to significantly enhance his competitive skills in hopes of one day becoming a professional.

To assist our recipient, the **Bermuda Motocross Association** has been allocated a sum of **\$1,995** for **Aiden Simmons** to train at the South of the Border track facility in South Carolina.



Bermuda Rugby Football Union

Samir Tavares-Place

Samir Tavares-Place is 18 years of age and has shown ability in many sports. Measuring more than six feet in height, Samir is tailor made for the physical nature required to play the sport of rugby and he has developed a love for the game ever since. A consistent member of the National U19 squad, it is hoped that continued exposure will assist in building his international experience with a longer-term goal of continued performance and selection for Senior Men's National Team.

To assist our recipient, the **Bermuda Rugby Football Union** has been allocated a sum of **\$2,153** for **Samir Tavares-Place** to attend a training camp in Jacksonville, Florida, and the U19 Mexico X1 Tournament.



Bermuda Sailing Association

Miguel Power

Miguel Power is 15 years of age and attends the Warwick Academy. Miguel started sailing as a 6-year-old and has developed into an advanced talent that has seen him win local races and compete many times internationally. In the immediate future, Miguel has plans to compete at the North American and World Championships before the end of 2024.

To assist our recipient, the **Bermuda Sailing Association** has been allocated a sum of **\$2,176** for **Miguel Power** to compete in the Optimist North American Championships in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Bermuda Sanshou Association

Enzi Johnston

Enzi Johnston is 15 years of age and attends Berkeley Institute. Enzi has demonstrated plenty of potential during events on island and internationally. Currently, one of the leading youth female athletes within BSA being the current leader it is hoped that she will be able to take her ability to the collegiate level with the intent of encouraging other young females to pursue Sanshou. With international competition on the horizon, it is hoped Enzi will medal at the regional event, in preparation for the Junior Worlds Championships.

To assist our recipient, the **Bermuda Sanshou Association** has been allocated a sum of **\$2,223** for **Enzi Johnston** to train at the International Martial Arts Academy in Lubbock, Texas.



Bermuda Volleyball Association

Hailey Trott

Hailey Trott is 15 years of age and attends Berkeley Institute. Hailey has been a part of the BVA junior program since 2019, as she continues to develop skills and knowledge to better her overall ability within the sport. So early in her career, she has exhibited great potential, which has seen her awarded the MVP for the Paradise Hitters U16 team. It is the BVA's aim to ensure she develops technically so that she can progress into the Senior National Team Program.

To assist our recipient, the **Bermuda Volleyball Association** has been allocated a sum of **\$2,667** for **Hailey Trott** to attend the IMG Academy Training Camp in Bradenton, Florida.



INCOMING COACHES

Bermuda Bicycle Association

Gabriella Arnold

The Bermuda Bicycle Association will enlist the services of Gabriella Arnold. Ms. Arnold is a Bermuda elite national cyclist and a member of the LA Sweat professional team. She is also a USA Cycling certified coach with a wealth of knowledge and experience.

This training camp is focused on the preparation of the junior team ahead of the 2024 Junior Caribbean Cycling Championships which are scheduled to be held in Antigua this summer. Athletes within the program will be able to receive highly specialized training as well as receiving exposure to nutrition guidance, mental race readiness and strategies for racing success.

A sum of **\$3,897** has been allocated to **Bermuda Bicycle Association**, to host a 5-day intensive training camp featuring **Gabriella Arnold**.

Bermuda Cricket Board

Maheshkumar Haktar

The Bermuda Cricket Board is actively looking at rebuilding the technique of their junior players against spin bowling and will enlist the service of respective coach, Maheshkumar Haktar. Mr. Haktar is based out of India and has coached at high-level cricket academies around the world, which makes him suitable to aid player development of local batsmen.

The overall aim of this collaboration is to provide advanced coaching in increasing player technical ability whilst batting against spin bowling. Additionally, local coaches will also benefit with this partnership with further education on the latest technical advice to enhance performance.

A sum of **\$3,130** has been allocated to the **Bermuda Cricket Board**, to host the Intensive Batting Camp, featuring **Maheshkumar Haktar**.

Bermuda Hockey Federation

Sportsways Camp

The Bermuda Hockey Federation will partner with Sportsways Camp to deliver a week long training camp on island for their junior athletes. This sort of exposure has proven invaluable for the BHF athletes, as seen by athletes that have participated in the previous camps. The BHF have gained much needed momentum with their recent success and will be looking to build a sustained partnership with Sportsways to continue to develop their athletes.

In addition, juniors who have attended Sportsways camps in the past have gone on to be an integral part of the BHF's junior program and mentor up-and-coming younger players. After the program, these players will be able to contribute and support the league with the knowledge gained from the camp.

A sum of **\$4,100** has been allocated to **Bermuda Hockey Federation** to host a training camp on island featuring **Sportsways Coaches**.



INCOMING COACHES

Bermuda Football Association

John Moreira

The Bermuda Football Association's aim is to provide additional coaching and training that will benefit goalkeepers on island. With that in mind, the BFA enlisted the services of goalkeeper expert and current National Team goalkeeper coach, John Moreira.

With a high number of local goalkeepers attaining scholarships to university, the Bermuda Football Association will use coach Moreira to not only further develop goalkeepers, but to also establish a Bermuda Goalkeeper Coaching License.

A sum of **\$2,246** has been allocated to **Bermuda Football Association** to host a goalkeeper training camp on island featuring **John Moreira**.



Bermuda Triathlon Association

Parker Spencer

With a target to improve the Youth Development Squad, the Bermuda Triathlon Association have enlisted the services of Parker Spencer. Coach Spencer is a USA Triathlon Level III Certified Coach and certified Exercise Physiologist through the American College of Sports Medicine.

The aim of this camp is to continue to build on the success of the Youth Development Squad who placed 2nd overall at the past two Carifta Games with intensive training in preparation for the 2024 edition. By enlisting the services of Parker Spencer for the 2nd year, we expect that this will be an annual camp held in Bermuda whilst continuing to get the benefit of a USAT Level III coach who remains at the forefront of coaching and physiological techniques.

A sum of **\$3,456** has been granted to **Bermuda Triathlon Association**, to host the Youth Development Camp featuring **Parker Spencer** and local coaches.



Pickleball Association of Bermuda

Andrei Daescu

With a view of establishing a National Junior program, the Pickleball Association of Bermuda have enlisted the services of Andrei Daescu. Coach Daescu is a former professional tennis player and an accomplished pickleball champion. His expertise in competitive sports at international level will be invaluable in training our junior athletes.

Focusing on advanced technical training and competitive strategy for pickleball, the camp will include a mix of on-court training, off court match analysis, and competitive play designed to elevate young players' game understanding and performance.

A sum of **\$2,500** has been granted to **Pickleball Association of Bermuda**, to host a Technical and Strategy Training Camp featuring **Andrei Daescu**.



FLORA DUFFY AWARD 2024

The Flora Duffy Award is made available through the National Junior Athlete Sponsorship Committee, to assist a Bermudian athlete who is not receiving elite athlete assistance. This contribution is intended to provide training/competition inducements to a promising athlete, who is likely to achieve elite athlete status at senior level given their continued participation and commitment to their sport.



FLORA DUFFY AWARD

Past Recipients



Recipient

Trey Mallory
in 2022



Recipient

Nicolas Pilgrim
in 2023

FLORA DUFFY AWARD 2024 RECIPIENT

Aiden Kendall

BERMUDA RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Aiden has played on the National Team 7s squad as an 18-year-old and is also training as part of both the U19s squad travelling to Mexico this year to compete in the RAN U19 XVs tournament. He consistently demonstrates all the qualities of an incredible athlete and rugby player. Aiden also participates in the senior domestic league as part of Teachers RFC and is a bright young prospect working his way up Bermuda Rugby's elite player pathway.

This award will support his participation at a professional talent ID camp at the Freejacks Academy, a Regional Training Group hosted in New England. The camp aims to narrow the gap between amateur rugby participants and the professional/international game.

The development program will push Aiden's rugby to the highest level to achieve his goals of competing at a pro level and will support both Bermuda Rugby's National Team and Under 23s team.



FLORA DUFFY AWARD 2024 RECIPIENT



BERMUDA AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

Sam Williamson is 20 years of age and attends the University of Bath in the UK. Sam is a 2019 National Junior Athlete Sponsorship recipient. He is steadily developing into an international swimmer and has represented Bermuda at the 2023 Pan American Games and Carifta Games. In his last Carifta Games, he won 5 medals and is now competing for Bermuda at the senior level.

Sam holds several national records and now trains with Andrei Vorontsov, who was the Olympic coach for Russia and Sweden since which he continues to improve his times.

This award will assist him with the necessary technical equipment required for his training regime so that he can continue to improve his times in preparation to represent Bermuda at the World Aquatics Short Course Championships in Budapest in December 2024.

ELITE ATHLETE SPONSORSHIP

The Elite Athlete Sponsorship assists elite Bermudian athletes who clearly show commitment, promise and achievement in their respective sport. Funding is critical to our athlete's sustainable development, and also to the chances of achieving sporting success. While achieving regional success and being competitive at the highest level remains a priority, there is also a recognition that sporting success of our Bermudian athletes create a powerful platform to inspire the next generation of athletes. We wish our Elite Athlete's the best in their competitive endeavors for the 2024/25 season!



Adriana Penruddocke of the **Bermuda Sailing Association** has been awarded **\$15,000** to assist with cost associated with coaching and sports psychology to compete at international elite levels.



Aeziah Divine of the **Bermuda Motorcycle Racing Association** has been awarded **\$5,000** to assist with cost associated with competing in the R&G British Talent Cup (BTC).



Caitlyn Bobb of the **Bermuda National Athletic Association** has been awarded **\$5,000** to assist with cost associated with Camp Prep. and Sports Psychologist.



Camerin Pickering of the **National Archery Association of Bermuda** has been awarded **\$8,000** to assist with expenses associated with Olympic qualifying events in Columbia and Turkey.



Conor White of the **Bermuda Bicycle Association** has been awarded **\$15,000** to assist with cost associated with the Pan-Am Training Camp and World Championship Training Camp.



Dage Minors of the **Bermuda National Athletic Association** has been awarded **\$6,000** to assist with cost associated with preparation for Olympic qualification and NACAC Championships.



Daniel Phillips of the **Bermuda Lawn Tennis Association** has been awarded **\$8,000** to assist with participation in the Jamaica Men's 15 Kingalarm Tennis Tour.



Krista Dyer of the **Bermuda Sanshou Association** has been awarded **\$5,000** to assist with cost associated with attending an elite training camp to compete in international competitions.

ELITE ATHLETE SPONSORSHIP



Erica Hawley of the **Bermuda Triathlon Association** has been awarded **\$10,000** to assist with cost associated with training camp and competition to qualify in the Paris Olympics.



Gabriella Arnold of the **Bermuda Bicycle Association** has been awarded **\$7,000** to assist with cost associated with new gear and equipment for international competition in qualifying for the CAC Championships.



Jack Harvey of the **Bermuda Amateur Swimming Association** has been awarded **\$5,000** to assist with cost associated with training camp, and strength training in an attempt of representing Bermuda at the Summer Olympics.



Emma Harvey of the **Bermuda Amateur Swimming Association** has been awarded **\$8,000** to assist with cost associated with training camp and strength training to qualify for the Olympic Games.



Jaydon Roberts of the **National Archery Association** of Bermuda has been awarded **\$3,500** to assist with cost associated with international competition.



Nicholas Narraway of the **Bermuda Bicycle Association** has been awarded **\$8,500** to assist with cost associated with attending a training camp to compete in international competitions.



Jessica Lewis of the **Bermuda Paralympic Association** has been awarded **\$15,000** to assist with cost associated with competing at the Swiss Grand Prix and/or Paris Grand Prix.



Robin Horsfield of the **Bermuda Bicycle Association** has been awarded **\$2,000** to assist with cost associated with race registration for international competition.

ELITE ATHLETE SPONSORSHIP



Kaden Hopkins of the **Bermuda Bicycle Association** has been awarded **\$7,000** to assist with cost associated with attending two training camps to compete in international competitions.



Sebastian Kempe of the **Bermuda Sailing Association** has been awarded **\$10,000** to assist in competing goals for 2024, which includes an Olympic qualifier and the U21 World Championships.



Kaelin Cox of the **Bermuda Sanshou Association** has been awarded **\$5,000** to assist with cost associated with attending a training camp to compete in international competitions.



Tariq Simons of the **Bermuda Lawn Tennis Association** has been awarded **\$5,000** to assist with cost associated with competing in two ITF tournaments in Jamaica.



Tyler Smith of the **Bermuda Triathlon Association** has been awarded **\$9,500** to assist with cost associated with attending training camps in Thailand and Paris.



Jahniko Francis of **Bermuda Rugby Football Union** has been awarded **\$5,000** to assist with cost of attending the Free Jacks Academy.



Yushae DeSilva Andrade of **Boccia Bermuda** has been awarded **\$10,000** to assist with cost of competing in the Cali World Boccia Challenger in Columbia with cost associated with Camp Prep. and Sports Psychologist.



Campbell Patton of the **Bermuda Sailing Association** has been awarded **\$10,000** to assist with Pre-Olympic Regatta and training camps in Marseilles, France.



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport



SPORTMATTERS

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