

4 November 2025

Sports Turf Association Graduate Award Program

STA NSW is pleased to offer 2025 Graduates of Cert III Sports Turf Management the opportunity to compete for the STA NSW Graduate of the year. This award acknowledges the hard work and commitment by the Graduate and gives them an opportunity to further their development in the industry and expand their networking across the sports turf industry.

Nominations are NOW OPEN for the STA NSW Graduate of the Year - Class of 2025

The Program

- Nominations are called for through NSW TAFE's and for the first time, STA NSW Members will have an opportunity to nominate an employee.
- All nominations will be reviewed by the STA NSW Judging Committee.
- Selected Graduates will be invited to interview, where one person will be selected as the STA NSW Graduate of the Year.
- The STA NSW Graduate of the Year will then go on to compete for the National Sportsfield and Grounds Graduate of the year at the ASTMA Conference in Melbourne in June 2026. Spending the week in Melbourne where accommodation and airfares are covered.

Nomination Criteria

- An apprentice who has successfully completed the Certificate III in Sports Turf Management Course in the nominated year (2025).
- Who is employed to prepare Sports Fields (inc. cricket), Bowling Greens or Racetracks.
- Displays Average to Excellent Academic Achievements and displays Excellent Practical Skills.
- Displays an Above Average passion for the job and industry.
- A person who is likely to stay committed to and work long term in the industry.
- A person who is forward thinking and shows initiative.

How to Nominate a Graduate

1. TAFE Nomination

The staff at NSW TAFE's teaching Sports Turf Management are invited to nominate a student for the Graduate Award Program. The Graduate must be notified of the nomination by TAFE staff to ensure they are prepared to engage in the program and have the support of their employer.

2. STA NSW Member – Employer Nomination

STA NSW Members can nominate up to 3 employees within their business. The Graduate must be notified of the nomination by the employer to ensure they are prepared to engage with the program.

Nomination Forms are to be completed and emailed to STA NSW before 19th January 2026.

Email: info@sportsturfnsw.com.au

Program Timeline

Nominations open: Monday 3rd November 2025

Nominations close: Monday, 19th January 2026

The interview process

- Graduates will be contacted to organise an interview time and complete a questionnaire.
- Graduates will be provided with 2 weeks' notice to prepare for the interview.
- At the interview, Graduates are asked to give a PowerPoint presentation, for up to 15 minutes. This presentation should share information about themselves, their education and work in sports turf management.
- Following their presentation, Graduates will then be asked a series of questions from the interview panel. The questions will focus on sports turf management training and workplace experience.
- The interview process will take around 25-30 minutes.
- Preference is for interviews to be undertaken in person.

Further information

Jenny Zadro
Executive Officer
Sports Turf Association, NSW Inc.

Ph: 0458 071 299
Email: info@sportsturfnsw.com.au