

1. ABOUT THE ISPO EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The ISPO Excellence Awards 2026 are organised by ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd, a company incorporated in England and Wales (Company No: 16695605), whose registered office is at 2 Bell Court, Leapale Lane, Guildford, England, GU1 4LY, the owner of the ISPO brand. The Awards are the internationally recognised quality benchmark for outstanding sports and outdoor products, services and innovation - designed to reward excellence across the full breadth of the active lifestyle industry.

The programme is governed by four core principles: Transparency, Inclusivity, Excellence and Celebration. Every aspect of the judging process, recognition framework and communications is designed to uphold these principles.

The 2026 programme culminates in a live ceremony at the ISPO x IRX After Party on 4 November 2026, celebrating winners across the ISPO Excellence Awards, TexTrends and BrandNew programmes.

2. ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION

Participation is open to any organisation worldwide, irrespective of whether they are an exhibitor at an ISPO trade event. Entrants may submit products, services, digital platforms, hardware, software or innovation concepts that fall within the scope of the fourteen Award categories.

To be eligible, a submitted entry must:

- Be a product, service or innovation released to market since ISPO 2025 or be scheduled for launch before 31 December 2026 and that has not been entered previously.
- Fall within one of the fourteen defined Award categories (see Section 3).
- Be submitted in full by the published entry deadline.
- Be accompanied by all required entry materials as specified in Section 6.
- Not be under active legal dispute regarding intellectual property or plagiarism.

Entrants are responsible for ensuring their submission is eligible prior to applying. The organisers reserve the right to disqualify entries that do not meet eligibility criteria at any stage of the programme.

3. AWARD CATEGORIES

The 2026 programme comprises fourteen categories across two types: Product Categories and B2B/Service Categories. Each entry must be submitted to a single category. Organisations may submit multiple entries across different categories, subject to separate entry fees per submission.

Product Categories

- Running / Trail Running
- Hiking / Climbing
- Camping / Outdoor
- Bike

- Racket
- Snow & Ski
- Water
- Team Sports
- Fitness & Wellness
- Other

B2B / Service Categories

- Innovation & Technology
- Manufacturing
- Retail
- Content Creation

Category descriptions, scope guidance and example product or service types are published on <https://www.ispo.com/ispo-awards> and within the entry platform. Entrants unsure of the correct category should contact the Awards team before submitting.

4. KEY DATES AND DEADLINES - 2026 PROGRAMME

Milestone	Date
Entries open	1 July 2026
Entry deadline	1 September 2026
Remote judging - shortlist confirmed	September 2026
Finalists announced	September 2026
Finalist product receiving at a venue to be advised by the organisers.	2 November 2026
Live judging (day)	4 November 2026
Award ceremony (afternoon/evening) Winners announced	4 November 2026
Post event PR	From 5 November 2026

5. APPLICATION AND ENTRY PROCESS

All applications must be submitted online at <https://excellence.ispoawards.com/entries>.

Applications submitted outside the entry platform or received after the published entry deadline, will not be accepted.

Multiple entries are permitted. Each entry is treated as a separate submission and attracts a separate entry fee. By submitting an entry and accepting these Terms & Conditions, the application is considered valid and binding.

All entry information, supporting materials and correspondence must be submitted in English. Applications in other languages will not be assessed.

Entrants must provide and be able to demonstrate undisputed ownership of all intellectual property submitted. For products not yet commercially available, submitted samples must be representative of the final consumer product. For services, digital platforms or applications, test or equivalent access must be granted to the judging panel.

6. REQUIRED ENTRY MATERIALS

The following materials are required for a valid entry:

- A fully completed entry form - either the Product Category or B2B/Service Category entry form - with all required sections answered within the stated word limits. Entry forms are available via the award entry platform. Submissions must include:
 - Full contact details for the person responsible for the entry.
 - Complete company and brand information.
 - Logo
 - At least one high-resolution product or service image
 - A supporting video link (maximum 3 minutes) presenting key features, innovation or initiative outcomes. A supporting video is a mandatory requirement for all entries.
 - For Product Category entries: physical product samples in relevant sizes and colourways will be required if the entry advances to the finalist stage (see Section 11 for logistics).

Recommended (not mandatory, but considered by the judging panel):

- Marketing or advertising materials.
- Third-party test reports, certifications or sustainability credentials.
- Retailer or consumer testimonials.

7. ENTRY FEES

A submission fee applies to all entries to support the administration, coordination and judging process of the ISPO Excellence Awards. No entry will be considered submitted without full payment having been received by the organisers. Rates provide full access to the Awards programme and all entries are assessed equally regardless of entry route.

There are no additional fees for shortlisted entries or winners.

Recognition as an ISPO Excellence Awards recipient is included as part of the entry process.

Entry to the ISPO Award Ceremony is free to all winners.

Entry fees:

- 1 July – 31 July 2026 - ISPO & IRX exhibitors - €795
- 1 July – 31 July 2026 - Non-exhibitors - €1,395
- 1 August – 1 September 2026 - ISPO & IRX exhibitors - €995
- 1 August – 1 September 2026 - Non-exhibitors - €1,495

VAT

- UK: 20% VAT
- Netherlands: 0% VAT
- Rest Of The World: 0% VAT

All fees are net amounts exclusive of applicable VAT. ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd is the contracting entity for all ISPO Excellence Awards applications.

Fees paid are non-refundable. No refund is due for entries that are assessed by judges and do not progress.

8. JUDGING PROCESS

8.1 Judging Panel

The ISPO Excellence Awards 2026 will be assessed by a panel of independent judges. Panels are composed to reflect the breadth of expertise across the sporting goods, outdoor and winter sports industries. Judges include category specialists,

athletes, coaches, technical experts, senior retail professionals and media figures who engage with these products and services in their professional roles.

Judges are selected for their expertise, industry standing and freedom from commercial conflicts of interest. All judges sign a conflict-of-interest declaration and a confidentiality agreement before accessing any entry materials.

8.2 Remote Judging (September 2026)

All valid entries are assessed remotely by the relevant category panel during September 2026. Judges score each entry against published criteria. The scoring entries per category advance to the finalist stage.

Shortlisted finalists are announced publicly in September 2026 and will be informed by email. Unsuccessful entrants will be notified by email.

8.3 Live Judging (4 November 2026)

Finalist entries are assessed in person by the full category panel on 4 November 2026. Physical product samples must be received at a venue to be advised by the organisers by 2 November 2026 (see Section 11: Product Logistics).

Judges score finalists against the published criteria; final scores determine the recognition tier awarded to each entry.

8.4 Judging Criteria

Judging criteria for each category are published on <https://www.ispo.com/ispo-awards>. Entries are assessed on innovation, performance, design, sustainability and market relevance. The weighting of each criterion may vary by category and is published in advance of the entry window.

Products submitted to the jury may show signs of use or wear as a result of assessment. The organisers and their agents accept no liability for damage sustained during the judging process.

Judges' decisions are final and are not subject to appeal.

8.5 Jury Right to Re-categorise Entries

The jury has the right to cancel, rename or create new categories.

Entries can also be moved to other categories by the jury. The decisions of the jury are not subject to appeal.

9. RECOGNITION TIERS

Recognition is score-driven and awarded across seven tiers. All tiers are determined by the judging panel's final scores following live judging on 4 November 2026. There is no predetermined quota of winners per tier which the exception of the Grand Prix where only one will be awarded in each category.

Tier	Description
Grand Prix	Exceptional, category-defining entry achieving the highest score across the programme. A maximum of one Grand Prix may be awarded per programme year.
Gold	Outstanding performance against all judging criteria. Represents the highest tier of category recognition.
Silver	Excellent entry demonstrating strong innovation, design and market relevance.

Bronze	High quality entry meeting or exceeding the published benchmark score.
Finalist	Selected following remote judging.
Commended	Entry that did not progress to Finalist stage but was noted by judges for a specific quality or innovation. Awarded at the organisers' discretion.
Entrant	All valid entries completing the programme receive recognition as an ISPO Excellence Awards Entrant.

10. WINNER AND FINALIST BENEFITS

Recognition benefits vary by tier. The following table sets out the standard entitlement for each level. Additional commercial content and editorial opportunities may be available separately.

Benefit	Grand Prix	Gold	Silver/Bronze	Finalist	Commended/ Entrant
Award badge / mark license	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Trophy	Yes	Yes			
Certificate				Yes	
Filmed interview	Yes				
Inclusion in ispo.com editorial feature	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Social announcement	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Press release (programme-level)	Yes	Yes			
Ceremony recognition and red carpet	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Ceremony content / social assets	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Hangtag / product sticker layout	Yes	Yes	Yes		

Award marks may be used by Entrants after their entry is confirmed, finalists and winners for their own marketing, advertising and press purposes from the date of official confirmations and announcements. Entrants may not claim or imply an award outcome prior to the official announcements.

11. PRODUCT LOGISTICS - FINALIST STAGE

Physical product samples are required only from entries that advance to the finalist stage following remote judging in September 2026. Finalists will be notified by email with full shipping instructions.

Finalists are responsible for:

- Shipment of product samples to a venue to be advised by the organisers, arriving no later than 2 November 2026.
- All shipping costs, customs fees and import/export duties.
- Adequate insurance of submitted samples throughout the period of shipment, judging and return - from date of dispatch to date of return delivery.

ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd and its delivery partners accept no liability for damage to or loss of submitted products or documents at any stage.

Product samples may be collected by the submitting company from a location advised by the organisers on 4 or 5 November 2026. Full collection details will be provided to finalists in advance of the event.

This applies to all submitted samples regardless of the outcome of judging. Samples not collected on 4 or 5 November 2026 will not be returned. ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd accepts no responsibility for uncollected samples after this point.

12. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND CONTENT RIGHTS

12.1 The Entrant grants ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd a perpetual, non-exclusive, royalty-free, worldwide licence to use the Entrant's name, logo, trademarks and any other materials or information supplied by the Entrant (including photos, videos and written content submitted as part of the entry) solely in connection with the promotion, delivery and post-event reporting of the ISPO Excellence Awards 2026.

12.2 ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd reserves the right to sublicense this content to authorised media and PR partners where necessary for programme delivery, on terms consistent with this clause.

12.3 ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd may refuse to use, or may remove, any materials provided by an Entrant if it becomes aware or reasonably believes that such materials infringe the intellectual property rights of any third party. In such circumstances, ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd reserves the right to cancel the relevant entry with immediate effect in accordance with clause 13. No refund of any fees paid will be due in the event of such cancellation.

12.4 The Entrant warrants that:

(a) it owns or is solely entitled to use all intellectual property rights in any materials submitted as part of its entry;

(b) ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd's use of those materials in accordance with this clause will not infringe the rights of any third party; and

(c) all materials submitted are accurate, not defamatory, and do not contain anything offensive, obscene or otherwise unlawful.

12.5 The Entrant shall fully indemnify ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd against any third-party claims, costs, losses or damages arising from any breach of the warranties in clause 12.4.

12.6 ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd shall not be liable to the Entrant for any omissions, errors or misquotations which may occur in any media produced in connection with the Awards programme, except where caused by ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd's own negligence.

12.7 All intellectual property rights in materials created by or on behalf of ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd in connection with the Awards programme shall be the sole and exclusive property of ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd. Where an Entrant acquires any such rights by operation of law, it shall assign them to ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd on request.

12.8 Grand Prix and Gold winners will receive an ispo.com editorial article incorporating the award citation. The ispo.com editorial team will contact winners to agree content and embargo dates. Publication will respect the winner's specified embargo period where practicable.

12.9 Award marks and badges remain the sole and exclusive intellectual property of ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd at all times. Entrants, Finalists and Winners are granted a limited, non-exclusive, non-transferable licence to use the relevant award mark or badge for their own marketing, advertising and press purposes from the date of official

confirmation and announcement. This licence does not confer any ownership rights in the award marks or badges. Entrants may not claim or imply an award outcome prior to official announcements. ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd reserves the right to revoke this licence at any time in the event of misuse or breach of these Terms and Conditions.

13. EXCLUSION FROM THE PROGRAMME

ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd may exclude any entry from the programme at any time, or revoke an award already conferred, if the submitted entry is found to infringe the rights of others (including plagiarism, unauthorised copies or forgery), including where materials are removed under clause 12.3, or if the Entrant has provided false or misleading information during the application process.

No refund of any fees will be made in the event of exclusion. ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd's decision in such matters is final.

14. CANCELLATION AND CHANGES TO THE PROGRAMME

ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd reserves the right to cancel, postpone or amend the format or structure of the ISPO Excellence Awards 2026 at its sole discretion.

In the event of cancellation, entrants will be entitled to a refund of fees paid under these Terms and Conditions. All costs associated with product returns following a cancellation are the responsibility of the entrant.

In the event of postponement or format change, previously paid fees remain valid for the rescheduled or amended programme. No further compensation or damages will be due.

15. PRIVACY AND DATA

All applications and personal data submitted as part of the entry process are subject to the Privacy Policy of ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd, available at <https://www.ispo.com/privacy-policy>. Data will be processed for the purposes of programme administration, judging, communications and editorial activity.

16. LIABILITY

16.1 These Terms and Conditions are entered into between business entities only. Nothing in this clause affects any liability which cannot be excluded or limited by applicable law as between commercial parties.

16.2 Nothing in these Terms and Conditions shall exclude or limit ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd's liability for personal injury or death caused by its own negligence, fraud, or any other liability which cannot be excluded by law.

16.3 ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd's total liability to an Entrant under or in connection with these Terms and Conditions shall not exceed 125% of the total fees paid by that Entrant in connection with the relevant entry.

16.4 ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd shall have no liability for the following losses or damages (whether such losses or damage were foreseen, foreseeable, known or otherwise): loss of actual or anticipated profits (whether direct or indirect); loss of business; loss of goodwill; loss of reputation; or any indirect or consequential loss or damage howsoever caused.

16.5 ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd accepts no liability for damage to or loss of submitted product samples, nor for any indirect or consequential loss arising from an Entrant's participation in the programme.

17. GOVERNING LAW AND JURISDICTION

These Terms and Conditions, and any dispute arising from participation in the ISPO Excellence Awards 2026, shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of England and Wales. The courts of England and Wales shall have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any dispute.

18. ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS

By completing and submitting an online application via <https://excellence.ispoawards.com/entries>, the applicant confirms that they have read, understood and agree to be bound by these Terms and Conditions in their entirety. Submission of the application constitutes a binding agreement between the entrant and ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd.

Please note these terms and conditions are subject to change.

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ISPO Sports Business Events Ltd.