Royal College of Paramedics

Honours and Awards Guidance 2026-2027

This guidance document is an essential guide for all those who are submitting nominations or entries within our Honours and Awards 2026-2027 season.

The Royal College of Paramedics Honours and Awards seek to recognise and celebrate outstanding work and contributions to the furtherance and development of the Royal College of Paramedics, paramedicine, and the paramedic profession. Our consistent aim is to promote the paramedic profession through celebrating our members and supporters.

The Royal College of Paramedics is committed to recognising excellence in all its forms and values contributions from individuals of all backgrounds. We encourage nominations that reflect the diversity of our profession and the communities we serve.

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The College celebrates diversity and would be more than happy to provide this guidance and the relevant form in a format that is accessible to you. Please email awards@collegeofparamedics.co.uk with details of your requirements

Honours

The Royal College of Paramedics 2026-2027 Honours are made up of 3 levels of award.

Successful nominees who are paramedics may be awarded, in descending order of achievement:

Lifetime Achievement

Fellowship

Companionship

Successful nominees who are not paramedics may be awarded, in descending order of achievement:

Lifetime Achievement

Honorary Fellowship

Honorary Companionship

The criterium for each honour is the same, and the level that each nomination is successful at will be as determined by the Honours and Awards Committee.

Submitting a nomination

The nomination submission form is available from the Royal College of Paramedics website https://www.collegeofparamedics.co.uk/COP/About_us/Honours/COP/Honours.aspx. Each nomination must be submitted by a full member with one or two full members supporting the nomination. A reason for finding more than one supporter is that they can contribute more knowledge of the nominee's achievements to the nomination, therefore giving the Committee more information to deliberate on. We cannot accept nominators or supporters who are not full members of the College, though they are welcome to share relevant information with the nominator to enter into the form. Only one form is required per nomination, and you will have 750 words to get across to the Committee what they need to know.

Please do not include a CV. Nominations must be submitted via email to awards@rcop.co.uk by the advertised closing date. Each nomination should be considered confidential and not be shared with those not involved with the process, including the nominee.

Writing the 750 words

Please explain how you believe the nominee meets the criteria of an Honour award. Each nomination must focus on the nominees' actual achievements and how these have impacted on the Royal College of Paramedics, the paramedic profession, or patient care. Please note that the Committee have commented that reading about how wonderful a nominee is, is not sufficient, they need to read about what the nominee has done and what impact this has had.

Honours criteria

A nomination for a Royal College of Paramedics Honour must demonstrate that the nominee has contributed to the achievement of:

- **The advancement of the paramedic profession**
    - Improving professional practice
    - Pioneering the way for modernisation and changes
    - Leadership
- **Improving paramedic practice and patient care**
    - Improve Patient Care
    - Reduced Health inequalities
    - Legislation / Government Policy

- **The development of paramedic education with a national perspective**
    - Innovation
    - Driving Change
    - Quality and sustainability
- **The advancement of the Royal College of Paramedics**
    - Growing, Nurturing and Retaining active membership
    - Aligning with the College's Objectives and Purpose
    - Developing the College

Whether and which Honour the Committee awards will depend on the breadth and depth of the contribution within the criteria categories above, so the Committee will also be looking at:

- Longevity
- Big Impact, limited Group
- Small Impact, Widespread

Nominations will only be 750 words long, so must be concise and clear on what the nominee's achievements are, the impact of them and the timescale of activities.

The impact of a nominee's contribution can include clinical, public health, improved access to care, service improvement, inclusive education and improved equity within the paramedic profession.

Nominators should consider lived experience, grassroots impact, community leadership, and other meaningful contributions as valid evidence of excellence. When reviewing whether a nominee meets the criteria, be mindful that traditional or Eurocentric (based primarily on European or Western perspectives, values, and measures of success) approaches to assessing achievement may not fully capture the contributions of all individuals and communities. Consider a broad range of evidence and perspectives when assessing nominations.

Nominators are encouraged to look beyond established networks and recognise a wide range of contributions, including community engagement, advocacy, innovation, and leadership within underrepresented or marginalised groups. These contributions may be less visible through traditional recognition routes but can have significant and lasting impact.

Below is more detail about the criteria.

Advancing the Profession

Improving professional practice	Pioneering the way for modernisation and changes	Leadership
Improving the paramedic professional practice and in turn patient care or population health and wellbeing.	Utilising technology, research and advancing skills through modernisation to implement change	The most exceptional contributions to paramedicine in relation to inspirational leadership, that has significantly impacted the development of the profession

Practice and Patient Care

Improve Patient Care	Reduced Health inequalities	Legislation / Government Policy
Contribute to the delivery of patient care that improves outcomes or experiences of patients	Reducing health inequalities across different groups e.g. Economic, Ethnicity, Geographical, Cultural, Disability, Sexuality, Gender	Contribution to the result or start of process, in legislative or policy change

Education with a National Impact

Innovation	Driving Change	Quality and sustainability
Recognising opportunities to do things differently for the improvement of the profession	Progressing and enhancing the overall educational framework and provision	Develop and drive consistency of expectation for paramedic education

Advancing the Royal College of Paramedics

Growing, Nurturing and Retaining active membership	Aligning with the College's Objectives and Purpose	Developing the College
Growing, Nurturing and Retaining active membership	Aligning with the Colleges Objectives and Purpose (Strategy)	Strengthening the Organisation, *Promoting Excellence and Wellbeing in the profession*

Additional

Longevity	Big Impact, limited Group	Small Impact, Widespread
Consistently contributing and driving improvement to the profession	Work that results in unprecedented change that affects a specific group	Broad reaching impact that affects a large group

Further information

Lifetime Achievement Award

To award a Lifetime Achievement Award the Committee will be looking to find within the nomination that a nominee has made a significant, long and outstanding contribution within the criteria, over the whole of their career, rather than, or in addition to, single contributions. Therefore, successful nominations at this level will have nominees who are towards the end of a long and impactful career, providing service to patient care, paramedicine and the professional body.

Posthumous Honours

The Committee will award a posthumous Honour where the nominee has met the criteria. The awarding will never be made in response to our sympathy for the family's loss and it is important that those nominating are fully aware of the need to meet the criteria so as not to cause additional pain and upset to all concerned.

Good standing

Those who are nominating and their nominees must be of good standing within their profession and meet the appropriate criteria.

Successful nominees

The Honour will be presented at an afternoon presentation event organised by the Royal College of Paramedics on Tuesday 13th July 2027. Successful nominees, a plus one and their nominators will receive an invitation via email.

The name of those with Honours are entered on the Royal College of Paramedics Roll of Honour, which appears on the College website, along with all past winners of our Honours and Awards. 2026-2027 season Honours will be named in the College 2027 Annual Report.

Fellows of the Royal College of Paramedics are entitled to use the title which includes the post nominal of **FCPara**. No other Honour award bestows a post nominal; however, the full title of the Honour can be part of any strapline under their name e.g. Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Paramedics.

The College welcomes any feedback on the process to help us improve for the next honours and awards season; awards@rcop.co.uk.

Competitive Awards:

There are four Royal College of Paramedics 2026-2027 Competitive Awards:

The Professor Douglas Chamberlain Award for Innovation in Clinical Practice

The Professor Malcolm Woolard Award for Research Excellence

The Roland Furber Award

The Carol Furber Award

The John Hinds Scholarship Award

The entry forms for each of these awards are available from the Royal College of Paramedics website https://www.collegeofparamedics.co.uk/COP/About_us/Honours/COP/

Please read the information for each award below carefully before entering.

The Professor Douglas Chamberlain Award for Innovation in Clinical Practice

The Royal College of Paramedics is proud to introduce the Professor Douglas Chamberlain Award for Innovation in Clinical Practice, an annual award celebrating the fearless spirit of one of the most influential figures in modern paramedicine.

Professor Douglas Chamberlain was a pioneer who challenged convention and transformed the very idea of what pre-hospital care could achieve. His determination to defy traditional hierarchies and his relentless commitment to saving lives laid the foundation for the paramedic profession as we know it today.

This award recognises individuals or teams who embody that same courage and creativity, recognising paramedics who see beyond accepted limits, who innovate boldly in clinical practice, and who demonstrate the power of evidence, collaboration, and compassion to improve patient care.

Judged by members of the College with expert clinical knowledge and experience, alongside Professor Chamberlain's family, this award is not only a tribute to his legacy but also a call to the next generation: to lead, to innovate, and to transform the future of paramedicine.

Purpose & Inspiration

The award honours a paramedic (or team) whose work exemplifies the pioneering spirit of Professor Douglas Chamberlain, bravely challenging convention, expanding clinical boundaries, and advancing the profession through inventive, life-saving practice. As Douglas fought hierarchical norms to transform out-of-hospital care and enabled paramedics to become recognised professionals, this award celebrates those who follow in his footsteps, driving meaningful change in clinical care delivery for the benefit of society.

Judging & Presentation

- Judging Panel: To be evaluated annually by Professor Chamberlain's family, selected members of the College with expert clinical knowledge and experience and an external advisor with knowledge of Douglas's work and may not be from the paramedic profession
- Presentation: Awarded at the College's annual Honours & Awards presentation event, with the recipient's name inscribed on the College's Roll of Honour and featured in the Annual Report. The award winner will also feature in INSIGHT magazine.

Award Criteria

Nominations should clearly demonstrate innovation in clinical practice that aligns with one or more of the following pillars:

Criterion	Description	Why It Matters
1. Bold Innovation	Introduced a novel clinical technique, tool, protocol, or model of care that breaks from traditional approaches.	Reflects Douglas's fearless challenge to convention and his pioneering introduction of advanced on-scene resuscitation.
2. Evidence-Powered Impact	Supported innovation with relevant data or evidence showing tangible improvements in patient outcomes, quality of care, or service reach.	Mirrors Douglas's rigor in demonstrating effectiveness of ambulance-based resuscitation.
3. Professional Advancement	Contributed to the paramedic profession's stature through training, policy influence, or public engagement.	Echoes how Douglas elevated paramedic recognition, shaping training and allied health status.
4. Collaborative Leadership	Built alliances across traditional boundaries, within health delivery, education, research, or among statutory bodies, to implement change.	Captures Douglas's coalition-building to establish resuscitation councils and modern training frameworks.
5. Sustainability & Scalability	Demonstrated capacity for the innovation to be sustained, replicated, or scaled beyond its initial setting.	Embodies Douglas's work in shaping national standards, for example, public defibrillator deployment and paramedic training networks.

Nomination Process

1. Who may nominate: Open to full members of the College. Individuals or teams who are paramedics actively engaged in clinical practice.
2. Cover statement (up to 1,000 words) outlining:

- The innovation, its inspiration, and context
- How it aligns with the criteria (especially evidence of impact, collaboration, and scalability)
- Any supporting data, patient stories, or testimonials
- Evidence package: May include data summaries, outcome metrics, brief letters of endorsement, or peer reviews.

3. Judging: Panel evaluates based on:
    - Alignment with Chamberlain's legacy of fearless, evidence-based innovation
    - Demonstrated impact on clinical care and the profession
    - Clarity and replicability of the innovation.

Award Benefits

- Recognition: Recipient(s) celebrated at the annual presentation event, with profile on the College's website, INSIGHT magazine and Annual Report.
- Support for dissemination: Invitation to publish or share their innovation through Paramedic INSIGHT or at a College event, with guidance from the College education team.
- Inspiration: Serving as a beacon for current and future paramedics to push professional boundaries.

Submission Process

1. Nomination Format

Nominations should be submitted via the nomination form available on the Royal College of Paramedics website and emailed to awards@rcop.co.uk.

Submissions on the form should be presented as a structured case study, supported by evidence and optional multimedia, using the following sections as suggestions:

2. Case Study Framework (max 3,000 words total, plus appendices)

Section A – Overview (max 500 words)

- Title of the innovation.
- Name(s) and role(s) of nominee(s).
- Summary of the innovation in plain language.
- Timeline of development and implementation.

Section B – The Challenge (max 500 words)

- What problem, barrier, or limitation in clinical practice was identified?
- Why was it important to address?
- Who was affected (patients, services, systems)?

Section C – The Innovation (max 1,000 words)

- Clear description of the idea, change, or method introduced

- How it diverges from or challenges traditional practice
- Any risks identified, and how they were managed
- Collaborative efforts involved (partners, agencies, or inter-professional teams).

Section D – Evidence of Impact (max 1,000 words)

- Quantitative data (outcomes, survival rates, efficiency measures, reach)
- Qualitative data (patient stories, testimonials, staff feedback)
- Sustainability and potential for replication elsewhere, if appropriate.

Section E – Legacy & Alignment with Chamberlain's Spirit (max 500 words)

- How this innovation reflects Douglas Chamberlain's pioneering legacy (fearlessness, evidence-driven change, advancing professional recognition)
- Vision for how it could inspire others in the profession.

3. Supporting Evidence

Nominations may include:

- Charts, tables, or brief data summaries
- Letters of endorsement (from patients, colleagues, senior leaders, or academics)
- Short video/audio submission (max 5 minutes), optional, but encouraged. This gives nominees a chance to "tell their story" in a compelling, human way, and helps the judges (including the Chamberlain family members) see the passion behind the innovation.

4. Eligibility & Authorship

Nominations can be for an individual or a team.

- Must be submitted by a College member (self-nomination permitted).
- Work must have been implemented (not just theoretical), though it may be in early stages of development.

5. Judging Process

- Initial Screening: College staff ensure submissions meet format and eligibility.
- Panel Review: Each judge scores submissions against the five published criteria (bold innovation, evidence-powered impact, professional advancement, collaborative leadership, sustainability & scalability).
- Final Discussion: If there are multiple submissions that meet the criteria, shortlisted candidates invited to present a 10-minute lightning talk (virtual or live) to the judging panel. This ensures authenticity, clarity, and gives Douglas's family an opportunity to hear directly from nominees.

6. Outcome & Feedback

- Winner announced at the Annual Honours & Awards presentation event.
- All shortlisted nominees receive written feedback and recognition in College communications to celebrate their contribution to innovation.

Summary

The Professor Douglas Chamberlain Award for Innovation in Clinical Practice celebrates those who dare to innovate in patient care, championing evidence-based, collaborative, sustainable advances and honours the fearless, transformational legacy of one of paramedicine's true pioneers.

The Professor Malcolm Woollard Award for Research Excellence

The Royal College of Paramedics is proud to introduce the Professor Malcolm Woollard Award for Research Excellence, an annual award celebrating a leading figure in paramedic research.

Purpose & Inspiration

Professor Woollard advanced the integration of research into professional practice and inspired a generation to build the profession's evidence base.

This award celebrates innovation, excellence and advocacy in paramedic research, and the translation of evidence into improvements for patients, services and the profession.

Judging & Presentation

- Judging Panel: To be selected members of the College with expert research knowledge and experience.
- Presentation: Awarded at the College's annual Honours & Awards presentation event, with the recipient's name inscribed on the College's Roll of Honour and featured in the Annual Report. The award winner will also feature in INSIGHT magazine.

Award Criteria

Nominations will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Innovation and Originality

- Demonstrates significant originality in research design, methods, or focus
- Advances new ideas or challenges existing assumptions within paramedic research.

2. Impact on Practice

- Provides clear evidence of research influencing clinical practice, education, or policy
- Demonstrates translation of research findings into improvements in patient care or service delivery.

3. Contribution to the Evidence Base

- Produces rigorous, high-quality research that strengthens the evidence base for paramedicine
- Disseminates findings effectively through peer-reviewed publications, presentations, or professional engagement.

4. Alignment with Professional Values

- Embodies integrity, professionalism, and patient-centred values in their research
- Demonstrates a sustained commitment to advancing the paramedic profession through scholarship.

Eligibility

- Nominees must be individual researchers working within paramedicine
- They may be at any career stage but must demonstrate a substantial and measurable contribution to paramedic research
- The award is not open to research teams or collaborative groups (individual nominations only).
- Self-nominations are not permitted.

Nominations

1. Who may nominate: Nominations must be made by a member of the Royal College of Paramedics. Self-nominations are not permitted.
2. Nomination Statement (maximum 1,000 words): The nominator must submit a statement addressing how the nominee meets each of the published criteria. The statement should cover:
    - Innovation and Originality
    - Impact on Practice
    - Contribution to the Evidence Base
    - Alignment with Professional Values
3. Supporting Documentation:
    - Nominee's current CV (maximum 4 pages)
    - Up to two supporting letters from colleagues, collaborators or stakeholders (optional but encouraged).

Award Benefits

- Recognition at the annual Honours & Awards presentation event, with profile on the College's website, INSIGHT magazine and listed in the College and Research Annual Reports
- Invitation to share the research (e.g., via INSIGHT, College events or webinars) to support dissemination and impact
- Inspiration to the profession by showcasing excellence in research and its translation into practice.

Submission Process

1. Nomination Format

Nominations should be submitted via the nomination form available on the Royal College of Paramedics website and emailed to awards@rcop.co.uk.

2. Required Components

- Completed online nomination form

- Nomination statement (up to 1,000 words) addressing all criteria
- Nominee's CV (max 4 pages)
- Up to two supporting letters (optional).

3. Eligibility & Authorship

- Individual nominees only; team nominations will not be accepted
- Nominator must be a College member; self-nominations are not permitted
- Work presented should be the nominee's original research contribution and its demonstrable impact.

4. Judging Process

- Initial Screening: College staff confirm completeness and eligibility
- Panel Review: Judges score nominations against the four published criteria
- Final Discussion: The panel agrees the winner based on total scores and qualitative deliberation
- The panel reserves the right to request clarification from nominators if required.

5. Outcome & Feedback

The winner will be announced at the Annual Honours & Awards presentation event, held in the afternoon of Tuesday 13th July. A plus one and nominators will be invited

- All shortlisted nominees will receive written feedback.

The Roland Furber Award

This award is presented in memory of the late Roland Furber, a man of integrity, commitment, and passion to whom the paramedic profession owes a great debt. He worked tirelessly and unselfishly for the profession and the professional body. He was the first Chief Executive of the British Paramedic Association – College of Paramedics and was the third President of the College of Paramedics until his untimely death.

This award is open to paid up full and associate members of the Royal College of Paramedics.

- Submission should be of a **Clinical Case study** that was experienced in person by the applicant. Presentations must be written to protect patient confidentiality, using original text with references as appropriate. Maximum 1000 words, excluding references, front cover, and appendices
- Case studies shaped by cultural, personal, or community contexts are welcome, as are reflections within the case study on aspects of equity and inclusion.
- All entries for the award will be marked and judged by an invited academic panel competitively to acknowledge one clear winner
- The Award will be presented at an afternoon presentation event organised by the Royal College of Paramedics on the afternoon of Tuesday 13th July 2027. A plus one will be included.

- The winner will receive a book voucher, to the value of £75.00, for the range of books available at Class Professional Publishing
- The winner's name will be entered on the Royal College of Paramedics Roll of Honour, which appears on the College website, along with all past winners of our Honours and Awards. 2026-2027 season award winners will be named in the College 2027 Annual Report
- As a condition of the award, the winner will be required to submit their case study for publication in Paramedic INSIGHT (Support from the Royal College of Paramedics education team will be given to facilitate this)
- Entries must be made using **The Roland Furber Award Entry Form** and submitted via email to awards@rcop.co.uk. Entries must be submitted by the advertised closing date.

The Carol Furber Award

This award is presented in memory of the late Carol Furber who contributed so much to the College of Paramedics. Carol worked in a voluntary capacity as the senior secretary and administrator for all correspondence, including membership secretary, until her untimely death. We remain in her debt for such dedication to the pioneering early days of the College of Paramedics.

This award is open to paid up to date Student Members of the Royal College of Paramedics.

- Submission should be of a **REFLECTIVE** case study that was experienced in person by the student applicant. Presentations must be written to protect patient confidentiality, using original text with references as appropriate. Maximum 1000 words, excluding references, front cover, and appendices. A countersignature by a registered Paramedic colleague will be needed to authenticate the genuine **REFLECTIVE** case study
- Case studies shaped by cultural, personal, or community contexts are welcome, as are reflections within the case study on aspects of equity and inclusion.
- All entries for the award will be marked and judged by invited academic panel competitively to acknowledge one clear winner
- The Award will be presented at an afternoon presentation event organised by the Royal College of Paramedics on the afternoon of Tuesday 13th July 2027. A plus one will be included.
- The winner will receive a book voucher, to the value of £75.00, for the range of books available at Class Professional Publishing
- The winner's name will be entered on the Royal College of Paramedics Roll of Honour, which appears on the College website, along with all past winners of our Honours and Awards. 2026-2027 season award winners will be named in the College 2027 Annual Report
- As a condition of the award, the winner will be required to submit their case study for publication in Paramedic INSIGHT (support from the Royal College of Paramedics education team will be given to facilitate this)

- Entries must be made using **The Carol Furber Award Entry Form** and submitted via email to awards@rcop.co.uk. Entries must be submitted by the advertised closing date.

The John Hinds Scholarship Award

This award is presented in memory of the late Dr John Hinds, a man held in high regard as an inspirational leader by Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians and indeed anyone with an interest in prehospital care within Ireland. He selflessly gave a huge amount of his own time to educating and supporting paramedics and ambulance staff on the island of Ireland and a scholarship for those colleagues is a fitting and practical way to preserve their memory of such a well-respected colleague and medical professional.

This award is open to all clinical levels of pre-hospital responder; first responder to advanced paramedic, on the island of Ireland.

- Submission should be of a **Clinical Case** study that was experienced in person by the applicant. Presentations must be written to protect patient confidentiality, using original text with references as appropriate. Maximum 1000 words, excluding references, front cover, and appendices. It must be countersigned by a paramedic colleague, who is prepared to confirm that your submission is a genuine case study
- Case studies shaped by cultural, personal, or community contexts are welcome, as are reflections within the case study on aspects of equity and inclusion.
- All entries for the award will be marked and judged by an invited academic panel competitively to acknowledge one clear winner
- The prize is a place on an Anaesthesia Trauma and Critical Care (ATACC) course, in association with Galen. Travel and accommodation to attend the three-day course in Lincolnshire LN5 9FG, will be arranged by Galen.
- The Award will be presented at an afternoon presentation event organised by the Royal College of Paramedics on the afternoon of Tuesday 13th July 2027. A plus one will be included.
- The winner's name will be entered on the Royal College of Paramedics Roll of Honour, which appears on the College website, along with all past winners of our Honours and Awards. 2026-2027 season award winners will be named in the College 2027 Annual Report
- As a condition of the award, the winner will be required to submit their case study for publication in Paramedic INSIGHT (support from the Royal College of Paramedics education team will be given to facilitate this)
- Entries must be made using **The John Hinds Scholarship Award Entry Form** and submitted via email to awards@rcop.co.uk. Entries must be submitted by the advertised closing date.

The College celebrates diversity and would be more than happy to provide this guidance and the relevant form in a format that is accessible to you. Please email awards@rcop.co.uk with details of your requirements

Frequently Asked Questions

Who makes up the Honours and Awards Committee?

The Honours and Awards Committee is a Committee of the Board of Trustees and will be chaired by a trustee and made up of trustees, Paramedic Council members, Fellows of the College, and representatives from the Diversity Steering Group, staff group and membership. The Committee's purpose is to deliberate on the Honour nominations and seek assurance from the Chief Operating Officer that the College Honours and Awards are accessible, fair and transparent and reflect the values of the College, including its commitment to Diversity, Equity and Belonging. The College welcomes any feedback on our Honours and Awards to help us improve for the next season; awards@rcop.co.uk.

Where do I send my nomination form or my entry form?

Please email your form to awards@rcop.co.uk

Can I get support from the College to fill the form out and ensure I have provided what is needed?

The College can provide this guidance and the relevant form in a format that is accessible to you. Please email awards@rcop.co.uk with details of your requirements.

What is the deadline for this process?

- Download the forms from our website from 1st November 2026
- Closure for **ALL** nominations and entries is **23:59pm Friday 12th February 2027.**

What if the Honours nomination I submit is not successful?

The decision not to award will be communicated to those making the nominations normally within 8 weeks of the closing date of the Honours and Awards 2026-2027 season. Appeals against this decision will not be permitted. Feedback will not be given on why a nominee was not awarded. However, the College can provide non-specific feedback and a general overview of how decisions are reached. The College would not normally expect to receive another nomination for an unsuccessful nominee within a three-year period unless there are further nominators providing further information or exceptional circumstances.

What if my award entry is not successful?

Those with unsuccessful entries will be informed by email normally within 8 weeks of the closing date of the Honours and Awards 2026-2027 season.

When will I hear whether my entry for an Honour or Award has been successful?

The College will endeavour to inform all those who have submitted a nomination or entry of the outcome of their nomination or entry normally within 8 weeks of the closing date of the Honours and Awards 2026-2027 season.