

# PRO MEDAL OF LEADERSHIP

## Pro Sports Assembly Medal of Leadership Nomination Guidelines

### What is the Medal of Leadership?

The Pro Sports Assembly Medal of Leadership Celebration recognizes four professional sports leaders who are proving the value of informed and inclusive leadership, both inside their organization and beyond to elevate standards of leadership excellence across the ecosystem. Pro Sports Assembly strives to elevate members who are building strong, healthy and fair organizations and communities. The Medal of Leadership Celebration was inspired by two leaders who lifted inclusive leadership to new heights: Jason Jenkins and Cynt Marshall. They have leveraged their positions of influence to benefit the greater good and epitomize what it means to be a PRO.

### About the Medal:

The hand holding the torch symbolizes the passing of the torch to the next set of pro sports leaders. The PRO letters are included in the torch to show the strength of the community that we have in the PRO Sports Assembly organization. The laurel wreath represents the triumph and success that leaders in pro sports have and show daily. The rays in the background represent the rays of light and power that each individual holds to create a positive change in their organizations and communities. The people and stars in the outer circle represent all individuals in pro sports and the Pro Sports Assembly.

### Meet the Designer:

Emilio Cortez, a founding member of Pro Sports Assembly with a background in visual arts, designed the medal in 2023 while working for the San Francisco 49ers as a coordinator in their EDU program. He is also a founding member of the 49ers L.E.A.D (Latinx Empowerment, Advancement & Development) ERG.

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Submit a nomination for the 2026 Medal of Leadership [here](#) by May 15th, 2026.

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## About the Awards

### Jason Jenkins "Victory for Humanity" Award

The "Victory for Humanity Award" was created in honor of Jason Jenkins, the late Senior Vice President of Communications and Community Affairs for the Miami Dolphins and a founding member of PRO, serving on the Governing Board as Chair of Communications. Jason was an exceptional leader - a unifier of people and a champion in the community. The Jason Jenkins "Victory for Humanity" Award is presented to a Pro Sports Assembly member for significantly leveraging their position of influence to create lasting impact in the community.

- Be employed full-time at a professional team, league, union, or venue at the time of nomination
- Demonstrate commitment to serving in the community
- Serve as a positive role model
- Demonstrate leadership and vision to unify people across all backgrounds

### Questions on the Nomination Form:

- How many years of experience does the nominee have? \*
- Please list the nominee's specific accomplishments throughout their career (please note the year, if possible):
- Please list community or organizational groups that the nominee is involved in:
- How has this nominee demonstrated a commitment to serving their community? \*
- How has this nominee demonstrated leadership and vision to unify people across all backgrounds? \*
- How does this nominee demonstrate leadership and vision in their organization and the professional sports industry? \*
- Please list the nominee's honors, distinctions, and/or awards including the year awarded:
- Please list any other reasons you believe this nominee should be awarded the Victory for Humanity award: \*

### Visionary Leadership Award

The Visionary Leadership Award is presented to a senior-level (director and above) professional sports leader. Throughout their career, this individual has shown excellence inside their organization, in their community, and is dedicated to building the next generation of leaders.

- Be employed full-time as a senior-level executive at a professional team, league, union, or venue at the time of nomination
- Have 11+ years of professional sports experience
- Be committed to inclusive leadership and equity
- Demonstrate a commitment to professional development and mentorship
- Demonstrate leadership and vision in their organization and the professional sports industry

### **Questions on the Nomination Form:**

- How many years of experience does the nominee have? \*
- How has this person's vision impacted the professional sports industry? \*
- How has this nominee committed to inclusive leadership and equity? \*
- How does this nominee demonstrate commitment, cooperation, and allegiance in promoting excellence in the professional sports industry? \*
- How does this nominee demonstrate a commitment to professional development and mentoring of inclusive professional sports leaders? \*
- Please list the nominee's accomplishments, honors, distinctions, and/or awards including the year awarded:
- Please list any other reasons you believe this nominee should be awarded the Visionary Leadership Award:

### **Rising Leader Award**

The Rising Leader Award recognizes a full-time pro sports executive (0-10 years of experience) who has made an exemplary impact early in their career. This award calls attention to an individual with an outstanding commitment to excellence.

- Possess 0-10 years of professional sports experience at a team, league, union, or venue
- Nominee must exhibit effective leadership skills at their organization
- Demonstrate involvement in the community (specific examples should be provided)
- Show a clear sense of growth and success in their role (specific examples outlining skills, responsibilities, and accomplishments should be provided)

### **Questions on the Nomination Form:**

- How many years of experience does the nominee have? \*
- Please list the nominee's specific accomplishments throughout their career (please note the year, if possible):
- Please list leadership and volunteer positions that this nominee has held (internally or externally):
- How has this nominee championed inclusive leadership and equity in their organization, community, and/or industry? \*
- What specific leadership impact has this nominee demonstrated inside their organization? \*
- What specific leadership impact has this nominee demonstrated outside their organization? \*
- Please list the nominee's honors, distinctions, and/or awards including the year awarded:
- Please list any other reasons you believe this nominee should be awarded the Rising Leader Award:

## Marshall Award for Values in Sports

The Marshall Award for Values in Sports was created in honor of Cynthia "Cynt" Marshall, former CEO of the Dallas Mavericks. As the first Black female CEO in the NBA, Cynt represents strength and impact for the organization, its greater community and the professional sports ecosystem. The Marshall Award for Values in Sports is presented to a trailblazing Pro Sports Assembly member who exemplifies Character, Respect, Authenticity, Fairness, Teamwork and Safety.

- Be employed full-time as a senior-level executive at a professional team, league, union, or venue at the time of nomination
- Be an advocate for inclusive leadership and equity within their organization and in the broader community
- Demonstrate commitment, cooperation, and allegiance in promoting excellence in the professional sports industry
- Demonstrate leadership and vision in their organization and the industry

### Questions on the Nomination Form:

- How many years of experience does the nominee have? \*
- Please list the nominee's specific accomplishments throughout their career (please note the year, if possible):
- Please list community or organizational groups that the nominee is involved in:
- How does this nominee advocate for inclusive leadership and equity within their organization and in the broader community? \*
- How does this nominee demonstrate commitment, cooperation, and allegiance in promoting excellence in the professional sports industry? \*
- How does this nominee demonstrate leadership and vision in their organization and the professional sports industry? \*
- Please list the nominee's honors, distinctions, and/or awards including the year awarded:
- Please list any other reasons you believe this nominee should be awarded the Marshall Award for Values in Sports:

### Additional Criteria:

- Nominee does not need to be a member of PRO but is highly encouraged
- Nominee can be nominated for multiple categories
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**Note:** An asterisk (\*) next to a question indicates it is required to submit a nomination.

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