



Singapore Sport Hall of Fame 2026: Tang Pui Wah and Tay Chin Joo Inducted

Description

Two of Singapore's most storied sporting legends were inducted into the Singapore Sport Hall of Fame on 17 July 2026, in a ceremony held at the Asian Civilisations Museum. Tang Pui Wah and Tay Chin Joo — pioneers who broke barriers decades apart — received their honours from President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, with Acting Minister for Culture, Community and Youth David Neo as Special Guest.



Singapore Sport Hall of Fame inductees Tang Pui Wah and Tay Chin Joo. Photo: Sport Singapore

Tang Pui Wah: Singapore's First Female Olympian

At 92, Tang Pui Wah carries a distinction no other Singaporean woman has held before her: she was the first to compete at an Olympic Games, representing Singapore at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics in athletics. Her journey to Helsinki was the culmination of a remarkable track career. In 1951, she swept the sprint events at the Malayan AAA Championships, claiming gold, and the following year she sealed her Olympic berth with a standout domestic season.

Her finest international result came at the 1954 Asian Games, where she won a bronze medal in the 80-metre hurdles â?? a performance that remained a landmark in Singapore womenâ??s athletics for years afterwards. Tang Pui Wahâ??s willingness to compete on the world stage at a time when womenâ??s sport was far from celebrated made her a trailblazer not just in Singapore, but across the region.

Tay Chin Joo: Youngest-Ever SEAP Games Gold Medallist

Tay Chin Jooâ??s name entered the record books when, at just 10 years old, he became Singaporeâ??s youngest-ever gold medallist at the South East Asian Peninsular (SEAP) Games â?? a record that has never been broken. Now 71, he went on to represent Singapore at four SEAP Games, earned medals across three Asian Games, and competed at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

A specialist in artistic swimming (then known as synchronised swimming), Tay Chin Jooâ??s career spanned an era when the sport was still finding its footing in Singapore. He has since channelled his experience back into the sport, currently serving as Vice-President of Artistic Swimming at Singapore Aquatics, helping to develop the next generation of Singapore competitors.



Guests at the Singapore Sport Hall of Fame induction ceremony at the Asian Civilisations Museum. Photo: Sport Singapore

A Ceremony at the Asian Civilisations Museum

The 2026 induction ceremony took place at the Asian Civilisations Museum, a fitting venue given the historical weight of the occasion. President Tharman Shanmugaratnam presented the honours, while Acting Minister David Neo's presence underscored the government's recognition of sport as an integral part of Singapore's national identity and heritage.

The Singapore Sport Hall of Fame was established to honour athletes and sporting figures who have made outstanding contributions to sport in Singapore. This year's inductees add to a roll call of legends who shaped the nation's sporting story – a story that, for Tang Pui Wah and Tay Chin Joo, began at an age when most were still learning the rules of the game.

Date Created

18/07/2026

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