

Ultimate Hall of Fame Selection Process + Timeline

Updated for the 2021 Selection Process - June 21, 2021

I. Overview

This document describes the process to induct members into the Ultimate Hall of Fame. The [Selection Committees](#) for the Hall of Fame include the [Vetting Committee](#), [Player Peer Pools and Contributor Candidates](#), and [Voting Members of the Ultimate Hall of Fame](#). [Candidate Eligibility Criteria](#) includes age restrictions, achievement records, and additional guidelines. The [Selection Process Timeline](#) details the stages in the process from becoming a nominee through selection and induction into the Hall of Fame. [Stage 1](#) involves procuring nominees/candidates for this year's consideration. [Stage 2](#) is a peer review process to winnow the nominee pool to a slate of candidates to be presented for community input. [Stage 3](#) includes announcing the final slate of candidates and requesting comments from the ultimate community. [Stage 4](#) is when the eligible members of the Hall of Fame vote to select the newest inductees.

II. Selection Committees

There are three selection committees, described below, whose members participate in one or more of the stages of the [Selection Process](#). These committees are the [Vetting Committee](#), the [Player Peer Pools and Contributor Candidate Task Force](#), and the [Voting Members of the Hall of Fame](#).

A. Vetting Committee

1. Composition

The Vetting Committee is comprised of the Vetting Committee Chair, Player Peer Pool Coordinators, at least three at-large members, additional Ultimate Hall of Fame Board/Hall members, along with one member of the USA Ultimate Board of Directors. The Committee Chair is selected by the Ultimate Hall of Fame Board of Directors. The at-large members serve three-year terms, with one position expiring each year. There must be at least one women's player division representative, one open player division representative, and one contributor representative serving as at-large members who oversee the respective Player Peer Pools and, for 2021, the Contributor Task Force. Appointment terms can be renewed or extended by the HoF Board of Directors. Additional Vetting Committee members are Hall members who are members of the Ultimate Hall of Fame Board of Directors and/or have volunteered to serve on the Vetting Committee. The USAU board representative is appointed/re-confirmed by the USAU Board as part of the normal committee assignment process and may or may not be a Hall of Fame member.

For 2021, the members of the Vetting Committee include Suzanne Fields as Vetting Committee Chair, Robert "Nob" Rauch as Contributor coordinator (2021), Keay Nakae (2021), Steve Dugan (2022), and Jeff Cruickshank (2024) as co-Open Division coordinators, Dominique Fontenette (2023), Vivian Zayas (2024), and Lori Parham Ewald (2024) as co-Women's Division coordinators. Chris O'Cleary and Bill Rodriguez serve as Vetting Committee advisors with Pat King, Hall of Fame Board designee, and Steve Mooney, as USAU Board representative to the Vetting Committee. Of note, Pam Kraus (HoF '17)

stepped away from leading the Women's Peer Pool and now continues on the Vetting Committee as an advisor and in leading a Mixed Division Task Force. Ad-hoc committee members may be added to support the overall process, as needed.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

The Vetting Committee meets early in the year to review, revise, and approve the Peer Pool Process and Hall Selection Criteria and thereafter, publishes a document with updated rules and timelines. The Player Peer Pool Coordinators review and update the Player Peer Pools to reflect the peak playing years for the year's candidates and balance regional representation. This is a multi-pronged effort using USAU team contacts from Club National Championships team rosters and existing peer pool members to reach out to their teammates.

The Player Peer Pool Coordinators and Contributor Coordinator, in collaboration with the Vetting Committee chair, are responsible for completing [Stage 1](#) of the Selection Process; reaching out to the Peer Pool members, Contributor Hall members, and the ultimate community at large to solicit and encourage nominations to the Ultimate Hall of Fame that meet the [Nominee Eligibility Criteria](#).

For each of the player candidates, the Player Peer Pool Coordinators will compile a competitive playing history, and for contributors, a list of significant contributions, to be considered during the peer review and final voting. With this information, the Coordinators for the respective divisions conduct [Stage 2](#) of the selection process by administering the peer pool voting.

Members of the Vetting Committee are also responsible for [Stage 3](#) of the selection process. This includes informing the ultimate community who is on the final slate of candidates and soliciting community input via the Call to Community survey administered in collaboration with USAU.

Finally, the chair of the Vetting Committee conducts [Stage 4](#) of the selection process through the completion of the final voting by eligible members of the Hall of Fame. The Vetting Committee is invited to participate in the final voting.

B. Player Peer Pools and Contributor Candidate Task Force

1. Composition

The Open and Women's Division Player Peer Pools include elite caliber competitors. Recruiting for the Open and Women's Division Peer Pools is focused on adding players who competed at USAU/UPA Club Nationals or other elite national or international tournaments during the [peak playing years](#)' time frame under consideration for the current year's selection process. The Player Peer Pools may also include individuals who served as regional/sectional coordinators, tournament directors, team captains, and/or coaches during the peak playing years' time frame under consideration. There is no age restriction to be a voting member of the respective Player Peer Pool, though Peer Pool member's involvement in the highest level of competitive play must coincide with the current peak playing year time frame.

Contributor candidates include individuals who have made significant contributions as players, coaches, Sectional/Regional/National coordinators, tournament organizers, and promoters of the sport. The Contributor eligibility guidelines and selection criteria are currently being revised for the 2021 Hall process.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

Members of the Player Peer Pools participate in [Stage 1](#) and [Stage 2](#) of the selection process by recruiting new members for the peer pool, nominating player candidates who meet the [Nominee Eligibility Criteria](#), and by voting during the peer voting window to help narrow the field of nominees to a final slate of candidates.

C. Voting Members of the Hall of Fame

1. Composition

Player and Contributor members of the Ultimate Hall of Fame are eligible to participate as voting members of the Hall of Fame for up to fifteen (15) years after their induction.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

In 2018, voter participation by all eligible Hall of Fame members for Player candidates was segmented by player division to achieve better alignment of voter knowledge and experience in the selection of Open and Women's Division Player candidates. Voting members from the Contributor category have the option to participate in one, both, or neither of the Women's division and Open Player candidates voting processes, depending on their knowledge and history of involvement in the respective player divisions. Contributor members of the Hall who are eligible voters must declare their intention in which divisional voting process they will participate before the voting takes place. Contributor and Special Merit candidates will be voted on by all eligible voting members of the Hall of Fame. Effective with the 2020 Hall selection process, Look Back inductees are no longer eligible to vote.

There are two rounds of voting in [Stage 4](#) of the selection process for the "Player" category. Voting members of the Hall of Fame must cast all their votes in the first round to participate in the second round of voting.

III. Nominee Eligibility Criteria

There are currently four categories for the Ultimate Hall of Fame: Inaugural, Player, Contributor, and Special Merit.

A. Player Candidate Category Eligibility Criteria

Players with a distinguished record of competitive achievement at the highest national and/or international levels in their primary division of play (i.e., Open and Women's division but not Masters, Grand Masters, or Great Grand Masters), with additional consideration given to integrity, sportsmanship, and character, are eligible to be nominated as candidates in the Player category. Consideration of Hall-worthiness is focused on what the player-candidates did "at

their best against the best” in their primary division of play at the highest levels of competition during the [peak playing years](#)’ time frame under consideration for the current year’s selection process.

Beginning with the 2018 Hall of Fame process, Player-candidates no longer need to be “retired” from USAU Club Nationals-caliber competition to be Hall-eligible candidates. Player nominees must be at least Master’s age plus 10 years of age (40/43 for the Women’s/Open) to be Hall-eligible candidates. Of note, those Hall candidates who age out of consideration may be considered in future years as part of the Look Back process that will be administered at least every 5 years, if not more frequently.

2021 Player Age and Eligibility Restrictions:

- Women’s Division Player Candidate Birth Year on or before 1981
- Open Division Player Candidate Birth Year on or before 1978
- Peak Playing Years should overlap the 2001–2008-time frame

B. Contributor Category Eligibility Criteria

Individuals who have made exceptional contributions that furthered the growth, reputation, and character of the sport in categories such as development, administration, media, and coaching are eligible to be considered in the Contributor category. Contributor candidates do not need to be retired from their activities related to the sport or meet a minimum age criterion.

C. Special Merit Category Eligibility Criteria

Special Merit category will accommodate all other potential candidates not included in the first two categories, whether teams, equipment, groups, individuals, or other aspect, that defined the nature of the sport or its competitive spirit, or contributed to make Ultimate special, in the context of their day. Because of the nature of this category, no more than one Special Merit inductee would be permitted each year, with no requirement for a Special Merit inductee in every year.

D. Other Categories

Other categories will be explored in future years.

IV. Selection Process Timeline

Below is the 2021 timeline and description of each stage of the Ultimate Hall of Fame selection process.

2020 Timeline	Stage	Description
Nominations due by: Mon., 7/19/21	1. Nominee Procurement	The primary method to produce the initial list of candidates (Open Division) or nominees (Women’s Division) is an iterative peer review process. Nomination forms, Peer Pool History/Short forms, and

<p>Completed Questionnaires due by: Mon., 7/19/21 Reference letters due by: Mon., 8/9/21</p>	<p>completed Player Candidate Questionnaires or Contributor applications are also to be solicited from the general USA Ultimate membership and alumni population, specifically through an announcement on the USA Ultimate website and through social media channels. The Vetting Committee may also add candidate names. Finally, candidates carried over from previous elections (see below) are to be added to the list. The candidates themselves or sponsors for the candidates are to produce the Player Candidate Questionnaire, supporting reference letters and provide head shot and action photos.</p> <p>In the Women’s division Player division, a nomination is valid for five years and only if that candidate’s competitive career aligns with the current Peak Playing Years. If a candidate’s nomination has expired and they continue to be eligible, a new nomination is required. In the Open Player division, candidate eligibility to be on the ballot is based on age, peak playing year time frame, and alignment with the following eligibility guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential candidates first become eligible Hall candidates (and appear as such on the Peer Pool ballot) in the year they reach age 43 - Candidates have a maximum eligibility of 10 years, although eligibility may be fewer years based on playing history in the Open Club division - Any individual who first becomes an eligible candidate in the year they reach age 43 will be an eligible Hall candidate for a minimum of 3 years, regardless of playing history. - 2021 will serve as a final rule transition year, granting waivers that allow for a final year of eligibility to candidates who would otherwise be ineligible under the new rules - The burden of responsibility for validating HoF candidacy (and the ability to utilize the full 10 years of eligibility or minimum of 3 years) is on the former players and teammates, not the HoF Vetting Committee <p>A Player Candidate Questionnaire is valid for five years and it may be refreshed each year. Contributor applications are also valid for five years and may be refreshed each year.</p>
<p>Peer Pool Voting completed by: 8/9/21</p>	<p>2. Peer Review</p> <p>The Player Peer Pool coordinators will provide player information and competitive histories of all the nominees/candidates and distribute this information to the respective peer pool members for review. Members of the Player Peer Pools then participate in</p>

<p>Final Slate Presented: 9/6/21 or after Labor Day</p>	<p>at least one round of peer voting to rank the nominees/candidates from their 1st to 5th choices.</p> <p>The results of peer voting and candidate competitive histories are used by the Vetting Committee to narrow the field of nominees to a final slate of up to eight (for 2021) candidates from each of the two Player Peer Pools.</p> <p>For 2021, the Contributor coordinator formed a Task Force composed of Contributor members of the Hall to craft a selection process outside of the peer pool process. Due to the disparities amongst Contributor Peer Pool members in era, region, and knowledge about each other, utilizing a peer pool to identify contributor candidates needs to be revised. The Contributor Task Force will decide if any contributor candidates will be proposed to the Vetting Committee and thereafter that committee will determine if any contributor candidate(s) advance to the final slate.</p> <p>There is no peer review for the Special Merit Category.</p>
<p>Open Comment Window: TBD – mid to late Sept.</p>	<p>3. Call to the Community</p> <p>The final slate of candidates is announced to the ultimate community on the USA Ultimate website, social media platforms, in the USA Ultimate e-news or equivalent, and on the Ultimate Hall of Fame website. The ultimate community at-large is asked to provide any review or comment on individual candidates that they would like to have considered via a survey. The Call to Community comments submitted via the survey will be summarized by USA Ultimate and shared with eligible Hall of Fame voters by the Hall of Fame Vetting Committee Chair.</p>
<p>2021 Inductees Announced: After Club Nationals / After 10/24/21</p>	<p>4. Final Voting</p> <p>There are two rounds of voting for the Player Category. In 2021, for the first round, eligible Voting Members of the Hall of Fame select their top four choices from the final slate of candidates in the player division voting process in which they have selected to participate, and each voter must use all their votes to be eligible to vote in the second round. In 2021, the four candidates in each player division receiving the most votes advance to the second round of voting. In the second</p>

round of voting, the voting members of the Hall of Fame who are still eligible to vote, cast a “yes” or “no” vote for each of the remaining candidates in the voting process in which they are participating.

There is one round of voting in the [Contributor](#) and [Special Merit Categories](#). All eligible voting members of the Hall of Fame cast a “yes” or “no” vote for the contributor and special merit candidates.

All yes/no second-round ballots may be returned without any “yes” votes. Candidates in all categories must receive two-thirds, or a supermajority, of yes votes to advance to induction. Vote totals will not be publicly announced.

After the selection of the new class of inductees each year, the Peer Pool Coordinators and Hall of Fame Vetting Committee Chair prepare a write-up for each inductee, in collaboration with the inductee. A press release will be posted to the USA Ultimate website, published in the USA Ultimate e-magazine/news, announced via social media platforms, and posted on the Ultimate Hall of Fame website. Each new inductee will be a part of the Hall of Fame going forward. Every five years, a formal induction ceremony with a dinner and program will be held for the five years of inductees during the weekend and in the vicinity of the USA Ultimate Club National Championship. A plaque will be made up and presented to inductees for the 2019 through 2023 classes at the next induction ceremony that will be held with Ultimate’s 55th anniversary in 2023.