

2022 ULTIMATE HALL OF FAME

PEER POOL PROCESS + HALL SELECTION + VOTING CRITERIA

Peer input is the foundational first step of the multi-step Ultimate Hall of Fame (HoF) Selection Process. The creation and ongoing updates to the membership of the respective Peer Pools is critical to supporting the worthiest and best-informed HoF candidate selections.

The composition of the Player Peer Pools is key to identifying the top vote getting HoF candidates from their respective playing era and aims to include fair representation across the regions.

The eligibility for and composition of the Open and Women's division Peer Pools must align with the current **Peak Playing Years**. For **2022**, peer pool members and Hall candidates must have competed at the highest level of competition in their Primary Division of Play between **2002 – 2010**. This is an expansion by one year from previous peak playing year time frames. For the first year of the Mixed division in 2022, peer pool members will be invited from the start of the division in 1998 to the end of the current peak playing years in 2010.

For 2022, the age eligibility guidelines have been reduced from 40 to 39 for Women's division competitors and from 43 to 42 for Open division competitors. For the Mixed division Starting Class, female-matching and male-matching eligibility guidelines will align with the other two divisions at 39/42.

While some peer pool members and Hall candidates may have extended their playing careers into the Masters, Grand Masters, and Great Grand Masters divisions and longevity is one of seven Hall of Fame Criteria for Consideration detailed in the "**What Makes A Hall of Famer**" document, when identifying and voting upon Hall candidates and consideration of Hall-worthiness, the focus must be on **what they did at their best against the best in the Open and Women's divisions - their primary division of play - during the current Peak Playing Years focus window. For Mixed, an added requirement is to have competed in the division for a minimum of 3 years.**

Peer Pools:

Currently, there are 3 Player Pools; Open division Player, the Women's division Player, and Mixed division Player. For 2022, the Contributor Pool will continue to be overseen by the Contributor Task Force composed of current Contributor members of the Hall.

To ensure that the Peer Pools are in alignment with the current focus window of time – a.k.a. Peak Playing Years, new peer pool members are added and those whose competitive playing careers ended before 2002 are rotated off of the Peer Pool, unless there are compelling reasons to remain on the respective Peer Pool. Those continuing to remain in the Peer Pool may also include coaches, regional coordinators/administrators, media/reporters, or others who continue to be connected to

the sport at the highest levels and have first-hand knowledge of top tier competitors in the Primary Division of Play during the Peak Playing Years. Beginning in 2022, these non-player Peer Pool members will be invited to participate in the respective player pools via a Consultant Peer Pool invitation sent by the Vetting Committee chair, in collaboration with the respective Peer Pool coordinators.

Peer Pool and Hall of Fame Candidate Eligibility Guidelines:

When the HoF was first established in 2004, there was defined age criteria* to designate when a former player first became eligible for HoF candidacy. However, no formal rules were established that defined when such a candidate's eligibility expired until the Peak Playing Years were established in 2016. After the HoF selection process worked through a backlog of older players in the 2016 to 2018 catch-up period, the selection process was deemed to have been “caught up” and could consider candidates for induction into the Hall in their first year of eligibility. By establishing defined time frames for when candidate eligibility begins and ends provides greater clarity about the selection process for candidates and other stakeholders in the ultimate community at large.

While there are general eligibility rules applied to both the Open, Mixed, and Women’s division candidates, there are key differences in who and how Hall of Fame candidates are identified.

In the **Women’s division**, Peer Pool members are invited to participate in the Peer Pool based on their Nationals and Worlds-caliber competitive history, team affiliations, and regional representation; everyone must complete a short form that details their competitive history. Coaches, organizers, media/reporters, and others engaged in the sport (Consultants) for the “current” Peak Playing Years are also invited to participate in the Peer Pool. To be a Hall candidate in the Women’s division, individuals who meet the age and Peak Playing Years criteria must be nominated by one or more of their peers. Once nominated, the candidate is eligible to be on the Peer Pool ballot for up to 5 years or until their Peak Playing Years no longer align with the current year.

With the launch of the **Mixed division** Starting Class in 2022, the Mixed division peer pool will be composed of Players, Contributors, and Consultants involved with the beginnings of the division in 1998 through the end of this year’s Peak Playing Years in 2010. Peer pool members include female-matching players and male-matching players who competed for at least 3 years at USAU/UPA Nationals in the Mixed division and/or were instrumental in establishing and supporting the division as a contributor with balanced representation across the regions.

In the **Open division**, Nationals and Worlds-caliber Open division players are invited to participate in the Peer Pool by completing a short form that details their competitive history. Coaches, organizers, media/reporters, and others engaged in the sport for the “current” Peak Playing Years are also invited to participate in the Peer Pool as Consultants. Once Peer Pool members reach age 42 and meet the Peak Playing Years criteria, they become eligible Hall candidates.

In addition to these criteria, the Open division Working Group established in 2021 developed the following clarifications on candidate eligibility. Please note that age eligibility has been amended to align with the 2022 guidelines:

- Potential candidates **first** become **eligible Hall candidates** (and appear as such on the Peer Pool ballot) in the year they reach age 42
- 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 42 will be an eligible Hall candidate for a **minimum of 3 years**, regardless of playing history.
- 2021 served as a final rule transition year; waivers were granted that allowed for a final year of eligibility to candidates who would have otherwise been ineligible under the new rules enacted in 2021.
- 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.

Under the direction of the respective Peer Pool coordinators, the contemporaneous Peer Pool members participate in a voting process that identifies and rank orders (1 through 5) the top vote getters in each player division.

In 2021, the **Women's division** peer pool coordinators analyzed and refined the composition of the peer pool membership with the goal to balance representation across the regions and added representatives from those teams who competed at Club Nationals during the Peak Playing Years with the objective to have 3 representatives per team in the Peer Pool. To accomplish these goals, the following steps were taken:

- Players with multiple team history were assigned to one primary team to equalize regional representation
- Members of the Peer Pool who were not active in the Women's division during the Peak Playing years or who did not have adequate knowledge of players in the Peak Playing years were retired from the Peer Pool
- Members who were inactive and non-communicative in the last year were removed
- Players were added to the Peer Pool from teams that were underrepresented in the 3 per team per year at Club Nationals metric goal

For 2022, the Women's division peer pool will focus on adding new peer pool members only from those geographic regions that are underrepresented to work towards greater balance across all regions. Consultants will be invited to join the peer pool from all geographic regions and will include coaches, administrators, reporters/media, and others who are knowledgeable about candidates during the current peak playing years.

Hall Candidate and Peer Pool Member Data

- All peer pool members are required to complete an Information Form (Short form – Open and Google form – Women's division and Mixed division) to participate in the peer

voting process that details their competitive playing history and other ultimate-related activities. The Open, Mixed, and Women's Division Peer Pools include additional voting members (Consultants) who have deep knowledge of HoF prospects, i.e., reporters/media, Regional Coordinators, local/National tournament organizers, team captains, coaches, and prominent players who may be candidates once they become age eligible.

The members of each peer pool are published on the Ultimate Hall of Fame website on the [Selection Process page](#).

Peer Pool Voting Methodology:

Beginning in 2020 and continuing into 2022, the Open division adopted the voting methodology utilized in the Women's Division Peer Pool that requires each voter to cast their vote by selecting their top 5 Hall candidates and to rank order their votes from their 1st to their 5th choice. The Mixed division will adopt this voting methodology, as well.

In addition, the Open peer pool voting process *may* continue to include an evaluation that rates each selected Hall player-candidate on their Spirit of the Game (SOTG) using this scale:

1. The player's spirit significantly adds to their qualifications.
2. The player's spirit doesn't significantly add or detract from their qualifications.
3. The player's spirit significantly detracts from their qualifications.

Should this rating scale continue to be utilized, Open Peers will be requested to document what that SOTG rating is based upon; whether it is based upon one or many positive or negative interactions from the "heat of battle", repeated patterns of on- or off-field behavior, reputation, getting to know the player off the field, etc.

Outside of the formal peer review process, there will continue to be a general solicitation of the USAU membership and the ultimate community at large for other candidates. Beginning in 2022, the Ultimate Hall of Fame will seek additional media partners to expand the reach into the ultimate community for input on Hall candidates.

The results of the Peer Pool vote are provided to the Vetting Committee who confers to identify those candidates to include in the final Slate and be voted upon by the participating HoF members. The goal is to ensure fair representation on the Slate by balancing playing era, player division, and region. The Slate are the final candidates considered for induction in a given year.

The Vetting Committee is comprised of current HoF members including the respective division coordinators, Open/Jeff Cruickshank (HoF '17), Steve Dugan (HoF '17), and Jim Parinella (HoF '14), Women's/Dominique Fontenette (HoF '18), Katharine Forth (HoF '21), and Lori Parham Ewald (HoF '19) and Contributors/Nob Rauch (HoF '06)), the HoF Committee chairperson Suzanne Fields (HoF '04), as well as, Chris O'Cleary (HoF '13), with a to be named elected USAU Board Representative. Dave Blau (HoF '17) participates on the Vetting Committee as the HoF Board President and Pam Kraus (HoF '17) continues as a member of the Vetting Committee leading the Mixed Division.

The final determination of who gets inducted into the Ultimate HoF is made through a formal voting process that includes current, eligible Hall of Fame voting members and the Vetting Committee. Effective with the 2020 voting process, players inducted under the Look Back category are not eligible voters.

HoF voting members and the Vetting Committee shall draw upon the peer review input, written Player Candidate Questionnaires, Nomination or Reference letters, the Annual USAU Call to Community input, personal discussions, and any other means at their disposal in making decisions regarding potential inductees.

*Beginning in 2004, the eligibility rules stated that player-candidates must be the minimum age, based on the age limit for the UPA Masters Division. To ensure that players from the early years of Ultimate got fair consideration, the age limit began at Masters age plus 15 years in 2005 (48 years old for males by December 31, 2005, and 45 for females) and decreased by one year, each year (47/44 in 2006, etc.) until it reached the age thresholds of Masters age plus 10 years (43/40) in 2010. An additional eligibility clause stating that "player-candidates need to be retired from their primary division of play for a minimum of 5 years" was eliminated in a 2018 rule modification. Another key change in eligibility requirements was instituted with the "catch up period" from 2016 to 2018 when "eligible" Hall candidates' careers would need to overlap with a focused window of time, known as Peak Playing Years. The Peak Playing Years focus on an 8 year time period that advanced by one year each year. Effective in 2022, the Peak Playing Years were expanded by 1 year to include 2002 to 2010. For 2022, the age thresholds were lowered to 42 for Open and 39 for the Women's division, and 42/39 for male-matching and female-matching in the Mixed division. Refer to the 2022 Hall of Fame Process Improvements document for additional detail on these and other process changes over the years.

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