

Ultimate Hall of Fame Selection Process + Timeline

Updated for the 2023 Selection Process - April 2023

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 and Contributor Peer Pools](#), 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 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

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

A. Vetting Committee

1. Composition

The Vetting Committee is composed of the Ultimate Hall of Fame Committee Chair, Player Peer Pool Coordinators, at-large members, and additional Ultimate Hall of Fame Board/Hall members, along with one member of the USA Ultimate Board of Directors, if designated. 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, one mixed player division representative, and one contributor representative serving as at-large members who oversee the respective Player and Contributor Peer Pools. 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. As of the date of this publication, no USAU Board representative has been appointed.

For 2023, the members of the Vetting Committee are Suzanne Fields as Vetting Committee Chair, Jeff Cruickshank (2024), Jim Parinella (2025), and Bart Watson (2026) as co-Open division coordinators, Dominique Fontenette (2023), Katharine Forth (2025), and Miranda Roth Knowles (2026) as co-Women's division coordinators, Pam Kraus as Mixed division coordinator (2024) and Jennifer Donnelly and Joe Seidler as Contributor coordinators (2026). Gwen Ambler serves as Vetting Committee advisor with Dave Blau, Hall of Fame Board designee, and TBD, as USAU Board representative to the Vetting Committee. 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, existing peer pool members to reach out to their teammates, and invitations to knowledgeable community members, known as Consultants (coaches, administrators, reporters/media, etc.). All peer pool members submit competitive playing history and/or other information confirming their knowledge of the competitors from the current peak playing years.

On an annual basis, the Peer Pool Coordinators will review and update the peer pool composition to ensure alignment with the peak playing years and geographic balance. New peer pool members will be added and others retired to ensure that voters are informed and knowledgeable about the candidates. New peer pool members will be added from underrepresented regions, as needed.

Consultants invited to participate as voting members of the player peer pools will have the opportunity to select one or more of the respective player division(s) for which they are knowledgeable by submitting information confirming their knowledge of competitors. Consultants will be added to ensure regional and role balance for each of the player divisions.

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

The Peer Pool Coordinators will request competitive playing history, or list of significant contributions, for each of the candidates to be considered during the peer review and final voting. Candidate information will be summarized and provided to the voting members of the

peer pools to enable the Peer Pool Coordinators to conduct [Stage 2](#) of the selection process by administering the peer pool voting for the respective candidates.

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.

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 and Contributor Candidate Peer Pools

1. Composition

The Open, Mixed, and Women's division Peer Pools include elite caliber competitors. Recruiting for the Open, Mixed, and Women's Division Peer Pools is focused on adding athletes 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 initial slate of the Mixed division Starting Class in 2022 included both Mixed players and contributors and aligned with the beginning of the Mixed division in 1998 through 2010. In 2023, the Mixed division will align with the current peak playing years.

The Player Peer Pools may also include Consultants; those individuals who served as media/reporters, regional/sectional coordinators, tournament directors, team captains, and/or coaches during the peak playing years under consideration. There is no age restriction to be a voting member of the respective Player Peer Pool, though a 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 coaches, Sectional/Regional/National coordinators, tournament organizers, and promoters of the sport. For 2023, the Contributor sub committee will evaluate nominations and recommend contributor candidates to the Vetting Committee for consideration for the final slate. The Contributor eligibility guidelines are being revised and will be in place for the 2024 Hall process.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

Members of the 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 were eligible to participate as voting members of the Hall of Fame for up to fifteen (15) years after their induction. With the

completion of the “catch-up period” from 2016-2018, this extended voting period may no longer allow Hall members to be informed, knowledgeable voters for the current slate of candidates. Hall member voting eligibility guidelines are currently being reviewed and revisions will be in place for the 2023 Hall selection process with the goal of aligning Hall members with the current peak playing years.

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. The Mixed division was initiated in 2022 and is identified as the “Starting Class”. Beginning in 2023, Mixed division player candidate selection will be aligned with the Open and Women’s division and Mixed division contributors will be considered via the Contributor selection process.

Voting Hall members from the Contributor category have the option to participate in the Women’s division, the Open, or Mixed candidate 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. Mixed division voting to be determined. Effective with the 2020 Hall selection process, Look Back inductees are not 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 in order to participate in the second round of voting.

III. Nominee Eligibility Criteria

There are currently four categories for the Ultimate Hall of Fame: Inaugural (2004), 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, Mixed, 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 level of competition during the [peak playing years](#) timeframe under consideration for the current year’s selection process. For Mixed candidates, an additional requirement is that candidates were dedicated to Mixed and competed at Club Nationals/International championships for a minimum of 3 competitive years.

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.

Effective with the 2023 UHoF Selection Process, age requirements for player nominees have been reduced from 39/42 for the Women’s/Open to 39/41 to be Hall-eligible candidates. For the Mixed division, female matching/male matching nominee age requirements are also 39/41. 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.

2023 Player Age and Eligibility Restrictions:

- Women’s Division Player & Mixed female-matching Candidate Birth Year on or before 1984
- Open Division Player & Mixed male-matching Candidate Birth Year on or before 1982
- **Peak Playing Years** in Open, Mixed, and Women’s division should overlap the 2004-2012 era.

B. Contributor Category Eligibility Criteria

Individuals who have made exceptional contributions that have 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. There is no requirement for Contributor inductee(s) each year.

C. Special Merit Category Eligibility Criteria

The Special Merit category will accommodate all other potential candidates not included in the first three categories, whether teams, equipment, groups, individuals, or other aspects 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. An exception would be to include Special Merit and Special Merit Look Back inductee(s) in the same year.

D. Other Categories

Other categories will be explored in future years.

IV. Selection Process Timeline

Below is the 2023 timeline and description of each stage of the Ultimate Hall of Fame selection process.

2023 Timeline	Stage	Description
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<p>Nominations due by: Sun., 5/28/23</p> <p>Completed Short Form/Peer Pool Forms due by: Sun., 6/4/23</p> <p>Reference letters due by: Sun., 6/4/23</p>	<p>1. Nominee Procurement</p>	<p>The primary method to produce the initial list of nominees is an iterative peer review process. Nomination forms, Peer Pool History/Short forms, and 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 Ultimate Hall of Fame and/or USAU 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. All eligible player candidates in the Open, Mixed, and Women’s division who meet the age and Peak Playing Years criteria must be nominated by one or more of their peers (a sponsor or themselves) using the Nomination/Reference form for the respective Player division. Once nominated, the eligible candidate must complete their division’s Short Form and have 2 References submitted to be eligible to be placed on the respective Peer Pool ballot. Candidates are eligible for up to 5 years or until their Peak Playing Years no longer align with the current year. Additionally, candidates are to produce the Player Candidate Questionnaire and provide a headshot and action photos.</p> <p>In the Women’s division Player category, 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. A candidate can be on the Women’s division peer pool ballot a maximum of 5 times.</p> <p>In the Mixed division, player nominations will be valid for five years as long as the candidate's competitive career aligns with the current Peak Playing Years.</p> <p>In the Open Player division, beginning in 2023, new candidates can be nominated and must complete the above requirements to be eligible to receive votes in the Peer Pool ballot.</p> <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>
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<p>Peer Pool Voting completed by: 6/15/23 Top vote getters determined by 6/21/2023 Final Slate Presented: before Labor Day 2023</p>	<p>2. Peer Review</p> <p>The Player Peer Pool coordinators will provide player information and competitive histories of all the nominees/candidates provided by the candidates* (via the Short Form or Peer Pool Info Form) and distribute this information to the respective peer pool members for review. Members of the Player Peer Pools then participate in 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 ten (for 2023) candidates from each of the Open and Women’s division Player Peer Pools and up to eight for the Mixed division</p> <p>For 2023, the Contributor coordinators have formed a sub committee composed of Contributor members of the Hall who will craft a revised contributor selection process to be in place in 2024. The disparities amongst former Contributor peer pool members in era, region, and knowledge about each other led to the determination to cease utilizing a peer pool to identify contributor candidates. Nominations are invited; the Contributor sub committee will make a determination if any contributor candidates will advance to the final slate.</p> <p>There is no peer review for the Special Merit Category.</p>
<p>Open Comment Window: TBD – mid June to early July</p>	<p>3. Call to the Community</p> <p>The final slate of candidates is announced to the ultimate community on the Ultimate Hall of Fame website, media partner sites, social media platforms, and in the USA Ultimate e-news or equivalent. 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 and shared with eligible Hall of Fame voters by the Hall of Fame Vetting Committee Chair.</p>
<p>2023 Inductees Announced:</p>	<p>4. Final Voting</p> <p>There are two rounds of voting for the Player Category. In 2023, in the first round, eligible Voting Members of the Hall of Fame select their top five choices from the</p>

Before Labor Day or immediately thereafter

final slate of Open, Mixed, and Women’s division candidates in the player division voting process in which they have selected to participate. Each voter must use all their votes to be eligible to vote in the second round. In 2023, the five player candidates receiving the most votes in the Open and Women’s division advance to the second round of voting. Four player candidates in the Mixed division advance to the final slate.

In the second round of voting (the final ballot), 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 player candidates in the voting process in which they are participating. Also included in the final ballot yes/no vote are the Special Merit and Contributor candidate(s).

The 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, in collaboration with the inductee, will prepare a write-up for each inductee to include in the formal announcement of the new class.

A press release will be posted to the USA Ultimate web site, published in the USA Ultimate e-magazine/news, published on the Ultimate Hall of Fame website, and announced via social media platforms.

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.

* Hall of Fame player candidates are responsible for submitting accurate competitive histories. A variety of resources and search tools are available to obtain competitive player and team history and results:

Search Tools for Competitive History X Player/Teams:

- [Ultimate-Reference](#) (William Brody Brotman site) Individuals can go to CLUB - select Men, Women, or Mixed, click on the team name and then individual's names to get their competitive history/results

- [Ultimate Frisbee History in the US \(Seidler site\)](#) Can search X Club Men, Club Women, & Club Mixed and obtain Championship Results/Scores for top 4 teams from '81-'21

You can also search this site by [Worlds](#), [USA Beach](#), [Worlds Beach](#), and [Championship Rosters for US and Worlds](#)

- [USAU Archives](#) - need to search by Year X Club X Division - this will provide Team Lists, Final Team Standing/Region/Finals Score

- [World Games X year with medal results X location](#)

- [National Teams of Ultimate - Hartti database](#) // Includes a Player Directory with individual look up with International Results

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