

Ultimate Hall of Fame Selection Process + Timeline

Updated for the 2022 Selection Process - June 2022

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. 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 2022, the members of the Vetting Committee are Suzanne Fields as Vetting Committee Chair, Jeff Cruickshank (2024), Steve Dugan (2022), and Jim Parinella (2025) as co-Open division coordinators, Dominique Fontenette (2023), Katharine Forth (2025), and Lori Parham Ewald (2024) as co-Women's division coordinators, Pam Kraus as Mixed division coordinator (2024) and Robert "Nob" Rauch as Contributor coordinator (2022). Chris O'Cleary 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 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 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. Of note, with the initiation of the Mixed division Starting Class in 2022, the initial slate will include both Mixed players and contributors. The Starting Class time frame will align with the beginning of the Mixed division in 1998 through the end of the current peak playing years, 2010.

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. The Contributor eligibility guidelines are being revised for the 2022-23 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.

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. With the initiation of the Mixed division in 2022, the first year of the division will be identified as the “Starting Class”, and will be voted upon as a slate by eligible Hall members.

Voting Hall members from the Contributor category have the option to participate in the Women’s division or the Open Player 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.

Mixed, 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 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 five categories for the Ultimate Hall of Fame: Inaugural (2004), Player, Contributor, Special Merit, and for the Mixed division (2022), the Starting Class.

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 in the Starting Class, the time frame under consideration is from 1998 to 2010 and candidates would have been dedicated to Mixed 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 2022 UHoF Selection Process, age requirements for player nominees have been reduced from 40/43 for the Women’s/Open to 39/42 to be Hall-eligible candidates. For the Mixed division, female matching/male matching nominee age requirements are also 39/42. 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.

2022 Player Age and Eligibility Restrictions:

- Women’s Division Player & Mixed female-matching Candidate Birth Year on or before 1983
- Open Division Player & Mixed male-matching Candidate Birth Year on or before 1980
- **Peak Playing Years** in Open and Women’s division should overlap the 2002-2010 era; for 2022 only, the Mixed division should overlap 1998 to 2010

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. For 2022, contributor candidates may be recognized from within the Mixed division Starting Class.

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 2022 timeline and description of each stage of the Ultimate Hall of Fame selection process.

2022 Timeline	Stage	Description
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<p>Nominations due by: Mon., 7/25/22</p> <p>Completed Short Form/Peer Pool Forms due by: Mon., 7/25/22</p> <p>Reference letters due by: Mon., 8/8/22</p>	<p>1. Nominee Procurement</p>	<p>The primary method to produce the initial list of candidates (Open division) or nominees (Mixed and Women’s division) 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 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 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 for the first year, the Starting Class slate will be voted upon similar to the Contributor and Special Merit voting. In future years, Mixed 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, candidates eligible to receive votes is based on age, peak playing year time frame, and alignment with the following eligibility guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Potential candidates first become eligible Hall candidates (and appear as such on the Peer Pool ballot) in the year they reach age 42</u> - <u>Candidates have a maximum eligibility of 10 years, although eligibility may be fewer years based on playing history in the Open Club division</u> - <u>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.</u> - <u>2021 served as a final rule transition year, granting waivers that allowed for a final year of eligibility to candidates who would have otherwise be ineligible under the 2021 rules</u>
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	<p>- <u>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</u></p> <p>A Player Candidate Questionnaire is valid for five years and it may be refreshed each year.</p> <p>Contributor applications are also valid for five years and may be refreshed each year.</p>
<p>Peer Pool Voting completed by: 8/8/21 Top vote getters determined by 8/15/2022 Final Slate Presented: After Labor Day 2022</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 2022) candidates from each of the Open and Women’s division Player Peer Pools. For the first year of the Mixed division, the results of peer voting and candidate competitive histories will be used by the Vetting Committee to put forth a Starting Class slate of up to 8 players and contributors from the first 12 years of the division.</p> <p>For 2022, the Contributor coordinator may form 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 Task Force 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:</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, and in the USA Ultimate e-news or equivalent. The ultimate community at-large is</p>

<p>TBD – mid to late September</p>	<p>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>2022 Inductees Announced: After Club Nationals After 10/23/22</p>	<p>4. Final Voting</p> <p>There are two rounds of voting for the Player Category. In 2022, in the first round, eligible Voting Members of the Hall of Fame select their top five choices from the final slate of Open 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 2022, the five player candidates receiving the most votes advance to the second round of voting.</p> <p>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 candidate(s), Contributor, and the Mixed division Starting Class slate (that may include both mixed players and contributors).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

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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