

Ultimate Hall of Fame Selection Document

Updated for the 2020 Selection Process - April 2020

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](#) include age restrictions and achievement records. 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

There are three 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 and Contributor Peer Pools](#), and the [Voting Members of the Hall of Fame](#).

A. Vetting Committee

1. Composition

The Vetting Committee is comprised of the Ultimate Hall of Fame Committee Chair, 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 Vetting 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 division player representative, one open division player representative, and one contributor representative serving as at-large members who oversee the respective Player and Contributor Peer Pools. 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 2020, the members of the Vetting Committee are Suzanne Fields as Vetting Committee Chair (term expiration TBD), Robert "Nob" Rauch as Contributor Division chair (2021), Key Nakae and Steve Dugan as co-Open Division chairs (2021 & 2022), Pam Kraus as Women's Division chair (2021), Dominique Fontenette, Chris O'Cleary, Bill Rodriguez, Steve Mooney (designated USAU Board representative), and Pat King (ad-hoc committee member). Other 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 calendar year to review, revise, and approve the Peer Pool Process and Hall Selection Criteria and thereafter, publishes documents with updated rules, criteria, and timelines. The Peer Pool Coordinators review and update the Peer Pools composition to ensure alignment with the current peak playing years for candidates and members of the respective Peer Pools. 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 ultimate community input.

The Peer Pool Coordinators are also responsible for completing [Stage 1](#) of the Selection Process; reaching out to the Peer Pool members and the ultimate community to solicit and encourage nominations to the Ultimate Hall of Fame that meet the Nominee Eligibility Criteria.

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

1. Composition

The Open and Women's Division Player Peer Pools primarily include elite caliber competitors in the respective player divisions. Recruiting for the Open and Women's Division Peer Pools is focused on adding athletes who competed in those divisions at the 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 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 in the Open and Women's divisions must coincide with the current peak playing year time frame.

The Contributor Peer Pool is composed of individuals who have made significant contributions as players, coaches, Sectional/Regional/National coordinators, tournament organizers, and promoters of the sport.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

Members of the Player and Contributor 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. Voting is predicated on having first-hand knowledge about the candidates. The Hall of Fame Committee is debating the length of time that Hall members continue to have the right to vote; this may change, in future. Effective with the 2020 process, Look Back inductees are not eligible to participate in the final vote.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

In 2018, voter participation by all eligible Hall of Fame members for Player candidates was separated 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 division Player candidates voting processes, depending on their knowledge and history of involvement in the respective division. 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.

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, Player (includes Look Back inductees), 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 (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" at the highest levels of competitive play during the [peak playing years](#) timeframe under consideration for the current year's selection process.

Beginning with the 2018 Hall of Fame process, Player nominees 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 division/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.

- 2020 Player Age and Eligibility Restrictions:**
- Women’s Division Player Candidate Birth Year on or before 1980
 - Open Division Player Candidate Birth Year on or before 1977
 - Peak Playing Years should overlap the 2000-2007 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 nominated in the Contributor category. Contributor candidates need not 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 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.

D. Other Categories

Other categories will be explored in future years.

IV. Selection Process Timeline

Below is the 2020 timeline and description of each stage of the Ultimate Hall of Fame selection process.

2020 Timeline	Stage	Description
Nominations due by: Mon., 7/13/20 Completed Questionnaires due by: Mon., 7/13/20	1. Nominee Procurement	The primary method to produce the initial list of Open Division candidates or Women’s Division nominees is an iterative peer review process. Nomination forms, Peer Pool History forms (short form and google document), and completed Player Candidate Questionnaires or Contributor applications are also to be solicited from the general USA Ultimate membership and alumni population, specifically

<p>Reference letters due by: Mon., 7/20/20</p>	<p>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 photos.</p> <p>In the Women’s Division Player Peer Pool, 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 Division Player Peer Pool, candidates eligible to receive votes is based on alignment with the current peak playing year time frame. 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: 7/27/20</p> <p>Final Slate Presented: 8/9/20</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 will 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 are the primary information used by the Vetting Committee to narrow the field of nominees to a final slate of up to eight (for 2020) candidates from each of the two Player Peer Pools.</p> <p>The Contributor Peer Pool coordinator conducts a peer review and peer pool vote to determine the number, if any, of contributor candidates to 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-</p>

<p>8/13 to 8/23/20 OR anytime before August 30</p>	<p>news or equivalent. The ultimate community at-large will be 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 Committee Chair.</p>
<p>2020 Inductees Announced: 10/26/20 OR after Club Nationals</p>	<p>4. Final Voting</p> <p>There are two rounds of voting for the Player Category. In 2020, 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 2020, the four candidates in each player division receiving the most votes advance to the second round of voting. In the second 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>After the selection of the new class of inductees each year, the Peer Pool Coordinators and Hall of Fame Vetting Committee Chair will prepare a write-up for each inductee, in collaboration with the inductee. A press release will be posted to the USA Ultimate web site, published in the USA Ultimate e-magazine/news, 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</p>

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.

Final 4-28-2020

Note: Timeline dates are in flux due to unknowns related to the covid-19 pandemic and may need to be adjusted.