

# Ultimate Hall of Fame Selection Document

Updated for the 2019 Selection Process - May 2019

## 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 Subcommittee](#), [Player and Contributor Peer Pools](#), and [Voting Members of the Ultimate Hall of Fame](#). [Nominee 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 Subcommittee](#), the [Player Peer Pools](#), and the [Voting Members of the Hall of Fame](#).

### A. Vetting Subcommittee

#### 1. Composition

The Vetting Subcommittee is comprised of the Ultimate Hall of Fame Committee Chair, at least three at-large members, and one member of the USA Ultimate Board of Directors. The Committee Chair is selected by the USAU Board for a five-year term. The at-large members serve three-year terms, with one position expiring each year. There must be at least one women's division, one open division, and one contributor representative serving as at-large members who oversee the respective Player Peer Pools. 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 2019, the members of the Vetting Subcommittee are Suzanne Fields as Vetting Subcommittee Chair (term expiration TBD), Robert "Nob" Rauch as Contributor Division chair (2019), Keay Nakae and Steve Dugan as co-Open Division chairs (2021 & 2022), Pam Kraus as Women's Division chair (2021), and board designee, Steve Mooney. Additional ad-hoc committee members may be added to support the overall process, as needed.

#### 2. Roles and Responsibilities

The Vetting Subcommittee meets early in the year to approve the Selection Process document with updated rules and timelines. The Peer Pool Coordinators review and update the Player Peer Pools to reflect the peak playing years for the year's nominees. This is a multi-pronged

effort using USAU team contacts from Club National Championships and existing peer pool members to reach out to their teammates.

The Peer Pool Coordinators are also responsible for completing [Stage 1](#) of the Selection Process; reaching out to the Peer Pool members and 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 to be considered during the peer review and final voting. With this information, the Peer Pool Coordinators for the respective divisions conduct [Stage 2](#) of the selection process by coordinating the peer pool voting.

Members of the vetting subcommittee 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 Subcommittee conducts [Stage 4](#) of the selection process through the completion of the final voting by eligible members of the Hall of Fame. The Vetting Subcommittee is invited to participate in the final voting.

## B. [Player and Contributor Peer Pools](#)

### 1. [Composition](#)

The Open and Women's Player Peer Pools primarily include elite caliber competitors of that division. Beginning in 2016, the recruiting in the Women's Peer Pool focused on adding players who competed at the USAU Nationals or other elite national or international tournaments during the [peak playing years](#) under consideration for the current year's selection process. In 2019, the Open coordinator(s) began to recruit for the Open Peer Pool following these guidelines, as well. 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. Effective in 2019, there is no age restriction to be a member of the Player Peer Pool though Peer Pool members competitive play must coincide with the current peak playing years.

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.

### 2. Roles and Responsibilities

Since 2018, all eligible Hall of Fame members from the “Player” or “Contributor” categories choose the player divisions (Women’s or Open) in which to participate in “Player” category voting. The decision will be based upon which division the voting member feels they have the most knowledge. Voting members from the “Contributor” category may vote in one, both, or neither of the Women’s and Open Player divisions depending on their knowledge and history of the players in that division. Voters must declare their intention as to which category they will vote in 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, Contributor, and Special Merit. [The later three are active categories for the 2019 Selection Process.]

### A. Player Category Eligibility Criteria

Players with a distinguished record of competitive achievement at the highest national and/or international levels, with additional consideration given to integrity, sportsmanship, and character, are eligible to be nominated in the Player category. Nominees must have had their [peak playing years](#) overlap with the peak playing years under consideration for this years’ nominees. Beginning in 2018, nominees no longer need to be “retired” from their playing division to be eligible candidates. Players must be at least Master’s age plus 10 years of age (40/43 for the Women’s/Open divisions) to be eligible for nomination.

#### **2019 Player Age and Eligibility Restrictions:**

- Women’s Division Player Category Date of Birth on or before 1979
- Open Player Category Date of Birth on or before 1976
- [Peak Playing Years](#) should overlap the 1999-2006 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 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 2019 timeline and description of each stage of the Ultimate Hall of Fame selection process.

| 2019 Timeline   | Stage                  | Description  |
|---|------------------------|--|
| Nominations due by:<br><b>Mon., 7/25/19</b><br><br>Completed Questionnaires due by:<br><b>Mon., 7/25/19</b><br><br>Reference letters due by:<br><b>Mon., 8/5/19</b> | 1. Nominee Procurement | <p>The primary method to produce the initial list of candidate nominees is an iterative peer review process. Nomination forms, Peer Pool History 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 <a href="#">Vetting Subcommittee</a> 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 and supporting reference letters.</p> <p>A nomination is valid for five years, after which time a new nomination is required. A Player Candidate Questionnaire is also 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> |
| Peer Pool Voting completed by:  | 2. Peer Review         | The Player Peer Pool coordinators will provide player information and competitive histories of all the nominees and distribute this information to the   |

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|---|--|
| <p>8/5/19</p> <p>Final Slate Presented: 8/12/19</p> | <p>respective peer pool members for review. Members of the <a href="#">Player Peer Pools</a> will then participate in at least one round of peer voting to rank the nominees. The results of peer voting are the primary information used by the Vetting Subcommittee to narrow the field of nominees to a final slate of up to 14 candidates; up to 7 from each of the player divisions.</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: 9/12 to 9/22/19</p>         | <p>3. Call to the Community</p> <p>The final slate of nominees 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 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 the USA Ultimate and shared with eligible Hall of Fame voters by the Hall of Fame Committee Chair.</p>  |
| <p>2019 Inductees Announced: 11/25/19</p>           | <p>4. Final Voting</p> <p>There are two rounds of voting for the <a href="#">Player Category</a>. In the first round, eligible <a href="#">Voting Members of the Hall of Fame</a> select their top three choices from the final slate of candidates in the player division in which they have selected to vote, and each voter must use all their votes to be eligible to vote in the second round. The three candidates 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 division in which they are voting.</p> <p>There is one round of voting in the <a href="#">Contributor</a> and <a href="#">Special Merit Categories</a>. All eligible voting members of the Hall of Fame cast a “yes” or “no” vote for the contributor and special merit candidates.</p> |

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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 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 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.