

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING AWARDS

The Hall currently holds annual elections, in three categories, for induction into the Hall of Fame. These categories are Player, Veteran and Builder. In addition, from time to time, it awards the Medal of Honor and the Colin Jose Media Award.

PLAYER

Eligibility Criteria

In order to be eligible in the Player category an individual must have met Number 1, and either Number 2, or Number 3 of the following three criteria:

1. Retired as a player for at least three years, but for no more than 10 years
2. Played at least 20 full international games for the United States. This requirement is reduced to 10 games if the games were prior to 1990.
3. Played at least five seasons in an American first-division professional league, and won either the league championship or the U.S. Open Cup, or was selected as a league all-star at least once.

Players who have met either No. 2 or No. 3 but who retired more than 10 years ago are automatically placed on the Veterans Committee eligibility list.

Explanatory Footnotes:

Retirement means retirement from playing soccer in the United States at any professional or semi-professional level (such as U.S. national team, MLS, USL, NPSL/MISL II, APSL/A-League USL I/II, W-League or WPSL), including official non-league events such as the U.S. Open Cup and the CONCACAF Champions Cup, or from professional soccer in a foreign country if the player is American.

Retirement refers to the year of the player's actual, final official game. If the player is not American, and has met the eligibility criteria through his or her play in United States professional leagues, he or she is considered to be retired on departing from American professional soccer, unless he or she continues playing in foreign professional soccer at a level ruled by the Hall of Fame's historians to be equal to or better than MLS.

The term "U.S. National Team" refers to the full senior national team only.

American first-division professional league means Major League Soccer, and winning the league championship or U.S. Open Cup means that the player played for the winning team in the championship game or series.

Selection Committee

The Committee consists of all present and former coaches of the Men's and Women's full National Team; all active MLS coaches with a minimum of 4 years as Head Coach; MLS management representatives; MLS Commissioner; US Soccer Secretary General; members of the media; Hall of Famers.

Procedure

Committee members may vote for up to 10 candidates

The two players who receive the highest number of votes are elected with a minimum of 50% of the vote required for election. A third player may be elected providing he or she receives at least 80% of the vote. Up to three players may be elected. More than three may be elected in the event of ties.

VETERAN

Eligibility Criteria

In order to be eligible in the Veteran category a player must have met Number 1 and either Number 2 or 3 of the following criteria. Players whose eligibility in the Player category has expired are automatically added to the Veteran eligibility list.

1. Retired as a player for more than 10 years
2. Played at least 20 full international games for the United States. This 20-game requirement is reduced to 10 games if they were prior to 1990, and five games if they were prior to 1960.
3. Played at least five seasons one of the following leagues and won a league championship or US Open Cup, or was selected as a first-team league all-star at least once.

The leagues are as follows: North American Soccer League or, prior to 1968, one of various regional leagues that include the American Soccer League, the North American Soccer Football League, the German-American Soccer League of New York, the National Soccer League of Chicago, the St. Louis Soccer League, the Keystone League of Western Pennsylvania, the Greater Los Angeles Soccer League, the San Francisco Soccer League and the National Association Foot Ball League.

Explanatory footnotes:

Winning the league championship means that the player played on the winning team in the championship game or series, or in at least one victory during seasons when there was no league final and the champion was decided by the league standings.

Winning the U.S. Open Cup means that the player played on the winning team in the championship game or series.

NASL all-star means first-team all-star. In many pre-NASL leagues, all-star teams were not chosen. In those instances, winning a league MVP award or a league goal scoring title is considered sufficient to fulfill the all-star requirement.

Submissions on behalf of players from the designated pre-NASL leagues are received from time to time. Supporting documentation is required. This documentation and, to the extent that they are available, the records of these leagues are researched by the Hall of Fame's historians/researchers to determine whether the player's credentials can be verified, and meet the eligibility criteria. If they do the player is added to the eligibility list.

Screening Committee

The committee consists of approximately 16 Hall of Famers who vote for those who will go on the final ballot. Normally the final ballot will consist of between 10-20 candidates.

Selection Committee

The committee consists of all Hall of Famers.

Procedure

Committee members may vote for up to 5 candidates

The veteran who receives the most votes is elected, with a minimum of 50% of the vote required. The next highest vote-getter may be elected providing he/she receives at least 80% of the vote. More than two may be elected in the event of ties

BUILDER

Eligibility Criteria

In order to be eligible in this category, an individual must have made his/her mark in soccer in a non-playing capacity and have had a major, sustained and positive impact on US soccer at on a national or First Division professional level. Due to the broad, general nature of the criteria, nominations for this category may be considered. Nominations are screened by the Hall Historian, and Researcher who submit their recommendations to the Hall as to the appropriateness of the nominee's inclusion on the eligibility list.

Selection Committee

The Committee consists of: US Soccer Director of Officials; MLS management representatives; MLS Commissioner; US Soccer Secretary General; all Hall of Famers

Procedure

Committee members may vote for up to 5 candidates.

The builder who receives most votes is elected with a minimum of 50% required. One builder may be elected annually. More than one may be elected in the event of a tie.

THE MEDAL OF HONOR

This medal is awarded to those whose contribution to the game is deemed to be of such significance that it has changed the course of soccer in the USA.

Procedure

The President of the Hall nominates the recipient/s for approval by the Board of Directors.

THE COLIN JOSE MEDIA AWARD

This award honors members of the print and electronic media. It is awarded in recognition of having made a major contribution to soccer in the US by virtue of the sustained excellence of the body of his or her work. It is named in honor of the Hall Historian, Colin Jose, who is recognized internationally as the leading authority on soccer in North America.

Selection Committee

The core committee normally consists of the US Soccer Director of Communications; MLS Director of Communications and Colin Jose plus previous recipients of the award. It may be supplemented from time to time.

Procedure

The committee develops a list of potential recipients and will consider nominations. Selection of the recipient is by consensus. The award is not necessarily annual.