

THE USTA NEW ENGLAND HALL OF FAME

Purpose: The USTA New England Hall of Fame exists to recognize those tennis players and non-players (as defined below) whose achievements as players and as sportsmen or sportswomen are worthy of the highest commendation and recognition; or whose contributions as officials or as people in some related tennis activity have been so outstanding over a significant period of time as to justify the highest commendation and recognition. Membership is intended to represent a highly selective group.

PLAYER NOMINATION CRITERIA FOR HALL OF FAME (HOF)

1. Player must be at least 35 years of age to be considered.
2. The player's active playing career must have spanned at least 10 years, and during that time evidence of exemplary performance for a minimum of five years must be available.
3. A player may nominate himself or have another individual nominate them and supporting documentation for the nomination must accompany the written nomination.
4. Without attempting to establish strict guidelines, the following are offered as illustrations:
 - a) An extended outstanding record of tournament play in New England, as documented by consistently holding a very high ranking in one or more specific categories.
 - b) A successful record of national tournament play.
 - c) As the candidate's playing age increases, the importance of (b) increases relative to (a).
 - d) Recognition by peers for sportsmanship, fairness, respect for opponents, an acknowledged competitiveness that characterizes a champion.
 - e) A person's junior record may be considered at the discretion of the HOF committee.
5. The record of achievement on the court must be balanced by a reputation that can be admired and respected.
6. Residency: The player must be clearly recognized as a New England player, during the major portion of his/her playing career.
7. Any exceptions proposed by a member of the HOF Committee to the above, must be approved unanimously by the HOF Committee.

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NON-PLAYER NOMINATION CRITERIA FOR HALL OF FAME (SERVICE)

This term is used only to distinguish persons from active players. The category is intended to recognize officials, tennis writers, volunteers and/or others who have worked to support tennis in related areas.

1. The person must be at least 50 years of age.
2. The individual must have been in a tennis-related activity for a period of ten years or more, and clearly a resident of New England during a major portion of his/her career.
3. The person's contribution to the sport of tennis must be sufficiently outstanding as to be widely recognized for the quality of its uniqueness. If measured against any reasonable standard of excellence, it would endure.
4. Without attempting to establish strict guidelines, the following are offered as illustrations:
 - a. A tennis sports writer whose depth of understanding of the game, writing ability and extended coverage has established the writer as a person of outstanding ability. The expectation, however, is that the individual's work has gone beyond mere description. It demonstrates constructive analysis. Concern and involvement go beyond the world of work.
 - b. A volunteer whose contributions have made a significant impact on other USTA New England individuals over a period of time. Running tournaments, working at various jobs within the organization, making what others would describe as the extraordinary effort to make the game of tennis better.
5. The record of achievement must be balanced by a reputation that can be admired and respected.
6. The person nominated must have a character that others can admire and emulate.
7. Any exceptions proposed by a member of the HOF Committee to the above must be approved unanimously by the HOF Committee.

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HALL OF FAME (HOF) COMMITTEE

There shall be a Hall of Fame Committee, appointed by the President, consisting of a minimum of five voting members and the President shall designate the chair and approve all members, which must hold current USTA New England membership.

PROCEDURES

1. Opportunities for making nominations shall be publicized to the USTA New England membership, with established due dates. Committee Members may also make nominations.
2. All Prospective inductees and/or those nominating candidates are required to submit/renew applications each year that they wish to be considered for induction. Those prior applicants may request that their application be reconsidered for the next incoming class; all requests must be made in writing (email), along with any new additions to the original application.
3. The committee shall decide the number of candidates for consideration from the pool of candidates and vote on the selected nominations.
4. The nominations by the HOF Committee shall be submitted to the USTA NE Board of Directors who will review the proposed incoming classes of NE HOF Nominees and by majority vote determine the incoming New England HOF class.
5. There shall be a special ceremony for the induction of candidates for the New England Hall of Fame - although it may be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting if the President so decides.
6. There shall be an appropriate memoriam given to the inductee or their family, and the inducted candidates' names shall be inscribed on a plaque which shall be appropriately displayed at a site to be decided by the USTA New England Board of Directors.
7. All applicants and nominators are encouraged to submit all supporting data, application, etc. in digital formats, i.e. PDF format, MS Word Document, JPG, etc.

POSTHUMOUS AWARDS

Posthumous awards may be made, using applicable criteria as presented above.