

**Purpose:** The USTA New England Hall of Fame exists to recognize and honor tennis players and non-players with substantial links to New England whose achievements as a player or a contributor to tennis-related activities have been outstanding over a significant period of time. Nomination for eligibility for induction to the USTA New England Hall of Fame (“HOF”) shall be based on the following criteria:

## **PLAYER NOMINATION CRITERIA FOR HALL OF FAME**

1. The player must be at least 35 years of age to be eligible for consideration.
2. The player’s competitive playing career must span at least 10 years, and objective documentation of exemplary performance for a minimum of five years must be demonstrated, including tournament record and rankings.
3. A player may either nominate him/herself or may be nominated by another individual for consideration by the Hall of Fame Committee. Supporting documentation must be submitted to the Committee along with the nomination or the nomination will not be considered.
4. The following criteria represent metric “indication strength factors” that the Committee will consider as part of its evaluation of players nominated for inclusion in the HOF:
  - a. First and foremost, the nominee must be recognized and identified as a “New England” player. The following developmental and competitive pathway variables used to make this determination will include but may not be limited to:
    - With respect to nominees either born in New England or who have had an extended primary residence in New England: a playing career primarily in New England tournaments.
    - With respect to nominees born outside of New England: the establishment of “long term residency” in New England, which shall reflect a playing career primarily in New England tournaments.
    - With respect to nominees born in New England and who began their developmental and playing careers here but moved away for training, school or tournament touring: a demonstrated playing record and history generally punctuated with high rankings in international, collegiate and professional competitions.

- b. Formative development of the nominee’s tennis skills in New England.
  - c. An extended outstanding record in sanctioned New England tournaments as documented by the consistent achievement of very high rankings.
  - d. An outstanding personal record in team events representing USTA New England.
  - e. An outstanding record in tournament play, at sanctioned national tournaments, as documented by the consistent achievement of high rankings.
  - f. An outstanding record in tournament play at sanctioned WTA/ATP tournaments and/or participation in USTA Cup and Olympic competitions.
  - g. Recognition by peers for sportsmanship, fairness, respect for opponents, and an acknowledged competitiveness that characterizes a champion both on and off the court.
  - h. A player’s junior, adult, collegiate and/or professional record may be considered by the Hall of Fame Committee.
6. Any criteria or factors in addition to the above proposed by any individual member of the HOF Committee to be considered in the evaluation of a nominee’s candidacy must be approved by the Committee.
7. In the event the HOF Committee or the USTA NE Board of Directors (“Board”) becomes aware of information, whether supported by factual data, documents or any other reliable evidence or source, that any nominee has been involved in conduct or taken other action that would invalidate or call into question such nominee’s qualifications, character, credentials or fitness for eligibility as a nominee for consideration for the NE HOF, the Committee may, in its sole discretion, immediately remove the nominee from further consideration. For purposes hereof, an act or series of acts of misconduct calling into question a nominee’s character or reputation in the tennis community in NE and beyond or being found guilty or pleading nolo contendere (“no contest”) to a serious crime or to any crime involving moral turpitude are non-exhaustive examples of serious wrongdoing or malfeasance that may cause the Committee to take the actions set out in this section.

## **NON-PLAYER NOMINATION CRITERIA FOR HALL OF FAME (CONTRIBUTOR)**

This category is intended to recognize officials, volunteers, coaches, teaching professionals, and other groups of individuals who have worked to support tennis in New England. Nomination for eligibility for induction to the USTA New England Hall of Fame under this “contributor” category shall be based on the following criteria:

1. The person must be at least 50 years of age.
2. The individual must have provided service in a tennis-related activity for a period of 10 years or more, and was a resident of New England during a major portion of the period of his or her contribution on behalf of and connected to New England tennis.
3. The person’s contribution to the sport of tennis and the New England tennis community must be sufficiently outstanding as to be widely recognized for the quality of its uniqueness and/or dedication. If measured against any reasonable standard of excellence, it would endure.
4. With no intent to establish mandatory or absolute requirements, the following are offered as examples:
  - 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, and making what others would describe as the extraordinary effort to make the game of tennis better are all examples of such volunteer service.
  - c. A long-time coach with an outstanding record of contribution and service to his/her players and the New England community at large. The individual’s mentorship of players and community members has played an important role in their development as contributing members of society. The record of contribution could include volunteering time, facilities, and/or other resources. The coach’s knowledge of tennis is exceptional and his/her coaching has made a significant impact on the performance of a team and/or individual players demonstrated by results and excellent sportsmanship.

5. The record of achievement must be accompanied and enhanced by a reputation that can be admired and respected.
6. The person nominated must have a character above reproach and that others can admire and emulate.
7. Any criteria or factors in addition to the above proposed by any individual member of the Hall of Fame Committee to be considered in the evaluation of a nominee's candidacy must be approved by the Committee.
8. In the event the HOF Committee or the Board becomes aware of information, whether supported by factual data, documents or any other reliable evidence or source, that any nominee has been involved in conduct or taken other action that would invalidate or call into question such nominee's qualifications, character, credentials or fitness for eligibility as a nominee for consideration for the NE HOF, the Committee may, in its sole discretion, immediately remove the nominee from further consideration. For purposes hereof, an act or series of acts of misconduct calling into question a nominee's character or reputation in the tennis community in NE and beyond or being found guilty or pleading nolo contendere ("no contest") to a serious crime or to any crime involving moral turpitude are non-exhaustive examples of serious wrongdoing or malfeasance that may cause the Committee to take the actions set out in this section.

## **HALL OF FAME (HOF) COMMITTEE**

There shall be a Hall of Fame Committee appointed by the President of USTA New England, consisting of a minimum of five voting members. The President, who shall at all times be a member of the Committee, shall designate the Chair (which may be the President) and approve all members, who all 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. Each nominee who wishes to remain in consideration for selection to the HOF must submit/renew his or her application each year that he or she wishes to be considered for selection. Those prior nominees may request that their application be reconsidered for the next incoming class. The updated/renewed application may be submitted by the nominee himself or herself or by the individual who made the original nomination (if not the nominee himself or herself).

3. All original nominee requests or renewed submissions must be made in writing (email) to the Committee, along with any new information being added to the original application.
4. On an annual basis, the Committee, in its sole discretion, shall decide the number of nominees from the eligible pool of nominees that will be presented to the Board for further consideration. There is no set or minimum number of nominees that will be selected by the Committee in any one year to be sent to the Board for further consideration.
5. The Board will review and consider the supporting documentation of the proposed incoming classes of HOF nominees and by majority vote determine which of the nominees will be offered induction into the NE HOF.
6. 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.
7. There shall be an appropriate memoriam given to the inductee or his or her family, and the inducted person's name 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.
8. All applicants and nominators are encouraged to submit supporting data, application, etc. in digital formats, i.e. PDF format, MS Word Document, JPG, etc.
9. In the event the HOF Committee or the Board becomes aware of information, whether supported by factual data, documents or any other reliable evidence or source, that any member who has been inducted into the NE HOF has been involved in conduct or taken other action that would invalidate or call into question such inducted member's qualifications, character, credentials or fitness for inclusion in the NE HOF, the Board may, by majority vote, remove the HOF inductee from his or her membership in the HOF or take any other remedial action the Board deems appropriate under the circumstances. For purposes hereof, an act or series of acts of misconduct calling into question an inductee's character or reputation in the tennis community in NE and beyond or being found guilty or pleading nolo contendere ("no contest") to a serious crime or to any crime involving moral turpitude are non-exhaustive examples of serious wrongdoing or malfeasance that may cause the Committee or the Board to take the actions set out in this section.

## **POSTHUMOUS AWARDS**

Posthumous awards may be made, using applicable criteria as presented above. If you are considering nominating someone posthumously and have additional questions, please reach out to [info@newengland.usta.com](mailto:info@newengland.usta.com).