

THE ATHLETICS ONTARIO (AO) HALL OF FAME

PREPARED BY:

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Based on the original document produced by Rolf Lund (past AO President) in December 1994

1. OBJECTIVES

The Athletics Ontario (AO), Hall of Fame, founded in 2009, recognizes and honours the names and deeds of those whose athletic achievement or contribution has brought fame, honour and recognition to Ontario, AO, their community, to themselves and to the sport of track and field.

2. STATUS – HALL OF FAME SUB-COMMITTEE

The Hall of Fame shall operate as a committee of AO and recognize those whose interest in and work for the sport, results in a climate which benefits athletes and athletics within the community and the province.

3. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

It is part of the purpose of the AO Hall of Fame to collect, preserve, research, exhibit and promote those objects which are determined to be significant to the history of our sport.

The Hall of Fame shall be guided by a committee reporting to the Board of Directors, whose primary function will be to ensure that the AO Hall of Fame Committee, carries out the objectives of the mandate.

This Statement of Purpose may only be altered with the consent by majority vote of the Board of Directors of AO.

4. MEMBERS AND TERMS OF HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE

a) The affairs of the AO Hall of Fame shall be governed by the AO Board through an appointed committee of not less than 3 and not more than 5 members. In order to provide continuity, appointments shall be for three (3) year terms.

b) Members of the Hall of Fame Committee may be volunteers or paid staff of AO. The members of the Committee shall elect a chairman amongst themselves.

If a Committee member resigns or retires for any reason, a successor may be appointed by the AO Board.

5. ELIGIBILITY FOR INDUCTION

a) Election is restricted to athletes and builders of the sport of athletics having direct connection to the sport in Ontario. All athletes, builders and others must be nominated electronically, in order to be considered for induction, using AO_Hall_of_Fame_Nomination_Form.pdf.

b) The number of inductees to be elected annually shall be determined by the AO Board and the Hall of Fame Committee, but shall not exceed 10 in any year, except in Years 1 and 2.

c) Athletes to be considered for admission to the Hall of Fame must have been, or be, outstanding in their athletic field of endeavour, or must have been considered to have achieved high recognition for their accomplishment or contribution to the sport, even if not reaching the absolute top level in anyone event in competition against peer athletes over an extended period of time.

This involves and includes athletes competing on a local regional, provincial, national and international level.

d) Normally, athletes nominated for induction must have been retired from active participation in the sport for a period of not less than three years, dating from the end of their last season of participation in the sport.

An athlete may be nominated irrespective of the above criteria if they have reached the age of forty years.

Exceptions to these criteria must have the approval of the selection Committee and the AO Board of Directors.

Builder nominees shall be eligible for induction at any time, even though the nominee is still active in the role(s) for which they are being nominated. There shall be no waiting period in his category.

In any given year, a minimum of 30% of inductees must come from the Builder category.

f) In considering nominations for deceased candidates the committee may have the option of waiving the three year waiting period.

6. DEFINITION OF AN ATHLETE

a) An athlete shall be deemed to be one who has demonstrated character, sportsmanship and integrity, as well as outstanding ability in their particular athletic event and brought honour to Ontario and AO. Nominated athletes must have been members in good standing with the Ontario branch of Athletics Canada or its predecessors.

b) Anyone born in Ontario and who has spent their formative years in the province and continues to reside here, even if they train away from the province for part of the year.

c) Anyone not born in Ontario or whose achievements in the sport occurred while a resident of Ontario or anyone in (b) who, after their provincial AO career, moves elsewhere into amateur, university or professional sport and is deemed worthy of consideration and inclusion.

d) An athlete to be considered for induction should have excelled in ONE particular event, or performed above average in a number of events even if not reaching the absolute top level in anyone, but excelling in competition against his or her peer athletes.

7. DEFINITION OF A BUILDER

All sections of No.6 (b), (c), (d) apply also the Builders category.

Builders are defined as officials, administrators, sports medicine personnel, media personnel coaches, and others whose work for sport over an extended period of time has been outstanding:

1. in the organization of competitions, events, and facility development;
2. in achieving a high degree of success in coaching;
3. in keeping a club/organization active;
4. in providing services to our sport of a consistently high level;
5. in developing and supporting programs related to our sport

8. OFFICIAL CREST

The official crest of the AO or AO Hall of Fame as approved by the AO Board of Directors shall be used on letterheads, scrolls, and any other mementos presented to inductees.

The AO Board shall register the crest and have the right to determine all uses of the official crest.

9. AWARDS

Each living inductee, and family of each deceased inductee, shall receive an award, with the inductee's name inscribed there on, where possible.

Commemoration by the Hall of Fame shall be in the form of a plaque, an honour roll, or both. Those elected/inducted to the AO Hall of Fame shall be recorded on official AO Hall of Fame records and shall be inscribed on a commemorative plaque and/or wall at a site to be determined by the AO Board of Directors and/or the AO web site.

10. PATH TO ELECTION

a) Nominations:

The Hall of Fame Committee shall extend a public invitation for written nominations at least thirty days in advance of a designated deadline.

Anyone from the AO membership, including Committee members, may submit nominations. Submissions, along with the supporting documentation shall be forwarded to the Hall of Fame Committee *c/o* AO Provincial Office, prior to the deadline date.

This information will be given to the Hall of Fame Committee Chair for further action. Nominations shall be acknowledged by mail or email, but letters shall clearly be non-committal in nature.

No nominee shall be rejected out of hand by the Hall of Fame Committee. Nominations to the Selection Committee shall be considered for induction to the Hall by time periods (eras) as follows:

- pre 1929
- 1930-1945
- 1946-1959
- 1960-1969
- 1970-1979
- 1980-1989
- 1990-1999
- 2000-2009

There shall be a maximum of ten (10) inductees per year (except for YEAR 1 and YEAR 2 which will have a maximum of fifteen (15) inductees per year). See Section 14 below.

b) The initial induction ceremony will allow the Hall of Fame Committee to recognize those from the earlier time periods and will serve to develop a base of Hall of Fame inductees, which recognizes those who have made a significant contribution to the sport.

11. ATHLETE SELECTION METHODOLOGY

All performances shall be considered but priority will be placed in the following order:

- i) Any Ontario eligible athlete who won an Olympic Medal (gold, silver, bronze).
- ii) Any Ontario eligible athlete who sets an IAAF World record or finished first, second or third in any World Championship sanctioned by the International Association of Athletic Federations (IAAF).

12. INDUCTION

Induction shall be at an annual dinner or at such other suitable occasion as may be decided by the Board.

13. MEETINGS

- a) A selection meeting shall take place within 15 days after the Nomination deadline
- b) A meeting will be held within 30 days after the Induction ceremony to deal with selection process and to review, evaluate and recommend to the AO Board changes to the Hall of Fame program.
- c) Hall of Fame Committee meetings shall be held as the need arises to deal with Hall of Fame business.

14. SCHEDULE FOR AWARDS

- a) YEAR 1 (2009) – 10 open spots* and 5 from 1929 or earlier
- b) YEAR 2 (2010) – 10 open spots* and 5 from 1930-45
- c) YEAR 3 (2011) – 5 open spots* and 5 from 1946-59
- d) YEAR 4 (2012) – 5 open spots* and 5 from 1960-69
- e) YEAR 5 (2013) – 5 open spots* and 5 from 1970-79
- f) YEAR 6 (2014) – 5 open spots* and 5 from 1980-89

* up to a maximum of 2 inductees in the open category may come from any one particular era.