



**RUGBY ONTARIO HALL OF FAME
GUIDELINES
Revised May 2026
(These Guidelines are to be effective from 2026)**

1.0 PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Rugby Ontario Hall of Fame is to enshrine, in the form of a permanent record, the names of individuals and teams who have exerted a distinctive, positive influence of unique dimension on the sport of rugby in Ontario over a prolonged period.

2.0 CLASSES OF MEMBERS:

2.1 Players

Players are competitors who have participated at an elite level for Canada or Ontario, in a national senior or professional league, in Ontario or abroad and have achieved outstanding and extraordinary success as a competitor in the sport of rugby. Players must have been born in Canada or became a Canadian citizen before or during her/his playing career. Players must be retired from active participation at their highest level for five (5) years before they may be nominated. Players must be in good standing with any applicable world, national or provincial Unions

2.2 Teams

Teams must have been Ontario-based, have always been in good standing with Rugby Ontario and have accomplished outstanding or extraordinary results over a minimum period of 5 years and maximum period of 10 years that have brought prominence to the sport of rugby in Ontario or Canada. Teams must be at least five (5) years removed from their significant milestone(s) period in order to be eligible for nomination.

2.3 Coaches

Coaches are individuals whose efforts and expertise in the development and training of rugby athletes have made an outstanding and extraordinary contribution to the sport of rugby in Ontario, resulting in the promotion and development of the game provincially, nationally, or internationally.

2.4 Officials

Officials are individuals whose efforts and expertise in the development and training of rugby officials or in the performance of their duties as officials have exhibited outstanding and extraordinary skill, expertise and commitment resulting in the promotion and development of the game of rugby.

2.5 Builders

Builders are individuals who have made outstanding and extraordinary contributions towards the promotion, development and advancement of rugby in Ontario, at the appropriate national, international, provincial or community level. Without restricting the generality of the foregoing, this may include administrators, patrons, trainers, managers, therapists, or as a member of the media has written about or commented on the game with distinction over a significant period, etc.



2.6 Other Criteria applicable to all classes

- Except for teams, all individuals must have been born in Canada or became a Canadian citizen before or during their period of participation that garnered their nomination. Teams must be predominantly so in a manner that is consistent with Rugby Ontario senior league guidelines
- No person may be nominated or elected while holding office in the game at provincial, national or international level or who is a member of the Selection Committee or the Board of Directors of Rugby Canada or Rugby Ontario. Rugby Ontario's board of directors may grant special consideration for extenuating circumstances as recommended by the committee. If a member of the selection committee is nominated, they will have the option of resigning from the committee for the year they are nominated and not be able to participate or vote in the selection process.
- If a nominee is elected to hold office, their 5-year window for consideration shall be immediately suspended, and they will be removed from the ballot paper. Their 3-year window will automatically resume, and they will be re-included on the ballot paper once they no longer hold office.
- Any individual nominated must have been active in rugby in Ontario for at least 10 years.
- All nominees should have exhibited in their lives a positive influence on those around them, not just in rugby but in all aspects of life. [Note - The RO Hall of Fame & Awards Committee must be thoroughly and extensively briefed on potential nominees to the Hall of Fame who may have experienced controversial situations in their rugby career or in life]
- Nominations must be for accomplishments achieved while the nominee is associated with the Province of Ontario (i.e. not for accomplishments achieved solely or mostly before or after moving to/from the province) nor accomplished while visiting the province
- The Committee, in exceptional circumstances, at its discretion may choose to reduce or waive the 5-year time frame requirement mentioned in 2.1 to 2.5 inclusive (e.g. life-threatening illness to a potential inductee).

3.0 NOMINATION PROCESS

- Nominations may originate from a Rugby Ontario Branch Union, Club, registrant or Rugby Ontario's Board of Directors that are in good standing with Rugby Ontario. In all cases, nominations must be approved by the Rugby Ontario Hall of Fame & Awards Committee.
- All nominees must agree to their nomination and be available to attend in person the annual awards gala. This must be confirmed on the nomination form.
- Written nominations must be accompanied by documents covering in as much relevant detail as possible, the athletic accomplishments and/or the service record of the person(s) nominated. The claimed accomplishments or service record shall be supported by documentary evidence where there is any possibility of doubt (e.g. newspaper clippings).
- Timing and other logistics are to be set out by the Rugby Ontario Board or its designate no later than 120 days before the announcement of admissions

4.0 SELECTION COMMITTEE

- The Selection Committee will consist of a Chair, plus up to ten other Committee members. Representation should include the following:
 - One member of the Rugby Ontario Board
 - One member representing each Branch Union
 - One male player rep who is familiar with the history of male players



- One female player rep who is familiar with the history of female players
 - Members of the veterans sub-committee
- The Chair of the Committee shall be determined by the Chair of Rugby Ontario and CEO of Rugby Ontario.
- Members of the Committee are appointed for 2-year periods and will not be eligible for nomination for an annual award or induction into the Rugby Ontario Hall of Fame while serving on the Committee.
- The Selection Committee shall also appoint a Veteran's Sub-Committee each year. See later section.
- The Rugby Ontario CEO shall appoint a staff member as the Ex-officio member (non-voting).
- The Committee members are to be established at least 150 days before the announcement of inductees that year.

5.0 SELECTION PROCESS:

5.1 Number of Inductees

No more than six (6) inductees per year shall be inducted into the Rugby Ontario Hall of Fame through the regular balloting process. Additionally, the Veteran's Sub-committee may recommend no more than 1 additional inductee. This recommendation is not subject to the regular balloting process and will be provided directly to the Rugby Ontario Board together with those inductees determined through the regular balloting process. However, any person/team recommended by the Veteran's Sub-Committee must meet the criteria identified in Section 2 of these Guidelines with nomination forms submitted.

5.2 Voting Procedures

Each voting member will be provided with supporting information on each candidate detailing his or her accomplishments using the evaluation criteria listed below. Candidates will appear on the ballot in alphabetical order. Candidates shall be voted on by secret ballot organized by the Chair. Each member of the Committee is to use a point scale of 1 to 10 on each of the 7 criteria in the Evaluation Rubric (see below) with 10 being the highest. No nominee shall be inducted into the Hall of Fame without having at least 70 points on at least two-thirds of the ballots submitted by committee members. The six candidates (and ties) with the top point totals across all ballots cast will be inducted. A tie vote will be considered as within 2% of any average combined scoring total. Certain criteria will be given higher ratings on the voting rubric

5.3 Evaluation Rubric

An evaluation rubric will be used to ensure objectivity and comparability over classes and years.

Players /Teams (1 lowest –10 highest) on each of the following:

- Demonstration of sustained success at Club, Ontario and/or Canada levels (x2)
- Consistent embodiment of team leadership attributes
- Contribution to a positive "rugby culture" at Club, Ontario, and/or Canada
- Professional personal/team attributes consistent with those of Rugby Ontario
- Excellent off field ambassador for Rugby in Ontario with community involvement
- Awards or recognition from club, representative sides, community, provincial or national organizations (x3)
- Demonstration of growth including the mentorship of others

Total is out of 100



Builders/Coach/Match Official (1 lowest – 10 highest) on each of the following:

- Demonstration of sustained success for Club, Ontario, and/or Canada (x3)
- Consistent embodiment of leadership attributes
- Contribution to a positive "rugby culture" at Club, Ontario, and/or Canada
- Professional personal attributes consistent with those of Rugby Ontario
- Excellent off-field ambassador for Rugby in Ontario with community involvement
- Demonstration of achievements with high impact to Club, Ontario, and/or Canada (x2)
- Demonstration of growth including the mentorship of others

Total is out of 100

The initial committee will be asked to define the specific guidelines to use to establish a score within the 1-10 range on each criteria. The Chair is to document these guidelines and succeeding chairs are to note any subsequent modifications to these guidelines.

5.4 Management of the Nomination List

Nominees for induction into the Hall of Fame shall remain on the primary ballot for three years (note exception below). After the third year, if the nominee has not scored well enough for acceptance, he or she shall be eliminated from future balloting. After an additional five-year waiting period, that candidate may be considered for nomination by the Veteran's Committee.

If a nominee on the ballot for the Hall of Fame receives less than an average score of 20 in any single year across all ballots cast or 30 for three consecutive years, that candidate shall be removed from future balloting forthwith. After an additional five-year waiting period, that candidate may be considered for nomination by the Veteran's Committee.

5.5 Veteran's Sub-Committee

The Veteran's Committee is to be appointed by the Chair of the Selection Committee in consultation with the Committee and must include people, if possible, that are familiar with rugby in the Province at the time that the nominees were participating. Members of the Veteran's Sub-Committee may also be members of the Selection Committee. There must be at least two members of the Veteran's Sub-Committee.

The first Veterans Sub-committee will be asked to create criteria for selection which should include a ranking or scoring system. They should be consistent with those set out above for the normal process with such exceptions as recognizing that there was no national team from 1932 to 1965 and prior to 1948, citizenship was entirely different.

The Veteran's Sub-committee will consider all candidates that did not succeed through the normal selection process after a five-year waiting period (i.e. 8 years after their initial nomination). The Veteran's Committee may consider others who were never submitted through the normal process, especially individuals involved in rugby in Ontario more than 30 years ago.

The Veteran's Sub-Committee may recommend an inductee who is already on the primary ballot paper.



The Veterans Sub-Committee may nominate a maximum of one (1) person/team each year. However, there is no requirement for the Veterans Sub-Committee to nominate a candidate each year.

5.6 Final Step for Selection

The Chair of the Selection Committee shall present confidentially the list of recommended inductees (normal process and Veteran's) to the Board of Rugby Ontario at least 30 days prior to the announcement. The Board shall vote on acceptance of the recommendations while in camera. The Board agrees that only in exceptional circumstances, usually based on information not available to the Selection Committee, will the Board vote against the Committee's recommendations.

Committee members and inductees shall be notified by phone and/or mail and invited to the annual Induction Dinner. The date and location of this ceremony is to be decided upon by the Board of Directors of Rugby Ontario and the Rugby Ontario Staff. If for some reason, no such event is held in any particular year, the announcement shall be made on the Rugby Ontario website no later than December 15th.

6.0 REMOVAL FROM THE HALL OF FAME

The RO Hall of Fame & Awards Committee may recommend removal of an individual from the Hall of Fame. To do so, at least 80% of the Selection Committee must vote for removal. The Board of Rugby Ontario or at least two members of the Selection Committee must refer the situation to the Selection Committee for the Committee to consider and vote on removing an individual. This must be for serious misconduct (either after selection to the Hall or for actions that come to light after election) that brings the sport of rugby into significant disrepute. The Chair of the Selection Committee may decide whether to provide the Hall of Fame member with an opportunity to defend himself/herself prior to the vote by the Committee. The recommendation from the Selection Committee must then be ratified by the Rugby Ontario Board in a confidential process. The individual then must be informed in writing. The decision must be posted on the Rugby Ontario website as soon as practical after reasonable efforts have been made to inform the individual.

7.0 REVISION OF THESE GUIDELINES

These Guidelines may be amended by the Board of Rugby Ontario at any time. Any such amendment cannot void any prior admittance to the Hall of Fame.