

XIV. TENNESSEE TECH SPORTS HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE

The Tennessee Tech Sports Hall of Fame Committee shall serve the President and the Athletics Director in an advisory capacity and assist them by reviewing and/or making recommendations relative to:

- ▶ Procedures for the committee.
- ▶ Criteria for membership in the Tennessee Tech Sports Hall of Fame.
- ▶ Recommending prospective inductees for the Tennessee Tech Sports Hall of Fame.
- ▶ Such other matters as may be presented to the Committee by the Athletics Director or the President of the University.

A. MEMBERSHIP

1. The Committee shall consist of the following members, appointed by the President of the University in accordance with approved procedures:
 - a. Alumni and Supporters of TTU sports programs - a minimum of eight (8) alumni and supporters.
 - b. Faculty - a minimum of four (4) faculty members.
 - c. Administrative - A minimum of two (2) administrators.
 - d. Student - A minimum of one (1) student member, selected from the list of names submitted by the President of the Student Government Association.
2. Terms of Office - Members shall serve terms of one (1) to three (3) years, with appointments to be effective at the beginning of the Fall Semester. All appointments are subject to renewal at the discretion of the President.

B. OFFICERS

1. Chairperson - The Executive Officer shall serve as the chairperson. The chairperson shall:
 - a. Prepare a tentative agenda for each meeting and furnish a copy to each committee member at least three (3) working days prior to regular meetings and one (1) day prior to special meetings.
 - b. Cause minutes of the meeting to be prepared and distributed to the members.

- c. Call special meetings when necessary.
 - d. Appoint ad hoc committees as required.
 - e. Cause information regarding committee action to be disseminated.
 - f. Invite resource persons to meetings when appropriate.
 - d. Perform the duties prescribed by these Procedures and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the committee.
 - e. Supervise the preparation and distribution of an annual report of the committee's activities.
2. Executive Officer - The President shall appoint a staff member to serve as executive officer and resource person and to provide staff support services.

C. MEETINGS

1. Committee meetings may be scheduled or called. Scheduled meetings shall be held at least once per year. A second meeting will be the awards ceremony.
2. Called meetings shall be:
 - a. At the discretion of the chairperson.
 - b. At the request of the President of the University.
 - c. At the written request of a majority of the committee members.
1. Scheduled meetings may be rescheduled by the chairperson if there is sufficient reason.
2. Any member may submit items for inclusion on the agenda.
5. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

D. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the committee in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these procedures.

E. PROCEDURES

1. Overview

- a. The Tennessee Tech Hall of Fame is meant to be representative of the entire panoply of University Athletics. Emphasis shall be placed upon athletic accomplishments, but the Hall also recognizes the exemplary contributions of other individuals (coaches, staff, donors and fans) as appropriate.
- b. The three primary goals of the Sports Hall of Fame Committee shall be to secure an appropriate list of nominees, to ensure that those selected to the Hall of Fame have made truly outstanding contributions to Tennessee Tech Athletics, and to guarantee that those selected will bring credit and distinction to the University.
- c. Every year, the committee shall strive to induct three or four new Hall of Fame members. The committee retains a flexibility to raise that number to five should a multitude of qualified candidates exist, but never will less than three or more than five persons be inducted in a given year.

2. Nominations

- a. Nominees shall be solicited from members of the Tennessee Tech community and the public at large. In addition, a nominating committee, comprised of the Sports Information Director, the Faculty Athletics Representative, and a third person appointed by the Athletics Director, shall meet to discuss additional candidates and submit its findings to the selection committee. Nominations are good for three consecutive years. If nominees are not selected during the three-year period, they may be re-nominated.
- b. Committee members shall be encouraged to participate in the search for candidates. The committee also shall be empowered to commission others, notably the Sports Information Director, to scan past statistics regarding potential inductees. The committee shall ensure that notices are periodically posted in various media, requesting nominations from alumni and the community.
- c. Nominations of entire teams shall be discouraged, as the Hall of Fame

highlights individual achievement and maintains strict individual standards for entry. Team successes, however, can and indeed shall be honored by the University in other ways.

3. Criterion for Selection

a. In comparing different athletes:

- (1) Student-athletes shall become eligible for admission into the Hall of Fame ten years after their NCAA eligibility has expired.
- (2) Given that the University's primary mission is educational, athletes who did not graduate shall be ineligible for the Hall of Fame. Students who transferred to, and graduated from, another college or university shall be eligible.
- (3) Individual achievement shall, in most cases, be of paramount importance. The Hall of Fame shall be disproportionately populated with record setters and award recipients.
- (4) Given the disparities between different sports, there shall be no set formula for determining what differentiates the truly exceptional from the very good. Anyone who disagrees shall be invited to provide a mathematical comparison between quarterback sacks, bullseyes, free throw percentage, greens-in-regulation, digs and kills, service aces, time in the 100-yard dash, and earned-run average.
- (5) The committee must make an apple-orange-pear . . . etc. comparison. To do so, its members must be aware of the standards of each of the sixteen sports and balance them accordingly. For example, most of the nominees will have received all-conference, all-region, or perhaps all-American awards. Given the prevailing standards, an all-American in men's basketball should normally be selected over an all-American in rifle. Then again, if the rifle team member was an all-American four years running, and was named to the U.S. Olympic team, one could argue otherwise. Ultimately the decision falls to the committee to determine what is truly outstanding.

- (6) Team achievement shall be given some consideration. The committee shall give pause to inducting an athlete whose individual records are strong but whose teams achieved little or no success. On the contrary, the committee may on occasion wish to reward an exemplary team player, especially if that player's attitude, hustle, and leadership helped his/her team to a championship(s).
- (7) Similarly the committee may wish to give some consideration to those who exemplify the student-athlete ideal. A student who maintained high academic standards (perhaps even receiving an academic all-American award) while also excelling in athletics shall be given priority over one whose classroom performance lagged behind his/her on-field prowess.
- (8) The committee shall also give due consideration to the athlete's post-graduate career. An athlete whose Tennessee Tech credentials were strong, and who later went on to a successful career in professional sports, certainly warrants special reflection from the committee. A successful civilian career may also merit consideration when attempting to decide among many qualified applicants.
- (9) Preference shall be given to those who have demonstrated a strong civic commitment as well. Anyone who has failed in this respect, or who might in any way bring embarrassment to the University, shall not be admitted into the Hall of Fame.
- (10) Out of consideration for the above, should the committee be unable to contact a potential entrant, that person's admittance should be denied until they are located. Both nominators and individual committee members shall be encouraged to solicit information as appropriate.
- (11) The committee shall recognize that contributions can be made in more than one area. Two-sport athletes merit special consideration, as do those who excel on the playing field and then subsequently return to coaching or staff positions.

- b. As a general guideline, committee members shall rank potential candidates by assigning relative weights to these various areas as follows:
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| (1) | INDIVIDUAL ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS - | 60% |
| (2) | TEAM ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS - | 10% |
| (3) | ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS - | 10% |
| (4) | POST-GRADUATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS - | 20% |
- c. Given the disparities among the various sports and individual achievement, these figures shall be used as a general, flexible guide, not as a hard and binding rule. Note that there is no similar list for non-athletes.
- d. In recommending non-athletes, the following rules shall apply:
- (1) Never, in any given year, shall more non-athletes be inducted than athletes. It shall be an extremely rare case for more than one non-athlete to be inducted, and it is acceptable for there to be none.
 - (2) Non-athletes must have contributed to Tennessee Tech Athletics in an outstanding way. Persons who have merely been good, consistent donors do NOT belong in the Hall of Fame. Should someone donate millions of dollars to build a new facility, the committee would give such an individual due consideration. That, however, is a rather unlikely if pleasurable scenario.
 - (3) Aside from a "super-donor" as noted above, there shall likely be only two types of non-athletes in the Hall. The first and most obvious are coaches, who shall be judged almost exclusively by the accomplishments of their teams and players. The second are perhaps best called "lifetime achievement award" recipients. These shall be people who have given freely of themselves to Tech Athletics in a variety of special ways over a prolonged period.
- e. The overall key to selecting a quality Hall of Fame is to keep in mind the need to choose OUTSTANDING candidates. Above all else, when arguing for an individual's inclusion, committee members must prove that this person made exceptional, striking contributions to Tennessee Tech Athletics, above and beyond those made by their fellow nominees.

- f. Committee members shall be made aware that voting for athletes and non-athletes will occur simultaneously. Therefore, for a non-athlete to be selected, he or she must be seen by the committee as meriting admittance beyond that of many athletes. This alone shall ensure that any non-athletes admitted to the Hall of Fame will be truly deserving of such an honor.

4. Preparation and Organization

- a. Information regarding the candidates shall be made available to the committee members prior to the meeting. It is the duty of the committee members to acquaint themselves with the material before the meeting begins.
- b. Ballots listing the names of all candidates, including athletes and non-athletes, shall be prepared prior to the meeting. Following the call to order, all members of the committee shall check the prepared ballots for accuracy.
- c. The Athletic Director shall serve as chair of the committee. The chair shall first entertain motions to group nominees. For example, two broadcasters could (given a motion, second, and majority vote) be considered as one combined nominee for induction purposes (so could a tennis doubles team, an offensive line, etc.).
- d. Following any correction or modification to the ballots, the committee shall proceed to a discussion of the candidates.
- e. Discussion
 - (1) Each committee member MUST be given the opportunity by the chair to speak on behalf of the one candidate they consider most worthy of induction into the Hall of Fame. Throughout the discussion, committee members shall strive to focus their comments on one candidate at a time.
 - (2) Once all committee members have been afforded the above opportunity individual members may, if they desire, address the merits of other candidates not yet mentioned or sustain or elaborate upon those who have been discussed. Committee members may also voice their doubts or objections regarding previously mentioned candidates.
 - (3) Invited non-members of the committee in attendance may be afforded the opportunity to speak at the discretion of the chair.

- (4) Once a committee member feels that sufficient discussion has taken place, he/she may call for a vote on the candidates. Given a second and a majority vote, the discussion ends and the committee shall proceed to that vote.

5. Voting

- a. All committee members may vote for five candidates (the maximum number that can be admitted in any one year).
- b. Should a committee member feel strongly that only four or three candidates are worthy of admission, he/she need not vote for any others. Anyone voting for less than three candidates, however, shall have his/her ballot declared null and void.
- c. All votes shall be of equal value. No committee member can cast more than one vote for any individual candidate on any single ballot. Anyone doing so shall have their entire ballot declared null and void. Committee members should double-check their ballots before submitting them to avoid voting errors.

6. Selection

- a. Once the votes have been tabulated, the following three actions may occur, in the proscribed order:
 - (1) First, the chair shall entertain any motion(s) to induct the highest vote recipient(s) not yet inducted.
 - (2) Following this, the chair shall entertain a motion(s) to eliminate from further consideration those receiving fewer than "X" votes, with "X" determined by the individual making the motion.
 - (3) Following any such eliminations, the chair will entertain a motion to open discussion on the remaining candidates. Such discussion must be called for before any subsequent votes can be made.

7. Sample Vote and Selection

a. To illustrate the workings of the system, follow this example: It assumes a committee of 16, voting on 26 possible candidates (A-Z)

b. The results of the initial voting are as follows:

Candidate A	14	Candidate H	5
B	11	I	4
C	8	J	4
D	8	K	3
E	7	L	2
F	7	M	1
G	6	N-Z	0

- c. A committee member proposes to admit Candidate A. With a second and a near certain vote (given the extent of support for him), Candidate A would be selected for admittance.
- d. Any committee member can then propose to admit Candidate B. Given a second a vote would be taken, and in all likelihood in this case, he/she would be admitted as well.
- e. Any committee member could then propose to admit both Candidates C and D (admitting one without the other at this point would be impossible, as both received the same number of votes).
- f. It is possible that Candidates C and D would be approved, as was B. In such a case, with four candidates selected, it would be possible to end the selection process at that point (see below). There would be no subsequent discussion nor a need for a subsequent vote.
- g. Given that they received only half of the committee's votes, and the close proximity of Candidates E and F, we will assume that either the motion was defeated or none was ever made.
- h. Committee members could then propose to eliminate candidates from further discussion. He/she could choose to eliminate candidates N-Z (with no votes), K-Z (those with less than 4, i.e. less than one-quarter of the committee), or any other grouping, including H-Z or even G-Z, at their discretion. Given a second and a majority vote, those candidates are eliminated from further consideration.

- i. Once the committee is satisfied with the eliminations, a motion can be made to resume discussion of the remaining candidates.

8. Subsequent Discussion

Subsequent discussion shall be handled just as the initial discussion. All committee members must be afforded the opportunity to argue the merits of the one remaining candidate whose credentials they find most compelling. Following this, discussion may continue, or a call for a vote can be made.

9. Subsequent Voting

- a. Subsequent voting shall differ from the initial vote in that the number of votes that can be cast equals the number of potential inductees still remaining.
- b. For example, if only A and B had been inducted above, there would be three potential spots remaining. Committee members could vote for as many as three remaining candidates. They may, however, vote for two or one at their discretion.

10. Ending the Process

- a. At any point at which at least three candidates have been inducted into the Hall of Fame, any member of the committee may propose to end the selection process. A second and a majority vote ends the process.
- b. Committee members shall give strong consideration to ending the process after the fourth induction, remembering that four is the ideal number of inductees.
- c. The induction of a fifth candidate automatically ends the process.

F. FULFILLMENT OF THE COMMITTEE'S MISSION

In addition to the selection meeting, members of the committee shall be expected to attend the awards ceremony. This constitutes the second and final meeting of the committee.

G. AMENDMENT OF PROCEDURES

These procedures may be amended at any scheduled meeting of the committee by a majority vote of the total membership, provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing to each member at least one (1) week prior to the meeting. Amendments to procedures shall be subject to final approval by the Administrative Council.

H. COMMITTEE ACTION AND REVIEW

Actions of this committee shall be subject to review by the Athletics Committee, Administrative Council and approval by the President.

I. EFFECTIVE DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION

These modified procedures shall become effective immediately.

Approved by the Athletics Committee on 8/5/1996. Revised 9/10/2000 and 1/26/2004.