

PROCEDURES
for the
TENNESSEE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
SPORTS HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE

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OVERVIEW:

The Tennessee Tech Hall of Fame is meant to be representative of the entire panoply of university athletics. Emphasis is placed upon athletic accomplishments, but the Hall also recognizes the exemplary contributions of other individuals (coaches, staff, donors and fans) as appropriate.

The three primary goals of the Sports Hall of Fame Committee are 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.

Every year, the committee will strive to induct THREE (3) or FOUR (4) new Hall of Fame members. The committee retains a flexibility to raise that number to five (5) should a multitude of qualified candidates exist, but never will less than three or more than five persons be inducted in a given year.

NOMINATIONS:

Nominees are 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 Facility Athletics Representative, and a third person appointed by the Director of Athletics, will 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.

Committee members are encouraged to participate in the search for candidates. The committee also is empowered to commission others, notably the Sports Information Director, to scan past statistics regarding potential inductees. The committee should ensure that notices are periodically posted in various media, requesting nominations from alumni and the community.

Nominations of entire teams are discouraged, as the Hall of Fame highlights individual achievement and maintains strict individual standards for entry. Team successes, however, can and indeed should be honored by the University in other ways.

CRITERION FOR SELECTION:

In comparing different athletes:

Student-athletes become eligible for admission into the Hall of Fame 10 years after their NCAA eligibility has expired.

Given that the Tennessee Tech's primary mission is educational, student-athletes who did not graduate are ineligible for the Hall of Fame. Student-athletes who transferred to, and graduated from, another college or university are eligible.

Individual achievement will, in most cases, be of paramount importance. The Hall of Fame should be disproportionately populated with record setters and award recipients.

Given the disparities between different sports, there can be no set "formula" for determining what differentiates the truly exceptional from the very good. Anyone who disagrees is 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.

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 twelve 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 US Olympic team, one could argue otherwise. Ultimately the decision falls into the committee to determine what is truly outstanding.

Team achievement should be given some consideration. The committee should give pause to inducting an student-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).

Similarly the committee may wish to give some consideration to those who exemplify the "student-athlete" ideal. Student-athletes who maintained high academic standards (perhaps even receiving an academic all-American award) while also excelling in athletics should be given priority over those whose classroom performance lagged behind their on-field prowess.

The committee should also give due consideration to the athlete's post-graduate career. A student-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. Preference should 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 should not be admitted to the Hall.

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 are encouraged to solicit information as appropriate.

Finally, the committee needs to recognize that contributions can be made in more than one area. Two-sport student-athletes merit special consideration, as do those who excel on the playing field and then subsequently return to coaching or staff positions.

As a general guideline, committee members can rank potential candidates by assigning relative weights to these various areas as follows:

1. INDIVIDUAL ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS - 60%
2. TEAM ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS – 10%
3. ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS – 10%
4. POST-GRADUATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS – 20%

Again, given the disparities among the various sports and individual achievement, these figures should be used as a general, flexible guide, not as a hard and binding rule.

(Note: there is no similar list for non-athletes).

In recommending non-athletes, the following rules should apply:

Never, in any given year, should more non-athletes be inducted than athletes. It should be an extremely rare case for more than one non-athlete to be inducted, and acceptable for there to be none.

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 rather unlikely if pleasurable scenario.

Aside from a “super-donor” as noted above, there will likely be only two types of non-athletes in the Hall. The first and most obvious are coaches, who will be judged almost exclusively by the accomplishments of their teams and players. The second are perhaps best called “lifetime achievement award” recipients. These are people who have given freely of themselves to Tech athletics, above and beyond those made by their fellow nominees.

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.

Committee members should be aware that voting for student-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 should ensure that any non-athletes admitted to the Hall of Fame will be truly deserving of such an honor.

PROCEDURES for SELECTING MEMBERS to the HALL OF FAME

PREPARATION AND ORGANIZATION

Information regarding the candidates will 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.

Ballots will be prepared prior to the meeting listing the names of all candidates, including athletes and non-athletes. Following the call to order, all members of the committee should check the prepared ballots for accuracy.

The Director of Athletics will serve as chair of the committee. The chair will 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.

Following any correction or modification to the ballots, the committee will proceed to a discussion of the candidates.

DISCUSSION

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 should strive to focus their comments on one candidate at a time.

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 which have been discussed. Committee members may also voice their doubts or objections regarding previously-mentioned candidates.

Invited non-members of the committee in attendance may be afforded the opportunity to speak at the discretion of the chair.

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 majority vote, the discussion ends and the committee proceeds to that vote.

VOTING

All committee members may vote for FIVE candidates (the maximum number which can be admitted in any one year).

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 their ballot declared null and void.

All votes are 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.

SELECTION

Once the votes have been tabulated, the following three actions may occur, in the proscribed order:

First, the chair shall entertain any motion(s) to induct the highest vote recipient(s) not yet inducted.

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 this motion.

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.

SAMPLE VOTE and SELECTION

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

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

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.

Any committee member can then propose to admit Candidate B. Given a second vote would be taken, and in all likelihood in this case, she would be admitted as well.

Any committee member could then proposed 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.)

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 the point (see below). There would be no subsequent discussion nor a need for a subsequent vote.

Given that they received only half of the committee's votes, and the close proximity of Candidates B and F, we will assume that either the motion was defeated or none was ever made.

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.

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

SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION

Subsequent discussion is 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.

SUBSEQUENT VOTING

Subsequent voting differs from the initial vote in that the number of votes that can be cast 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.

ENDING THE PROCESS

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.

Committee members should give strong consideration to ending the process after the fourth induction, remembering that four is the ideal number of inductees.

The induction of a fifth candidate automatically ends the process.

FULFILLMENT OF THE COMMITTEE'S MISSION

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