



IWWF INTERNATIONAL HALL OF FAME

2025 IHOF RULES – NOVEMBER 2025

1. SELECTION COMMITTEE DEFINITIONS

1.1. SPORTS DIVISION SELECTION COMMITTEE (SDSC)

Each IWWF Sports Division World Council shall appoint a minimum of THREE selectors. Ideally (but it is not mandatory), one selector comes from each Confederation represented at that Sports Division's most recent World Championship, up to a maximum of FIVE SDSC members.

SDSC Member Term Limits and Re-nomination

Term Limit: Each SDSC member shall be selected to serve a term of TWO selection cycles, with a maximum of TWO consecutive terms.

Position Availability: At the conclusion of an SDSC member's second consecutive term, their position must be made available for potential replacement.

Re-nomination Process

- a) When an SDSC member's second consecutive term ends, they may re-nominate for the position.
- b) The Sports Division Representative (SDR), in consultation with the Chair of the IWWF Sport Division World Council and the International Hall of Fame Chairperson, shall oversee the process of making the position available.
- c) The relevant IWWF Sports Division World Council will consider all nominations, including those of incumbent members seeking re-election.
- d) The council will then vote to either: a) Re-elect the incumbent SDSC member for another term, or b) Elect a new member to the position



Continuity and Fresh Perspectives

This process ensures a balance between maintaining experienced members and introducing new perspectives to the SDSC. It allows for continuity of expertise while providing opportunities for new individuals to contribute to the IHOFF selection process.

Important Note: The Sports Division Council shall not elect a sitting member of their own council as an SDSC or SDR member.

This clarification aims to maintain the integrity of the selection process while allowing for continuity and renewal within the SDSC membership.

SDSC members should have international experience, be or have been a member in good standing of their National Federation and have a thorough knowledge of their Sport Division and its history.

1.2. SPORTS DIVISION REPRESENTATIVE (SDR)

Each SDSC shall elect one of their members to be their Sports Division Representative (SDR). This election shall be for a two-selection-cycle term.

Each SDR shall automatically become a voting member of the IHOFF Scrutiny Committee (IHOFFSC).

1.3. INTERNATIONAL HALL OF FAME SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (IHOFFSC)

The International Hall of Fame Scrutiny Committee shall be comprised of one SDR from each Sports Division SDSC and the Chair.

The IWWF Executive Board shall appoint the Chair of the IWWF IHOFFSC to serve a two-selection-cycle term.

2. NOMINATION SCRUTINY PROCESS

2.3. STEP ONE - INCOMING NOMINATIONS

Each Sport Division shall be tasked with assembling a history of their Sport Division's past international events to be available to facilitate the checking and corroboration of any candidates' qualifications.



This database shall also be readily available to the IHOFSC for any future nomination verification purposes that may be required.

IWWF members in good standing may nominate any athlete, official, pioneer, coach or legend that has met or exceeded the IHOF minimum requirements for induction.

Qualified candidates should be sought by the Sports Division World Council and the SDSC and assisted through the process of nomination by all SDS.

Incoming nominations must be submitted using the relevant IHOF nomination form available on the IWWF website.

Incoming nominations are to be submitted to each member of the appropriate SDSC only, ensuring all areas of the nomination are fully completed, and all mandatory information and documentation are provided.

All incoming nominations shall be scrutinised by the SDSC, ensuring that all minimum requirements have been met and for any exemplary service that is above and beyond what is expected.

Each SDSC must ensure that every incoming nomination they approve has not been approved as a reward for long-time service or as a memorial; that the award is being given as our most prestigious award and in recognition of only the most outstanding commitment and service to our sport over a lifetime of participating and only after giving more than seems humanly possible, for far longer than seems humanly possible.

The SDSC shall scrutinise and distil their list of candidates for each selection cycle down to the TWO that will become the Sports Divisions' outgoing nominations for that selection cycle.

SDSC may hold incoming nominations in abeyance for consideration in the next selection cycle.

2.4. STEP TWO - OUTGOING NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the Sports Divisions shall be called for as follows:

Nominations for: Waterski, Disabled, Racing and Wakeboard (Boat) will be called for in each even year, with nominations announced early in the following odd year.

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Nominations for Barefoot, Cable Ski, Cable Wakeboard, and Showski will be called for in each odd year, with nominations announced early in the following even year.

Each SDSC is not required nor expected to submit nominations for every selection cycle. This should be a rare distinction offered as a tribute for only the most exceptional service to our sport.

Each SDSC (except Waterski, see rule below) may submit up to TWO nominations to the IHOFSC Chairman per selection cycle.

In the case of an exceptional circumstance that prompts the induction of more than TWO from any Sports Division, with the approval of a minimum of 75% of the IHOFSC, any SDSC may submit a Maximum of THREE nominations for any selection cycle.

Waterski is a distinguished discipline within IHOF, with enhanced nomination capacity. Waterski may submit up to FOUR nominations to the IHOFSC Chairman per selection cycle, with the fourth nominee requiring a minimum of 75% approval from the IHOFSC. This represents ONE additional potential nomination, compared to all other disciplines.

The SDSC must unanimously approve outgoing nominations before each SDR forwards them to the IHOFSC Chairman.

2.5. STEP THREE. SCRUTINISING THE NOMINATIONS FROM EACH SPORTS DIVISION

The IHOFSC is tasked with upholding the prestige, dignity and esteem befitting of the IHOF.

Each SDR shall forward their nominations to the IHOFSC Chairman.

The IHOFSC Chairman shall then disseminate all nominations received to all members of the IHOFSC for their scrutiny.

After receiving the nominations, it is understood that the IHOFSC shall scrutinise all nominations to ensure they meet or exceed every minimum requirement; it must be stressed that IHOFSC members are not tasked with comparing or weighing the nominations between the Sports Divisions.

It is the burden of the Sports Division Selection Committee to nominate only the very best they have to offer. This should be held to be the rarest honour we bestow in our sport.

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In pursuit of upholding the stature and high reputation of the IHOF, the IHOFSC has the duty to question and investigate the validity, accuracy and integrity of all nominations. They may request the SDSC to provide more information in support of their nomination. The IHOFSC holds the power to withhold approval of a nomination, but only for the strongest of reasons, which must be supplied to the nominating SDSC.

The IHOFSC Chair is accountable for upholding the integrity of the award and ensuring that all SDSC members are fully aware of the importance of their nominations and approvals. The SDSC, together with the IHOFSC, are responsible for the future and the history of IHOF and the relevance and unique significance of the IHOF award to future inductees, and that the rules for induction into this most elite club of our sport are not flexible.

The spirit of the awards is to grow all of the SDSC, strengthen the Sports Division's reputation and history, and honour those who truly earned and deserve the distinction of being a part of the IHOF.

3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL HALL OF FAME

3.1. GENERAL SELECTION CRITERIA

There are five categories for Induction:

ATHLETES: from all Disciplines

PIONEERS: from all Disciplines

OFFICIALS: from all Disciplines

LEGENDS: from all Disciplines

COACHES: from all Disciplines

No Selection Committee member shall be eligible for election during his term on the Committee.

The SDR, the IWWF EB or the IHOFSC may propose that an Order of Merit be awarded to an individual who has made a significant contribution to our sport, which does not generally fall within the guidelines for the five categories above. This proposal will be submitted to the IHOFSC and IWWF EB for approval.

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Federation Endorsement: Nominations must be endorsed by the candidate's IWWF member federation in good standing.

3.2. ELIGIBILITY FOR ATHLETES

Minimum Requirements:

- A competitor must have competed in at least two World Championships at the Open or equivalent Level in the discipline from which selected. Competition in Junior or Senior World Championships is not to be counted for this purpose.
- A competitor must have been retired for a period of at least two World Championships or have competed in eight or more World Championships at the Open or equivalent level at the time of consideration for election to be eligible. The competitor may, however, continue to be active in Senior or other divisions or disciplines or as an official or may be otherwise involved in the sport.

The Committee will consider the following factors in voting:

Major Factors

- Results in World Open Championships and other major International tournaments including the World Cup, Multi-Sport and Olympic Games.
- World records set
- Sportsmanship, character and integrity

Minor Factors

- Results in World Junior or World U21, and Confederation Open Championships, Confederation records set where appropriate.
- Service as a tournament official, administrator or in the promotion of the sport
- Competitive record in other disciplines



3.3. ELIGIBILITY FOR PIONEERS

This category is neither defined nor definable, but is intended for individuals whose significant contributions to the International aspect of our sport do not fall into the other categories.

3.4. ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICIALS

General Qualifications. It is not possible to lay down specific qualifications in a category as broad as that of officials. Generally, a candidate would be recognised for major contributions to the sport over a considerable period of years. Election would not be based on an isolated outstanding contribution. At the same time, mere length of service, however dedicated and generous, that cannot be said to have contributed significantly to the progress of the sport in one or more areas, is not sufficient. The emphasis will be on achievements, not on offices held or time served.

Type of Service. The term 'official' is intended to encompass a wide range of functions within the sport. Primary consideration should be given to contributions to the sport as qualified official, IWWF officer or Executive Board, Council or Committee member. Secondary consideration should be given to contributions as, tournament chair or announcer at major tournaments, writer or promoter, and similar positions. With respect to all of these functions, the emphasis will be on contributions of worldwide significance – not just at Confederation level. Candidates are not generally to be judged on a single function, but rather on an accumulation of contributions in all the areas in which they were involved. It is expected that most of those inducted will have contributed in several areas, even though one may predominate.

Length of Service. Generally, it is expected that 15 years of service to the sport at Confederation or worldwide levels would be required as a minimum for consideration. Exceptions may be made in extraordinary circumstances. Mere length of service, by itself, does not qualify an individual for consideration.

Retirement. Retirement from active involvement in the sport is neither a requirement for nomination nor is it encouraged. Generally, we do not want to recognise a candidate when there is still a great deal more that person may contribute to the sport. At the same time, we must not wait for the candidate's death or senility to recognise significant contributions to



the sport. Generally, a minimum age at induction of 50 would be required unless the candidate was clearly retired prior to that time.

Conclusion. The selection of those inducted in the category of ‘Official’ requires the Committee to exercise the greatest possible degree of judgement in both the selection of the candidates and the timing of their election.

3.5. ELIGIBILITY FOR LEGENDS

Definition: The Legend category is intended for individuals who have made exceptional, wide-ranging contributions to the sport that transcend the boundaries of existing categories and have had a profound international impact.

This category allows for recognising individuals whose contributions to the sport are legendary, encompassing a broader range of impactful activities that may not fit neatly into the existing categories of Athlete, Official, or Pioneer.

Nomination Process: Each SDSC may submit one Legend nomination per selection cycle, as part of their regular nominations

Nominations must provide comprehensive evidence of the candidate's extraordinary impact across multiple areas of the sport

Minimum Requirements:

- At least 20 years of involvement in the sport at an international level
- Demonstrated extraordinary impact in multiple areas of the sport, which may include but are not limited to: athletic achievement, officiating, pioneering efforts, coaching, sport development, and federation growth
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Selection Criteria: The Committee will consider the following factors in voting:

Major Factors



- Exceptional contributions that have significantly shaped the sport's direction or growth internationally
- Demonstrated impact across multiple disciplines or aspects of waterski and wakeboard sports
- Innovations or initiatives that have advanced the sport beyond what seemed humanly possible
- Leadership in developing the sport outside their own federation or confederation
- Extraordinary influence on coaching methodologies or athlete development internationally

Minor Factors

- Recognition and respect within the global waterski and wakeboard community
- Mentorship and inspiration to subsequent generations of athletes, officials, or administrators
- Contributions to the sport's public image and popularity on an international scale

3.6. ELIGIBILITY FOR COACHES

Definition: The International Coaches Category recognises those exceptional individuals whose coaching expertise, dedication, and contribution to athlete development have had a significant impact at the international level across IWWF disciplines. This category honours coaches who have demonstrated excellence in developing athletes, advancing coaching methodologies, and promoting the growth of towed water sports worldwide through their coaching activities.

Minimum Requirements:

- **International Scope:** Only coaches who have made significant contributions at the international level qualify. Candidates must have coached athletes who competed internationally or have provided coaching services that had a global impact across IWWF disciplines.



- **Minimum Coaching Experience:** Candidates must have at least 15 years of active coaching experience at national or international levels in one or more IWWF disciplines (Waterskiing, Barefoot, Cable Ski, Cable Wakeboard, Disabled Skiing, Racing, Show Skiing, Wakeboard, Wakesurfing).
- **Professional Standards:** Candidates should hold appropriate coaching certifications or demonstrate equivalent professional coaching competence recognised within their national federation system.
- **Age and Active Status:** Generally, a minimum age of 45 at induction is required unless exceptional circumstances warrant earlier recognition. Active coaching involvement is neither required nor discouraged for nomination.
- **Character Requirements:** Candidates must demonstrate the highest standards of integrity, sportsmanship, and ethical conduct throughout their coaching career.

Major Factors

- Development of athletes who achieved international success (World Championships, World Records, major international competitions)
- Innovation in coaching techniques, training methodologies, or athlete development programs
- Service as a national team coach or head coach at World Championships or major international events
- Contribution to coach education and development programs at the national or international level
- Mentorship of other successful coaches who have continued to advance the sport

Minor Factors



- Coaching achievements at national and regional levels
- Development of coaching resources, manuals, or educational materials
- Service as a technical advisor or consultant to IWWF councils or committees
- Contributions to athlete safety, sport development, or facility improvement
- Recognition through coaching awards at the national or international level
- Advocacy and promotion of the sport through coaching activities

Assessment Criteria: The Selection Committee will evaluate candidates based on

- **Impact and Legacy:** Long-term influence on athlete development and sport advancement
- **International Recognition:** Acknowledgement of coaching excellence beyond national boundaries
- **Innovation and Leadership:** Contributions to coaching methodology and sport development
- **Professional Excellence:** Sustained high-level performance and ethical conduct
- **Breadth of Contribution:** Range and depth of coaching activities and achievements

Special Considerations

- Coaches may be recognised for excellence in single disciplines or across multiple IWWF disciplines.
- Contributions to disabled skiing coaching and adaptive sports development are given equal consideration.
- Emphasis is placed on achievements and impact rather than length of service alone.
- International coaching exchanges, development missions, or technical assistance programs are valued contributions.
- Candidates are evaluated on their overall contribution to international towed water sports, not solely on athlete medals or records achieved.

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4. IHOF INDUCTION EVENT REQUIREMENTS

4.1. Ceremony Venue and Timing

- Select a prestigious venue that reflects the honour's significance.
- Schedule the induction as a standalone event to ensure proper focus and attention.
- Inductees may have several events in honour of their award, such as in their federation confederation or hometown.
- If held in conjunction with a significant Championship, allocate a dedicated evening for the ceremony or a well-structured and respectfully allocated time at the closing ceremony.

4.2. Presentation Format

- Create a multimedia presentation for each inductee, showcasing their career highlights and contributions.
- Develop a standardised, high-quality video package for each inductee to ensure consistency.

4.3. Inductee Recognition

- Present each inductee with the IWWF custom-designed Hall of Fame plaque.

4.4. Ceremony Program

- Appoint a master of ceremonies with strong public speaking skills and knowledge of the sport.
- Allocate 10-12 minutes for each inductee's acceptance speech.

4.5. Digital Presence

- Prepare the inductee profiles and historical information for the dedicated IWWF International Hall of Fame website link
- Utilise social media campaigns to highlight inductees' achievements and build ceremony anticipation.