



## **2026 Builders Hall of Fame Eligibility List**

### **2026 Builder Screening List**

The 2026 Builder Election will only consider referees. This list includes all referees on the Eligibility List and on the Nominee List. Each Screener will submit a ranked list 5 names (1 = most deserving) selected from the list below as their preliminary ballot.

### **2026 Builder Nominee List - Referees**

None

### **2026 Builder Eligibility List – Referees**

Arturo Angeles	Jorge Gonzalez	Harry Rogers
Ed Bellion	Chico Grajeda	Ricardo Salazar
Jennifer Bennett	Brian Hall	Kari Seitz
Angelo Bratsis	Richard Heron	David Socha
Allen Chapman	Sandra Hunt	Kevin Stott
Charles Creighton	Edvin Juresevic	Thomas Syme
Thomas Cunningham	Michael Kennedy	Paul Tamberino
Gino D'Ippolito	Toros Kibritjian	Kevin Terry
John Di Salvatore	Larry King	Baldomero Toledo
Raul Dominguez	Henry Landauer	Ricardo Valenzuela
Robert Evans	Dante Maglio	Terry Vaughn
Sam Galin	Vince Mauro	Tim Weyland
Dave Gantar	James McFarlane	Rachel Woo
Mark Geiger	Abbey Okulaja	Mike Wuertz
Richard Giebner	Silviu Petrescu	Marcel Yonan
Leo Goldstein	Alex Prus	

### **2026 Builders Eligibility List Overview**

This is the list of individuals eligible in the election that will choose a Builder to be inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame in 2026. This list is based on the criteria that were established by the Board of Directors of the Hall of Fame in April 2007 and modified in 2020.

Because non-playing accomplishments are not subject to the sort of statistical recordkeeping that playing accomplishments are, it is sometimes difficult to determine who has and who has not met the criteria. However, the Hall of Fame's historians have examined all the available materials and made determinations that with a few exceptions, the people on this list have met the criteria. Those exceptions apply to people who were already on the Builders Eligibility List before those definite criteria were established and who are over 50. Those people have been "grandfathered" onto the list whether they have met those criteria or not.

The criteria are that candidates must be at least 50 years old or deceased (for purposes of the 2026 election, this means that living candidates must have been born before Jan. 1, 1976) and must have had a positive impact on American soccer at the national federation or first-division level lasting at least 10 years. There are several exceptions to this:

1. In addition to coaches in American first-division leagues and U.S. national teams, credit toward meeting that 10-year standard also is given to Americans coaching in the first division or national team of any country that has ever qualified for the World Cup and the second division of any country that has ever won the World Cup.
2. In addition to officials of the USSF and first-division teams and leagues, credit toward meeting the 10-year standard also is given to the top leaders of certain organizations closely affiliated with the USSF and first-division leagues.
3. Several people who do not otherwise meet the criteria have been added to this eligibility list via a nomination process, described below, involving the administrators of the Hall of Fame.
4. Several people who do not meet the current criteria but did meet the criteria at the time that they were added to the list have been “grandfathered” onto this list.

Beginning with the 2022 election, a rotation system has been employed under which Builders elections in certain years are being limited to referees only, to coaches only or to contributors only (largely meaning administrators, executives and team owners). The entry for each candidate on this list includes a notation of which of those three categories the candidate falls into. **The 2026 Builders election is a Referees only year.**

Among U.S. Soccer Federation officials, first-division league officials and first-division team officials, credit toward meeting the impact requirement has been limited to certain high-ranking officials.

Two restrictions to this eligibility list are that elected officials and full-time employees of the USSF or the Hall of Fame are not eligible while they hold those positions – unless they were eligible prior to becoming employed by the USSF or Hall of Fame -- and persons on the suspended lists of FIFA, CONCACAF, the USSF the IOC, the NCAA or the USOC are not eligible.

## **2026 Builder Nominee List Overview**

Due to the broad general nature of the Builders criteria, nominations for this category will be considered. Nominations are screened by the Hall of Fame staff and historians to determine the accuracy of the nomination materials.

The individuals on the Builder Nominee List have received waivers from the Hall of Fame to be considered during the 2026 Screening Process.

***Screeners should treat Builder Nominees the same as any other Eligible Builder for the purpose of submitting a preliminary ballot.***

If a Builder Nominee is named on a Preliminary Ballot by any Screening Committee Member, the Nominee will be added permanently to the Builders Eligibility List. If a Builder Nominee does not receive any support during the Preliminary Ballot process, they must wait five years before being nominated again.

## **2026 Builder Nominee List Bios**

*There were no nominees ahead of the 2026 election.*

## 2026 Builder Eligibility List Bios

**Arturo Angeles** (born Sept. 12, 1953).

*Eligibility: 11 years as an international or first-division referee.*

Angeles was a FIFA international referee for 11 years, 1988 through 1998, including refereeing one game at the 1994 World Cup, three games in World Cup qualifying, two games at the CONCACAF Gold Cup, one game at the Copa America and one game at the Under-20 World Cup. He was an MLS referee for three seasons, 1996 through 1998. *Referees category.*

**Ed Bellion** (born Sept. 6, 1944).

*Eligibility: 10 years as an international or first-division referee.*

Bellion was a FIFA international referee for 10 years, 1980 through 1989, including refereeing two games in World Cup qualifying, two games at the CONCACAF Championships and one game at the Under-20 World Cup. He was a North American Soccer League referee for four seasons, 1981 through 1984, including refereeing the NASL final in 1983. He received the Eddie Pearson Award in 2001. *Referees category.*

**Jennifer Bennett** (born May 4, 1971).

*Eligibility: 11 years as an international or first-division referee.*

Bennett was a FIFA international referee for nine years, 2002 through 2010, including refereeing two games at the Women's World Cup and eight games at the Under-20 Women's World Cup (including the 2006 final). She was a Women's United Soccer Association referee for three seasons, 2001 through 2003, and a Women's Professional Soccer referee for three seasons, 2009 through 2011, including refereeing the 2010 WPS championship game. *Referees category.*

**Angelo Bratsis** (deceased).

*Eligibility: 12 years as an international or first-division referee.*

Bratsis was a FIFA international referee for 12 years, 1980 through 1991, including refereeing two games in World Cup qualifying, and two games at the Under-17 World Cup. He was a North American Soccer League referee for four seasons, 1981 to 1984. He received the Eddie Pearson Award in 1993. *Referees category.*

**Allen Chapman** (born Aug. 8, 1974).

*Eligibility: 14 years as a first-division referee.*

Chapman has been a Major League Soccer referee for 14 seasons, 2012 through 2025, including refereeing the MLS championship game in 2017 and 2019, and the U.S. Open Cup final in 2019, and a National Women's Soccer League referee for one season, 2022. *Referees category.*

**Charles Creighton** (deceased).

*Eligibility: A first-division referee throughout the life of the original American Soccer League.*

Creighton was one of the most prominent referees in the original American Soccer League and refereed the U.S. Open Cup final four times, 1914, 1918, 1927 and 1931. He refereed numerous games between American clubs and touring foreign teams, including the Hakoah vs. New York Stars game in 1926 that drew a long-standing record crowd of 46,000. *Referees category.*

**Thomas Cunningham** (deceased).

*Eligibility: A leading referee in the 1920s.*

Cunningham, one of the most prominent referees of the original American Soccer League, refereed the U.S. Open Cup final in 1926 and numerous games involving touring foreign teams. *Referees category.*

**Gino D'Ippolito** (deceased).

*Eligibility: 13 years as an international or first-division referee.*

D'Ippolito was a FIFA international referee for 10 years, 1976 through 1985, including refereeing one game in World Cup qualifying. He was a North American Soccer League referee for 12 seasons, 1973 through 1984, including refereeing the NASL final in 1979. He also refereed for many years in the Major Indoor Soccer League. *Referees category.*

**John Di Salvatore** (deceased).

*Eligibility: 11 years as an international or first-division referee.*

Di Salvatore was a FIFA international referee for eight years, 1966 through 1973, including refereeing one game in World Cup qualifying. He was a North American Soccer League referee for four seasons, 1973 through 1976. *Referees category.*

**Raul Dominguez** (born April 15, 1956).

*Eligibility: Eight years as an international referee.*

Dominguez was a FIFA international referee for eight years, 1990 through 1997, including refereeing four games in World Cup qualifying, one game at the Copa America, two games at the Under-20 World Cup and one game at the CONCACAF Gold Cup. He was a Major League Soccer referee for two seasons, 1996 and 1997. *Referees category.*

**Robert Evans** (deceased).

*Eligibility: 15 years as an international or first-division referee.*

Evans was a FIFA international referee for eight years, 1980 through 1987, including refereeing one game in World Cup qualifying. He was a North American Soccer League referee for 12 seasons, 1973 to 1984. He received the Eddie Pearson Award in 1992. *Referees category.*

**Sam Galin** (deceased).

*Eligibility: More than 10 years as an international or first-division referee.*

Galín was among the first Americans certified as a FIFA international referee and refereed at the first North American Championship in 1947. He was an American Soccer League referee for more than a decade, and refereed the U.S. Open Cup final in 1945, 1946, 1949, 1950 and 1953. *Referees category.*

**Dave Gantar** (born June 27, 1975).

*Eligibility: 12 seasons as a first-division referee.*

Gantar was a FIFA international referee for 11 years, 2011 through 2021 and a Major League Soccer referee for 12 seasons, 2010 through 2021. *Referees category.*

**Mark Geiger** (born Aug. 25, 1974).

*Eligibility: 17 years as an international or first-division referee or as leader of an affiliated organization.*

Geiger was a FIFA international referee for 11 years, 2008 through 2018, including refereeing six games at the 2014 and 2018 World Cups, two games at the Olympic Games, 11 games in World Cup qualifying, one game at the Copa America, two games at the Confederations Cup, five games at the CONCACAF Gold Cup, four games at the Under-20 World Cup (including the 2011 final), one game at the Club World Cup and 17 games in the CONCACAF Champions League. He was a Major League Soccer referee for 15 seasons, 2004 through 2018, including refereeing the 2014 MLS championship game and the 2008 U.S. Open Cup final. He has been general manager of the Professional Referee Organization, which supplies referees for Major League Soccer and the National Women's Soccer League, for two seasons, 2023 and 2024. In both 2014 and 2018, he refereed games in the knockout rounds of the World Cup, becoming the first American to do so. He was named CONCACAF men's referee of the year in 2014. *Referees category.*

**Richard Giebner** (deceased).

*Eligibility: More than 10 years as an international or first-division referee.*

Giebner was a FIFA international referee for 10 years, from 1961 through 1970, including refereeing one game in World Cup qualifying. He was a national referee for most of the 1950s and '60s, including refereeing the U.S. Open Cup final in 1957. He received the Eddie Pearson Award in 1997. *Referees category.*

**Leo Goldstein** (deceased).

*Eligibility: More than 10 years as an international or first-division referee.*

Goldstein was a FIFA international referee from 1961 to 1967, including refereeing one game in World Cup qualifying, and served as a linesman at the 1962 World Cup. He was one of the American Soccer League's top referees in the 1950s and '60s. *Referees category.*

**Jorge Gonzalez** (born July 11, 1968).

*Eligibility: 12 years as a first-division referee.*

Gonzalez was a Major League Soccer referee for 12 seasons, 2006 through 2017. *Referees category.*

**Chico Grajeda** (born Sept. 2, 1967).

*Eligibility: 15 years as a first-division referee.*

Grajeda was a Major League Soccer referee for 15 seasons, 2004 through 2018, including refereeing the MLS final in 2013 and the U.S. Open Cup final in 2017. *Referees category.*

**Brian Hall** (born June 5, 1961).

*Eligibility: 15 years as an international or first-division referee.*

Hall was a FIFA international referee for 15 years, 1992 through 2006, including refereeing two games at the 2002 World Cup, six games in World Cup qualifying, one game at the Confederations Cup, one game at the Under-17 World Cup, four games at the CONCACAF Gold Cup, and three games in the CONCACAF Champions Cup. He was a Major League Soccer referee for 11 seasons, 1996 through 2006, including refereeing the MLS championship games in 1997 and 2003, and the U.S. Open Cup final in 2002. *Referees category.*

**Richard Heron** (born 1958).

*Eligibility: 11 seasons as a first-division referee.*

Heron was a Major League Soccer referee for 11 seasons, 1998 through 2008. *Referees category.*

**Sandra Hunt** (born June 14, 1959).

*Eligibility: Six years as an international or first-division referee.*

Hunt, one of the world's first prominent female referees and the leading American female referee in the 1990s, was a FIFA international referee for six years, 1999 (when FIFA began naming female referees) through 2004, including refereeing two games at the 1999 Women's World Cup. She was a Major League Soccer referee for three seasons, 1998 through 2000, and Women's United Soccer Association referee for three seasons, 2001 through 2003, including refereeing the WUSA championship game in 2001. *Referees category.*

**Edvin Juresevic** (born June 7, 1975).

*Eligibility: 10 years as an international or first-division referee.*

Juresevic was a FIFA international referee for eight years, 2010 through 2017, including refereeing two games in World Cup qualifying in 2011 and 2015 and three in the CONCACAF Champions League in 2013 and 2016. He was a Major League Soccer referee for eight seasons, 2008 through 2011 and 2013 through 2016. *Referees category.*

**Michael Kennedy** (born March 16, 1961).

*Eligibility: 15 years as an international or first-division referee.*

Kennedy was a FIFA international referee for eight years, 1999 through 2006, including refereeing one game in World Cup qualifying and one game in the CONCACAF Champions Cup. He was a Major League Soccer referee for 15 seasons, 1998 through 2012, including refereeing the MLS championship game in 2004 and the U.S. Open Cup final in 2010. *Referees category.*

**Toros Kibritjian** (born Feb. 24, 1934).

*Eligibility: 17 years as an international or first-division referee.*

Kibritjian was a FIFA international referee for 16 years, 1968 through 1983, including refereeing six games in World Cup qualifying. He was a North American Soccer League referee throughout that league's 17-year existence, 1968 through 1984, including refereeing the NASL championship game in 1977. He received the Eddie Pearson Award in 2011. *Referees category.*

**Larry King** (deceased).

*Eligibility: 13 years as an international or first-division referee.*

King was a FIFA international referee for 13 years, 1965 through 1977, including refereeing two games in World Cup qualifying. He was a North American Soccer League referee for four seasons, 1974 through 1977. *Referees category.*

**Henry Landauer** (deceased).

*Eligibility: 16 years as an international or first-division referee.*

Landauer was the first American ever to referee a game at the World Cup, handling a game between Sweden and Uruguay at the 1970 World Cup in Mexico. He was a FIFA international referee for 16 years, 1964 through 1979, including refereeing one game at the 1970 World Cup and three games in World Cup qualifying. He was a North American Soccer League referee for 12 seasons, 1968 through 1979, including refereeing the NASL championship game in 1975. He refereed the U.S. Open Cup final in 1964. *Referees category.*

**Dante Maglio** (deceased).

*Eligibility: 11 years as a first-division referee.*

Maglio was a North American Soccer League referee for 11 seasons, from 1974 through 1984, including refereeing the NASL championship game in 1976 and 1981. *Referees category.*

**Vince Mauro** (deceased).

*Eligibility: 10 years as an international or first-division referee, and seven years as a U.S. Soccer Federation official.*

Mauro was a FIFA international referee for seven years, 1985 through 1991, including refereeing one game at the 1990 World Cup, one game at the 1988 Olympic Games and one game at the Under-20 World Cup. He was a North American Soccer League referee for three seasons, 1982 through 1984. He was the U.S. Soccer Federation's Director of Officials for eight years, 1991 through 1998. *Referees category.*

**James McFarlane** (deceased).

*Eligibility: Several decades as a leading American referee.*

McFarlane was one of the top referees in the American Soccer League during the 1920s and 1930s, and refereed the U.S. Open Cup final in 1929, 1932 and 1935. *Referees category.*

**Abbey Okulaja** (born 1965).

*Eligibility: 10 years as a first-division referee.*

Okulaja was a Major League Soccer referee for 10 seasons, 2003 through 2012. He was voted MLS Referee of the Year in 2004. *Referees category.*

**Silviu Petrescu** (born Oct. 6, 1968).

*Eligibility: 17 years as a first-division referee.*

Petrescu has been a Major League Soccer referee for 17 seasons, 2006 through 2022, including refereeing the MLS championship game in 2012. *Referees category.*

**Alex Prus** (born Feb. 6, 1964).

*Eligibility: 14 years as an international or first-division referee.*

Prus was a FIFA international referee for six years, 2004 through 2009, including refereeing one game in the CONCACAF Champions League. He was a Major League Soccer referee for 14 seasons, 1998 through 2011, including refereeing the MLS championship game in 2007 and the U.S. Open Cup final in 2005, 2007, 2009 and 2011. *Referees category.*

**Harry Rogers** (deceased).

*Eligibility: Many decades as a prominent American referee.*

Rogers, one of the leading referees of the American Soccer League and college soccer in the mid-20th century, continued refereeing for many years. *Referees category.*

**Ricardo Salazar** (born Sept. 6, 1972).

*Eligibility: 17 years as an international or first-division referee.*

Salazar was a FIFA international referee for 11 years, 2005 through 2015, including refereeing two games in World Cup qualifying and eight games in the CONCACAF Champions League. He was a Major League Soccer referee for 17 seasons, 2001 through 2017, including refereeing the 2011 MLS championship game and the 2012 U.S. Open Cup final. *Referees category.*

**Kari Seitz** (born Nov. 2, 1970).

*Eligibility: 15 years as an international or first-division referee.*

An international and first-division referee. Seitz was a FIFA international referee for 15 years, 1999 through 2013, including refereeing nine games at the Women's World Cup in 1999, 2003, 2007 and 2011, six at the Olympic Games in 2004, 2008 and 2012, two at the Women's Under20 World Cup in 2002, and two in Women's World Cup qualifying in 2010. She was a Major League Soccer referee in 1999, a Women's United Soccer Association referee from 2001 through 2003, a Women's Professional Soccer referee from 2009 through 2011 and a National Women's Soccer League referee in 2013, including refereeing the WPS final in 2009 and 2011, and the NWSL final in 2013. Since 2024 she has been U.S. Soccer's Vice President of Referees and remains eligible for election to the Hall of Fame because she was eligible prior to working for U.S. Soccer. *Referees category.*

**David Socha** (born Sept. 27, 1938).

*Eligibility: 10 years as an international or first-division referee.*

Socha was a FIFA international referee for 10 years, 1977 through 1986, including refereeing two games at the World Cup in 1982 and 1986, six games in World Cup qualifying, three games at the Olympic Games and four games at the CONCACAF Championships. He was a North American Soccer League referee for seven seasons, 1978 through 1984, including refereeing the NASL championship games in 1982 and 1984. *Referees category.*

**Kevin Stott** (born July 9, 1967).

*Eligibility: 28 years as an international or first-division referee.*

Stott was a FIFA international referee for 14 years, 1995 through 2008, including refereeing 12 games in World Cup qualifying, four games at the Under-20 World Cup, two games at the Under-17 World Cup, four games at the CONCACAF Gold Cup, and three games in the CONCACAF Champions League. He was a Major League Soccer referee for 27 seasons, 1996 through 2022, including refereeing the MLS championship game in 2001, 2005 and 2009. Between 2012 and 2022, he was the only referee from MLS' first season still refereeing in the league. *Referees category.*

**Thomas Syme** (deceased).

*Eligibility: 20 years as an international referee.*

Syme, one of the earliest of the United States's international referees, was a FIFA international referee for 20 years, 1949 through 1968. *Referees category.*

**Paul Tamberino** (born April 29, 1954).

*Eligibility: 10 seasons as a first-division referee, a first-division league official or a U.S. Soccer Federation official.*

Tamberino was a Major League Soccer referee for six seasons, 1996 through 2001, including refereeing the 2000 MLS championship game and the 2001 U.S. Open Cup final. He was U.S. Soccer's director of officials from 2008 through 2010 and MLS director of competition in the 2011 season. *Referees category.*

**Kevin Terry** (born Sept. 20, 1959).

*Eligibility: 10 years as an international or first-division referee.*

Terry was a FIFA international referee for seven years, 1998 through 2004. He was a Major League Soccer referee for 10 seasons, 1996 through 2005, including refereeing the MLS championship game in 1998 and 2002. *Referees category.*

**Baldomero Toledo** (born Feb. 6, 1970).

*Eligibility: 18 years as an international or first-division referee.*

Toledo was a FIFA international referee for 11 years, 2007 through 2017, including refereeing two games in World Cup qualifying, one game at the Copa America, two games at the CONCACAF Gold Cup and eight games in the CONCACAF Champions League. He was a Major League Soccer referee for 18 seasons, 2004 through 2021, including refereeing the MLS championship game in 2008 and 2010, and the U.S. Open Cup final in 2016. *Referees' category.*

**Ricardo Valenzuela** (born Feb. 7, 1964).

*Eligibility: 10 years as an international or first-division referee.*

Valenzuela was a FIFA international referee for seven years, 1999 through 2005, including refereeing three games in World Cup qualifying. He was a Major League Soccer referee for 10 seasons, 1996 through 2005. *Referees category.*

**Terry Vaughn** (deceased).

*Eligibility: 16 years as an international or first-division referee.*

Vaughn was a FIFA international referee for 10 years, 2004 through 2013, including refereeing three games in World Cup qualifying, four games at the CONCACAF Gold Cup, two games at the Under-20 World Cup, and 11 games in the CONCACAF Champions League. He was a Major League Soccer referee for 15 seasons, 1998 through 2012 and a WUSA referee for three seasons, 2001 to 2003, including refereeing the 2004 and 2006 U.S. Open Cup finals and the 2003 WUSA championship game. *Referees category.*

**Tim Weyland** (born Nov. 17, 1962).

*Eligibility: 11 seasons as an international or first-division referee.*

Weyland was a FIFA international referee for six years, 1995 through 2000, including refereeing three games in World Cup qualifying. He was a Major League Soccer referee for 10 seasons, 1996 through 2001 and 2006 through 2009. *Referees category.*

**Rachel Woo** (born Aug. 30, 1968).

*Eligibility: Eight years as an international or first-division referee.*

An international and first-division referee. Woo was a FIFA international referee for eight years, 2001 through 2008. She was a Women's United Soccer Association referee for three seasons, 2001 through 2003. *Referees category.*

**Mike Wuertz** (born Aug. 14, 1934).

*Eligibility: 17 years as an international or first-division referee.*

An international and first-division referee. Wuertz was a FIFA international referee for 13 years, 1967 through 1979, including refereeing three games in World Cup qualifying, and one game at the Olympic Games. He was a North American Soccer League referee for seven seasons, 1978 through 1984. He received the Eddie Pearson Award in 1998. *Referees category.*

**Marcel Yonan** (born March 22, 1956).

*Eligibility: 11 years as a first-division referee.*

Yonan was a Major Soccer League referee for 11 seasons, 1996 through 2006. *Referees category.*