



2027 Builders Hall of Fame Eligibility List

2027 Builder Screening List

The 2027 Builder Election will only consider coaches. 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.

*Appearing for first time on Builder ballot

2027 Builder Nominee List - Coaches

None

2027 Builder Eligibility List – Coaches

Vlatko Andonovski *

Gregg Berhalter

Roberto Ceciliano

Clive Charles

Gene Chyzowych

Eddie Firmani

Jim Gabarra

Afshin Ghotbi

Jay Hoffman

Gordon Jago

Dominic Kinnear

Frank Klopas

Jason Kreis

Jesse Marsch

Pablo Mastroeni *

Cliff McCrath

Steve Negoesco

Steve Nicol

Lothar Osiander

Duncan Othen

Oscar Pareja

Lincoln Phillips

Caleb Porter *

Thomas Rongen

Steve Sampson

Brian Schmetzer *

Eddie Soto

Pia Sundhage

Keith Tozer

Greg Vanney

David Wagner

Frank Yallop

Overall Builders Eligibility List Overview (as of 2027 election)

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 2027. 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, 1977) 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 2027 Builders election is one for which only Coaches are eligible.

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.

2027 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.

N/A

Vlatko Andonovski (born Sept. 14, 1976).

Eligibility: 13 years as a national-team and first-division coach and first-division team official.

Andonovski has been sporting director of Kansas City Current of the National Women's Soccer League for one season, 2026 and served as coach of the Kansas City Current for two seasons, 2024 and 2025. He was coach of the U.S. Women's National Team for five years, 2019 through 2023. He was coach of Kansas City FC of the National Women's Soccer League for five seasons, 2013 through 2017, and coach of the Seattle Reign of the NWSL for two seasons, 2018 and 2019. He coached Kansas City to the NWSL championship in 2014 and 2015 and was named NWSL coach of the year in 2013 and 2019. He coached the U.S. Women's National Team to the Olympic bronze medal in 2021 and the Concacaf Women's Championship in 2022. *Coaches category.*

Gregg Berhalter (born Aug. 1, 1973).

Eligibility: 13 years as national-team coach or a first-division coach and team official.

Berhalter has been the sporting director and head coach of Chicago Fire FC for two seasons, from 2025 to 2026. Previously he was coach of the U.S. Men's National Team during six years, 2019 through 2024. He was coach and sporting director of the Columbus Crew of Major League Soccer for five seasons, 2014 through 2018. He coached the U.S. Men's National Team to the CONCACAF Nations League title in 2021 and 2024, the CONCACAF Gold Cup title in 2021 and the second round of the World Cup in 2022. *Coaches category.*

Roberto Ceciliano (born c1964).

Eligibility: 10 years as a U.S. Extended National Team coach.

Ceciliano was coach of the United States Men's Beach Soccer National Team for 10 years, 1999 through 2008. Ceciliano was coach of the U.S. teams at the first three FIFA Beach Soccer World Cups, in 2005, 2006 and 2007, all held in Rio de Janeiro. He also guided managed the U.S. to the title at the 2006 Concacaf Beach Soccer Championship. *Coaches category.*

Clive Charles (deceased).

Eligibility: Nomination Confirmed by Screening Committee, 2021.

A college and Olympic coach. Charles was the men's coach at the University of Portland for 17 seasons, 1986 through 2002, and the women's coach at the University of Portland for 14 seasons, 1989 through 2002. He coached Portland to an NCAA Division I women's championship in 2002 and had a career record of 439 collegiate victories, 144 defeats and 44 ties. He was coach of the United States team that reached the semifinals of the men's soccer tournament at the 2000 Olympic Games. The players he developed at Portland included Hall of Famers Kasey Keller, Shannon MacMillan, Steve Cherundolo and Tiffany Milbrett. *Coaches category.*

Gene Chyzowych (deceased).

Eligibility: A U.S. national team coach and first-division league official.

Chyzowych, who eventually became one of the most legendary of high school soccer coaches, served as president of the American Soccer League for several years in the early 1970s and coached the U.S. Men's National Team in 1973. *Coaches category.*

Eddie Firmani (born Aug. 7, 1933).

Eligibility: 10 seasons as a first-division coach.

Firmani won three North American Soccer League titles with two different teams. He was coach of the Tampa Bay Rowdies from the 1975 season to the 1977 season, the New York Cosmos from the 1977 season to the 1979 season, the Philadelphia Fury in the 1980 season, the Montreal Manic in the 1981 and 1982 seasons and the New York Cosmos again in the 1984 season. He coached the Rowdies to the NASL championship in 1975 and the Cosmos to NASL championships in 1977 and 1978. He coached the MetroStars of Major League Soccer for one season, 1996. *Coaches category.*

Jim Gabarra (born Sept. 22, 1959).

Eligibility: 12 years as a first-division coach.

Gabarra coached in all of the first 12 seasons of first-division women's soccer in the United States. In the Women's United Soccer Association, he coached the Washington Freedom in all three seasons, from 2001 to 2003. In Women's Professional Soccer, he coached Washington in the 2009 and 2010 seasons, and Sky Blue in the 2011 season. In the National Women's Soccer League, he coached Sky Blue for three seasons, 2013 through 2015, and the Washington Spirit (where he also was general manager) for three seasons, 2016 through 2018. He coached Washington to the WUSA championship in 2003. *Coaches category.*

Afshin Ghotbi (born Feb. 8, 1964).

Eligibility: 16 years as a first-division or national-team coach.

Ghotbi, an American-Iranian dual citizen, has been coach of Vancouver FC of the Canadian Premier League during three years, 2023 through 2025. He was coach of Shijiazhuang Ever Bright/Cangzhou Lions in the Chinese first division during two years, 2020 and 2021; coach of Persepolis in the Iranian first division during two years, 2007 and 2008; coach of Shimizu S-Pulse in the Japanese first division during four years, 2011 through 2014; and coach of Foolad in the Iranian first division during two years, 2018 and 2019. He was coach of the Iranian men's national team during three years, 2009 through 2011. *Coaches category.*

Jay Hoffman (born Jan. 15, 1951).

Eligibility: 15 years as a U.S. Extended National Team coach, youth national team coach or first-division coach.

Hoffman was coach of the United States Men's Cerebral Palsy National Team for 14 years, 2002 through 2014, coach of the United States team at the Under-20 World Cup in 1997, and coach of the Boston Breakers of the Women's United Soccer Association for two years, 2001 and 2002. *Coaches category.*

Gordon Jago (deceased).

Eligibility: Seven years as a first-division or national team coach.

Jago was coach of the U.S. Men's National Team during World Cup qualifying in 1969. He coached the Baltimore Bays of the North American Soccer League for two seasons, 1968 and 1969, and the Tampa Bay Rowdies of the NASL for five seasons, 1978 through 1982. He also coached English clubs Queens Park Rangers for three seasons, 1971 to 1974 and Millwall for three seasons, 1974 to 1977. He later became a leading figure in professional indoor soccer. *Coaches category.*

Dominic Kinnear (born July 26, 1967).

Eligibility: 16 years as a first-division coach.

Kinnear was coach of the San Jose Earthquakes of Major League Soccer for five seasons, 2004 through 2005 and 2015 through 2017; was coach of the Houston Dynamo of MLS for nine seasons, 2006 through 2014, and was coach of the Los Angeles Galaxy for two seasons, 2018 and 2020. He coached the Dynamo to MLS championships in 2006 and 2007 and was named MLS coach of the year in 2005. *Coaches category.*

Frank Klopas (born Sept. 1, 1966).

Eligibility: 11 years as a first-division coach or team official.

Klopas has been coach of the Chicago Fire of Major League Soccer for six seasons, 2011 through 2013, 2021, 2023 and 2024. He was technical director of the Fire for three seasons, 2008 through 2010, and coach of the Montreal Impact of MLS for two seasons, 2014 and 2015. *Coaches category.*

Jason Kreis (born Dec. 29, 1972).

Eligibility: 12 years as a first-division, Olympic coach and first-team official.

Kreis has served as President of Soccer Operations for Real Salt Lake for one season, 2026. Kreis was coach of Real Salt Lake of Major League Soccer for seven seasons, 2007 through 2013; was coach of New York City FC of MLS for one season, 2015; and was coach of Orlando City of MLS for three seasons, 2016 through 2018. He was coach of the U.S. team in men's Olympic qualifying in 2021. He coached Real Salt Lake to the MLS championship in 2009. *Coaches category.*

Jesse Marsch (born Nov. 8, 1973).

Eligibility: 22 years as a national team or first-division coach.

Marsch, an American, has been coach of the Canadian national team for three years, 2024 to 2026. He was coach of Leeds United of the English Premier League during two years, 2022 and 2023, coach of RB Leipzig of the German first division during one year, 2021, and coach of RB Salzburg of the Austrian first division during three years, 2019 through 2021. He was coach of the Montreal Impact of Major League Soccer for one season, 2012, and the New York Red Bulls of MLS for four seasons, 2015 through 2018. Under his leadership, Canada reached won its first-ever match at the World Cup and also reached the knockout round for the first time in 2026. He coached RB Salzburg to Austrian first-division titles in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons and also led New York Red Bulls to MLS Supporters Shield titles in 2015 and 2018. He was voted MLS Coach of the Year in 2015. *Coaches category.*

Pablo Mastroeni (born Aug. 29, 1976).

Eligibility: 10 years as a first-division coach.

Mastroeni has been coach of Real Salt Lake of Major League Soccer for six seasons, 2021 through 2026. He was coach of the Colorado Rapids for four seasons, 2014 through 2017. Under his leadership, Real Salt Lake qualified for the MLS Cup playoffs five straight seasons, from 2021 to 2025. *Coaches category.*

Cliff McCrath (born 1936)

Eligibility: Nomination Confirmed by Screening Committee, 2023.

McCrath's teams won 597 games during his college coaching career, which included 38 seasons at Seattle Pacific as well as earlier stints at Wheaton, Gordon and Spring Arbor. At Seattle Pacific, his teams won five NCAA Division II championships, in 1978, 1983, 1985, 1986 and 1993. In addition to his coaching achievements, he also was the color commentator for TV broadcasts of NASL Seattle Sounders games and after retiring from coaching was executive director of the National Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association for six years. *Coaches category.*

Steve Negroesco (deceased)

Eligibility: Nomination Confirmed by Selection Committee, 2023.

Negroesco's teams won 540 games and four NCAA Division I championships during his 39 years as head coach at the University of San Francisco, where he himself had played. He was the first college coach to reach 500 victories, and his total of 540 is the second best of all-time. In addition to winning NCAA titles in 1966, 1975, 1976 and 1980, his teams also reached the NCAA final in 1969 and 1977. He had 35 winning seasons at USF and also coached the San Francisco Italian AC team to the U.S. Open Cup title in 1976. *Coaches category.*

Steve Nicol (born Dec. 11, 1961).

Eligibility: 11 years as a first-division coach.

Nicol was coach of the New England Revolution of Major League Soccer for 11 seasons, 1999 and then 2002 through 2011. He was named MLS coach of the year in 2002 and coached the Revolution to the U.S. Open Cup in 2007. *Coaches category.*

Lothar Osiander (born Nov. 8, 1939).

Eligibility: Eight years as a national team, Olympic team and first-division coach.

Osiander was coach of the U.S. Men's National Team for three years, 1986 through 1988. He coached the United States men's teams in two Olympic Games, 1988 and 1992. In Major League Soccer, he was coach of the Los Angeles Galaxy for two seasons, 1996 and 1997, and the San Jose Earthquakes for two seasons, 1999 and 2000. *Coaches category.*

Duncan Othen (deceased).

Eligibility: 11 years as a first-division coach and team official.

Othen was manager of Brooklyn Hispano of the American Soccer League for 11 seasons, 1940-41 through 1950-51, including the Hispano team that won both the ASL title and the U.S. Open Cup in 1943. *Coaches category.*

Oscar Pareja (born Aug. 10, 1968).

Eligibility: 14 years as a first-division coach.

Pareja was coach of Orlando City of Major League Soccer for seven seasons, 2020 through 2026. He was coach of the Colorado Rapids of MLS for two seasons, 2012 and 2013, and was coach of FC Dallas of MLS for five seasons, 2014 through 2018. He has coached teams to the U.S. Open Cup title twice, Dallas in 2016 and Orlando in 2022, and was named MLS Coach of the Year in 2016. He also served as head coach of Liga MX side Club Tijuana for two seasons, from 2018 to 2019. *Coaches category.*

Lincoln Phillips (born July 4, 1941).

Eligibility: Nomination Confirmed by Screening Committee, 2021.

Phillips was the men's coach at Howard University for 11 seasons, 1970 through 1980, and at Virginia Commonwealth University for four seasons, 1990 through 1993. He coached Howard to the NCAA Division I men's championship in 1974, one of eight seasons that his Howard team reached the NCAA tournament and had 150 career collegiate victories. He coached the Washington Darts of the North American Soccer League in the 1970 NASL season, after having coached the Darts to the American Soccer League championship in 1969. *Coaches category.*

Caleb Porter (born Feb. 18, 1975).

Eligibility: 12 seasons as a first-division or Olympic team coach.

Porter has been coach of the New England Revolution of Major League Soccer for two seasons 2024 through 2025. He was coach of the Portland Timbers of Major League Soccer for five seasons, 2013 through 2017, and coach of the Columbus Crew of MLS for four seasons, 2019 through 2022. He was coach of the U.S. Men's Olympic team for one year, 2012. He coached the Timbers to the MLS championship in 2015 and the Crew to the MLS championship in 2020. He was named MLS coach of the year in 2013. *Coaches category.*

Thomas Rongen (born Oct. 31, 1956).

Eligibility: 10 years as first-division coach or youth national team coach.

Rongen was coach of the Tampa Bay Mutiny of Major League Soccer for one season, 1996; coach of the New England Revolution of MLS for two seasons, 1997 and 1998; coach of D.C. United of MLS for three seasons, 1999 through 2001, and coach of Chivas USA of MLS for one season, 2005. He was coach of the United States teams at the Under-20 World Cup in 2003, 2007 and 2009. He coached D.C. United to the MLS championship in 1999. *Coaches category.*

Steve Sampson (born Jan. 19, 1957).

Eligibility: 10 years as a national team or first-division coach.

Sampson became head coach of the U.S. Men's National Team in 1995 and stayed in that position through 1998. He was coach of the national team during its run to the semifinals of the 1995 Copa America, and also coached it at the 1996 and 1998 CONCACAF Gold Cups and the 1998 World Cup. Sampson, an American, was coach of the Costa Rican national team from 2002 through 2004 and coach of the Los Angeles Galaxy of Major League Soccer for three seasons, 2004 through 2006. He coached the Galaxy to both the MLS championship and the U.S. Open Cup in 2005. *Coaches category.*

Brian Schmetzer (born Aug. 18, 1962)

Eligibility: 11 years as a first-division coach.

A first-division coach. Schmetzer has been coach of the Seattle Sounders of Major League Soccer for 11 seasons, 2016 through 2026. He coached the Sounders to the MLS championship in 2016 and 2019, the CONCACAF Champions League title in 2022 and Leagues Cup in 2025. *Coaches category.*

Eddie Soto (born June 14, 1972).

Eligibility: 11 years as a U.S. Extended National Team coach.

Soto was coach of the United States Men's Beach Soccer National Team for 11 years, 2009 through 2019. Under his leadership, the U.S. qualified for the 2013 and 2019 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup and won the 2013 Concacaf Beach Soccer Championship. *Coaches category.*

Pia Sundhage (born February 13, 1960)

Eligibility: Nomination Confirmed by Screening Committee, 2025.

Sundhage, coach of the U.S. women's national team from 2008 to 2012, led the team to significant success, including reaching the 2011 Women's World Cup final and winning two Olympic gold medals. Under her guidance, the U.S. women triumphed at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, defeating Brazil 1-0, and secured another gold at the 2012 London Olympics by beating Japan 2-1. Sundhage's tenure was marked by a record of 91 wins, 6 losses, and 10 ties. She was named FIFA Women's World Coach of the Year in 2012, leaving a lasting impact on U.S. women's soccer. Since her time coaching the U.S. Women, Sundhage has since managed Sweden from 2012 to 2017, Brazil from 2019 to 2023, Switzerland from 2024 to 2025 and began a tenure as head coach of the Haiti Women's National Team in 2026. *Coaches category.*

Keith Tozer (born April 4, 1957).

Eligibility: 15 years as a U.S. Extended National Team coach.

Tozer was coach of the U.S. Men's Futsal National Team for 15 years, 1996, 1998 through 2000, 2002 through 2004, 2007 and 2008 and 2011 through 2016. Under his leadership, the U.S. qualified for the 2004 and 2008 FIFA Futsal World Cups and won the 2004 Concacaf Futsal Championship. He was a leading coach in professional indoor leagues for 30 years. *Coaches category.*

Greg Vanney (born June 11, 1974).

Eligibility: 13 years as a first-division coach or team official.

Vanney has been coach of the Los Angeles Galaxy of Major League Soccer for six seasons, 2021 through 2026. He was coach of Toronto FC of MLS for seven seasons, 2014 through 2020 and sporting director of the Galaxy for one season, 2023. He has coached two teams to the MLS championship, winning with Toronto FC in 2017 and LA Galaxy in 2024 and was named both MLS coach of the year and CONCACAF men's coach of the year in 2017. *Coaches category.*

David Wagner (born Oct. 19, 1971).

Eligibility: 10 years as a first-division coach.

Wagner, an American-German dual citizen, was coach of Huddersfield Town of the English Premier League during five years, 2015 through 2019, coach of Schalke 04 of the German first division during three years, 2019 through 2021, coach of Young Boys Berne of the Swiss first division during two years, 2021 and 2022, and coach of Norwich City of the English second division during two years, 2023 and 2024. *Coaches category.*

Frank Yallop (born April 4, 1964).

Eligibility: 15 years as a first-division coach.

A first-division coach. Yallop was coach of the San Jose Earthquakes of Major League Soccer for nine seasons, 2001 through 2003 and 2008 through 2013; the Los Angeles Galaxy for two seasons, 2006 and 2007, and the Chicago Fire for two seasons, 2014 and 2015. He coached San Jose to the MLS championship in 2001 and 2003 and was named the MLS coach of the year in 2001 and 2012. He was coach of the Canadian national team in 2004 and 2005. *Coaches category.*

