



2027 Veterans Hall of Fame Eligibility List

2027 Veteran Semifinal Ballot List

Each Screener will select up to 10 names from this list who they would like to see appear on the 10-person Veteran Final Ballot.

2027 Veteran Semifinal Ballot

Aldo Balsano *	Lori Henry	Steve Ralston
David Beckham	Keith Johnson *	Tiffany Roberts
Chico Borja	Kevin Hartman	Homare Sawa
Sean Bowers	Clint Mathis	Tatu
Ken Cooper Sr. ^	Shep Messing	Aly Wagner
Lorrie Fair	Heather Mitts	
Francis Farberoff	Victor Nogueira	

2027 Veteran Eligibility List Biographies

These capsule biographies include both information about the achievements that enabled these candidates to meet the eligibility criteria and other information about their careers. The statement of how he or she met the Hall of Fame eligibility criteria appears in italics after the name.

This list has been broken into three sections. The purpose of doing this is to assist voters and not to indicate different levels of eligibility. All candidates in all sections are equally eligible. The three sections are:

1. Candidates who are appearing on the Veterans Eligibility List for the first time.
2. Previously-sunsetted candidates restored to the Veterans Eligibility List via appeal.
3. Candidates who have been on the Veterans Eligibility List in previous year.

***The following candidates are appearing on the Veterans Eligibility List for the first time.**

Aldo Balsano

Eligibility: 31 games for the U.S. Men's Beach Soccer National Team

A goalkeeper, Balsano appeared in 31 matches and scored one goal for the U.S. Men's Beach Soccer National Team between 2013 and 2016. Over his three-year sand career, Balsano split time with various goalkeepers. He made the 2014 Intercontinental Beach Soccer Cup roster - scoring his lone goal in the second match against Japan. The following year, he represented the USA at the 2015 Concacaf Beach Soccer Championship in El Salvador, before tying for the team lead with 14 appearances during his final year in 2016.

Keith Johnson

Eligibility: 101 games for the U.S. Men's Cerebral Palsy National Team.

A goalkeeper for the United States at the 2004 and 2012 Paralympics. Born with cerebral palsy, Johnson joined the U.S. team in 2003 and earned 101 caps during his 14-year career. Famous among experienced players for his hard-nosed play in practice and competition, he was a member of the bronze-medal-winning team at the 2012 World Cup in Manchester, England.

^The following previously-sunsetted candidates have been restored to the Veterans Eligibility List via appeal.

Ken Cooper Sr.

Eligibility: 10 seasons in the North American Soccer League, with one NASL championship and two all-NASL selections.

A goalkeeper who starred for the Dallas Tornado for a decade. Cooper played in the NASL from the 1970 season through the 1979 season, all for the Dallas Tornado, and won an NASL title with the Tornado in 1971. He was a first-team NASL all-star selection in 1972 and 1973.

The following candidates have been on the Veterans Eligibility List in previous years.

David Beckham

Eligibility: Six seasons in Major League Soccer, with one Best XI selection.

A midfielder who brought great publicity, along with some controversy, to American soccer during his time in MLS. Beckham played six seasons in MLS, all of them for the Los Angeles Galaxy, and helped his team to MLS championships in the last two of those seasons, 2011 and 2012. He earlier had been a member of the Los Angeles team that lost in the MLS title game in 2009. He was chosen to the MLS postseason Best XI in 2011. Beckham, a star of the English national team, was one of the most famous players in the world when he signed with the Galaxy in 2007. His arrival in the league, and the publicity that came with it, was a factor in increasing MLS crowds. Prior to joining the Galaxy, he had won league championships with Manchester United in England and Real Madrid in Spain. In the one season he played after leaving the Galaxy, he won a league title with Paris St.-Germain in France. He played 98 MLS regular-season games and 17 MLS playoff games.

Chico Borja

Eligibility: Eight seasons in the Major Indoor Soccer League during the qualifying period (1984-92), with one all-MISL selection in that period, and 11 games for the U.S. Men's National Team (prior to 1990).

A midfielder who starred in both the North American Soccer League and the Major Indoor Soccer League. Borja, who was born in Ecuador, played four seasons in the NASL between 1981 and 1984, for New York and Team America. He was named to the NASL's North American all-star team in 1984 and won an NASL title in 1982 with the New York Cosmos. He played eight seasons in the MISL during the period when there was no first-division outdoor league in the United States, for Las Vegas, Wichita and Los Angeles. He was a first-team all-MISL selection in 1989, when he was with the Wichita Wings. Borja's 11 full internationals for the United States included five World Cup qualifiers in 1984, 1985 and 1988. He also was a member of the United States team at the 1984 Olympic Games. Borja was also a member of the U.S. Men's Futsal National Team from 1992 to 1995, helping the team to a runner-up finish at the 1992 FIFA Futsal World Championship. He finished his futsal career with seven goals in 11 caps.

Sean Bowers

Eligibility: 35 games for the U.S. Men's Futsal National Team.

A defender who captained the United States team in two Futsal World Cups. Bowers holds the record for caps in the U.S. futsal team, with his 35 surpassing the record of 30 long held by Jim Gabarra. In the course of earning those caps, he was captain of the United States teams at the 1996 Futsal World Cup in Spain and the 2004 Futsal World Cup in Taiwan. Bowers played professional indoor soccer from 1991 to 2010 with five different teams in various leagues. He also played four seasons of first-division outdoor soccer with the Kansas City Wizards of Major League Soccer. He played 116 games in his MLS career.

Lorrie Fair

Eligibility: 120 games for the U.S. Women's National Team.

A midfielder who was a member of the United States team that won the 1999 Women's World Cup. Fair played 120 full internationals for the United States, the first against Norway in February 1996 and the last against Iceland in July 2005. Those 120 games included four World Cup qualifiers in 2002, four in the 1999 World Cup and five in the 2000 Olympic Games. Fair played all three Women's United Soccer Association seasons for Philadelphia, plus the WUSA festivals in 2004. After the end of WUSA, she played two seasons in the WPSL, two in the French first division and one in the English first division.

Francis Farberoff

Eligibility: 61 games for the U.S. Men's Beach Soccer National Team during the modern era (2005-present), and over 100 combined matches representing the U.S. Men's Beach Soccer National Team.

A defender who collected over 100 combined appearances for the U.S. Men's Beach Soccer National Team both before and during U.S. Soccer's administration of the Beach MNT. Farberoff has had one of the most decorated Beach Soccer careers among anyone to wear a U.S. jersey on sand. Although the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup has been played since 2005, the game began more than 10 years earlier on the beaches of Brazil. Farberoff was a member of the USA team that competed at the 2000 Beach Soccer World Championships in Brazil - the sixth edition of the world's elite tournament - making his debut on Feb 10, 2000 in a 6-4 win over Uruguay. He also represented the USA at the 2001, 2003 and 2004 World Championships - scoring four goals - and then continued reaching the pinnacle tournament under the U.S. Soccer Federation crest at the 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2013 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cups, scoring twice more at the top competition. Prior to the sport falling under USSF, Farberoff appeared in over 40 international matches for the USA. And since the sport fell under FIFA in 2005, he appeared and served as captained in nearly all of his 61 modern-era games. Primarily playing on the defensive side of midfield, Farberoff came up with big goals time again. Of his 18 goals since 2005, he scored 11 in 30 World Cup qualifying matches and twice at the World Cup. Since his last match in 2014, Farberoff also served as the team's assistant coach through the 2019 World Cup, and was the team's head coach at the 2021 and 2024 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cups.

Lori Henry

Eligibility: 39 games for the U.S. Women's National Team.

A defender who played in two landmark teams in American women's soccer history. In 1985, Henry was a member of the first women's national team organized by the U.S. Soccer Federation, for a tournament in Jesolo, Italy, and started all four games in that tournament. In 1991, she played in the first Women's World Cup in China, and was the only player from that 1985 first USWNT game to do so. Henry played two games in that 1991 Women's World Cup, which the United States won. In between those two tournaments, she played another 33 games for the United States, scoring three goals in those games, and served as captain of the team for three years. In all, she started each of the first 28 games ever played by the U.S. Women's National Team.

Kevin Hartman

Eligibility: 16 seasons in Major League Soccer, with one Best XI selection.

A goalkeeper who was one of the leading stars of MLS for more than a decade and retired as the all-time leader in first-division appearances in American soccer. Hartman played 16 seasons in MLS between 1997 and 2012 for Los Angeles, Kansas City and Dallas, appearing in a total of 465 MLS games, 416 in the regular season and 49 in the playoffs. At the time that he retired, only one active player was within 100 appearances of Hartman's total. Hartman won a string of championships during his seasons with the L.A. Galaxy, the MLS title in 2002 and 2005, the U.S. Open Cup in 2001 and 2005 and the CONCACAF Champions Cup in 2001. In all, he played in the MLS final five times, being on the losing side with Los Angeles in 1999 and 2001 and with Dallas in 2010. He also won individual honors, being named to the MLS postseason Best XI in 1999 and the MLS Goalkeeper of the Year in 1999 and 2010. He played five full internationals for the United States between 1999 and 2006.

Clint Mathis

Eligibility: 12 seasons in Major League Soccer, with one Best XI selection, and 46 games for the U.S. Men's National Team.

A midfielder who played 12 seasons in MLS and played in the 2002 World Cup. Mathis played in MLS from 1998 to 2010, for Los Angeles, New York, Salt Lake and Colorado. He was chosen to the MLS Best XI in 2000, won an MLS title in 2009 with Salt Lake and played in 258 MLS regular-season games and 29 MLS playoff games. He holds the MLS record for goals in a single game with five, for the MetroStars against Dallas in 2000. Mathis played 46 full internationals for the United States between 1998 and 2005, including seven World Cup qualifiers in 2000, 2001 and 2004 and three World Cup games in 2002. The 12 goals that he scored in those 46 games included a crucial one against South Korea in the 2002 World Cup, when the United States reached the quarterfinals. He also played for the United States at the 2002 CONCACAF Gold Cup and the 2003 Confederations Cup. In addition to his MLS years, Mathis also played two seasons in the German first division and one season in the Greek first division.

Shep Messing

Eligibility: Seven seasons in the North American Soccer League, with one NASL championship.

A goalkeeper who starred in both the NASL and the Major Indoor Soccer League. Messing played seven seasons in the NASL, for the New York Cosmos, Boston Minutemen, Oakland Stompers and Rochester Lancers. He won an NASL title in 1977, making a crucial save near the end of the final that preserved the Cosmos' win over Seattle. During his NASL career, he played 119 regular-season games and nine playoff games. He played eight seasons in the MISL, for the New York Arrows, New York Cosmos, New York Express and Pittsburgh Spirit, winning four MISL championships with the Arrows, in 1979, 1980, 1981 and 1982. He was named to the all-MISL first team in 1979, 1980 and 1981, and played 182 MISL regular-season games and 20 MISL playoff games. Messing played for the United States in the 1972 Olympic Games in Germany. He was a colorful player who succeeded in attracting considerable attention to soccer with off-the-field activities, and wrote an autobiographical book, *The Education of an American Soccer Player*, that told much of life as a pro soccer player.

Heather Mitts

Eligibility: 137 games for the U.S. Women's National Team.

A defender who won three Olympic gold medals with the U.S. national team. Mitts played 137 full internationals for the United States, the first against Finland in 1999 and the last against China in 2012. Those included seven World Cup qualifiers in 2006 and 2010 and nine games at the 2004, 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games. Injuries kept her out of the World Cup early in her career, but she was a member of the United States squad at the 2011 Women's World Cup. She played three seasons in the Women's United Soccer Association between 2001 and 2003, all for the Philadelphia Charge, and three seasons in Women's Professional Soccer between 2009 and 2011, for the Boston Breakers, Philadelphia Independence and Atlanta Beat. During her WUSA/WPS career, she played 94 regular-season games and five playoff games.

Victor Nogueira

Eligibility: Five seasons in the North American Soccer League, with one league championship, and eight seasons in the Major Indoor Soccer League during the qualifying period (1984-92), with three all-league selections in that period.

A goalkeeper who starred in the NASL and then continued playing indoors for two decades afterward. Nogueira, who was born in Mozambique, broke into the NASL in 1979 with the Atlanta Chiefs. He won his only NASL championship in 1984, the league's final season, with the Chicago Sting. During his six-season NASL career, in which he also played for the Montreal Manic, he played 79 regular-season games and eight playoff games. Nogueira played in the MISL from the 1982-83 season through the 1991-92 season, for the Chicago Sting, Cleveland Force and San Diego Sockers, and the National Professional Soccer League from the 1993-93 season through the 2002-2003 season, all for the Milwaukee Wave. He was a first-team all-MISL selection in 1989, 1991 and 1992, and a first-team all-NPSL selection in 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003. He was the MISL most valuable player in 1991 and 1992, and the NPSL most valuable player in 1996 and 1998. He won MISL championships in 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992 with San Diego, and NPSL championships in 1998, 2000 and 2001 with Milwaukee. Nogueira played 16 games for the U.S. national futsal team between 1992 and 2000.

Steve Ralston

Eligibility: 14 seasons in Major League Soccer, with three Best XI selections, and 36 games for the U.S. Men's National Team.

A midfielder who was one of the leading stars in MLS throughout his long career. In 2008, Ralston became the all-time leader in games played in United States first-division leagues, although he no longer holds that position. He retired from MLS the following year after having played 411 MLS games. Ralston played 14 seasons in MLS, six with Tampa Bay and eight with New England, was named to the MLS Best XI in 1999, 2000 and 2002 and retired as MLS' all-time assist leader. He won a U.S. Open Cup with New England in 2007 and was a member of all four New England teams that reached the MLS final. After retiring from MLS, he played one season in the USSF second division. Ralston played 36 full internationals for the United States between 1997 and 2007, including eight World Cup qualifiers in 2004 and 2005. He was a member of the United States teams that won the CONCACAF Gold Cup in 2005 and 2007.

Tiffany Roberts

Eligibility: 109 games for the U.S. Women's National Team.

A midfielder who played for the United States in two World Cups and one Olympic Games. Roberts played 109 full internationals for the United States, the first against Portugal in March 1994 and the last against New Zealand in October 2004. Those caps included nine in World Cup qualifiers in 1994 and 2002, five in the 1995 Women's World Cup, two in the 1999 Women's World Cup and five in the 1996 Olympic Games. Roberts played three Women's United Soccer Association seasons, all for Carolina. She was a second-team WUSA all-star in 2003 and a WUSA champion in 2002 with Carolina. In addition to her WUSA seasons, in which she played 58 regular-season games and two playoff games, she also played one season in the WPSL and one season in the W-League.

Homare Sawa

Eligibility: Three seasons in the Women's United Soccer Association, with two all-WUSA selections, and two seasons in Women's Professional Soccer.

A Japanese midfielder who was among the leading foreign stars in both the WUSA and WPS. Sawa, who played for Japan in six Women's World Cups, played all three seasons of the WUSA, all for Atlanta, and the 2009 and 2010 WPS seasons, both for Washington. She was chosen to the WUSA's post-season all-star team in both 2002 and 2003. During those five seasons, she played 103 games and scored 19 goals. After her final season in American pro soccer, Sawa continued playing in both the Japanese women's national team and the Japanese women's first division for an additional five years. She was captain of the Japan team that won the Women's World Cup in 2011.

Tatu

Eligibility: Eight seasons in the Major Indoor Soccer League during the qualifying period (1984-92), with three all-league selections in that period.

A forward who won the MISL's most valuable player award twice. Tatu, played in the MISL from the 1984-85 season through the 1991-92 season, all for the Dallas Sidekicks. He was a first-team all-MISL selection in 1987, 1990, 1991 and 1992, the MISL most valuable player in 1987 and 1990, and the MISL scoring leader in 1987, 1990 and 1991. He won an MISL championship in 1987 with Dallas. Tatu, whose real name is Antonio Carlos Pecorari, also played three outdoor seasons in the North American Soccer League for the Tampa Bay Rowdies, scoring 24 goals in those seasons. He played more than 10 seasons in several other indoor leagues, the National Professional Soccer League, the Continental Indoor Soccer League, the World Soccer League, the NASL indoor league and the second incarnation of the MISL. Four of those seasons were in the CISL, where he was the most valuable player three times.

Aly Wagner

Eligibility: 131 games for the U.S. Women's National Team.

A midfielder who played in two Women's World Cups and two Olympic Games for the United States. Wagner played 131 full internationals for the United States, the first against Ukraine in 1998 and the last against South Korea in 2008. In between, she played seven World Cup qualifiers in 2002 and 2006, five World Cup games in 2003 and 2007, and five Olympic games in 2004 and 2008, winning Olympic gold medals in 2004 and 2008. She played one season in the Women's United Soccer Association, 2003, with the San Diego Spirit, and one season in Women's Professional Soccer, 2009, with the Los Angeles Sol, plus one season in the French first division and two seasons in the WPSL. She was a WUSA second-team all-star in 2003 and a runner-up for the WPS title in 2009.