



NATIONAL SOCCER HALL OF FAME

2023 Builder Screening List

The 2023 Builder Election will only consider coaches. This list includes all coaches 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.

2023 Builder Nominee List – Coaches

Cliff McCrath
Steve Negroesco

2023 Builder Eligibility List - Coaches

Roberto Ceciliano
Clive Charles
Gene Chyzowych
Jill Ellis
Eddie Firmani
Jim Gabarra
Afshin Ghotbi
Jay Hoffman
Gordon Jago
Dominic Kinnear
Jason Kreis
Steve Nicol
Lothar Osiander
Duncan Othen
Oscar Pareja
Lincoln Phillips
Thomas Rongen
Steve Sampson
Eddie Soto
Keith Tozer
Frank Yallop



NATIONAL SOCCER HALL OF FAME

2023 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 2023. 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. The 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 2023 election, this means that living candidates must have been born before Jan. 1, 1973) 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. A few 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.

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 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 2023 Builders election is limited to coaches only.

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, and persons on the suspended lists of FIFA, CONCACAF, the USSF the IOC, the NCAA or the USOC are not eligible.

2023 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 2023 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.

2023 Builder Nominee List Biographies

Cliff McCrath (born February 3, 1936)

Cliff McCrath is an icon of soccer in Seattle. His nearly four decades as the men's soccer coach at Seattle Pacific University has been supplemented by official roles, such as serving as color commentator for broadcasts of NASL Seattle Sounders games, and unofficial ones, such as crawling nearly three miles to celebrate a championship (and gain a lot of publicity for soccer). McCrath's teams won 597 games during his college coaching career, which included 38 seasons at Seattle Pacific and 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 (the first of those was the one that inspired the event known as The Crawl). Division II soccer was not an easy sell in a city as busy with professional football, baseball and basketball as Seattle, but McCrath eagerly filled the role of a supersalesman for the sport, and has been described as instrumental in helping soccer to gain a foothold in Seattle in the 1970s. As a result of his efforts, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer newspaper named him as "Seattle Sports Star of the Year" in 1986. McCrath is an iconic figure at the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (now renamed the United Soccer Coaches) as well as in Seattle. He was named the NSCAA's National Coach of the Year in 1978, received the NSCAA Honor Award (that organization's highest award) in 1985 and was named to the NSCAA Hall of Fame in 2009. For many decades, he was known for his humorous and sometimes acerbic monologues introducing each year's Honor Award winner. After retiring from coaching in 2009, McCrath served for six years as executive director of the National Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association.

Steve Negoesco (deceased)

Steve Negoesco is one of the most legendary coaches in the history of college soccer. During his 39 years as head coach at the University of San Francisco, where he himself had played, Negoesco's teams won 540 games and four NCAA Division I championships. Negoesco was the first college coach to reach 500 victories, and his 540 wins have been exceeded by only one other Division I men's coach, Jerry Yeagley of Indiana. Only three other coaches have exceeded the four NCAA Division I titles that Negoesco won in 1966, 1975, 1976 and 1980. (They are Yeagley, Bob Guelker of St. Louis and Bruce Arena of Virginia, all of whom are in the Hall of Fame.) Under Negoesco, San Francisco also was runnerup for the NCAA title in 1969 and 1977. Negoesco's best stretch at USF probably was the 1975-to-1980 period in which his teams won at least 20 games for six consecutive seasons and reached the NCAA Division I title game five times. During his 39 years at USF, Negoesco had 35 winning seasons. Although the majority of his coaching was at the college level, Negoesco also was the coach of the San Francisco Italian AC team for more than a dozen years, and coached that team to the U.S. Open Cup title in 1976. Negoesco was born in New Jersey, moved to Romania with his father as a child, was detained by the Nazis during World War II because he was an American citizen, returned to the United States for college and remained here for the rest of his life. He died in 2019 at the age of 93.

2023 Builder Eligibility List Biographies

Roberto Ceciliano (born c1964).

An extended national team coach. Ceciliano was coach of the United States men's national beach soccer 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. *Coaches category.*

Clive Charles (deceased).

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 and Tiffany Milbrett. *Coaches category.*

Gene Chyzowych (deceased).

A U.S. national team coach and an American Soccer League official. Chyzowych, who eventually became one of the most legendary of high school soccer coaches, served as president of the ASL for several years in the early 1970s and coached the U.S. national team in 1973. *Coaches category.*

Jill Ellis (born Sept. 6, 1966).

A U.S. national team coach, U.S. youth national team coach, U.S. Soccer Federation official and first-division team official. Ellis was coach of the U.S. women's national team for seven years, 2012 and 2014 through 2019, including coaching the U.S. team to Women's World Cup titles in 2015 and 2019. She was Women's Development Director of the USSF for six years, 2011 through 2014, 2020 and 2021. She was coach of the U.S. team at the Under-20 Women's World Cup in 2010. She has been president of the San Diego Wave of the National Women's Soccer League for one season, 2022. She was named CONCACAF women's coach of the year in 2015 and FIFA women's coach of the year in 2015 and 2019. *Coaches category.*

Eddie Firmani (born Aug. 7, 1933).

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).

A first-division coach and team official. 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. 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).

A national team and first-division coach. Ghotbi, an American-Iranian dual citizen, was coach of Shijiazhuang Ever Bright/Cangzhou Lions in the Chinese first division for two seasons, 2020 and 2021;

coach of Persepolis in the Iranian first division for one season, 2007-08; coach of Shimizu S-Pulse in the Japanese first division for four seasons, 2011 through 2014; and coach of Foolad in the Iranian first division for one season, 2018-19. He was coach of the Iranian men's national team for three years, 2009 through 2011; *Coaches category*.

Jay Hoffman (born Jan. 15, 1951).

An extended national team, youth national team and first-division coach. Hoffman was coach of the United States 7-a-side Paralympic team for 14 years, 2002 through 2014, coach of the United States team at the Under-17 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 (born Oct. 22, 1932).

A U.S. national team and first-division coach. Jago was coach of the U.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 later became a leading figure in professional indoor soccer. *Coaches category*.

Dominic Kinnear (born July 26, 1967).

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, from 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*.

Jason Kreis (born Dec. 29, 1972).

A first-division and Olympic coach. 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*.

Steve Nicol (born Dec. 11, 1961).

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).

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).

An American Soccer League coach and team official. Othen was manager of Brooklyn Hispano for 11 seasons, 1940 through 1951, including the team that won both the ASL title and the U.S. Open Cup in 1943. *Coaches category*.

Oscar Pareja (born Aug. 10, 1968).

A first-division coach. Pareja has been coach of Orlando City of Major League Soccer for three seasons, 2020 through 2022. 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 coached FC Dallas to the U.S. Open Cup championship in 2016, and was named MLS Coach of the Year in 2016. *Coaches category.*

Lincoln Phillips (born July 4, 1941).

A college and first-division coach. 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.*

Thomas Rongen (born Oct. 31, 1956).

A first-division coach and youth national team coach. Rongen was coach of the Tampa Bay Mutiny of Major League Soccer for one season, 1996; the New England Revolution of MLS for two seasons, 1997 and 1998; D.C. United of MLS for three seasons, 1999 through 2001, and 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).

A national team and 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. He 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.*

Eddie Soto (born June 14, 1972).

An extended national team coach. Soto was coach of the United States men's national beach soccer team for 11 years, 2009 through 2019. *Coaches category.*

Keith Tozer (born April 4, 1957).

An extended national team coach. Tozer was coach of the U.S. national futsal team for 15 years, 1996, 1998 through 2000, 2002 through 2004, 2007 and 2008 and 2011 through 2016. Tozer is the winningest head coach in indoor soccer history with more than 700 wins and six championships. He is currently entering his second year as Commissioner of the Major Arena Soccer League. *Coaches category.*

Frank Yallop (born April 4, 1964).

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.*