



# NATIONAL SOCCER HALL OF FAME

## 2021 Player Eligibility List

Each Screener will submit a ranked list of 20 names (1 = most deserving) selected from the list below as their preliminary ballot.

## 2021 Player Eligibility List

Chris Ahrens  
John Ball  
Jamar Beasley  
David Beckham  
Gregg Berhalter  
Victor Bernardez  
Bobby Boswell  
Shannon Boxx  
Jon Busch  
Lori Chalupny  
Lauren Cheney Holiday  
Steve Cherundolo  
Brian Ching  
Kenny Cooper  
Jeff Cunningham  
Brad Davis  
Maurice Edu  
Kevin Hartman  
Frankie Hejduk  
Thierry Henry  
Stuart Holden

Eddie Johnson  
Keith Johnson  
Shalrie Joseph  
Sebastien LeToux  
Lori Lindsey  
Pablo Mastroeni  
Josh McKinney  
Heather Mitts  
Javier Morales  
Pat Morris  
Oguchi Onyewu  
Christie Pearce  
Cat Reddick Whitehill  
Carlos Ruiz  
Gavin Sibayan  
Hope Solo  
Matt Stewart  
Brittany Taylor  
Aly Wagner  
Josh Wolff



### **2021 Players Eligibility List Overview**

This is the list of individuals eligible in the election that will choose Players to be inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame in 2021. 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.

**Criteria:** To be eligible for the National Soccer Hall of Fame Player Ballot, an individual must have met No. 1 and either No. 2 or No. 3:

1. A player must have been retired<sup>^</sup> for at least three full calendar years, but for no more than 10 full calendar years, prior to the year of induction.
2. A player must have played at least 20 full international games for the United States Men's National Team, Women's National Team or Extended National Team (Paralympic, Beach & Futsal).
3. A player must have played at least five seasons in a United States first division professional league\* and been a postseason league all-star at least once. (Best XI)

Unless subject to the Sunset Rule, players can appear on the Player Eligibility List up to seven years (Years 4 through 10 after retirement). In the 11<sup>th</sup> year after retirement, Players move to the Veteran Eligibility List.

**The Sunset Rule:** A player will be removed (sunset) from the Player Eligibility List if they do not receive any Screening Committee during the Preliminary Ballot. In order to remain on the Player Eligibility List, a player must appear on the ranked list of at least one member of the Screening Committee. Players that are 'sunset' from the Player Ballot regain eligibility in the 11<sup>th</sup> year after retirement when they can be considered for election as Veterans.

\* Since 1968, the United States' first-division professional leagues are: Major League Soccer (MLS), Women's United Soccer Association (WUSA), Women's Professional Soccer (WPS), National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) and the original North American Soccer League (NASL). Prior to 1968, the leagues recognized at this level are: American Soccer League, the North American Soccer Football League, the German-American Soccer League of New York, the National Soccer League of Chicago, the St. Louis Soccer League, the Keystone League of Western Pennsylvania, the Greater Los Angeles Soccer League, the San Francisco Soccer League and the National Association Foot Ball League.

<sup>^</sup> Retirement year is defined as the year in which a player last appeared in a match. For United States National Team eligible players, a match can be with any professional or semiprofessional team in the United States or abroad, including official non-league events such as the U.S. Open Cup and the CONCACAF Champions League. If the player is not eligible to play for the United States, he or she is considered to be retired for purposes of this list on departing from American professional soccer, unless he or she continues playing professional soccer in another country at a level ruled by the Hall of Fame's historians to be equivalent to or better than the top American leagues.

## **2021 Player 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 compiled by Hall of Fame historians. The statement of how each player met the Hall of Fame eligibility criteria appears in italics below the name.*

*Player biographies are grouped by the year that they "last played" which serves as the retirement year for the purpose of Hall of Fame record keeping. "Last year of eligibility" refers only to eligibility for the Player Ballot. After a candidate's eligibility via the Players Eligibility List expires, they will be moved to the Veterans Eligibility List. Players newly eligible in 2020 due to changes in the eligibility standards are listed at the end of this list under their own subheading.*

### **LAST PLAYED IN 2011 (Final Year of Player Ballot Eligibility)**

#### **Gregg Berhalter**

*Eligibility Criteria: 44 appearances for the U.S. Men's National Team*

A defender who played for the United States in two famous cup runs, at the 1999 Confederations Cup and the 2002 World Cup. Berhalter played 44 full internationals for the United States between 1994 and 2006, including games against Mexico and Germany at the 2002 World Cup and games against Brazil, Mexico and Saudi Arabia at the 1999 Confederations Cup. It was Berhalter's header that was controversially kept out of the net by a German defender's arm in the 2002 World Cup quarterfinals. Berhalter's 44 caps included 14 World Cup qualifiers in 2000, 2001 and 2004, and he was a member of the United States teams at the 2006 World Cup and the 2003 Confederations Cup. Berhalter's three seasons in MLS, all with the Los Angeles Galaxy, came at the end of a club career that was spent mostly in Europe. Earlier, he had played seven seasons in Germany, six in Holland and one in England, mostly at the second-division level. He was team captain at both Energie Cottbus and Munich 1860, leading Cottbus to promotion in the 2005-06 season. He played 52 MLS regular-season games and five MLS playoff games.

#### **Frankie Hejduk**

*Eligibility Criteria: 85 appearances for the U.S. Men's National Team*

A defender who was a key man in the United States' run at the 2002 World Cup and also had a long career in MLS. Hejduk played 85 full internationals for the United States, the first against El Salvador in 1996 and the last against Denmark in 2009. He started four of the United States' five games at the 2002 World Cup, missing one game because of a yellow-card suspension. He also played in three games at the 1998 World Cup and 26 World Cup qualifiers in 1996, 2000, 2004, 2005, 2008 and 2009. In addition to those two World Cups, he was a member of the United States teams at the 1996 and 2000 Olympic Games and the 1999 and 2003 Confederations Cups. He was a regular in the United States teams that won the 2002, 2005 and 2007 CONCACAF Gold Cups, playing in both finals and missing the third due to card suspension. Hejduk played 12 seasons in MLS between 1996 and 2011, for Tampa Bay, Columbus and Los Angeles, playing a total of 203 MLS regular-season games and 17 MLS playoff games. He was the captain of the Columbus team that won the MLS championship in 2008, and also was a runner-up in the U.S. Open Cup with Columbus in 2010. In between his two stretches in MLS, he played four seasons in the German first division and one season in the Swiss first division.

## **LAST PLAYED IN 2012 (2022 Election is final year of Player Ballot eligibility)**

### **Jeff Cunningham**

*Eligibility Criteria: 14 MLS Seasons with 3 Best XI Selections*

A forward who was among the all-time leading goal scorers in Major League Soccer. Cunningham played 14 seasons in MLS between 1998 and 2011 for Columbus, Salt Lake, Toronto and Dallas. When he retired, he held the MLS career record for regular-season goals, with 134. He also scored five playoff goals. He was chosen to the MLS Best XI in 2002, 2006 and 2009, and was the league's leading scorer in the last two of those seasons. He won a U.S. Open Cup championship in 2002 with Columbus and was MLS runner-up in 2010 with Dallas. The Jamaican-born forward played 12 full internationals for the United States between 2001 and 2010, including two World Cup qualifiers in 2005, and was a member of the United States team at the 2003 Confederations Cup. After retiring from MLS, he played one season in the Guatemalan first division and one season in the NASL II.

### **Heather Mitts**

*Eligibility Criteria: 137 appearances 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 WUSA between 2001 and 2003, all for Philadelphia, and three seasons in WPS between 2009 and 2011, for Boston, Philadelphia and Atlanta. During her WUSA/WPS career, she played 94 regular-season games and five playoff games.

### **Aly Wagner**

*Eligibility Criteria: 131 appearances 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 WUSA season, 2003, with San Diego and one WPS season, 2009, with Los Angeles, 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.

### **Josh Wolff**

*Eligibility Criteria: 52 appearances for U.S. Men's National Team*

A forward who played in two World Cups and for 14 seasons in MLS. Wolf played 52 full internationals for the United States between 1999 and 2008, including 10 World Cup qualifiers in 2000, 2001, 2004 and 2005, and three World Cup games in 2002 and 2006. He also was a member of the U.S. teams that won the CONCACAF Gold Cup in 2002 and 2005 and reached the semifinals of the 2000 Olympic Games. Perhaps his two most famous moments in a U.S. team came against Mexico, a breakaway goal in a 2001 World Cup qualifier and the pass that produced a goal by Brian McBride at the 2002 World Cup. He played in MLS from 1998 to 2012, for Chicago, Kansas City and D.C., winning an MLS championship in 1998 with Chicago and U.S. Open Cups in 1998 and 2000 with Chicago and 2004 with Kansas City. He also played two seasons in the German second division. He played 267 MLS regular-season games and 14 MLS playoff games.

## **LAST PLAYED IN 2013** (2023 Election is final year of Player Ballot Eligibility)

### **David Beckham**

*Eligibility Criteria: 6 MLS Seasons with 1 Best XI Selection*

An English 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 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.

### **Steve Cherundolo**

*Eligibility Criteria: 87 appearances for U.S. Men's National Team*

A defender who was honored as one of the U.S. national team's all-time greats and was among the best of the many American players to star in Europe. Cherundolo, who was elected in 2013 as the right back on the U.S. men's national team All-Time Best XI, played 87 full internationals for the United States between 1999 and 2012. Those included 26 World Cup qualifiers in 2001, 2004, 2005, 2008, 2009 and 2012, and seven World Cup games in 2006 and 2010. In 2010, he played every minute of all four of the United States' games at the World Cup. In addition to playing in the 2006 and 2010 World Cups, he also was a member of the United States squad at the 2002 World Cup. Perhaps Cherundolo's greatest moment in a U.S. uniform came in the United States' game against Slovenia in the 2010 World Cup, when his long through pass down the right-side sprung Landon Donovan loose on his way to scoring a key goal. Usually, however, he was a stay-at-home defender, who scored only two goals in his 87 games for the United States and only seven in his 15 years with Hannover. His value to the USMNT may have been displayed most sharply at the 2011 CONCACAF Gold Cup final against Mexico, when the U.S. lost, 4-2, after having led by 2-0 when Cherundolo had to be replaced because of an injury. Cherundolo played 15 seasons in German professional leagues, all of them for Hannover 96, between 1999 and 2013. The last 12 of those seasons were in the first division, after he helped Hannover to gain promotion in the 2001-02 season. At the time of his retirement, he was the longest-serving player in the Bundesliga, and was Hannover's all-time leader in Bundesliga appearances with 302. During his last four seasons with Hannover, he was the main captain of the team, a role that caused him to be nicknamed "The Mayor of Hannover" by American fans.

### **Brian Ching**

*Eligibility Criteria: 45 appearances for U.S. Men's National Team; AND 12 MLS Seasons with 1 MLS Best XI Selection*

A forward who scored 90 goals in MLS and 11 for the U.S. national team. Ching played 12 MLS seasons between 2001 and 2013 for Los Angeles, San Jose and Houston, winning an MLS title in 2006 with Houston and being chosen to the MLS Best XI in 2004. His MLS goals included 82 in regular-season play and eight in the playoffs. He played 45 full internationals for the United States between 2003 and 2010, including 17 World Cup qualifiers in 2004, 2005, 2008 and 2009, and was a member of the United States team at the 2006 World Cup. His achievements for the United States also included winning a CONCACAF Gold Cup championship in 2007. Ching also played one season in the A-League and was a

runner-up for the MLS title in 2011 and 2012 with Houston. He played 229 MLS regular-season games and 26 MLS playoff games.

### **Kevin Hartman**

*Eligibility Criteria: 16 MLS Seasons with 1 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 Best XI and the MLS Goalkeeper of the Year in 1999. He played five full internationals for the United States between 1999 and 2006.

### **Pablo Mastroeni**

*Eligibility Criteria: 60 appearances for U.S. Men's National Team AND 16 seasons in MLS with 1 Best XI Selection*

A midfielder who played an important role in the United States' run at the 2002 World Cup. Mastroeni was a surprise starter at that World Cup, but ended up playing three of the United States' five games as it reached the quarterfinals, and then played two more games at the 2006 World Cup. He played 65 full internationals for the United States between 2001 and 2009, including 15 World Cup qualifiers in 2004, 2005, 2008 and 2009, and five World Cup games in 2002 and 2006. In addition to his World Cup play, he was a member of the U.S. teams that won the CONCACAF Gold Cup title in 2002 and 2007, and the U.S. team at the 2003 Confederations Cup. He played 16 seasons in MLS between 1998 and 2013 for Miami, Colorado and Los Angeles. He was chosen to the MLS postseason Best XI in 2001 and won an MLS championship in 2010 with Colorado. During his MLS career, he played 334 regular-season games and 27 playoff games.

**LAST PLAYED IN 2014** (2024 Election is final year of Player Ballot Eligibility)

### **Thierry Henry**

*Eligibility Criteria: 5 MLS Seasons with 3 Best XI Selections*

A forward who was named to the Best XI three times in his five-year MLS career. Henry, who had been a star in the French national team and the English Premier League for more than a decade, played in MLS from 2010 to 2014, joining the New York Red Bulls in their first season in their new stadium in New Jersey and playing five seasons with them. Henry was chosen to the MLS postseason Best XI in 2011, 2012 and 2014. In 2013, he led the Red Bulls to the Supporters Shield. During his MLS career, Henry played 122 regular-season games and 13 playoff games, and scored 52 goals in those games.

### **Stuart Holden**

*Eligibility Criteria: 25 appearances for U.S. Men's National Team*

A midfielder who won two MLS titles before his career was slowed by injuries. Holden, who was born in Scotland and grew up in Texas, played four seasons in MLS with the Houston Dynamo, winning MLS titles with them in 2006 and 2007, and being selected to the MLS Best XI in 2009. After that season, he moved to Bolton Wanderers in England. He played four seasons with Bolton, but injuries kept him from becoming fully established there. Holden played 25 full internationals for the United States, including six

World Cup qualifiers in 2009 and 2013, and 10 games at the 2009 and 2013 CONCACAF Gold Cups. He appeared in one game at the 2010 World Cup, although by then he had suffered the first of that string of injuries, a broken leg resulting from a bad tackle in a national team friendly.

### **Eddie Johnson**

*Eligibility Criteria: 63 appearances for U.S. Men's National Team*

A forward who enjoyed two successful stints in MLS sandwiched around a period in Europe. Johnson played 63 full internationals for the United States between 2004 and 2014. Those included two games at the 2006 World Cup and 20 World Cup qualifiers over the years. He was a starter in the team that won the CONCACAF Gold Cup in 2013. Johnson's MLS career began with seven seasons with Dallas and Kansas City between 2001 and 2007. He then played five seasons in English and Greek professional leagues before returning to MLS in 2012 and playing three seasons with Seattle and D.C. In his 10 MLS seasons, he played 202 regular-season games and 14 playoff games, and scored 74 goals.

### **Lori Lindsey**

*Eligibility Criteria: 31 appearances for U.S. Women's National Team AND 7 women's professional seasons with 1 Best XI Selection*

A midfielder who was a member of the United States team at the 2011 Women's World Cup. Lindsay played in leading United States leagues for more than a decade, including two seasons in the WUSA for San Diego and Washington, three seasons in WPS for Washington and Philadelphia, and two seasons in the NWSL for Washington. She was chosen as a WPS postseason all-star in 2010. In addition to her years in those leagues, she played seven seasons in the W-League, one season in the Women's Premier Soccer League and two seasons in the Australian first division. During her seven American first-division seasons, she played 133 regular-season games and four playoff games. Lindsay played 31 full internationals for the United States between 2005 and 2013, including three World Cup qualifiers in 2010 and one game at the 2011 Women's World Cup.

**LAST PLAYED IN 2015** (2025 Election is final year of Player Ballot Eligibility)

### **Shannon Boxx**

*Eligibility Criteria: 195 appearances for U.S. Women's National Team AND 9 women's professional seasons with 2 Best XI selections*

A midfielder who played nine seasons in American first-division pro leagues and won a series of honors with the U.S. national team. Boxx' career in the U.S. national team, which spanned 195 games between 2003 and 2015, included three Olympic championships and one World Cup victory. Boxx played for the United States in four Women's World Cups, including the United States' winning effort in 2015 and its runner-up finish in 2011. She played a total of 16 games in those four World Cups and scored three goals, two in 2003 and one in 2007. She played all six of the United States' games at the 2004 Olympics, all six of the United States' games at the 2008 Olympics and two of the United States' games (including the final) at the 2012 Olympics. She was named to the post-tournament all-star teams of both the 2003 and 2011 Women's World Cups. Boxx was one of only three women who played in all three seasons of the Women's United Soccer Association, all three seasons of Women's Professional Soccer and the first three seasons of the National Women's Soccer League. Her three seasons in the WUSA were with San Diego and New York. Her three seasons in WPS were with Los Angeles, St. Louis, Gold Pride and magicJack. Her three NWSL seasons all were with Chicago. She was chosen as a WUSA all-star in 2003, when she was with the New York Power and a WPS all-star in 2009, when she was with the Los Angeles Sol. She won a WPS championship in 2010 with Gold Pride. In those nine seasons, she played 122 regular-season games and four playoff games.

**Lori Chalupny**

*Eligibility Criteria: 106 appearances for U.S. Women's National Team AND 6 women's professional seasons with 2 Best XI Selections*

A defender who won World Cup and Olympic championships with the U.S. national team. Chalupny played 106 full internationals for the United States between 2001 and 2015, including seven games at the 2007 and 2015 Women's World Cups and five games at the 2008 Olympic Games. Although she was not a frequent goal scorer over the years, with 10 goals in her national-team games, several of those came in key situations in both the World Cup and Olympic Games. At the 2007 Women's World Cup, where she scored two goals, she played every minute of all six United States games. She reached the 100-plus caps level despite having missed four seasons of national team play due to concussions. Chalupny played all three seasons of WPS, with St. Louis and Atlanta, and the first three seasons of the NWSL, with Chicago. She was chosen to the WPS post-season all-star team in 2009 and the NWSL post-season Best XI in 2013. In those six first-division seasons, she played 108 regular-season games and two playoff games. She also played one season in the WPSL and one season in the Swedish first division.

**Kenny Cooper**

*Eligibility Criteria: 9 MLS Seasons with 1 Best XI Selection*

A forward who had careers in both MLS and Europe. Cooper played nine seasons in MLS between 2006 and 2015, with Dallas, Portland, New York Red Bulls, Seattle and Montreal, and was named to the MLS postseason Best XI in 2009, when he was with Dallas. In those MLS seasons, he played 211 regular-season games and seven playoff games, and scored 75 goals. He twice scored 18 goals in an MLS season. He was a runner up in the U.S. Open Cup in 2007, and also played four seasons in English professional leagues and one season in the German second division. Cooper played 10 full internationals for the United States between 2007 and 2009, including two World Cup qualifiers.

**Lauren Cheney Holiday**

*Eligibility Criteria: 133 appearances for U.S. Women's National Team and 5 women's professional seasons with 2 Best XI Selections*

A midfielder who starred in the U.S. team that won the 2015 Women's World Cup, and who also won significant honors in club play. Holiday played for the United States in the 2011 and 2015 Women's World Cups and the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games, winning three of those four. In the course of her 133-game career in the U.S. women's national team, she played 12 World Cup games in 2011 and 2015, including the final in both of those years, and nine Olympic games in 2008 and 2012, including the final in both of those years. The 24 goals that she scored for the United States over the years included the third goal of the American triumph over Japan in the 2015 Women's World Cup final. She was chosen to the post-tournament all-star team of the 2011 Women's World Cup. Holiday played two seasons in WPS, both for Boston, and three seasons in the NWSL, all for Kansas City, winning two NWSL championships with Kansas City, in 2014 (when she was captain of that team) and 2015. In 2013, she was the NWSL's leading scorer and most valuable player. She was named to the NWSL's post-season all-star team in both 2013 and 2014, and was the USSF female athlete of the year in 2014.

**Cat Reddick Whitehill**

*Eligibility Criteria: 134 appearances for U.S. Women's National Team*

A defender who played for the United States in two World Cups and one Olympic Games. Whitehill played in five of the United States' six games (including the final) in its gold-medal-winning effort at the 2004 Olympics. She also played in all six of the United States' games at both the 2003 Women's World Cup and the 2007 Women's World Cup. Those 17 games, and seven World Cup qualifiers, were among



134 full internationals that Whitehill played for the United States. Her first full international was against Italy in 2000 and her last against Mexico in 2010. She scored 11 goals in those games, including two against North Korea in the 2003 Women's World Cup. Whitehill played three seasons in WPS, for Atlanta and Washington, and three seasons in the NWSL, all for Boston. During those six seasons, she played 106 regular-season games and two playoff games.

**LAST PLAYED IN 2016** (2026 Election is final year of Player Ballot Eligibility)

### **Brad Davis**

*Eligibility Criteria: 15 MLS Seasons with 1 Best XI Selection*

A midfielder who was one of the dominant playmakers in MLS throughout his career. Davis played 15 seasons in MLS between 2002 and 2016 for the MetroStars, Dallas, San Jose, Houston and Kansas City, playing 10 of those seasons for the Houston Dynamo. He won MLS championships in 2006 and 2007 with Houston, was named to the MLS Best XI in 2011, and when he retired was third on the all-time MLS assists list. During his MLS career, he played 392 regular-season games and 27 playoff games. In those 419 games, which placed him fourth on the all-time MLS appearances list, he scored 60 goals (many on free kicks with his deadly left foot) and had 132 assists, leading MLS in assists in 2009 and 2011. He was a runner up for the MLS championship in 2012. Davis played 17 games in the U.S. national team between 2005 and 2014. He was a member of the U.S. team at the 2014 World Cup, playing one game, appeared in four World Cup qualifiers in 2013 and played on the U.S. team that won the CONCACAF Gold Cup in 2005.

### **Carlos Ruiz**

*Eligibility Criteria: 10 MLS Seasons with 1 Best XI Selection*

A forward who was a goalscoring star in MLS. Ruiz, who was from Guatemala, played 10 seasons in MLS between 2002 and 2016, for Los Angeles, Dallas, Toronto, Philadelphia and D.C. The best of those seasons was 2002, when he was named the MLS most valuable player, scored the winning goal in overtime for Los Angeles in the MLS final and led MLS in scoring with 24 goals in the regular season (plus eight more in the playoffs). During his MLS years, he played 183 regular-season games and 19 playoff games, and scored 105 goals. Ruiz played for Guatemala from 2000 to 2016 and scored numerous key goals for it, including several against the United States.

### **Hope Solo**

*Eligibility Criteria: 202 appearances for U.S. Women's National Team*

A goalkeeper who starred in the U.S. women's national team for more than a decade, winning two Olympic gold medals and a Women's World Cup championship. Solo played 202 full internationals for the United States between 2000 and 2016. Those included 17 games at the Women's World Cup in 2007, 2011 and 2015, 16 games at the Olympics in 2008, 2012 and 2016, and six World Cup qualifiers in 2006 and 2014. She was known for attracting controversy throughout her national team career, but nevertheless was one of the dominant figures in the team for many years. She played every minute of all seven United States games during its victory at the 2015 Women's World Cup, and also played for the United States in the 2007 and 2011 Women's World Cups, reaching the final in 2011. She played every minute of all 12 United States games in its victories at the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games, and also played in the 2016 Olympics. She was the winner of the Golden Glove awarded by FIFA to the outstanding goalkeeper of the tournament at both the 2011 and 2015 Women's World Cups, and was named the USSF female athlete of the year in 2009. Solo played one season, 2003, in the Women's United Soccer Association, for Philadelphia; three seasons, 2009 through 2011, in Women's Professional Soccer, for St. Louis, Atlanta

and magicJack, and four seasons in the National Women's Soccer League, 2013 through 2016, all for Seattle. She was a runner up for the NWSL title in 2014 and 2015 with Seattle. During her WUSA, WPS and NWSL seasons, she played 101 regular-season games and five playoff games. In addition to her United States first-division seasons, Solo also played one season in the Swedish first division, one season in the French first division and one season in the W-League.

**LAST PLAYED IN 2017 (First Ballot in 2021; 2027 Election is final year of Player Ballot Eligibility)**

**Victor Bernardez**

*Eligibility Criteria: 6 MLS Seasons with 1 Best XI Selection*

A Honduran defender who starred in MLS. Bernardez played six seasons in MLS between 2012 and 2017, all of them for San Jose. He was named to the MLS Best XI in 2012, a season in which he was a finalist for MLS Defender of the Year. During his MLS career, Bernardez played 162 regular-season games and three playoff games. Bernardez, who won first-division championships with clubs in both Honduras and Belgium before joining San Jose, played 78 games for the Honduran national team, including appearing in both the 2010 and 2014 World Cups.

**Bobby Boswell**

*Eligibility Criteria: 13 MLS Seasons with 2 Best XI Selections*

A defender who starred in MLS for 13 seasons. Boswell played MLS from 2005 to 2017, for D.C., Houston and Atlanta. He was chosen to the MLS Best XI twice, in 2006 and 2014, both seasons when he was with D.C. United. In 2006, he also was named as the MLS Defender of the Year. In between two stints with D.C., he played six seasons for Houston, and was a runner up for the MLS title with the Dynamo in 2011 and 2012. During his MLS career, he played 366 regular-season games and 30 playoff games, and scored 19 goals. Boswell played three full internationals for the United States, in 2006 and 2007, and was a member of the United States squad at the 2007 Copa America in Venezuela.

**Jon Busch**

*Eligibility Criteria: 14 MLS Seasons with 1 Best XI Selection*

A goalkeeper who starred in MLS for more than a decade winning the league's goalkeeper of the year award once. Busch played 14 seasons in MLS, five for Columbus, five for San Jose and four for Chicago. During that time, he played 309 MLS regular-season games and 18 MLS playoff games. He was chosen to the MLS postseason Best XI in 2008, when he was with Chicago. Busch played one full international for the United States, against Colombia in 2005. Prior to his MLS career, he had played five seasons in the A-League. Following his MLS career, he played two seasons in the NASL 2.

**Maurice Edu**

*Eligibility Criteria: 46 appearances for U.S. Men's National Team*

A midfielder who played for the United States in the World Cup and won three Scottish first-division championships. Edu played 46 full internationals for the United States between 2007 and 2014. Those included three games at the 2010 World Cup and 11 World Cup qualifiers in 2008, 2009, 2013 and 2014. He also played for the United States in the 2011 CONCACAF Gold Cup. His only national-team goal came against Czech Republic in 2010, but he also had what could have been the game-winning goal against Slovenia in the 2010 World Cup called back (perhaps incorrectly) for a foul by another player. Edu played four seasons in MLS, four in the Scottish first division, one in the English Premier League, one in the Turkish first division and two in the USL as he tried to recover from injury. He won Scottish

Premier League titles with Rangers in 2009, 2010 and 2011, and was a runner-up for the U.S. Open Cup in 2014 and 2015 with Philadelphia. In his MLS seasons with Toronto and Philadelphia, he played 89 games.

### **Shalrie Joseph**

*Eligibility Criteria: 11 MLS Seasons with 4 Best XI Selections*

A midfielder who was named to the MLS Best XI four times. Joseph, who was raised in the United States but played internationally for his native Grenada, played 11 seasons in MLS between 2003 and 2013, for New England, Chivas and Seattle. He was chosen to the MLS postseason Best XI in 2005, 2007, 2008 and 2009. He was a runner up for the MLS championship in 2005, 2006 and 2007, all with New England. Joseph, who was primarily a defensive midfielder, played more than 300 MLS games, 283 in the regular season and 23 in the playoffs.

### **Sebastien LeToux**

*Eligibility Criteria: 9 MLS Seasons with 1 Best XI Selection*

A French forward who starred in MLS for nearly a decade. LeToux played nine seasons in MLS, five for Philadelphia, one for Seattle, and portions of three others for D.C., Vancouver, New York Red Bulls and Colorado. He was chosen to the MLS postseason Best XI in 2010, when he was with the Philadelphia Union. LeToux won the U.S. Open Cup once, in 2009 with the Seattle Sounders, and was a runner up in that tournament twice, in 2014 and 2015 with Philadelphia. During his MLS seasons, he played 263 regular-season games and eight playoff games and scored 60 goals. His best goalscoring season was 2010, when he had 14 goals for Philadelphia.

### **Javier Morales**

*Eligibility Criteria: 11 MLS Seasons with 1 Best XI Selection*

An Argentine midfielder who was a mainstay of the attack at Real Salt Lake for a decade. Morales played 11 seasons in MLS between 2007 and 2017, 10 of them for Real Salt Lake and one for FC Dallas. He won an MLS championship in 2009 with Real Salt Lake and was chosen to the MLS Best XI in 2010. He also was an MLS runner up in 2013 with Salt Lake, a U.S. Open Cup runner up in 2013 with Salt Lake and a CONCACAF Champions League runner up in 2011 with Salt Lake. Prior to joining RSL, he had played nine seasons in Argentina and Spain, for five different teams. Morales played 255 regular-season games and 21 playoff games during his MLS career.

### **Oguchi Onyewu**

*Eligibility Criteria: 69 appearances for U.S. Men's National Team*

A defender who starred in the U.S. national team and for European club teams for more than a decade. Onyewu played 69 full internationals for the United States between 2004 and 2014. During that time, he played 21 World Cup qualifiers in five different years, appearing in the qualifying rounds of three different World Cups. He was a member of the United States teams at the 2006 and 2010 World Cups, and played in all three U.S. games in 2006. In 2010, an injury limited him to one game. Perhaps his greatest days in a U.S. uniform took place outside the World Cup. He was one of the stars of the teams that won the 2007 CONCACAF Gold Cup and reached the final of the 2009 Confederations Cup, the United States' only appearance in the final of a FIFA tournament. He was chosen as the USSF male athlete of the year in 2006. Onyewu played in various leagues in Europe between 2002 and 2015. That period included five seasons in the Belgian first division, three seasons in English professional leagues, and one season each in the French first division, the Dutch first division, the Portuguese first division and the Spanish first division. He returned to the field in 2017 and played one season in MLS before retiring.

**Christie Pearce**

*Eligibility Criteria: 311 appearances for U.S. Women's National Team AND 11 women's professional seasons with 2 Best XI selections*

A defender who played 19 years for the U.S. women's national team, including five Women's World Cups, and played all of the first 11 seasons of women's professional league soccer in the United States. Pearce played 311 games for the United States between her debut against Australia in 1997 and her final game against Haiti in 2015. Those included 19 games in five World Cups, 22 games in four Olympic Games and 13 World Cup qualifiers. She was a mainstay of the U.S. defense for most of those years, and in addition to her three Olympic gold medals (2004, 2008 and 2012), she was the only person to play for both the United States team that won the Women's World Cup in 1999 and the one that won it in 2015. She was captain on field of the U.S. teams in the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games and the 2011 World Cup. Of the women who played in the first season of women's pro league soccer in the United States, in the Women's United Soccer Association in 2001, Pearce was the only one who played all three seasons of the WUSA, all three seasons of WPS and the first five seasons of the NWSL (two other players played the first nine of those 11 seasons, but then retired). The majority of those years were spent with Sky Blue in New Jersey, all five of her NWSL seasons and two of her WPS seasons. She also played three WUSA seasons for New York and one WPS season for magicJack. In 2009, she was both captain of Sky Blue and interim coach during the playoffs as the New Jersey team won the WPS title. She was a NWSL first-team all-star in 2013 and 2014. During her 11 first-division seasons, she played 182 regular-season games and six playoff games. Pearce, who was captain of the U.S. women's national team for eight years, was one of the leaders of the "soccer mom" movement in the USWNT, with two daughters born during her national team years. In 2013, she was one of three then-active players, along with Abby Wambach and Alex Morgan, named to the all-time U.S. women's national team Best XI chosen by the USSF. In 2014 she became only the second player in world soccer history, after Kristine Lilly, to reach 300 caps.

**Brittany Taylor**

*Eligibility Criteria: 7 women's professional seasons with 1 Best XI Selection*

A defender who played seven seasons in United States first-division leagues. Taylor played five seasons in the NWSL, for Western New York and Kansas City, and two seasons in WPS, for Sky Blue. She was named to the NWSL Best XI in 2015, and was runner up for the NWSL title in 2013 with Western New York. Before her first WPS season, she played two seasons in the W-League. Then, between the end of WPS and the start of the NWSL, she played one season in the Women's Premier Soccer League.

**BECAME ELIGIBLE BASED ON 2020 REVISIONS (First Ballot in 2021)****Chris Ahrens**

*Eligibility Criteria: 54 appearances for the U.S. Men's Para 7-A-Side National Team*

Last Year of Player Ballot Eligibility: 2025

A defender and midfielder who was a member of the U.S. team at the 2012 Paralympic Games in London. Born with cerebral palsy, Ahrens appeared in 54 games between 2006 and 2015 including two appearances at the Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association (CPISRA) World Champions. He was on the U.S. team that finished second at Copa America 2010 and third place at the Paralympic World Cup in 2012.

**John Ball**

*Eligibility Criteria: 27 appearances for U.S. Futsal National Team*

Last Year of Player Ballot Eligibility: 2024

A member of the U.S. Futsal National Team that advanced to the second round of the 2004 FIFA Futsal World Cup. He appeared 27 times for the U.S., scoring 4 goals including two against world powerhouse Brazil. Ball had an 18-year career professional career in both indoor and outdoor soccer. His longest indoor stop was in Cleveland and outdoor was in Rochester. He played 11 games in 1 season with the Chicago Fire in MLS, scoring a playoff goal in 1999.

**Jamar Beasley**

*Eligibility Criteria: 25 appearances for U.S. Futsal National Team*

Last Year of Player Ballot Eligibility: 2026

A member of the U.S. Futsal National Team for both the 2004 and 2008 FIFA Futsal World Cup. Beasley, older brother of U.S. Men's National Team legend DaMarcus Beasley, was the youngest player ever signed by MLS in 1998 and was a member of the U.S. U-20 team at the 1999 FIFA U-20 World Cup. He played 4 seasons for New England Revolution and 1 alongside his brother for the Chicago Fire. Beasley has spoken publicly about partying and alcohol use that derailed his MLS career, but turned things around to forge a long and successful indoor soccer career that included and MISL MVP award in 2006-07 with Detroit. He earned a call up to the Futsal National Team in 2004 and was a mainstay for five years. Two of his eight Futsal goals came in a wide-open 8-5 loss to Brazil in the final game for the U.S. at the 2004 Futsal World Cup.

**Keith Johnson**

*Eligibility Criteria: 101 appearances for U.S. Men's Para 7-A-Side National Team*

Last Year of Player Ballot Eligibility: 2026

A goalkeeper for the U.S. at the 2004 and 2012 Paralympics and a member of the 100-cap club. Born with cerebral palsy, Johnson joined the U.S. team in 2003 and earned 101 caps during his 14-year career. Famous among veterans 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.

**Pat Morris**

*Eligibility Criteria: 29 appearances for U.S. Futsal National Team*

Last Year of Player Ballot Eligibility: 2021

The second-leading scorer in the history of the U.S. Futsal National Team scored at the 2004 and 2008 FIFA Futsal World Cups. Three of this 13 career Futsal goals came at the 2007 Pan Am games. A defender with a rocket shot, Morris was an 8-time all-league 1<sup>st</sup>-team selection and a three-time MISL Defender of the Year during his 12-year career with the Philadelphia KiXX and Baltimore Blast.

**Josh McKinney**

*Eligibility Criteria: 124 appearances for U.S. Men's Para 7-A-Side National Team*

Last Year of Player Ballot Eligibility: 2024

A U.S. captain that retired after 124 caps and 81 goals across 19 years, including three appearances at the Paralympics (1996, 2004 and 2012). McKinney captained the U.S. 72 times and the U.S. won 76% of the games in which he scored a goal. As a 17-year-old, he led the U.S. to a best-ever 4<sup>th</sup>-place finish at the Atlanta games with a team-high 5 goals. Born with cerebral palsy, McKinney played internationally for 19-years as a midfielder and defender. He captained the team to second place at the 2010 Copa America

**Gavin Sibayan**

*Eligibility Criteria: 21 appearances for U.S. Men's Para 7-A-Side National Team*

Last Year of Player Ballot Eligibility: 2028

A defender and midfielder, Sibayan was a member of the 2012 Paralympic Team and the 2014 U.S. Soccer Disabled Athlete of the Year. A United States Army veteran, Sibayan was involved in an IED incident in 2007 that left him with Traumatic Brain Injury that resulted in a permanent disability. He was first called up to the U.S. team in 2010 and in addition to the London Games, he scored twice in the bronze medal match of the 2014 Americas Cup to help the U.S. to a third-place finish and also was part of the team at the 2015 World Championships.

**Matt Stewart**

*Eligibility Criteria: 28 appearances for U.S. Futsal National Team*

Last Year of Player Ballot Eligibility: 2025

Top 5 in career goals and appearances for the U.S. Futsal National Team, Stewart scored 12 times in 28 appearances from 2007 to 2012. A member of the 2008 U.S. team at the FIFA Futsal World Cup, he became the 11<sup>th</sup> U.S. player to score a hat trick during qualifying against Panama. His 20-year professional indoor career included MISL championships in 2011 and 2012 with the Milwaukee Wave.