



NATIONAL SOCCER HALL OF FAME

2022 Player Final Ballot

Each Voter will submit a vote for up to 10 names who they feel are most deserving to be elected to the NSHOF Class of 2022.

2022 Player Final Ballot List

David Beckham
Shannon Boxx
Lori Chalupny
Lauren Cheney Holiday
Brian Ching
Clint Dempsey
Maurice Edu
Thierry Henry
Eddie Johnson
Shalrie Joseph

Robbie Keane
Pablo Mastroeni
Josh McKinney
Heather Mitts
Oguchi Onyewu
Cat Reddick Whitehill
Carlos Ruiz
Hope Solo
Aly Wagner
Josh Wolff

2022 Player Final Ballot 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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Josh McKinney

Eligibility: 124 games for the U.S. National 7-a-side Paralympic Team.

A U.S. captain who retired after 124 caps and 81 goals across 19 years, including appearances at three Paralympics (1996, 2004 and 2012). McKinney captained the U.S. team 72 times, and the United States won 76 percent of the games in which he scored at least one goal. As a 17-year-old, he led the United States to a best-ever fourth-place finished at the Atlanta games in 1996 with a team-high five goals. McKinney, who was born with cerebral palsy, played internationally as a midfielder and defender. He captained the team to second place at the 2010 Copa America.

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.

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)

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 (2027 Election is final year of Player Ballot Eligibility)

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 23 in the playoffs.

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.

LAST PLAYED IN 2018 (First Ballot in 2022; 2028 Election is final year of Player Ballot Eligibility)

Clint Dempsey

Eligibility: 141 games for the U.S. Men's National Team, and nine seasons in Major League Soccer, with two Best XI selections.

A forward who was one of the greatest goal scorers in U.S. national team history, including scoring for the United States in three World Cups, a Confederations Cup, a Copa America and four CONCACAF Gold Cups, and who also had outstanding club careers in both the United States and Europe. When Dempsey retired, he was tied with Landon Donovan as the all-time leading goal scorer for the U.S. men's national team, with 57 goals in 141 games between 2004 and 2017. Among the most noteworthy of those 57 were key goals in the 2-1 win over Ghana at the 2014 World Cup, the 2-0 win over Spain in the semifinals of the 2009 Confederations Cup, and the 2-1 win over Ecuador in the quarterfinals of the 2016 Copa America. The goal against Ghana in 2014 made him the first American to score goals in three different World Cups. He was a star of the United States teams at the 2006, 2010 and 2014 World Cups (including captaining the team in 2014); the 2007, 2011, 2015 and 2017 CONCACAF Gold Cups, the 2009 Confederations Cup and the 2016 Copa America. During his national-team career, he played 43 World Cup qualifiers and 10 World Cup games. Dempsey was among the leading American players in Europe during the eight seasons that he played in the English Premier League, for Fulham and Tottenham Hotspur, and became the leading American goal scorer in Premier League history. He scored 72 goals in all competitions during those seasons, and became Fulham's all-time leading scorer in Premier League games. He gained particular fame at Fulham for the goal on the last day of the season in 2007 that saved the London club from relegation. Dempsey played nine seasons in MLS, before and after his seasons in England. He played for the New England Revolution from 2004 to 2006, and was named to the MLS Best XI in 2005 and 2006. He was the MLS Rookie of the Year in 2004. He played for the Seattle Sounders from 2013 to 2018, and was a member of the Seattle team that won the MLS championship in 2016, although medical problems prevented him from playing in the final (he did play in the final three times, with New England in 2005 and 2006, and with Seattle in 2017). He also won a U.S. Open Cup with Seattle, in 2014. During his MLS career he played 186 regular-season games and 23 playoff games, and scored 79 goals. Dempsey was the USSF men's athlete of the year three times; winner of the Futbol de Primera Award as U.S. national team player of the year three times, and a selection to the U.S. men's national team all-time Best XI chosen in 2013.

Robbie Keane

Eligibility: Six seasons in Major League Soccer, with four Best XI selections.

A forward who won three MLS titles and was named to MLS' postseason Best XI four years in a row. Keane, an Irish star who had played for top-rated teams in several European leagues, joined the Los Angeles Galaxy in 2011 and played for them through 2016. He won MLS titles with the Galaxy in 2011, 2012 and 2014, and was an MLS Best XI selection in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. In 2014, he reached his highest MLS single-season goal total, 21, and was named the MLS most valuable player. He played 125 MLS regular-season games and 21 MLS playoff games, and scored 92 goals in those games. Through his first four MLS seasons, he usually was paired with Landon Donovan in the Galaxy attack. Keane was captain of the Irish national team through most of his MLS career.