



Baseball NSW Hall of Fame & Historical Heritage Committee Procedures Manual



Acknowledgment of Country

Baseball NSW acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands from across NSW where we are privileged to live, work and play. We recognize and celebrate their spiritual and ongoing connection to culture and Country. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, who hold memories, traditions and the culture and hope of the First Nations people. We believe a better understanding and respect for the First Nations cultures will help us all develop an enriched appreciation of NSW's cultural heritage and support a more connected State.



Heritage Committee and Hall of Fame Overview

To recognize and acknowledge a person who has contributed to the growth of NSW Baseball, (Men's and Women's) through outstanding and/or continued achievements within the sport as a player, coach, manager, administrator, umpire, scorer or volunteer who has provided continued support and/or outstanding service to their Club or State for Baseball NSW (BNSW), either via the BNSW Hall of Fame pathway or BNSW Life Membership. BNSW has a long and rich history and has significantly contributed to the development of the State of NSW.

Our Charter is to preserve and promote our heritage to those who laid the foundations for the game of Baseball as we know it today. The standards for the establishment of a Hall of Fame, together with the criteria and standards for induction of members, were approved by the BNSW Board of Directors at their meeting on the 6th May, 2024.

The BNSW HOF will be for players, coaches, managers and umpires who have played at State level (excluding juniors) or above and have shown dominance in their era for on-field performance. A special MLB Excellence Section will be acknowledged within the BNSW HOF (albeit they will not automatically become members of the BNSW HOF unless they meet the required criteria), who are NSW players who started their careers in NSW and have played in MLB in America. The inaugural inductees to the BNSW HOF will include all current Baseball Australia HOF members, the NSW Claxton Shield All Star Team 1934-2009 75th Diamond Anniversary members (who are not already in the BA HOF), the BNSW members of the 2004 Olympic Silver Medal Team members (who are not already in the BA HOF or 75th All Star Team) and 3 Umpires nominated by the BNSW HC, who meet all the required criteria – and they were all accepted on the 6th May, 2024 by the BNSW Board of Directors, with additional inductions occurring yearly thereafter.



Governance

- The Baseball NSW Heritage Committee (BNSW HC) is the body responsible for managing all aspects of the BNSW HC under the authority and approval of the BNSW Board of Directors and reports directly to the Board. The Role of the BNSW HC is the formation of a BNSW Hall of Fame, documenting and preserving the history of the game of Baseball in NSW and other outcomes that the Committee determines. Members of the BNSW HC will be appointed by the BNSW Board of Directors. A minimum of 2 BNSW Board of Directors (appointed by the BNSW Board of Directors) and the CEO of BNSW will be responsible for the liaison with the BNSW HC each year to ensure continuity of the program in years to come.
- The BNSW HC will be a Committee of 7 people. Of these 7 people, 4 will be the BNSW Hall of Fame Committee (BNSW HOFC) and the CEO and 2 Board Directors overseeing the portfolio appointed by the BNSW Board of Directors. Within the BNSW HC, the BNSW HOFC will have voting rights only and recommends that associate members be invited to join from time to time as required, who will have no voting rights, similar to the CEO and 2 Board Directors.
- The BNSW HC has responsibility for the creation and maintenance of the BNSW HOF Charter, supporting policies, guidelines and procedural documentation, with additional responsibility for the preservation of BNSW HOF history and memorability, the BNSW HOF nominations, voting and induction processes, and developing and maintaining award recognition protocols for inductees.
- The BNSW CEO will be responsible for managing and implementing all agreed actions as directed by the BNSW HC relevant to BNSW HOF administration (as approved by the BNSW Board of Directors), with the support of the BNSW HC as required.
- BNSW HC recognizes the national significance and place of the Baseball Australia HOF, and places importance on positioning BNSW's as a complementary State-based program underpinning the National HOF scheme.
- This Charter, policies, procedures and schedules will be reviewed and updated as required by the BNSW HC annually.



Criteria for Nomination

Entities considering nominating a player, coach, manager or umpire to the BNSW HOF, should ensure their respective candidate meets the following criteria:

- Induction into the BNSW HOF is based upon on-field excellence, as opposed to long and loyal service to the game, which falls under Life Membership to BNSW. Excellence and impact will be evidenced by regular and outstanding representation at State, National or International levels (excluding juniors), individual awards, and/or outstanding success and achievement on the International stage, professional baseball or achieved records that have stood the test of time. The bar for selection is intentionally set very high. The BNSW HOF is only for the best and most dominant participants, regardless of their era.
- In recognition of the importance of statistics to the history of baseball, statistical evidence of outstanding performance, applicable to playing, coaching, managing or umpiring must be provided as supporting evidence for BNSW HOF nomination.
- In the absence of available statistical evidence, nominations should be supported through written testimonials and/or oral histories (documented) from multiple sources.
- Nominees must have participated in a competition, league or team as a registered player, coach, manager or umpire of a BNSW Club, State Team or Sydney Blue Sox for a minimum period of 5 years (seasons) and represented at State level or above for a minimum period of 3 years (excluding juniors).
- Nominees must be an Australian Citizen and be either a current or previous financial BNSW member – and nominees may be nominated posthumously.
- On-field personnel will only be considered for nomination if they have been retired from their on-field roles for 3 years. On-field personnel are considered as “retired” if they have not played State League 1st Grade (or above level) for 3 or more years.
- Inductees must meet acceptable standards of integrity, character and sportsmanship, and must not have brought the sport of baseball into disrepute.
- The BNSW HC reserves the right to crosscheck information provided in support of nominees at its discretion as part of the validation process.



Nominations by Era

The history of baseball is categorized into distinctive eras, this work was completed in 2005 by the Baseball Australia Heritage Committee. These same eras are used by the BNSW HOF in alignment with the National HOF – **chronologically, these eras include:**

- Pre 1900
- 1900 – 1918 (rapid expansion of the game and regular interstate competition)
- 1919 – 1946 (the start of Claxton Shield and beginning of American influence)
- 1947 – 1967 (Claxton Shield and post war American influence)

Nominees from the above era will be assessed solely by the BNSW HOFC. Nominees who participated in the post 1967 eras defined below, will be assessed by the BNSW HC and, if approved, will be included on the ballot to be distributed to the BNSW HOFC (Voting Panel).

- 1968 - 1988 (Claxton Shield, Olympic Games and Asian influence)
- 1989 – 1999 (ABL and Olympic Games)
- 2000 – 2009 (IBLA, Claxton Shield and Olympic Games)
- 2010 – present (Modern era, World Baseball Classic, new ABL from 2010)

The following entities are eligible to nominate candidates:

- The current State League Clubs, the SWBL Clubs, NSW Women's League Clubs, and Regional Country Associations can nominate up to 2 candidates for the post 1967 era and 1 candidate for the pre 1968 era.
- The Umpires Association can nominate 1 umpire.
- The Sydney Blue Sox can nominate 1 candidate.
- The BNSW HC can nominate up to 2 candidates.
- The BNSW Board of Directors can nominate 1 candidate.

Each entity should carefully consider the Criteria for Nomination prior to preparing and making a submission.

- Nominations must be submitted to the BNSW HC in a word document format, or similar, no handwritten submissions, with attachments if required. Nominations must be submitted in accordance with the required timelines and deadlines established by the BNSW HC which will be published on the BNSW website and updated annually. All nominations must have a signed nominee and seconder from an eligible entity and nominations will not be accepted from individuals nor self-nominations.



Rules and Procedures

- Nominations will be called from the nominating entities each year at a time determined by the BNSW HC and broadcast by the CEO through the BNSW website. At this same time, entities will be advised how many nominations they are permitted to submit. Any entity that submits more than the accepted number of nominations will be contacted and requested to amend their submissions, as per the Criteria and Nominations by Era.
- For a nomination to proceed a minimum of 57% (4 out of 7) of “yes” votes must be received from the BNSW HC to be accepted to justify the progress of the nominee to the voting stage of the selection process by the BNSW HOFC (there is no limit on the number of nominations considered to be eligible for the voting process).
- No more than 15 nominees may be inducted into the BNSW HOF in any one year (however, the BNSW HC can review this annually to ensure longevity of the Induction process), with the exception of the Inaugural year, and unless exceptional circumstances are approved by the BNSW HC. A maximum of 5 deceased nominees will only be considered in any one year (and adjusted annually if required).
- All nominations not accepted in this year’s induction, and the BNSW HC believe they are a worthy nominee, will be held over for the next 4 years. If the nominee is not inducted after 5 years, their nomination will have to be completed again if they wish to be considered.
- Only nominations by the BNSW HC and BNSW Board of Directors can be received after the due date. This is due to an assessment of all nominations which have been received and the BNSW HC or Board of Directors believe a nomination has been missed, can make the decision to be included and therefore would start the process to complete the nomination form.



Timelines

- The BNSW HC will call for nominations from the eligible entities no later than the 1st October each year and provide the following documentation – the criteria and protocols for nomination and the nomination form.
- Included in the nomination there must be a minimum of 3 photos (if available) of the nominee depicting their involvement during their baseball career. In support of submissions any specifications, statistics, certificates, documents, paper clippings or testimonials are highly recommended to support the nomination.
- Nominations from eligible entities will close at 5.00pm on the 1st January each year, at which stage the BNSW HC will commence processing procedures.
- The BNSW HC will complete all other relevant procedures by the 1st February each year, and once approved by the BNSW Board of Directors will look to formalize the presentation timing and venue by the 1st April each year. The venue and presentation format will be decided during January to allow all the nominees to be aware so that accommodation and/or travel may be organized.

Timing of Selection

- To enable an orderly time frame to allow for the contacting of newly appointed inductees and organization of the annual function (or presentation format) the eligible entities are to forward nominations to the BNSW HC no later than the 1st January each year.



Hall Of Fame Vetting and Validation

Once the deadline for submitting BNSW HOF nominations has expired, the BNSW HC will start the process of vetting and validating all nominations, including nominations held over from previous years, to proceed to the Voting stage using the following due process and evaluation.

- Vet each submission to ensure they are accurately and properly completed and follow the required nomination protocols.
- Assess the accuracy and detail of the information provided about each nominee, ensuring that the submission suitably conveys and validates a case that supports the nominee's eligibility for BNSW HOF consideration.
- If the BNSW HC determines that more information or clarification about the accuracy of detail provided is required, the BNSW HC can refer back to the nominating body to revise and resubmit their submission for further analysis, within an allocated time frame for the process.
- The BNSW HC reserves the right to interview both referees identified in the nominee submissions and, at the BNSW HC's discretion, other individuals who may be able to provide valid information about the nominee.
- In order for a nomination to proceed to the voting stage, at least 57% (4 out of 7) of the BNSW HC must support the candidates' qualification as a viable candidate for the BNSW HOF. Any abstaining votes will be considered as a "no" vote. Should any member of the BNSW HC have a personal vested interest in any nominee, which is seen as a conflict of interest, they shall abstain from voting. Should this occur, at least 66% (4 out of 6) of the BNSW HC must support the candidates' nomination.
- If at any stage of the vetting and validating process, it is determined that the nominee does not meet eligibility for the NSW HOF nomination, the BNSW HC will inform the nominating entity of this determination and that the nomination is rejected. The BNSW HC will also provide information about future opportunities for nomination of the rejected nominee.
- Nominees who have successfully passed the vetting and validating process will be recommended as candidates to be included in a ballot for polling by the BNSW HOF in the first year, provided the nominee is in good standing with BNSW, as determined by the BNSW Board of Directors (in conjunction with the BNSW CEO), before they are included in the official BNSW HOF ballot.



Hall of Fame Voting Panel

- Due to the large number of nominations, there will be a vote by the BNSW HOFC. Voting will be conducted by secret ballot by casting 15 for the highest nominee down to number 1. If there is equal voting, and 1 of the nominees is deceased and there are already 5 deceased who have received a higher voting number, then this nominee will be eliminated.
- If there are still equal votes for nominees, taking the number to over 15, then there will be a countback on which nominees received the highest vote to the lowest vote. If there is still equal voting numbers than another separate secret ballot will be conducted until there are only 15 nominees, unless the BNSW HOFC believe there are extenuating circumstances to allow the number of inductees to be increased, then these people become the inductees.
- Once the maximum of 15 inductees have been finalized, then the BNSW HOFC will decide which nomination/s will be carried over to the following year. The BNSW HOFC can decide on a maximum number of nominations to be carried over, or agree by selection of the nominee/s. All nominations from the previous year/s are to be excluded from this year's vote but still qualify to be carried over into next year, as per dot point 4 in Rules and Procedures.
- Once the BNSW HOFC determine the final inductees, they will be put forward to the BNSW HC for further assessment and if the BNSW HC is satisfied then they will be submitted to the BNSW Board of Directors by the 2 Directors for ratification.
- The BNSW HOFC will be responsible to recommend the nominations to be put forward to the BA HOF Committee (2 nominations). Once the nominations are agreed they will be forward to the BNSW HC and onto the BNSW Board of Directors, by the 2 Directors on the BNSW HC, for ratification by the Board.
- The BNSW HOFC recommend that the 1st year the 4 members vote only. Once the first wave of inductees are announced in 2025, then those inductees may be invited to join the voting panel. Whoever accepts the invitation may be added to the voting panel for the ensuing year and then be reviewed annually by the BNSW HOFC to ensure continuity in years to come. Once this process is achieved then the requirement for induction in the BNSW HOF will require a nominee to receive 75% "yes" votes of the number of votes that are returned - there will be no minimum or maximum number of voters required to reply.



Preserving and Archiving the History of the Game in NSW

A BNSW archive collection has great Club, Associations, State, National and International value and forms part of the baseball history of NSW. The BNSW Board of Directors and the BNSW HC are dedicated in the correct use and methods of acquisition, preservation and conservation of all facets of our Baseball History.

- The BNSW archive is the end result of the work of BNSW HC in compiling, describing and preserving BNSW historical records and items. The archive is intended to reflect the activities of BNSW in all facets.
- The archive is created and maintained as a matter of good governance, and is an acknowledgement that the records of BNSW are an important resource for not only the organization and its members, but that they also form a part of the sporting, social and cultural history and fabric of NSW and Australia.

In accordance with the importance placed upon the archive it is necessary that it is afforded appropriate levels of stewardship and governance.



Responsibility

- The BNSW archive is overseen and managed by the BNSW HC, reporting to the BNSW Board of Directors through the 2 Directors on the committee.
- The archive collection will be managed by the BNSW HC, in conjunction with an associate member from BNSW proficient in "IT". The BNSW HC manages the collection responsibly using the best archive practices and maintains any database and accessioning systems in place.
- The BNSW HC has the responsibility and discretion to allow or disallow access to the archived material. Where a dispute arises, the BNSW HOFC will mediate, and their decision will be final. Any additional associate members required may be added from time to time and work under the direction of the BNSW HC.
- All material supplied to the BNSW HC to be archived remains the property of the entity that submits the material, unless they decree it to the BNSW HC by signing it over through the Heritage Acquisition Policy documents.
- The BNSW archive serves the need of baseball Club members, BNSW Board of Directors, Committees, Staff, family and descendants of former baseball Club members, affiliated baseball Clubs and Associations of NSW and researchers with legitimate interests such as historians or scholars.
- Access to the archive is at the discretion of the BNSW HC. While in principle all material in the archive will be available for access there may be some cases where it is necessary to restrict access for reasons of privacy.

History

- The BNSW HC (formed in 2024) has recognized the importance of key Club documents and associated records and memorabilia. The BNSW HC has been instrumental in progressing sustainable collections management practices.
- Players, families and followers of baseball have historically been the compilers, collectors and custodians of community Club records and memorabilia. With the aging and passing away of many Club stalwarts there has been a gradual awakening to the potential or actual loss of records and other artifacts of significance.



Core Functions

The core functions undertaken and associated with the management of the archive are as follows:

- To assess, collect, organize, describe and make available records and items of historical, legal, financial or administrative value to BNSW.
- To provide adequate facilities for the proper safe storage and long-term preservation of selected records and items.
- To provide access to the archive as required by legitimate users.
- To promote knowledge and understanding of the origins, history and goals of BNSW through curation and display of records and items for the records.
- To create a management and planning framework commensurate with the importance of the BNSW archive.
- In general terms, all archived material will be made available, under supervision, to BNSW members and members of the general public, with the exception of the BNSW Board of Directors Minutes and any private or commercial documents, as deemed by the BNSW HC.

Criteria

While all records and items that relate to baseball are potentially relevant to the archive, the realities of the management of the archive and its contents dictates that priorities must be established for including material in the archive. A key purpose is therefore to adhere to priority areas that have been determined on the basis of enduring value.

“Enduring value” is a record of group of records, or other items, that have apparent or potential long-term historical, research or curiosity value to baseball and its members, or the wider NSW, Australian or International community.



Formats

While it is envisaged that the bulk of the material in the archive will be printed records or documents, there will be no restriction on the format of the records or items that are added to the collection, as approved by the BNSW HC – **examples of appropriate**

formats include:

- Photographs, photographic prints, negatives, original artwork etc.
- Realia, such as trophies, pennants, playing equipment etc.
- Audio visual material.
- Ephemera, such as programs, posters, scorebooks, tickets etc.
- Manuscript material such as diaries.
- Digital material and media.

Retention, Disposal, Donations & Loans

It is the intention that all items added to the archive will be retained permanently and preservation techniques consistent with that intention will be employed. Items or categories of material may be nominated and approved by the BNSW HC for permanent removal and/or disposal.

BNSW HC will actively seek by research, transfer, donation or purchase items of baseball and any others of history or memorabilia associated with individual Clubs, BNSW members and Associations. Donations will be accepted as a means of building the value of the archive. In general, items will be accepted by donation only when they meet the criteria for inclusion in the archive.

BNSW HC reserves the right to refuse donated material that does not conform to the Heritage Acquisition Policy documents.

No archived material will be available for loan, except in special circumstances that are approved by the BNSW HC. Should the BNSW HC consider items can go on loan then it is subject to completion of the Heritage Loans Agreement Policy documents.