



Baseball NSW Hall of Fame & Historical Heritage Committee Procedures Manual



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) NSW Country, Hunter Eagles or Distinguished Service to the game, 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 and the game of Baseball.

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, because without those players we would not have the game that we have 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 of May 2024.

The BNSW HOF will be for players, coaches, managers and umpires who have played at State level or above and have shown dominance in their era for on-field performance. A special MLB Excellence Section and Distinguished Service Section will also be acknowledged within the BNSW HOF (albeit they will not automatically become members of the BNSW HOF unless they meet the required criteria and a nomination form is submitted), who are the NSW players who started their careers in NSW and have played in the MLB in America and players who have a Distinguished and Unique history in the game. The inaugural inductees to the BNSW HOF will include all current NSW players/coaches who are in the Baseball Australia HOF, 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 through their delegates. 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. The original members of the BNSW HC will be appointed by the BNSW Board of Directors. Up to 2 BNSW Board of Directors (appointed by the BNSW Board of Directors) and the CEO of BNSW will be responsible for 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. These 7 people will consist of 2 Board members and 5 others appointed by the Board of Directors. In the first instance they shall be Paul Russell, Lionel Harris, Hartley Anderson, Geoff Robertson and Greg Roberts, Mark Burns & Peter Worboys (2 Board members) – of which the HC will select their own Chairperson each year – the BNSW CEO will be ex-officio on the Committee. Should a vacancy become available on the BNSW HC, then the remaining BNSW HC members will recommend a replacement, which will then need to be ratified by the BNSW Board of Directors.
- All BNSW HC members will have full voting rights including inviting associate members to join from time to time as required to support administrative duties, who will have no voting rights at all.
- 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, delegating 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 (or from time to time if required).



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 or Distinguished Service. Excellence and impact will be evidenced by regular and outstanding representation at State, National or International levels, 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) combined and represented NSW on at least 5 occasions at Senior level, as per Nominations by Era.
- 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, as per the eligible entities in the Nominations by Era.
- 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 competitions)
- 1919 – 1946 (the start of Claxton Shield and beginning of American influence and regular interstate competitions)
- 1947 – 1967 (Claxton Shield and post war American influence, Chrysler Cup and regular interstate competitions)

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 (unless they are from a Club that no longer exists – these can come from ex players or be recommended by the Heritage Committee over and above their quota), 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 majority vote must be received from the BNSW HC to be accepted to justify the progress of the nominee to the voting stage (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. Any other nominations received after the due date will automatically be added to the following year.

Format of the Event

- Due to the high profile, integrity and status of the HOF Event and recognition of the Inductees, it is recommended that the annual event, for the next 3 years, remains a free-standing event at a venue to be decided by the BNSW HC, and keeping in mind the demographics of the Inductees, that it will also remain an afternoon event as well. However, if possible, with negotiations with the Sydney Blue Sox, we should look to incorporate a HOF Inductees introduction during the first available double header home game at Blacktown Stadium – as per the format of 2009.

Communication Process

- We will **endeavor** to use the Baseball NSW Communications team to support our distribution program to the eligible entities and the wider Baseball community, however the BNSWHC reserves the right to establish its own communication package and deal directly with the eligible entities to ensure that there is maximum exposure for the Hall of Fame nominations and presentation events.



Procedures and Timelines

- The BNSW HC will call for nominations from the eligible entities no later than the 1 (one) month after the staging of the Hall of Fame Presentation Event 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 31st of December each year, at which stage the BNSW HC will commence processing procedures.
- The BNSW HC will complete all other relevant procedures by the 31st of January each year and once approved by the BNSW Board of Directors will look to formalize the presentation timing and venue by April each year. The venue and presentation format will be announced during December to allow all the nominees' time to be aware so that accommodation and/or travel arrangements may be organized.

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 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.
- For a nomination to proceed to the voting stage a majority vote is required by the BNSW HC. 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.
- 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 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 HC. 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 are still equal voting numbers then another separate secret ballot will be conducted until there are only 15 nominees, unless the BNSW HC believes 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 has been finalized, then the BNSW HC will decide which nomination/s will be carried over to the following year. The BNSW HC 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 years 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 HC determines the final inductees, they will be put forward to the BNSW Board of Directors by 1 of the 2 Directors for ratification.
- The BNSW HC will be responsible for recommending the nominations to be put forward to the BA HOF Committee (2 nominations per era as per the BA Procedures). Once the nominations are agreed they will be forwarded to the BNSW Board of Directors, by 1 of the 2 Directors on the BNSW HC, for ratification by the Board.
- The BNSW HC will be responsible for recommending 2 representatives from the Baseball NSW Heritage Committee (or the CEO) to be part of the Baseball Australia Heritage Committee every 5 years. Should the 2 current members wish to reapply at the end of their 5 year tenure they can do so – however, should other members wish to apply as well and there are more than 2 members who wish to be considered for the BA Heritage Committee – then voting will be conducted as per our Procedures Manual with the number of nominees being given votes from the highest to the lowest. (For example – if 4 members wish to nominate, then all 7 members will vote 4, 3, 2 & 1 for the nominees, and the highest 2 votes will be the members put forward to the Board of Directors for ratification).



Appeals Process

- If a nomination is rejected by the BNSW HC (or the BNSW Board of Directors), the nominator may lodge an appeal with the BNSW Board of Directors, under the normal Australian Baseball Federation Member Protection appeal guidelines. Following the receipt of an appeal, the BNSW HC (or the BNSW Board of Directors) will be asked for the reasons for declining the nomination. The Appeals Committee will then consider all evidence submitted and decide if the nomination will be accepted. The Appeals Committee will be appointed at the time, on a case-by-case basis as required – and will be chaired by the Chairperson of the Board – the Appeals Committee will consist of 5 members.

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 an integral 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 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 or CEO.

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 dictate 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 based on enduring value.

“Enduring value” is a record of group of records, or other items, which 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 that can go on loan then it is subject to completion of the Heritage Loans Agreement Policy documents.



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.

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