



Criteria for Selection of Honor Coach

It is important to realize that there is no set formula for selection into the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame (IMSHOF). The ultimate decision is made by the IMSHOF Selection Committee. This committee is made up of approximately 60 selectors ranging in age from 20s to 80s and almost all are IMSHOF Inductees. Selectors from approximately 20 different countries represent a diverse cross section of the international marathon swimming community. They come from different eras and roles within the sports, with traditional solo swimmers, racers, contributors and combinations of all three.

It has become progressively more difficult over time to be selected into the IMSHOF. As the sport grows: more events, longer careers, easier/cheaper travel, increasing distances, better navigation (GPS for example), faster education/communication via social media and improving training/nutrition.

Selection will generally require a career longer than 5 years of marathon coaching success. A nomination received too early in a career will set a pattern of “no vote”, possibly resulting in a withdrawal for insufficient support and with this a period of two years where the nomination can't be re-submitted unless more significant events are completed. If the coach is still active with bigger swims ahead, more international events, more races, more contributions – we advise the delay in nominating. Coaching also includes crewing on marathon swims. If the contribution was for observing swims – the appropriate nomination is for administrator.

Even the most compelling resumes will benefit from a well written nomination. Don't be afraid to ask for a peer review from a member of the Executive Committee (imshofvoting@gmail.com). It is common for several drafts to be exchanged/discussed before final submission. Your request will be passed on to members of our community who can provide feedback. We can also assist in translating from certain languages.

Lobbying for selection is not tolerated. The IMSHOF Executive Committee reserves the right to remove a nomination in these cases.

The nomination should be two pages maximum and focus on the most compelling aspects of the nominee's coaching career. **Accuracy and truthfulness is paramount.** The Executive Committee only completes a lite fact check. If the facts are incorrect – expect every selector who notices to simply stop reading (and probably ignore it the following year). We suggest you use resources like [db_long swim](#) list or [openwaterpedia.com](#) to get established distances (distances are measured shortest point to point in marathon swimming – NOT the swimmer's path). If a swim has been disputed – either omit it or have a 3-line discussion of the nature of the dispute.

The nomination process is private – please do not publicize (or consider it an honor) that you have been nominated. IMSHOF publishes an annual list of Inductees and award winners on Facebook ([@IMSHOF](#)), Instagram ([@imshofame](#)), <http://www.imshof.org> and our newsletter (nominee and nominator will automatically be added to this list).

Marathon Swimmers - Traditional Solo Marathon Swimmers competing in straits, channels, rivers, lakes and oceans

While the word “epic” is missing, it plays a critical part. Swimming 21 miles all the way to France or 21 miles all the way around an island has a better ring than halfway across (21 miles) a body of water. Claims to have “swum the English Channel in an outdoor pool (680 laps of 50m each) or in Dover Harbor (34 times between the walls which are 1,000m apart)” – despite being 21 miles are not acceptable nomination inclusions.

The selectors are looking for a resume range of swims: fresh and salt water, famous, new, 10km, 10 miles, 25km+, international and in different temperatures. Completing a local marathon swim 25 times will have less weight than 10 marathons in 10 different countries. Speed is generally not a deciding factor for the selectors reviewing traditional swimmer’s resumes – however holding speed records for famous swims like the English or Catalina Channel will help.

Very long swims are always impressive, but the selectors are looking for a full resume – not just two long swims.

World Class Marathon Solo Races (minimum 10km): Olympic Games, FINA World Championships, Grand Prix, World Cup and World Series events

Primary consideration should be given to those coaches whose swimmer/s have medaled in these events. Coaches should have a successful history of coaching at international race events.

Other Global, Regional (example European) or National Marathon Solo Races (minimum 10km)

Examples: Rottneest Island, Lake Zurich, Lake Windermere races, Swim the Suck, 20 Bridges.

Other

If the individual’s contribution has primarily as crew (helping the swimmer) – they should be nominated as Honor Contributor: Coach.

Observers (documenting the swim against the rules and safety) are considered Administrators.



Nomination for Honor Coach

Please read the Criteria for Selection of Honorees before completing the nomination form.

The nomination form is to be submitted supplied in Microsoft Word (Calibri 11-point font) format – simply add/reduce table rows as required and replace/delete all the text in blue. A separate PDF version is also required to maintain the integrity of the nomination.

The nomination is to be no longer than two pages (Nominee and Nominator's Information page is not included in these two pages).

Nomination is to be emailed to imshofvoting@gmail.com no later than the submission date that can be found on www.imshof.org

Nominees Information

Name: Include any titles Dr, PhD, MBE, Captain, etc. – if name has changed, make clear name primarily used as a coach

Country: Birth, residence or where lived during majority of career

Email: Add email address

Address: Address, City, State, Country, and Postcode

Phone Number: contact details: Cell/mobile phone (including international calling code)

Date of birth: 21 November 1967

Still an active marathon coach? Yes or No

Gender: Male, Female or Other

List all the countries where marathon swim coaching activities have taken place: Argentina, England, Italy and USA

Special considerations: Example: physical disability

Second Contact

Name: Child, sibling or friend who will be able to locate the nominee in 25 years

Relationship to swimmer: Child, sibling, friend, etc. **Email:** Add email address

Nominators Information

Nominator's Name: Add name

Nominator's Email: Add email address

I have read the Criteria for Selection of Honorees: [Yes / No](#)

Nomination – Honor Swimmer (2 pages only)

One paragraph summary:

This is what makes the coach unique or special compared the others on the ballot or already honored in IMSHOF. Catch the imagination of selectors. Examples: first to coach swimmers to 2 gold medals in the Olympics, coached 3 different national teams – to podium finishes, coached 5 swimmers who were later inducted into IMSHOF, etc. If the individual's contribution has primarily as crew (helping the swimmer) – they should be nominated as Honor Contributor: Coach. Observers (documenting the swim against the rules and safety) are considered Administrators.

Coaching Resume:

Traditional Solo Marathon Swims (minimum 10km) across straits, channels, lakes and oceans or in rivers

Note anything unique about the swim (especially where the swim involved any equipment other than non-buoyant/non-compression swimsuits, 1 cap, goggles, ear plugs and anti-friction grease/sunblock and any touching of boat/others)

List swims below – overwrite the examples shown. Do not list the same event multiple times unless there were multiple records set. Swims should be listed descending order of significance.

| Year | Swim | Country | Distance | Time | Notes |
|------|-----------------|----------------|----------|-----------|---|
| 2019 | English Channel | England/France | 21 miles | 15hr17min | <Swimmer> Completed 17 February – earliest ever |
| 2018 | Across Lake X | Peru | 22km | 5hr16min | <Swimmer> First ever and accredited by the Marathon Swim Federation |
| 2017 | Catalina | USA | 20 miles | 8hr4min | <Swimmer> Fastest swim of the year 17 th fastest ever |

List any IMSHOF Honorees who participated: [Forrest Nelson and Martin Stel](#)

World Class Marathon Solo Races (minimum 10km): Olympic Games, FINA World Championships, Grand Prix, World Cup and World Series events

Country: [Italy](#) Coach Position: [Head Coach](#) Years: [2010 – Present \(2019\)](#)

Number of international events attended as a Coach (approximately): [50](#)

Focus on the events resulting in podium finishes (and all Olympics) and list no more than 20 events

| Year | Swim | Country | Distance | Time | Place | Notes |
|------|----------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------|--|
| 2015 | Capri Naples | Italy | 36km | 6hr24min | 2nd | 1 st taken by X – an IMSHOF Honoree |
| 2014 | Hernandarias Parana | Argentina | 88km | 14hr11min | 1st | |
| 2012 | London Olympic Games | UK | 10km | 1hr02min | 2nd | |

List any IMSHOF Honorees who participated: [Irene van der Laan and Edith van Dijk](#)

Other Global, Regional (example European) or National Marathon Solo Races (minimum 10km)

Country: [Italy](#) Coach Position: [Head Coach](#) Years: [2010 – Present \(2019\)](#)

Number of international events attended as a Coach (approximately): [15](#)

Focus on the events resulting in podium finishes (and all Olympics) and list no more than 20 events

| Year | Swim | Country | Distance | Time | Place | Notes |
|------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2015 | National Championship | Italy | 25km | 5hr 02min | 2 | <Swimmer/s> |
| 2016 | Faros | Croatia | | | 1 | <Swimmer/s> |
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List any IMSHOF Honorees who participated: [Irene van der Laan and Edith van Dijk](#)

Other Considerations:

[Limit this to five lines or less. FINA 5km or Team podium finishes or other contributions to the sport \(examples organizing events, raising money for charity, coaching, etc.\). Olympic medal in 1,500meters, coached the National Team for 5 years, started a marathon swim in Lake X, piloted 135 solo swimmers across the English Channel, raised \\$2 million and built an orphanage through donations, relays, etc.](#)

*****End of Nomination – usually a maximum of 2 pages in length*****



Coaches Agreement:

I agree to this nomination going forward for consideration and would value inclusion in the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame. I have read and understand the criteria and selection process. The information above is accurate and I comply with the ethical clause below and there are no pending cases/allegations:

Drug Test Failure (adverse analytical findings, atypical finding and other assorted anti-doping rule violations) by WADA or an authorized WADA body in any aquatics sport prevents a nominee from being selected and results in the removal of an honoree from the IMSHOF. This does not apply if the finding is overturned on appeal (reduction or removal of any punishment on appeal is not considered if the finding is not overturned). This can be a current test or a future test on an old sample. Please note any swimmers banned from the Organization that the Coach was involved with during this period.

Fraud in an organized fashion to create false marathon records (example an organization altering observer logs or selling false marathon completion certificates) court prevents a nominee from being selected and results in the removal of an honoree from the IMSHOF. Please note any swimmers/administrators/organizations that the Coach was involved with during this period.

Conviction of Sexual Assault on a Child (and all appeals exhausted) by a local court prevents a nominee from being selected and results in the removal of an honoree from the IMSHOF. Please note any allegations by swimmers that the Coach was involved with during this period

Unfortunately, the specifics above may not be exhaustive in the future. The IMSHOF deplores any ethical violations that seriously diminish the reputation of the IMSHOF and the sport of open water swimming. Even a charge or suspicion of such an ethical violation may cause a nomination or announcement to be withdrawn. For inductees, IMSHOF will wait for a determination by the courts (and appeals exhausted) before removal is considered.

Coaches Name (Print)

Signature

Date

If the coach is no longer living – this should be signed by the nominator – to the best of their knowledge.

Certification of applicability/high-level factual/ethical check (to be completed by a member of IMSHOF Executive Committee):

IMSHOF Name

Signature

Date

The IMSHOF reserves the right to remove information for the ballot that is not relevant or swims that are not ratified.

Nominations that are not successful but receive a significant number of votes will automatically be included on the ballot the following year. Nominations with low votes will be removed and will not be able to be resubmitted for two years, and then only if additional significant swims/contributions have been accomplished in the interim. All nominators and nominees will be contacted with the details within 6 weeks of the voting process finishing with the outcome.