



PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF AN ALASKA CROSS COUNTRY SKI HALL OF FAME

by John Estle and Paul Beberg

The Alaska Cross Country Ski Hall of Fame is founded to recognize those individuals who have contributed greatly to the sport of cross country ski racing in Alaska through their athletic achievements, coaching, officiating, volunteerism or other contributions. The Alaska Cross Country Ski Hall of Fame is not a place. It is, at this time, merely a form of recognition for the good work of those who have come before us, and an attempt to make those involved in the sport today aware of and appreciative of those who in the past have contributed so much to the sport in our state.

Individuals are elected to the Alaska Cross Country Ski Hall of Fame in one of these classifications:

ATHLETE

- Must have been retired from international competition for at least five years (participation in World Masters competition does not count as international competition.)
- While residing in Alaska, must have
 - represented the USA at least twice in international competition, or
 - represented the USA in the Olympics or World Championships, or
 - been a multiple-medal-winner in US National Championships

COACH

- Must have coached for at least 10 years in Alaska at club, high school, or college level, or
- Must have coached multiple medal-winners in US National Championships, or
- Must have coached Olympic or World Championships athletes, or
- Must have been a member of the coaching staff at World Championships or Olympic Games, or other major international competitions, or
- Must have coached numerous athletes who have in turn become coaches

OFFICIAL/VOLUNTEER

- Must have officiated or been involved with the sport in some other integral fashion on a steady basis for at least 10 years, or
- Must have officiated in numerous major national or international competitions over at least a 10 year period, and
- Must have contributed in some special way to making skiing in Alaska better



LEGEND

- Must have met the criteria for two or more of the above three categories, and
- Must be recognized by all on the selection committee as having made contributions far above and beyond the norm required for induction, and
- Must have had at least 25 years affiliation with cross country skiing in Alaska, or have died before the required 25 years could have been achieved.

OTHER

- For individuals who do not fit in the above categories, special consideration may be given for induction in to the Alaska Cross Country Ski Hall of Fame
- If the screening committee approves, individuals in this category may be placed upon the ballot.
- For these individuals, the normal 50% requirement for induction is raised to 75%

FIRST YEAR PROCEDURES:

The Alaska Cross Country Skiing Hall of Fame was originally proposed and organized during the 1998-1999 season. The first “class” will be inducted in spring 2015, and will consist of the 12 individuals with the highest vote totals in the initial 1999 balloting, plus Kikkan Randall, who is automatically inducted based upon her gold-medal performance in the team sprint at the 2013 World Championships (see “Automatic Induction” below).

AFTER THE FIRST YEAR:

NOMINATIONS:

- Any active ski coach, club, athlete or member of the press may submit nominations to the CCC
- From among those nominated, the screening committee selected from among the members of the Hall of Fame determines which individuals will be listed on the ballot (which ones meet the criteria), and in what categories they will be listed
- The screening committee shall assemble a ballot for the hall of fame voting. This ballot will include a brief (1-2 paragraph) summary of the achievements of each nominee, and boxes to check for voting yes or no.
- Not more than 10 individuals may be listed.

ELECTION PANEL:

- There must be a minimum of 15 people voting for nominees, including:
- Current members of the Alaska Cross Country Ski Hall of Fame
- Additional voters who are not members of the Alaska Cross Country Ski Hall of Fame but who have been invited by the members of the Alaska Cross Country Ski Hall of Fame to participate in the voting in order to meet the minimum number (15) of electors required.
- The minimum number of electors may only be exceeded when the number of living/voting members of the Alaska Cross Country Ski Hall of Fame exceeds 15.
- Those voting will nominate an election committee of three members to count the ballots and announce the results.



NUMBER OF INDUCTEES:

- Years two, three, and four: maximum 5 inductees per year
- Year five onward: maximum of 2 inductees per year

NOTE: After 10 years, this would mean that the maximum number of inductees in the Alaska Cross Country Skiing Hall of Fame would be 40 people, plus any individuals who earn “Automatic Induction” with medal-winning performances at the World Championships or Olympics.

ELECTION STANDARDS:

- Candidates must be selected on more than one-half of the ballots in order to be elected into the Alaska Cross Country Ski Hall of Fame, except as noted above in the “Other” category.
- In cases where more than the maximum number of inductees is named on more than 50% of the ballots, election shall be determined by the individuals who are named on the highest number of ballot’[;

AUTOMATIC INDUCTION:

Any individuals winning medals at the World Championships (not Junior World Championships) or Olympic Games will be automatically and immediately inducted into the Alaska Cross Country Ski Hall of Fame without the requirement of a vote.

ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL RECORDS TO BE MAINTAINED:

The Alaska Cross Country Ski Hall of Fame will maintain lists in each of the following categories:

- Alaskan athletes and coaches who were members of :
 - US Olympic Teams
 - World Championship Teams
 - Junior World Championships Teams
 - World University Games Teams
- Alaskans who have won National Junior and Senior Championships
- Alaska State High School Champions
- Skiers from Alaska universities who have been named to college All-American teams, and
- Skiers who have come through Alaska HS/Club programs and have been named college All-Americans while attending universities Outside Alaska.
- Major national and international ski events held in the state of Alaska, and the host club, and (optional) major officials

These individuals are not considered to be members of the Alaska Cross Country Ski Hall of Fame, but will be recognized in the Alaska Cross Country Ski Hall of Fame official document and any displays.



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION:

The Alaska Cross Country Ski Hall of Fame should, each year, publish an electronic document including photos and brief biographical sketches of all the current members of the Alaska Cross Country Ski Hall of Fame, emphasizing those achievements which contributed most to the betterment of cross country skiing in Alaska. The first section of the document should be devoted to the newest inductees, with larger photographs, and more extensive biographies of each of the new inductees. The document should also include the most recent and complete versions of the ancillary lists mentioned above. Additional historical photographs or articles may be included if possible, with the limits of space and expense.

DISPLAYS:

The Alaska Cross Country Ski Hall of Fame will initially be located on the web. In the future, it is hoped that the Hall of Fame can provide a laminated list of all members to each of the major ski programs in the state (clubs, schools, etc.) who request one and promise to display it prominently.