

GUIDELINES



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INTRODUCTION

The Town of Valdese has had a rich sports history and a tradition of excellence in athletics achieved through support from the local community and the Town. Historically, there has been no instrument for preserving and memorializing the achievements of individuals and teams who have contributed to the success of sports in Valdese.

Almost twenty-five (25) years ago, a ceremony was held at the American Legion Post 234 honoring “Memorable Valdese Sports People of the Century”. While the event was well received and attended, there was no permanent record of the awards except in the hands of a few individuals.

In 2022 an informal group of individuals, both past and present residents, began discussing the possibility of establishing a permanent Sports Hall of Fame in Valdese. As the years pass by, increasingly more of our sports history is hidden or perhaps lost. While the Sports Hall of Fame will honor and memorialize past achievements, it will also be a place to honor current and future generations of Valdese athletes who have differentiated themselves by exceptional performance on the field or court and thereby bringing honor and recognition to the Town of Valdese. Members of the Hall of Fame will be identified and honored with individual plaques displayed in a permanent and prominent place in the community.

The establishment of a permanent Valdese Sports Hall of Fame is being sponsored by The Rotary Club of Valdese with support from the Town of Valdese Parks & Recreation Department along with private donations.

It is not expected that the Valdese Sports Hall of Fame will compete or detract from the Burke County Sports Hall of Fame, but instead complement it. Many of the individuals who may qualify for the Valdese Sports Hall of Fame may not have the qualifications for the Burke County Sports Hall of Fame, but they should be honored and remembered for their extraordinary contributions to the sports history in the local community. In the process of considering qualifications and achievements of candidates, some of them may be identified as worthy of the Burke County Sports Hall of Fame as well.

1. ELIGIBILITY

Selection to the Hall of Fame will be considered for athletes, coaches, administrators, and contributors, living or deceased, (1) who are/were residents of the Town of Valdese, (2) who have been out of the sport for five (5) years, and (3) who have differentiated themselves based on the criteria for induction as outlined below.

Athletes:

- Eligible for induction five (5) years after graduation from Valdese High School, East Burke High School, or Draughn High School, or five (5) years after completion of playing career for college and professional athletes. (Executive Committee will have discretion in unique, exceptional circumstances.)
- Candidates must have been residents of the Town of Valdese or played sports for a high school within the Town of Valdese.
- Must have lettered in one or more varsity sports.
- Athletic ability, sportsmanship, character, leadership and contribution to teams and games will be considered. A similar standard of ethics shall have characterized the years following the end of their playing career.
- Awarded All-Conference, All-County, All-State, or All-America.
- Selected to play in an All-Star game (i.e., Shrine Bowl, Lion's Bowl, East-West game).
- Individual or team championship, record or winning streak, league leader in recognized statistical category.
- Post graduate activities including college and professional experience.
- Induction into another sports hall of fame bringing positive recognition to the Town.

Coaches:

- Any coach with 5+ years coaching experience at Valdese High School, East Burke High School (during the time that Valdese residents attended), Draughn High School, or youth coaches within the Valdese community. (Executive Committee will have discretion in unique, special circumstances.)
- Individuals from the Town of Valdese who may have coached at any other high school, college, or university whose record and accomplishments brought honor and recognition to the Town.
- Demonstrated coaching ability, loyalty, leadership, character, athletic expertise, and significant contribution to their teams and to their respective sports.

- **Accomplishments (individual or teams) have merited county, league or statewide recognition.**

Teams:

- **Championship teams at any level in any sport from the Town of Valdese at the county, conference/league, or state level.**
- **Teams from high schools within the Town Limits of Valdese and teams from East Burke High School, only during the time Valdese residents attended high school there, are eligible.**
- **Teams will not be members of the Hall of Fame but will be recognized as “Teams of Distinction” and will be honored at the induction ceremony and banquet.**

Contributors:

- **Administrators, Staff, Volunteers, Media Personalities and Supporters who have exhibited exceptional leadership, character, integrity, loyalty, and unwavering support of athletics at their respective schools and/or within the Valdese community.**
- **Induction into another sports hall of fame bringing positive recognition to the Town.**
- **Candidates must be current or former residents of the Town of Valdese.**

Achievements in all categories should be on record and verified by copies of photographs, news clippings, yearbooks, certificates of awards, etc. All-star teams, tournaments and awards were less common in earlier eras, and documentation of achievements may not exist, especially for older nominees, except in the memories of friends and families. The Executive Committee should take this into consideration.

2. SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Hall of Fame Selection Committee may include the following categories of members and will consist of no more than fifteen (15) members at any given time.

Valdese Mayor/Town Council Member	One (1) member
Parks & Recreation Director	One (1) member
The Rotary Club of Valdese	Three (3) members
Hall of Fame Members	Three (3) members
Past or Present Coaches or AD's	Three (3) members
At Large	Four (4) members

The Hall of Fame Executive Committee will consist of up to six (6) members who will also serve on the Selection Committee. The Executive Committee will have discretion in determining the make-up of the Selection Committee.

Hall of Fame Selection Committee members should represent a cross section of decades.

Care should be taken in selecting At-Large committee members to select individuals who have knowledge of the athletic history of the Town of Valdese and are representative of the various periods of that history.

During the initial two or three years of the Hall of Fame, and/or until there are Hall of Fame members able and willing to serve, founding members of the Hall of Fame will fill three slots on the Selection Committee instead of Hall of Fame members.

The Executive Committee will determine the number of eligible candidates from the nominations received and the Selection Committee will be responsible for the selection of Hall of Fame inductees from the list of suitable candidates. The number of inductees in any year will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee. It is anticipated that the inaugural class may be comprised of 6-10 members and the subsequent two to three classes of Hall of Fame inductees may include 4-6 members. Thereafter, the Hall of Fame will induct 3-4 candidates, but the class may be smaller or larger depending on the number of eligible candidates.

For the first two or three years, the Selection Committee will meet annually to vote on the candidates determined by the Executive Committee to be suitable for consideration. The number of inductees may vary. Following the first two or three years, the Selection Committee will meet every one to two years to vote on suitable candidates.

A minimum positive vote of 67% of members is required for induction.

3. NOMINATIONS

A form has been developed upon which nominations will be made. The form must be completed, and the qualifications of the nominee must be clearly set forth on the form or attachments thereto.

- While nominations may be made by anyone, self-nominations or unsigned/anonymous nominations will not be accepted.
- The Nomination should be accompanied by news clippings, information from yearbooks, certificates of awards, or other documentation supporting the Nominee's qualifications.
- Nominations may be made by the Selection Committee or by the general public.
- If the Nominee is deceased, the Nomination Form must include the name and contact information of a family member who will agree to attend and participate in the induction ceremony.
- The deadline for submitting nominations is December 31 of each year for candidates to be considered for the following year's class of inductees.
- Nominations will be retained and reviewed annually if the candidate is not inducted in the current class.
- The nomination form is available on the Valdese Sports Hall of Fame web site or may be picked up at the Valdese Community Center.

4. VOTING PROCEDURES

The Selection Committee will review all eligible candidates based on the nomination information available at the time of the selection meeting.

- **The Executive Committee will decide on a slate of candidates to be considered for election to the Hall of Fame.**
- **Nominees must receive 67% approval from all voting members of the Selection Committee to be inducted.**
- **Consideration should be given to inducting deserving candidates who are more senior in age before inducting more recent candidates.**
- **In years where there are multiple candidates (i.e., the early years of the Hall of Fame), the Selection Committee may attempt to represent a good cross section of age, sport, and gender in the induction class.**
- **It is anticipated that the Selection Committee will elect up to 10 individuals in the inaugural class. In subsequent years, the class is expected to be 4-6 inductees and may be as small as 1 or 2 inductees, depending on the number of qualified candidates.**
- **Voting will be by secret ballot and details will be kept confidential.**
- **Hall of Fame selections will not be announced until after the individuals/teams have been notified and their acceptance, or in the case of deceased inductees, their family's acceptance, of the induction and participation in the ceremony are verified.**
- **In the event that a candidate or family member (in the case of deceased candidates) is not available to attend and participate in the current year's banquet and ceremony, induction will be deferred until the next year. If the candidate or family member is still not available to attend, induction will be denied, and the candidate must be nominated again to be considered for induction.**
- **The number of candidates and inductees in any year will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.**

5. HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

A Valdese Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and dinner will occur on the third Monday of May every one to two years, or as needed, to induct deserving candidates.

The inductee must attend the Hall of Fame ceremony. In the case of deceased inductees, a family member or representative must attend. If circumstances preclude the inductee or family representative from attending the ceremony, the Hall of Fame Executive Committee will have discretion in making the appropriate decision regarding induction.

On the day of induction, new members or their representatives are guests of honor at the ceremony.

New members will receive a Hall of Fame memento (i.e., a plaque or a medallion and ribbon) and their Hall of Fame plaque will be permanently and publicly displayed in a place of honor at the Valdese Community Center.