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**Criteria for Selection of Honor Swimmer**

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 more than 70 selectors ranging in age from 20s to 90s and almost all are IMSHOF Honorees (see <https://www.imshof.org/nominate-selectors>) representing a globally diverse cross-section of the international marathon swimming community. They come from different eras and roles within the sport representing swimmers, contributors, and combinations of both.

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.

For swimmers starting marathon swimming after the year 2000, selection will generally require a career be longer than 8 years and include more than 20 successful marathon swims. In the first half of the 1900s, there were far fewer easily available swims and travel was more difficult/costly – and hence careers were often shorter comprising fewer swims. From approximately 1950 to 2000, there were more swims and travel became easier, so careers will generally be longer than 5 years and include more than 10 successful marathon swims. A nomination received too early in a career will set a pattern of “no vote”, possibly resulting in a withdrawal for insufficient support and thus a period of two+ years where the nomination can not be re-submitted unless more significant events are completed. If the swimmer is still active with bigger swims anticipated, more international events, more races, more contributions, IMSHOF advises the delay in nominating. Please do not include “future plans” – these will not be presented to the selection committee.

Even the most outstanding swimmers will benefit from a well-written nomination. It is advisable (and quite common) to ask for a peer review from a member of the Executive Committee (imshofvoting@gmail.com). Several drafts are often exchanged/discussed before final submission. Your request will be passed on to members of our community who can provide objective feedback. IMSHOF 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 a maximum of two pages and focus on the most compelling aspects of the nominee’s swimming career. **Accuracy and truthfulness are paramount.** The selection committee completes a light fact check but if the facts are incorrect, expect every selector who notices to simply stop reading (and probably ignore this nomination in the future). IMSHOF suggests you ensure that resources such as [longswim.com](https://longswims.com) list and [openwaterpedia.com](https://www.openwaterpedia.com/index.php?title=Openwaterpedia) are complete (as possible) and accurate BEFORE you start completing the form below. Then make sure you use 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 (approximately 50 words) discussion of the nature of the dispute. If a potentially significant question is raised during the voting process, any votes will not be considered until all the questions are answered. If the result is a nomination less impressive (after changes/removal of a questioned swim or contribution) then the Executive Committee may ignore the votes and either roll the corrected nomination to next year or consider if this was a fraudulent offence and bar the nominee in the future.

The nomination process is private. A nomination is NOT an honor so please do not publicize your nomination in ANY way. IMSHOF publishes an annual list of Inductees and award winners on Facebook ([@IMSHOF](https://www.facebook.com/IMSHOF/)), Instagram [(@imshofame](https://www.instagram.com/imshofame/)), <http://www.imshof.org/> and our newsletter. All nominees and nominators will automatically be added to the newsletter subscription list.

The sport contains three types of marathon swims.

​**Solo swims** in straits, channels, rivers, lakes, and oceans – examples: the English Channel, Derwent River, Foveaux Strait. This would also include solo swims completed in tandem formation (together) example: a tandem in Catalina, 4 solo swimmers together in Gibraltar, etc.

**Races in World Aquatics** (previously FINA)/Majors: Competitive participation in the Olympic Games, World Championships, and 10K Marathon Swim Cup Events. See [Majors/Swims | IMSHOF](https://www.imshof.org/majors-swims).

**Other races**: LEN, national championships, Rottnest, World University Games, Lake Zurich, S.C.A.R., etc.

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While the word “epic” is missing, it plays a critical part. Swimming 33 km all the way to France or 33 km all the way around an island has a better ring than halfway across (33 km) a body of water. Claims to have “swum the English Channel in an outdoor pool (680 laps of 50 meters each)” or “in Dover Harbor (33 times between the walls which are 0.5 km apart)”, despite being 33 km, are not acceptable nomination inclusions. IMSHOF nominations can not include swims done outside of established marathon ratification bodies active in those waters (example Catalina Channel Swimming Federation). If multiple swimmers are in the water (and not swimming together) then it is a race (see below).

The selectors are looking for a nomination to have a range of swims: fresh and salt water, famous, new, 10 km, 25 km+, 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 swimmer’s solo swimming biography, – however holding speed records for famous swims like the English or Catalina Channel will benefit the nomination.

Where swims are 2-way, 3-way (etc.) or stage swims – please note time for each leg of the swim, time between legs (or start dates on a stage swim) and/or overall time.

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

**Races in World Aquatics (previously FINA)/Majors: Competitive participation in the Olympic Games, World Championships, and 10K Marathon Swim Cup Events.**

Primary consideration will be given to those swimmers winning or having medal performances. Swimmers should have a successful history of international race events. Please note where the swimmer has won a “Major”. See these links for descriptions/examples:

[The Majors - Description | IMSHOF](https://www.imshof.org/the-majors-description)

[The Majors - Winners | IMSHOF](https://www.imshof.org/the-majors-winners)

Selection is based on the number of races, range of years, different distance, international activity, percentages of podium finishes (medals), and records.

**Other races: LEN, national championships, Rottnest, World University Games, Lake Zurich, S.C.A.R., etc.**

Advice to nominators for all races:

1. Longer Races: Make sure to note any 25 km + races if they are part of the swimmer’s nomination.

2. Higher place finishes against IMSHOF Honorees and/or other major winners will contribute to more impressive nominations.

3. Career Length: List at least one early and most current result – to show career length: so, a 10 km National Championship in 2001 and 36 km Capri Naples in 2022.

4. List best wins/podium positions and/or women beating men.

5. Show a range of countries, salt & fresh/cold & warm waters, and distances of races.

Although nominations of some swimmers will include successes in each of the three types of marathon swims above, it is not mandatory. A swimmer with three Olympic medals and 30% podium finishes probably may not need any solo swims in their nomination to be selected. A swimmer with 100+ solo swims over a 20-year period may not need any race performances to be selected. The swimmer with a 5% podium finishes in 10 years may need a 10-year solo marathon career to appeal to the selectors.

**IMSHOF Swimwear and Aids Criteria:**

To be considered for elevation to Honoree in the IMSHOF, the nominee must have complied with the swimwear rules of the body in control of each event listed in the nomination.

1. In an organized competition conducted under the auspices of a recognized international or national body, the nominee must comply with both the relevant swimwear requirements and other performance regulations as required under that body’s rules.

In some World Aquatics (previously FINA) races the swimmers are compelled to wear wetsuits in lower temperatures and are allowed to wear compression suits (which aid speed) in most events. These should be explicitly noted on the nomination.

For solo swims conducted under the auspices of the body governing that event, the nominee must comply with both the relevant swimwear requirements and other performance regulations as required under that body’s rules.

“I snuck out one night with my brother in a boat and swam the English Channel” is not an acceptable example of a swim to include on a nomination. IMSHOF honors many of the organizations which set and enforce rules and accredit swims. IMSHOF acknowledges that the growing popularity makes getting into these famous swims harder and more expensive – but the value of the organizations is too high to ever undercut.

1. For swims performed outside of known organizations, (under the support of private, professional, or cause-related groups,) nominees may be asked to provide evidence of the swim through creditable observers with clear details of costume or any other practices out of the norm of solo swims. IMSHOF does not accredit swims and will not include disputed swims on any nomination.

**Other Items**

An individual can only be inducted in IMSHOF as either an Honor Swimmer or Honor Contributor. Many Honor Swimmers have been fantastic Contributors either after retirement or in parallel with a long swimming career.

The International Swimming Hall of Fame have two awards which can recognize those with dual roles: the Irving Davids/Captain Roger W. Wheeler Memorial Award and the Poseidon Award.

**Nomination for Honor Swimmer Month/Year** (when submitted)**:**

Please read the Criteria for Selection of Honorees before completing the nomination form. The nomination form is to be submitted 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. Distances should be listed in kilometers (km).

The nomination is to be no longer than two pages. (These informational pages are not included as part of the two pages.) Please do not attach hyperlinks, except where requested, or include pictures or endorsements from others. The font color may only be in black ink. The nomination is to be emailed to mailto:imshofvoting@gmail.com no later than the submission date that can be found at <https://www.imshof.org/nominate-process>.

**Nominees Information**

**Name:** Include any titles Dr, PhD, MBE, Captain, and well-known nicknames (example: Sir William "Billy" Butlin). Please include all appropriate accent marks in the name. If one’s name has changed (often through marriage), then it is optional to include it (example: Sandra Bucha Kerscher). The name will be alphabetized under which name the nominee competed). The individual can also opt for the following: First Name, then married Last Name, then née Maiden Name, such as Karen Reeder, née Burton.

**Country:** Birth, country of residence, or country lived during majority of career

**Email:** Add email address (generally mandatory – explain exception)

**Instagram:** Add Instagram address (if using)

**Facebook:** Add Facebook page (if using)

**Address:** Street, number, City, State, Country, and Postcode

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

**Date of birth:** example 21 November 1917 **Date of death (if applicable):** example 21 November 2017

**Still an active marathon swimmer?** Yes or No

**Gender:** Male, Female or Other

**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 this contact’s email address

**Nominator’s Information**

**Nominator’s Name:** Add name **Nominator’s Email:** Add email address

**Nominee has read and understands the Criteria for Selection of Honorees:** Yes / No

**Nomination – Honor Swimmer (2 pages only) - START**

**Summary (suggest you limit to one paragraph):**

Outline what makes the swimmer unique or special. Catch the interest of selectors.

Examples: First to swim a marathon in 40 countries. First to swim the English Channel in 6 different decades.

IMSHOF is international, so please avoid “first in my country” unless the country is not yet represented in IMSHOF (example: first swimmer from Mongolia to win an Olympic medal, etc.)

Please avoid adjectives (example: dominant) and focus on facts (example: won 5 years in a row).

**Swimming History:**

**List all the countries (in alphabetical order) where successful marathon swims have taken place:** Argentina, England, Italy, and USA.

**Special considerations:** Anything that distinguished the nominee not addressed elsewhere - for example areas covered by IMSHOF formal initiatives, such as black swimmers/contributors and swimmers with physical disabilities and those assisting.

**Career breaks:** explain breaks which might include injury, child-rearing, education, career, etc.

**Solo swims in straits, channels, rivers, lakes, and oceans – examples: the English Channel, Derwent River, Foveaux Strait. This would also include solo swims completed in tandem formation (together) example: a tandem in Catalina, 4 solo swimmers together in Gibraltar, etc.**

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 the boat/others). [Global records](https://www.imshof.org/records-nomenclature) (fastest, first, youngest, oldest, most, etc.) should be noted – however IMSHOF does not usually include country records (example: fastest swimmer from France). Where the country is not well-represented in IMSHOF then there is some interest (example: first from Vietnam).

List swims below by overwriting the examples shown. Do not list the same event multiple times (see Lough Erne example below) unless there were multiple records set but do list the fastest time. Swims should be listed in descending order of significance. Show times as hours: minutes.

Nominations with “cut and paste” information will be returned. The tables below must be completed manually.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Swim** | **Countries** | **Distance km** | **Time** | **Notes** |
| 2019 | English Channel | England/France | 33 | 15:17 | Completed 17 February – earliest ever.Also swam in 2015 (16:08) and 2010 (17:24). |
| 2017 | Catalina | USA | 32 | 8:04 | Fastest swim of the year 17th fastest ever |
| 2018 | Across Lake X | Peru | 22 | 5:16 | First ever and accredited by the Marathon Swim Federation. |

**Races in World Aquatics (previously FINA)/Majors: Competitive participation in the Olympic Games, World Championships, and 10K Marathon Swim Cup Events.**

Focus on the events resulting in podium finishes plus all Olympics and World Championships races. Include no more than 20 events. List swims in order of 1st then 2nd then 3rd, then other. If available – also include the number of finishers (and starters): example: 1st/32, 3rd out of 6 finishers (32 started).

Majors won: List year and event

Number of events started <number>, podium finishes <number> and percentage of podium (1st, 2nd, or 3rd) finishes: <percentage>

First year competed (at this level): <year> Last year (at this level): Example: 2010, or still competing as of December 2024.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Major Swims** | **Countries** | **Distance km** | **Time** | **Place** | **Notes** |
| 2015 |  World Championships | Russia | 25  | 6:24 | 1st/32 | Beat IMSHOF Honorees (names). |
| 2014 | World Cup – Annual Series | Various | 10 | n/a | 2nd | Also swam in 2010 3rd place. |
| 2012 | London Olympics | England | 10 | 1:02 | 5th/22 |  |

Podium positions listed below generally hold less weight than the majors above. Please use the notes to help the IMSHOF Selectors understand the quality of the competition.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Other World Aquatics/Majors Swims** | **Countries** | **Distance km** | **Time** | **Place** | **Notes** |
| 2015 | Capri Naples – Grand Prix | Italy | 36 | 6:24 | 1st/32 | Beat IMSHOF Honoree (name) or Olympic/World Championship medalist (name). |
| 2014 | Santos – World Cup | Brazil | 10 | 2:11 | 2nd/22 | Also swam in 2010 3rd place. |

**Other races: LEN, national championships, Rottnest, World University Games, Lake Zurich, S.C.A.R., etc.**

Focus on the events resulting in podium finishes and list no more than 10 events. List swims in order of 1st then 2nd then 3rd then other.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Swim** | **Countries** | **Distance km** | **Time** | **Place** | **Notes** |
| 2016 | Faros | Croatia | 18 | 4:15 | 1st/23 | Beat 3 IMSHOF Honorees (names). |
| 2017 | 20 Bridges (Around Manhattan) | USA | 45.9 | 7:02 | 2nd/9 | 1st female. |
| 2015 | National Championship | Italy | 25 | 5:02 | 2nd/28 | Also placed 3rd in 2012, and 4th in 2013. |

**Swimming Honors/Unique Items:** Example: 15 times National 25 km Champion, won events in 6 countries.

**Other Considerations:**

Limit this to five lines or less. This might include World Aquatics 5 km/Team podium finishes, other contributions to the sport, such as organizing events, raising money for charity, coaching, etc., Olympic medal in 1,500 meters, excellence in other sports or other contributions to society like building an orphanage, etc.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*End of Nomination – maximum of 2 pages in length with spacing and text fonts used above. IMSHOF will NOT sign off longer nominations.\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**Swimmer’s Agreement:**

I agree with this nomination going forward for consideration and would value inclusion in the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame. I am following IMSHOF as a subscriber to one or more social media channels: newsletters, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, etc. I have read and understood the criteria and selection process. I understand that I have the obligation to update IMSHOF with swims/contributions after this nomination has been submitted. If selected, I will commit to helping with my announcement, contribute requested information to the website and ceremony booklet , supply suitable pictures and video if available. I agree that some biographical and career details will be shared on IMSHOF and partner websites and posts – see [Privacy & GDPR Policy | IMSHOF](https://www.imshof.org/privacy-and-gdpr-policy). The information above is accurate and I comply with the ethical clause below. There are no pending cases/allegations against me and will inform IMSHOF of any future cases/allegations/convictions.

**Honorees** will live the values associated with the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame including commitment, integrity, courage, respect, and excellence.

**Drug Test Failure** (adverse analytical findings, atypical findings, 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.

**Sexual Assault Conviction of a Child** (and all appeals have been exhausted) by a local court prevents a nominee from being selected and results in the removal of an Honoree from the IMSHOF.

**Fraud** committed in an organized fashion to create false marathon records. (Example: an organization altering observer logs or selling false marathon completion certificates.) This prevents a nominee from being selected and results in the removal of an Honoree from the IMSHOF.

**Safety** is a top priority in the sport. Individuals or Organizations which repeatedly engage in unsafe practices do not meet our ethics criteria.

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Encourage **participation** by all interested swimmers and contributors. Individuals or Organizations which repeatedly engage in creating entry barriers or a non-welcoming environment based on disability; race; country of origin; gender or gender identity/preference do not meet our ethics criteria. IMSHOF continues to monitor these criteria and evolve it accordingly over time.

The five specific ethical values described above may not be exhaustive in our global 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 an announcement to be withdrawn. For inductees, IMSHOF will generally wait for a determination by the courts (and appeals exhausted) before removal is considered.

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Swimmer’s Name (Print) Signature Date

If the swimmer is no longer living, (to the best of one’s knowledge) this nomination is to be signed by the nominator.

IMSHOF reserves the right to remove information from a nomination 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 only the following year. Nominations with low votes will be removed and will generally 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 within 6 weeks of the conclusion of the voting process, with the selection outcome. IMSHOF will not enter discussions with nominators, nominees, or anyone else about unsuccessful nominations.

End