

December 2023

How to self-evaluate the chances of a proposed nomination to the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame (IMSHOF).

Induction into IMSHOF was achieved in the last two decades via the annual secret ballot of a selection panel of more than 30 individuals. The current process is described [here](#) and the makeup of the selection panel [here](#). Fewer than 30% of nominees are generally selected for Induction.

Each annual ballot is different, and the selectors are not polled for their voting “logic/reasons”. It is therefore not possible to compare the resume of a possible nominee to an Honoree to determine their chances. It is also noted that it gets progressively more difficult to be selected: there are more swimmers, swims, and contributors in the sport; cheaper travel; and better training/coaching/swim management/nutrition information. A swimmer active in the 1950s might have been inducted based on 4 marathons over a 5-year career – while a current swimmer would probably need 20+ marathons over an 8+ year career. Finally, some selectors are swayed by “the story” which could involve a country not well represented, unique swims/contributions, or overcoming life’s hardships.

A potential nominator of a swimmer or contributor should read the biographies of the Inductees in the [last few years](#) and objectively answer the question: “Does the career of the swimmer or contributor compare favorably with recent Inductees?” Before submitting a nomination. It is advisable to check with info@imshof.org with the name before executing a complete nomination – for an initial reaction and suggested timing. Some individuals are barred based on known ethics issues, some have previously been on a ballot and been unsuccessful and some are already in process. Individuals/organizations that are still active are occasionally advised to wait a few more years to either further build a resume or avoid a similar nominee expected on the next ballot.

The nomination process can be very positive: a reminder of swimming and contributions career. It can also be negative: a nomination is not an honor and the process is private (only), it can be real work/research with difficult questions about non-ratified swims, previously quiet [ethics issue](#) may arise, and expectations are raised (with a real possibility of disappointment).

Recent Honoree resumes – to help self-evaluation.

Swimmers - Elite Racers:

[Dr. Evgenij Pop Acev](#) – 3 [Major wins](#) and 106 races in 21 countries.

[Rita Kovács](#) – 36 races (64% podium finishes), silver at 25 km World Championships and after an 8-year career hiatus then won her first race back.

[Georges Michel](#) – English Channel success on his 10th attempt in the 1920s/set the speed record and top 2 finishes in early Wrigley Marathons.

Swimmers - Soloers:

[Courtney Moates Paulk](#) – first to achieve a triple crown of 2-way swims.

[Diane Struble](#) – first ever swims of 32.7 km across Lake Champlain and 51.8 km length of Lake George and eighth swimmer to circle Manhattan Island (30 years after the seventh swimmer).

[Ros Hardiman](#) - 2019 Loch Ness 36.2 km in at age 67, previously English Channel in 20 hours and 17 minutes overcoming no use of her legs since age 6 due to polio.

Contributors:

Coach [Catherine Vogt Kase](#) - 16 countries as a 4-time FINA World Championship Head Coach and 3-time Olympic Open Water Head Coach (2012-Tunisia, 2016-USA, and 2021-USA).

Coach [Dan Simonelli](#) - supporting more than 300 Catalina and Santa Barbara Channel swims as well as other channel/marathon swims. He coached/crewed swimmers in 6 countries at distances: 10 km - more than 100 swimmers; 10 miles - more than 100 swimmers; and 25 km – more than 65 swimmers.

Administrator [Beth Yudovin](#) - 25+ years as her husband's (David Yudovin Honor Swimmer in IMSHOF & ISHOF) manager and crew chief. Together they completed many first ever marathon swims around the world and IMSHOF's Executive Committee since 2014.

Organization > [Australian Long Distance Swimming Federation](#) – nearly 50 years as longest-serving national open water swimming body in Oceania. Runs a successful marathon and manages the Australia Triple Crown.

Pilot > [Captain John Pittman](#) – During the years 2011 to 2015 he escorted 30+ successful swimmers a year, retiring in 2016.

End