

# Richards Hall Of Fame Criteria and Mission

The Richards Hall of Fame was created with an eye to the future through the view of the past. The purpose of the Richards Hall of Fame is to shout from the rooftops of our Oak Lawn campus ALL successes of Richards Athletics. The most obvious and palpable manner to accomplish this goal for past, present and future Bulldog athletes is the Hall of Fame.

The focus of the Hall of Fame Committee is to give the selection process structure. Two to three inductees will be enshrined at the Hall of Fame Banquet, held only on even number year. The Hall of Fame is for only those special students athletes who meet the specific criterion set below. The committee believes that by following these standards, induction to the Richards Hall of Fame will become the greatest honor bestowed upon a Richards' athlete.

## **I. ELIGIBILITY:**

To be eligible for the Richards Hall of Fame, former student athletes must meet certain requirements before they can be considered. Even Walter Payton needed to wait five years before he was elevated to Canton. For our purposes, the criteria is simple:

### **A. TIME:**

Any Richards' athlete is eligible for consideration after ten years since their graduation. This strict standard does not mean after the end of their final season, but ten years after their class has left Richards. An exception to the ten year rule can be made at the discretion of the committee.

### **B. LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION:**

Only athletes who complete on the varsity level will be considered. Athletic success at underclass levels of competition (freshman and sophomore) will be used in considering nominee's entire athletic career, but only if the success continued into the varsity level. Generally, we will only consider athletes who played all four years in their sport, unless special circumstances dictate (i.e., injury preventing an athlete from competing senior year).

### **C. ADDITIONAL INDUCTEES:**

The Richards Hall of Fame will not be reserved for only athletes. All athletic departments must rely on many dedicated non-athletes to ensure its success. Richards is no different. The committee will induct such non-athletes on a special case basis when the occasion arises. Examples of these types of inductees will be team coaches, athletic directors or friends of the Richards Athletic Department.

## II. SELECTION CRITERIA:

The selection criteria can be described as a three-hurdle race with induction being the finish line. There are different levels of importance placed on each one of these areas to be considered. But, all hurdles, regardless of size or importance, must be cleared in order for a nominee to be considered:

### A. **ATHLETIC SUCCESS:**

Only the most accomplished Richards athlete will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Clearly, this is the most important area and highest hurdle to clear.

#### 1. **Richards Career:**

Regardless of post graduation accomplishments, a distinguished Richards' athletic career is of primary importance. Awards, records, and statistics are clear indicators in this area.

#### 2. **Subsequent Athletic Achievement:**

Post graduation success in an athlete's field will also be given attention. Naturally, any Richards' athlete who continues his/her success at a higher level of competition will certainly be given special consideration.

### B. **RICHARDS REPRESENTATIVES:**

The Richards Hall of Fame does have a character requirement. Each member should have represented Richards High School in a positive light at all times as an athlete and a student. Areas to consider would be whether the candidate was a leader to his teammates and worked to elevate his/her level of play and that of his/her teammates; did the candidate display the characteristics of sportsmanship that we feel distinguishes Richards did the candidate demonstrate the work ethic worthy of consideration to such an honor.

### C. **CONNECTION TO THE COMMUNITY:**

All inductees should demonstrate continued success in life after athletes. The best of our student athletes will take with them the lessons of hard work, discipline and teamwork and use them to foster their achievements after their playing careers have finished. A strong sense of community is also important where the nominees can demonstrate their involvement wherever their travels have taken them. The Committee does not expect or require that any nominee specifically demonstrate his involvement in the community through Richards Alumni involvement.

## III. **NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESS:**

The nominations for each new class of Richards Hall of Fame inductees will come in the fall of the preceding year. For example, for the Richards Hall of Fame Class of 2006, the nominations will be submitted in the fall of 2005 (end of October) just after the school year begins. This will give the committee ample time to examine all candidates before selection.

**A. SOURCE OF THE NOMINATION:**

All nominations are expected to come from the Richards Athletic Community, past and present.

**B. STRUCTURE OF NOMINATION:**

A person can nominate any player he/she believes meets the eligibility and criterion as set above. The nominator is expected to respond in writing to the committee with not only the candidates' names but also the specific facts and or statistics that the coach believes distinguishes the candidate. It is important that the nominator specifically lists any reason the candidate is to be considered and not rely on the committee members to do so. Simply listing the name of a nominee will not be enough.

Nominees will be considered for three years. If not inducted within the three years, athletes must be re-nominated.

**C. SELECTION OF HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES:**

Once the nominations have been submitted to the selection committee, the committee itself will undertake the responsibility of selecting the induction class. The following guidelines are to be used as a guide (and not a mandate) in the final selection process.

**1. Grouping of Nominees:**

All candidates will be grouped together in the sport in which they are nominated. All football players nominated will be initially compared against one another, and likewise for other sports.

**2. Selection of Inductee Class:**

Once the finalists are chosen, the committee will then make its selection as to the inductees for a given year. The committee will closely examine the candidate's qualities and background against the criterion set above. If the committee feels the need to take additional time to choose the inductees, the committee can do so. This close scrutiny of the candidate's qualities is the reasoning behind requiring detailed information from the nominating coaches.

**3. Notifying Induction Class:**

Once the Richards Hall of Fame Induction Class has been selected, both the new inductee and the nomination coach will be notified. Details regarding induction at the Richards Hall of Fame Banquet will be quickly disseminated in order for inductees to make the appropriate arrangements.

**D. COMMITTEE MAKE-UP:**

Ideally the Hall of Fame Selection Committee will be a wide cross section of alumni and faculty. As the years progress, it is important that all eras of Richards High School are duly represented.

**1. Alumni Representatives:**

The committee should always have one representative from each decade of eligible graduates. (In the present time that would 60's, 70's and 80's as too few of the 90's graduates are eligible for consideration). If one member from a decade leaves the committee, a replacement from within that decade, and not necessarily that class, will fill the vacancy. The alumni representatives shall be chosen by the committee.

**2. Coaching Representatives:**

Since the coaching staff is such a vital link to the history of Richards' athletics, it is of crucial importance that members of the Richards coaching staff are part of the committee. There will be Richards coaches, past or present, on the selection committee at all times. Participation in the selection committee will not prohibit a committee member from nominating a prospective inductee. Like the alumni representative, the coaching representative will also be selected by the Committee.

**3. Ad Hoc Member:**

The Principal has the option to appoint a member who may be neither a coach nor an alumnus. Long time faculty members, present administration, athletic directors, or friends of Richards' athletics will be eligible to be on the selection committee.

**4. Administration:**

The present Principal will always serve as a member of the selection committee as long he/she retains that position. All other members serve at the pleasure of the present Principal and Athletic Director.