

New Fairfield High School Rebels Hall of Honor Bylaws

Article I: Purpose

The New Fairfield High School Rebels Hall of Honor recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to New Fairfield High School's legacy through excellence in athletics, the performing arts, distinguished alumni achievements, or as dedicated contributors to the school. Its goal is to inspire current and future students by celebrating the accomplishments of past members of the school community.

These bylaws replace and supersede the former New Fairfield High School Athletic Hall of Fame bylaws.

Article II: Hall of Honor Board

1. Composition:

- The Hall of Honor Board will consist of:
 - **The New Fairfield High School School Principal**, who serves as the Chair.
 - **The New Fairfield High School Athletic Director**, who serves as the Secretary
 - **One member of the New Fairfield Board of Education**
 - **One alumni representative**, selected by the Principal

2. Duties:

- Oversee the nomination and selection processes.
- Approve the final list of inductees each year based on the selection committees' recommendations.
- Approve all criteria and subsequent revisions to rubrics used for selection of nominees.
- Review proposals for removal or amendments to the bylaws.

Article III: Eligibility Criteria

1. **Categories of Recognition.** The Hall of Honor will recognize outstanding achievement and contributions across four different categories.

- **Athletics:** Outstanding achievements in individual or team sports, demonstrating excellence during or after their time at the school.
 - Athlete
 - Coach
 - Contributor

- **Team**

- **Performing Arts:** Exceptional contributions to the fields of music, theater, visual arts, dance, literature, or other creative disciplines. Nominees should have demonstrated significant influence, innovation, or excellence in their pursuits during or after their time at the school.
 - Performer
 - Educator
 - Contributor
- **Distinguished Alumni:** Alumni who have achieved notable success in their professional careers, community leadership, or other areas of societal impact.
- **Contributors to the School:** Individuals who have provided exceptional service, support, or dedication to the school through volunteering, philanthropy, or other means.

2. Enrollment and Service Time Requirements

- The following requirements shall apply to all nominees in each category:
 - **Athletics**
 - **Athlete:** Minimum of two full years of enrollment at New Fairfield High School. Must have earned their diploma from New Fairfield High School. High School accomplishments under consideration are limited to those made as part of the New Fairfield High School athletic program.
 - **Coach:** Minimum of ten (10) years of service as a coach at New Fairfield High School. Accomplishments under consideration are limited to those made as part of the New Fairfield High School athletic program.
 - **Performing Arts**
 - **Performer:** Minimum of two full years of enrollment at New Fairfield High School. Must have earned their diploma from New Fairfield High School. High School accomplishments under consideration are limited to those made as part of New Fairfield High School programs.
 - **Educator:** Minimum of ten (10) years of service as an educator at New Fairfield High School. Accomplishments under consideration are limited to those made as part of New Fairfield High School programs.
 - **Distinguished Alumni**
 - Minimum of two full years of enrollment at New Fairfield High School. Must have earned their diploma from New Fairfield High School.
 - **Contributors to the School**
 - **Community Member:** No service time requirement. Contributions should be considered significant over an extended period of time to the betterment of the New Fairfield High School community.
 - **Educators and Staff:** Minimum of ten (10) years of service as an educator at New Fairfield High School. Accomplishments under consideration are limited to those made as part of New Fairfield High School programs.

3. Separation Period:

- **Reasoning:** The separation period ensures that nominees' achievements and contributions are evaluated with the benefit of hindsight, allowing for a more comprehensive assessment of their impact and legacy.
- Nominees for Athlete, Performer, and Distinguished Alumni must have graduated from the school at least **five years** prior to nomination. Active coaches and athletes are not eligible for nomination.
- Nominees for Coach, Educator and Staff must have ended their direct affiliation and/or employment with the school at least **two years** prior to nomination.

4. Other Criteria:

- Individuals previously inducted into the former "Athletics Hall of Fame" shall be included in the Rebels Hall of Honor. Previous inductees' membership in the Rebels Hall of Honor are subject to Article VII of these bylaws.
- Nominees may include alumni, former faculty, or community members who have made a lasting impact on the school.
- Achievements must reflect the values and mission of the school.
- Posthumous nominations are permitted, and must follow all criteria and the separation period outlined above.

Article IV: Nomination Process

1. Nomination Period:

- Nominations will be accepted annually beginning August 1 through December 31 for induction during the following year.
- Nominations will be decided upon by June 30.

2. Submission Requirements:

- A completed nomination form detailing the nominee's achievements and contributions.
- Supporting documentation, such as awards, press articles, or letters of recommendation.
- Nominations shall be active for **five years**. After this point, nominations must be resubmitted.

3. Selection Committees:

- There will be three (3) Selection Committees:
 - Athletics
 - Performing Arts
 - Distinguished Alumni & Contributors
- Each Selection Committee will consist of the following members. All members shall be appointed by the Principal.
 - **One Selection Chair**
 - **One alumni representative**
 - **One current faculty or staff member**
 - **One community representative**

- **One student representative** from the senior class.
- Each Selection Committee may meet beginning in January following the close of nominations, and must make its recommendation(s) for induction to the Hall of Honor Board Chair no later than May 1.
- The Chair will, to the greatest extent possible, select alumni, faculty, community, and student representatives who are able to collectively represent the four recognition categories.

Article V: Selection Process

1. Review and Evaluation:

- Each Selection Committee will evaluate all nominations based on the established eligibility criteria (see Appendix).
- Nominees will generally be scored for their impact, legacy, and alignment with the Hall of Honor's mission.
- Criteria rubrics may be changed by a majority vote of the Hall of Honor Board, prior to the nomination deadline.
- Rubric scoring is confidential.
- The Selection Committees may meet in person or via electronic conferencing, at the discretion of each Selection Chair. All members of the Selection Committee must be present at any discussion or vote on nominations.

2. Final Approval:

- The top candidates, no more than three (3), will be presented to the Hall of Honor Board by each Selection Committee for final approval.
- A maximum of **five inductees** will be selected each year to maintain exclusivity.
- No more than **two inductees** may be selected from any of the four main categories.

3. Acceptance By Nominee:

- Nominees approved for induction will be notified by the Hall of Honor Board Secretary within 48 hours of approval.
- Nominees will have ten (10) business days from the time of notification to accept induction. Should a nominee decline induction or fail to respond within the established time frame, they will not be eligible for nomination or induction for ten (10) years.

Article VI: Induction Ceremony

1. Timing and Venue:

- The induction ceremony will take place annually, typically in conjunction with a significant school event (e.g., Homecoming).

2. Recognition:

- Inductees will be honored with a permanent display within the school. The display may be **physical or digital**, showcasing the inductees' achievements and contributions.
- Each inductee will receive a commemorative plaque or similar token of recognition.

Article VII: Removal from the Hall of Honor

1. Criteria for Removal:

- Inductees may be removed from the Hall of Honor if they are found to have engaged in actions that significantly tarnish the reputation of the school or contradict its values.
- A written proposal for removal must be submitted to the Hall of Honor Board, supported by evidence.
- Removal requires a 75% majority vote by the Hall of Honor Board.

Article VIII: Amendments

Amendments to these bylaws may be proposed by the Hall of Honor Board and must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of its members.

Appendix A: Athletics Criteria

Category	Exemplary (5 points)	Noteworthy (4 points)	Commendable (3 points)	Insufficient Evidence (1-2 points)	Not Evident (0 points)
Athletic Achievement	Multiple state titles, all-state recognition, school records, or national honors.	District/regional champion, all-conference, key team leadership roles.	Varsity athlete with notable contributions; occasional honors or awards.	Limited information on accomplishments; some participation indicated but unclear.	Participation without notable achievement or recognition.
Sportsmanship	Consistently demonstrated leadership, integrity, and respect on and off the field.	Generally showed good sportsmanship; occasional leadership moments.	Sportsmanship demonstrated inconsistently; occasional conflicts or issues.	Insufficient evidence to assess sportsmanship consistently.	Documented poor sportsmanship or major infractions.
Contribution to School Legacy	Strong positive influence on school culture, athletic reputation, or inspired future athletes.	Recognized contributor to athletic programs' growth or image.	Some impact on athletic culture; remembered by teammates or coaches.	Minimal, unclear, or anecdotal evidence of lasting impact.	No observable or lasting impact on school athletics.
Character and Citizenship	Outstanding community service, positive role model, recognized personal integrity.	Involvement in community; generally respected for character and leadership.	Limited community involvement; mostly positive reputation.	Insufficient evidence to evaluate character or citizenship.	Evidence of poor character, legal issues, or disciplinary problems.

Appendix B: Performing Arts Criteria

Category	Exemplary (5 points)	Noteworthy (4 points)	Commendable (3 points)	Insufficient Evidence (1-2 points)	Not Evident (0 points)
Artistic Achievement	Multiple state, regional, or national awards; lead roles; solo performances; major contributions to productions.	District/regional honors; key roles or recognitions within school or community programs.	Consistent participation with notable contributions; occasional honors.	Limited information on artistic achievement; some participation indicated but unclear.	Participation without notable achievements, roles, or honors.
Artistic Excellence and Growth	Demonstrated superior skill development, creative expression, and artistic leadership across years.	Clear artistic growth; occasional leadership or creative initiative in performances.	Steady participation with moderate skill improvement over time.	Insufficient evidence to determine artistic growth or leadership.	No observable artistic growth or leadership.
Contribution to School Arts Legacy	Strong positive impact on school's performing arts culture, reputation, or inspired future performers.	Recognized contributor to growth and success of performing arts programs.	Some remembered contributions to performing arts culture.	Minimal, unclear, or anecdotal evidence of legacy impact.	No lasting contribution to the arts program.
Character and Citizenship	Outstanding community service through the arts; positive role model; exemplary personal integrity.	Actively involved in arts-related community events; generally respected for character.	Limited community involvement; mostly positive personal reputation.	Insufficient evidence to evaluate character or citizenship.	Evidence of poor character, legal issues, or major disciplinary problems.

Appendix C: Distinguished Alumni Criteria

Category	Exemplary (5 points)	Noteworthy (4 points)	Commendable (3 points)	Insufficient Evidence (1–2 points)	Not Evident (0 points)
Professional Achievement	Exceptional career success; leadership positions; significant awards, innovations, or national recognition.	Sustained professional success with notable leadership or recognition in field.	Solid career progression with some noteworthy achievements.	Limited or unclear information on professional success.	No significant professional achievements documented.
Service to Community or Society	Major contributions to public service, nonprofit leadership, philanthropy, or community impact.	Consistent engagement in community or volunteer activities with meaningful outcomes.	Occasional community involvement; positive local contributions.	Insufficient evidence of sustained community or societal contributions.	No record of community service or societal impact.
Contribution to School Legacy	Actively supports or promotes alma mater; significant contributions (mentorship, donations, events).	Occasional supporter or advocate for school initiatives or events.	Some remembered involvement with school post-graduation.	Minimal or unclear ongoing connection to alma mater.	No discernible connection or support for the school after graduation.
Personal Integrity and Character	Widely recognized for ethical leadership, integrity, and positive personal values.	Generally respected for good character and professionalism.	Mostly positive reputation with minor concerns or limited information.	Insufficient evidence to judge character consistently.	Known issues with integrity, professional misconduct, or legal troubles.
Achievement in Other Fields (Arts, Sciences, Athletics, Military, Public Service, Entrepreneurship)	Outstanding success in additional fields beyond primary profession; multiple areas of distinction.	Recognized achievement in at least one other notable field outside primary career.	Some contributions or involvement in a secondary field.	Minimal or unclear contributions in other fields.	No notable achievements outside primary career path.

Appendix D: Contributor Criteria

Category	Exemplary (5 points)	Noteworthy (4 points)	Commendable (3 points)	Insufficient Evidence (1–2 points)	Not Evident (0 points)
Service to School Community	Provided transformational service or leadership that significantly enhanced the school environment, programs, or reputation.	Consistent, meaningful service that positively impacted school operations or culture.	Provided valuable service or support in specific areas or during key times.	Limited information or unclear impact of service.	No documented meaningful service to the school community.
Longevity and Commitment	Sustained involvement over many years with exceptional dedication and continuity.	Long-term commitment with periodic active involvement.	Some periods of active service or support; moderate duration.	Minimal information about duration or consistency of involvement.	No sustained or significant involvement with the school.
Impact on Students and Staff	Significantly influenced the lives of students and/or staff through mentorship, programs, or support efforts.	Positively influenced students or staff with noticeable contributions or relationships.	Some influence on individuals or small groups.	Insufficient evidence of measurable or lasting influence.	No observable or lasting impact on students or staff.
Advocacy for Education/ School Mission	Actively promoted and upheld the mission, vision, and values of the school; championed educational initiatives.	Occasionally advocated for educational goals or supported school initiatives.	Limited but positive alignment with school mission and values.	Insufficient evidence of advocacy or support for school mission.	Actions contrary to or disconnected from school mission and goals.
Character and Citizenship	Widely recognized for outstanding character, integrity, and community leadership.	Respected for positive character, ethical behavior, and professionalism.	Generally positive reputation with minor concerns or limited visibility.	Insufficient evidence to assess character and citizenship.	Evidence of poor character, misconduct, or negative impact on school or community.

