

# Legendary Players & Tennis Treasures

A Junior Player's Guide to the International Tennis Hall of Fame

## Welcome to Tennis History!

The International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, Rhode Island, is where tennis legends are celebrated and tennis history comes alive. This special place has an impressive museum which includes remarkable treasures from the past 140 years!

## The Story of the Newport Casino

Did you know the Newport Casino isn't for gambling? "Casino" just means a place where people gather to have fun! In 1880, newspaper publisher James Gordon Bennett Jr. built this beautiful place for tennis and other activities. In 1881, the very first U.S. National Tennis Championships (now called the US Open) was played right here with 25 players competing while a string quartet played music!

## How the International Tennis Hall of Fame Was Born

In 1954, tennis champion Jimmy Van Alen (who also invented the tiebreak!) saved the Newport Casino by turning it into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. He wanted a special place to honor tennis heroes forever. At first, it was just for American players, but in 1975, it became the International Tennis Hall of Fame. Today, this National Historic Landmark continues to celebrate tennis stars from all over the world!



## What Makes a Hall of Famer

Want to be in the International Tennis Hall of Fame someday? Here's what you need to accomplish:

- Be one of the best players in the world and win major tournaments
- Show great sportsmanship and help make tennis better
- Be retired from professional tennis for at least five years
- Get nominated and selected by tennis experts

As of 2025, 270 amazing individuals from 28 countries have become Hall of Famers! Some families even have multiple members in the Hall of Fame, including brothers, and even a mother and daughter!



**270** Hall of  
Famers

## Must-See Treasures at the ITHF

Planning to visit the International Tennis Hall of Fame? Don't miss these amazing things at our museum:

**The Tennis & Culture Table**, where you'll learn about tennis technology, evolution, pop culture, and more

### The Ashe '68 Virtual Reality Experience:

Walk alongside Arthur Ashe as he makes history during the 1968 US Open win

**Historic tennis outfits** from the past and present

**The Majors presented by Rolex**, an immersive video experience narrated by Roger Federer

**The Inspiring Legacies Augmented Reality Sculpture**, where you can use your phone to scan and explore the impacts and influences of generations of Hall of Famers, legends, and current players

**The Celebration Gallery**, where you can discover unique artifacts that celebrate the inspiring journeys of tennis legends

## Tips for visiting

- Plan to spend about 45 minutes exploring the museum
- Check out the 13 grass tennis courts where professionals still play today
- Ask about playing on the grass courts—you can actually play on the same courts as champions!
- Visit during the Hall of Fame Open in July to see professional players compete or during August for the annual induction ceremony
- Look for the hidden drawers throughout the museum—they contain special surprises!

## Visit us virtually

Not able to visit in-person? No problem. Check out the museum's digital exhibits anytime!



## Your Tennis Adventure Awaits!

The Hall of Fame isn't just about the past—it's about inspiring future champions too. Maybe someday you'll see your favorite player join the Hall of Fame, or maybe you will be the next tennis star to be honored here!

