

Goodes declines hall of fame invitation



Adam Goodes has declined invitation to the hall of fame.

By Daniel Cherny
June 8, 2021

Adam Goodes has rejected entry into the Australian Football Hall of Fame.

Sources familiar with the situation confirmed the dual Brownlow medallist and Sydney great had been voted unanimously into the hall of fame as part of its 2021 intake, the first year he has been eligible since his acrimonious retirement at the end of 2015.

However the 372-game Swans champion declined to enter the hall of fame this year.

Goodes' decision comes on the back of his tumultuous departure from the league. The AFL subsequently apologised over its handling of Goodes' relentless booing by crowds in 2015.

The subject of two documentaries released in 2019, Goodes was a victim of racism during his time in the AFL, most notably when called an ape by a young Collingwood fan in 2013 and then days later the subject of Eddie McGuire's infamous King Kong gaffe.

In a 2020 interview with *The Guardian*, Goodes detailed his ongoing ill-feeling towards the AFL.

"I've tried to go to games and I haven't enjoyed it. It's really sad, because my godchildren love going to the football. These are the kids of Michael O'Loughlin. They always ask me to go and I feel really bad about not sharing that time because I adore

them. I have other things to do, with [daughter] Adelaide and my wife Natalie. I also spend lots of time with my godchildren, doing things unrelated to the game.”

The hall of fame event is generally held as a gala night at Melbourne’s Crown Palladium in the middle of the year but the staging of year’s event in person has been placed in doubt due to Victoria’s COVID-19 lockdown.