

Bob Ranells

Hall of Fame Inductee

Class of 2026



For more than five decades, Dr. Bob Ranells has dedicated his life to serving students, schools, and communities throughout Idaho. As a teacher, coach, principal, superintendent, official, and mentor, he has exemplified a lifelong commitment to education, athletics, and activities, believing they are among the greatest tools for developing character, leadership, and lifelong success.

A graduate of Mountain Home High School, Bob earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Idaho State University before completing his Educational Specialist and Doctor of Education degrees at the University of Idaho.

He began his career in 1973 at Wendell Junior/Senior High School as a teacher and coach. An early lesson came after an 0-20 basketball season, inspiring him to study, learn from mentors, and completely rebuild his program. The next three seasons resulted in league championships with records of 18-2, 19-1, and a perfect 20-0—an experience that shaped his belief that adversity often becomes the foundation for excellence.

In 1978, Bob joined Nampa Senior High School as Vice Principal and Activities Director before becoming Principal in 1981. During his tenure, he helped lead the reorganization of the Southern Idaho Conference, championed the construction of the Bulldog Bowl through a successful community levy, established the Nampa Education Foundation, and supported student programs that flourished both academically and athletically. In 1988, he was named Idaho Secondary Principal of the Year.

Bob went on to serve 26 years as superintendent in the Bruneau-Grand View, Jefferson County Joint, Grand Coulee Dam, and Wallace school districts. Despite his administrative responsibilities, he remained closely connected to students by coaching, mentoring staff, attending practices, and even driving activity buses so students could participate.

His influence on Idaho athletics extends well beyond school leadership. Over 27 years, he coached football, basketball, track, and golf, and for more than 40 years has served as one of Idaho's most respected high school officials. He has officiated football, basketball, and track across the state, worked numerous district and state championships, served on the IHSAA Board of Directors and Region I Board of Control, and helped advance important initiatives, including conference realignment and three-person basketball officiating.

Bob credits many mentors for shaping his career, but above all, he credits his wife, her unwavering support has been his greatest strength throughout their 55 years together. Today, he continues to officiate, serve his community through Rotary, enjoy golf and reading, and treasure time with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandson.

Bob's legacy is measured not simply by titles or accomplishments, but by the thousands of lives he has influenced through servant leadership, unwavering integrity, and a steadfast belief that helping young people grow is life's greatest calling.