



## **TENNIS SENIORS AUSTRALIA - SELECTION POLICY**

### **FOR SELECTION TO REPRESENT AUSTRALIA IN THE INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION (ITF) WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**The objective in the selection of teams is to select the best teams from the players  
who nominate.**

#### **1. Pre-Conditions for nomination and selection**

- (a) Players who nominate for selection:
- (i) must be Australian Citizens and hold an Australian Passport with sufficient validity for travel (usually six months); and have not represented any other country during the period of 36 months immediately preceding the event for which they are nominating;
  - (ii) must be in "good standing" with Tennis Seniors Australia (TSA) and Tennis Australia (TA) as defined in the current ITF Seniors Regulations;
  - (iii) must meet all other eligibility requirements described in the ITF Seniors Regulations;
  - (iv) must be a registered financial member of a State/Territory Division of TSA, or if no State or Territory division exists, the relevant Member Association;
  - (v) must have reached or will have reached the minimum age limit by December 31 of the year in which the ITF World Team Competition is conducted;
  - (vi) must have an ITF International Player Identification Number (IPIN);
  - (vii) must have considered their personal responsibilities and be certain that they can afford the time and expense associated with competing in the event, be injury free or anticipate being so within a short and identifiable time period, and recognise that a nomination represents a commitment to compete if selected;
  - (viii) agree to the terms of this Selection Policy, the Player Agreement and Release Form (part of the online nomination form), the ITF Seniors Regulations and the Consent Form Tennis Seniors Australia.

- (ix) agree to and have read and understood the Tennis Australia National Policies, including without limitation the Member Protection Policy, the Anti Doping Policy, the Disciplinary Policy and the Uniform Tennis Anti-Corruption Program, as amended from time to time. (These can be sourced at <http://www.tennis.com.au/about-us/about-tennis-australia/policies>)
  - (x) must be sure that they fully satisfy all of the selection criteria and should note that withdrawals after selection may unfavourably impact on their future selection aspirations if such selection is deemed to have been for an anticipatable and/or avoidable reason
- (b) If selected, players must:
- (i) advise TSA if they do not have the current Australian clothing;
  - (ii) Ensure their personal travel arrangements accommodate a full playing commitment if they intend to play in the World Individual Championships following the World Teams Championships;
  - (iii) Satisfy any conditions imposed by the Selectors to which their selection is subject;
  - (iv) Be fully prepared for the start of the World Team Championships (i.e. be on site early for practice etc.) and;
  - (v) Notify TSA (Australian Teams Coordinator) as soon as possible if injured or had a relevant medical procedure and satisfy TSA that they are fully fit before taking their place in the team; or if any other circumstance arises which prevents them from taking their place in the team.

## **2. Team Composition**

- (a) The standard team composition is four players, at least three of whom will be strong singles players and preferably one will be a strong doubles player. One player will be designated as Captain, whose appointment is subject to the approval of the TSA Executive. Alternatively a non-playing Captain can be nominated in addition;
- (b) Nominated players of a suitable standard in an older age group may be considered for selection in a younger age group. These players must be surplus to the needs of their own age group or they must be without a team in their own age group and, in the judgement of the Selectors, be stronger players than some or all of the players who have nominated in a younger age group;
- (c) If an insufficient number of players nominate for any age group TSA may:
  - (i) Elect not to send a team for that age group, or,
  - (ii) Instruct Selectors to consider nominated players of a suitable standard from an older age group. These players must be surplus to the needs of their own age group or they must be without a team in their own age group.

- (d) Where considered appropriate, Selectors may choose to select one or more reserve players. Older group players may be named as a reserve for a younger group or, if appropriate, be a reserve for both age groups; and
- (e) Any reserve player/s will not be team members until they are invited by TSA to fill a vacancy in the team.
- (f) In the event that there are vacancies created in a team due to withdrawals after selection, and reserves have already been called on, then the TSA Executive in conjunction with the selectors may at their discretion approach other players, who may or may not have nominated, to fill such vacancies.

### **3. Nomination**

- (a) Players must nominate using the Nomination Form located on [www.92computing.com.au](http://www.92computing.com.au) and complete all the fields, unless otherwise advised by the TSA Executive;
- (b) Players must nominate in the age group determined by their date of birth (their own age group);
- (c) Players must quote their ITF IPIN. Prior to nominating, it is required that players who nominate will have played at least two ITF sanctioned Grade 2 or higher Seniors Tournaments in the past year and provide evidence of this as part of their nomination. These should ideally be the Australian Seniors Individual Championship and/or the Oceania Regional Closed Championships as selectors will give greater consideration to these higher graded tournaments especially when they are played on a similar court surface to the Cup venue. If a nominee has not been able to play in any of these tournaments due to extenuating circumstances then the player should detail these circumstances in his or her nomination.
- (d) Player results will be sourced from [itftennis.com/seniors/rankings](http://itftennis.com/seniors/rankings) list, or other reliable source, and players may add any relevant documentation or information on the Nomination Form to support their nomination for selection, for example, summary of achievements, outstanding singles & doubles results or head-to-head results against other players of note. Results from the previous two years may be listed with the understanding that obviously, selectors are influenced by more recent performances;
- (e) Nominations close on a date and time fixed by TSA and late nominations will not be considered. If there are insufficient nominations to make up a team, TSA may extend the nomination date for that team and approach other players regarding their interest in nominating for the team.

### **4. Selection**

- (a) Selections will be made by TSA approved Selection Panels. Selectors who have nominated for selection may provide input initially on all nominees, after which involvement in their age group will be restricted to answering queries, if required, from other members of the panel. The said selector/s will be excluded from final decisions regarding the composition of the team for which they have nominated. If this results in none or only one selector being able to participate in the final decision making, the selections for that

age group will be made by the TSA Executive or their authorised nominee/s, as per the Selection Process by-laws, provided always that none of these persons so nominated are in contention for selection for the age group in question.

- (b) It is the responsibility of the Selectors to consider all of the selection criteria and then make an informed judgement in the selection of teams, keeping in mind the aim of selecting, in their judgement, the best teams from the players who nominate;
- (c) The Selectors may take a number of factors into consideration when selecting players for each team, including but not limited to:
  - (i) The player's current ITF and Australian singles and doubles ranking; and
  - (ii) The players overall performance over the previous two years (with particular attention to the last 12 months) in events with particular emphasis on the most recent and past Australian Seniors Individual Championships, recent and past Oceania Regional Closed Championships, ITF Cups and World Championships and other ITF or TA sanctioned tournaments or other tournaments recognized by a State/Territory Division of TSA;
- (d) Consideration shall be given to players who are unable to compete in/complete the Australian Individual and Regional/State/Territory Championships if there are significant, justifiable and/or unavoidable circumstances that prevent participation. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to, injury, illness, being a new participant in Seniors tennis, or other justifiable circumstances at the time of the event. Players in this category should provide supporting information in their nomination. Should the non-participation be the result of an injury or illness (including an injury during the Australian or Regional Championships) the Selectors, through the Executive, will advise the player of what is required to prove their fitness;
- (e) Selectors may also take other factors into consideration, namely:
  - (i) Head to head results, predominantly over the previous 2 years;
  - (ii) Player participation in TSA events in the past 12 months;
  - (iii) Performances on the court surface of the proposed venue of the ITF World Team Championships;
  - (iv) Doubles results;
  - (v) The ITF Seniors Regulations and any other condition, decision or requirement of the ITF; and
  - (vi) The player's overall suitability to represent Australia, having regard to past conduct and sportsmanship both on and off the court, the limited spots available and the overall composition of the team.

- (f) Selectors will forward their selections to TSA (Convener, Australian Selection Committee) within a timeframe as stipulated by the Executive, and if the team selected is different to the standard team composition (item 2(a)), give reason to justify the difference. The selectors should also clarify their reasons for selecting certain players if they consider this appropriate e.g. where two or more players were in close contention for selection.
- (g) As the Selectors' correspondence, deliberations, discussions and notes contain personal information and other confidential information they are not required to be shared with any person other than the members of the Executive of TSA and (if relevant) the members of an Appeal Tribunal convened under clause 6.

## **5. Tennis Seniors Australia**

- (a) TSA (Convener, Australian Selection Committee) will perform an overview of selected teams to ensure Selection Policy adherence, consistency and transparency and in the case of a non-standard team composition, consider the reason/s for the difference and liaise with the Selector Panel as required;
- (b) The TSA Executive may at its discretion ask the Selectors for further clarification or background influencing factors regarding certain proposed selections;
- (c) The TSA Executive may perform other administrative duties as prescribed in this Selection Process.
- (d) The TSA Executive must send the proposed selections to Tennis Australia before they are announced.
- (e) During the Selection process and after the teams are announced, TSA and selectors should not enter into any further discussion or correspondence concerning selections with any persons who nominated, but without derogating from the appeals process set out in clause 6 and the need for the selections to be accepted by the ITF. Even after the teams are finalised, unexpected or unforeseen circumstances may still result in late changes to the teams.

## **6. Appeals**

- (a) A player may appeal a decision of the Selectors regarding their selection or non-selection in accordance with this clause, but no appeal lies in respect of a decision by TSA to not send a team in any age group.
- (b) The sole grounds for any appeal are that the Selectors have selected a player who does not meet the selection criteria set out in this Selection Policy.
- (c) A player:
  - (i) does not have any other rights of appeal other than as set out in this policy; and
  - (ii) must not institute or maintain proceedings in any court or tribunal in respect to matters which are covered by this policy.

- (d) The appeal process is as follows:
- (i) If a player wishes to appeal a decision of the Selectors, the player must send a **Written Statement of Appeal** to the TSA Executive by 12 noon on the fourth day following the day that the player was advised of the decision against which the appeal is being made. The Written Statement of Appeal must set out the name of the player, the player's contact details, full details of the player's grounds of appeal which must relate to the grounds of appeal set out in clause 6(b) and a non-refundable payment of \$200 payable to TSA.
  - (ii) The TSA Executive must provide a copy of the Written Statement of Appeal to the Selectors and all members of the relevant team immediately.
  - (iii) Within 5 days of the player submitting their Written Statement of Appeal, the Selectors must provide the TSA Executive with a written reply explaining the reasons for the decision against which the appeal is made (**Written Reply**).
  - (iv) On receipt of the Written Statement of Appeal and Written Reply, the TSA Executive must convene an Appeal Tribunal (comprised of three persons - a barrister or solicitor (who shall be the Chairperson or, if after reasonable attempts have been made to obtain one without success, then a person with considerable previous experience in the legal aspects of a appeals tribunal; a person with a thorough knowledge of tennis; and a person of experience and skills suitable to the function of an Appeal Tribunal, provided such person may not include a person who is a member of the TSA Executive or a person who would, by reason of relationship with the appellant be reasonably considered to be other than impartial) ) for the purposes of considering the information and determining the appeal. The TSA Executive must provide the Appeal Tribunal with the Written Statement of Appeal and the Written Reply and any other relevant documents reasonably requested by the Appeal Tribunal.
  - (v) As the Selection correspondence, deliberations, discussions and notes are strictly confidential and contain personal information, the player making the appeal is not entitled to a copy of the selection correspondence, deliberations, discussions and note or the Written Reply.
  - (vi) When conducting the appeal, the Appeal Tribunal:
    - (A) must take into consideration the Written Statement of Appeal and Written Reply;
    - (B) is not bound by the rules of evidence and may inform itself as to any matter in such manner as it thinks fit;
    - (C) will conduct its review with as little formality and with as much expedition as the proper consideration of the matter permits, including the use of telephone or video conferencing, or otherwise if appropriate;

- (D) may rely on the written submissions or request the opportunity to hear from such people as it considers necessary; and
  - (E) will not allow the parties to be represented by a barrister or solicitor except with the leave of the Appeal Tribunal. Such leave will only be given in exceptional circumstances and may be subject to such conditions at the Appeal Tribunal thinks fit.
- (e) The following provisions relate to decisions of the Appeal Tribunal:
- (i) Any decision of the Appeal Tribunal must be supported by at least 2 of the 3 members of Appeal Tribunal.
  - (ii) The Appeal Tribunal must give its decision on any appeal as soon as practicable after the hearing and must provide the player, the Selectors and the TSA Executive with a written statement of the reasons for its decision.
  - (iii) The Appeal Tribunal must dismiss the appeal if it forms the view that the relevant player has failed to establish the grounds of appeal.
  - (iv) If the decision of the Selectors which is the subject of appeal was within the discretion of the Selectors acting reasonably and applying the Selection Policy, then the Appeal Tribunal must dismiss the appeal.
- If the Appeal Tribunal finds in favour of the player that has lodged the appeal, the Appeal Tribunal will direct the Selectors to amend its team selections, provided the Appeal Tribunal considers that appropriate having regard to the impact of that decision on the players nominated by the Selectors and the ITF deadline for team selections.
- (v) If the player making the appeal fails to observe the process or any time limits set out in this policy, the Appeal Tribunal may dismiss the appeal by providing the relevant player, TSA Executive and the Selectors with written notice of its decision to dismiss the appeal. The Appeal Tribunal has been given the authority to dismiss an appeal under this clause due to the need for the team composition to be finalised promptly.
  - (vi) Any decision of the Appeals Tribunal will be final and binding on TSA, the Selectors and the player.

## **7. Post Selection**

All players, (including those intending to compete in the World Individual Championships immediately following the World Teams Championships), must ensure that their personal travel arrangements accommodate a full playing commitment for the Teams event.

## **8. Changes**

This selection policy supersedes and replaces any previous versions of this policy. This policy may be amended, replaced or revoked by the TSA Executive at any time.

**As approved by the TSA Executive on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2016.**