



Australian Masters Team Selection Policy

AUSTRALIAN MASTERS TEAM SELECTION POLICY

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Tennis Seniors Australia (**TSA**) and Tennis Australia (**TA**) are committed to establishing and supporting a fair, transparent and unbiased selection process to ensure Senior players have an equal opportunity to be selected to participate.
- 1.2 The purpose of this Australian Masters Team Selection Policy (the **Policy**) is to clearly outline the selection criteria and process, whilst ensuring the selection of the best team of Senior players who will potentially achieve the best results when representing TSA.
- 1.3 This Policy applies when selecting the Australian Masters Team for the International Tennis Federation (**ITF**) World Tennis Masters Team Championships (the **Team Championships**). This Policy is not applicable to Senior players seeking to participate in the ITF World Tennis Masters Individual Championships.

2. Nomination

- 2.1 Players who wish to nominate for selection must do so by the date specified by TSA and/or TA, identifying the age group they wish to compete in and completing all the fields of the Nomination Form unless otherwise advised by TSA and/or TA.
- 2.2 Players are solely responsible for nominating prior to the closure of nominations (i.e. approximately four (4) months prior to the commencement of the relevant event). No late or incomplete nominations will be accepted.

3. Eligibility Requirements

- 3.1 To be eligible for selection, players who have nominated for selection must meet the following eligibility requirements:
 - a. Are eligible to represent Australia in accordance with the [ITF World Tennis Masters Tour Regulations](#) (including, but not limited to, players must hold a current Australian passport and have an ITF International Player Identification Number);
 - b. Are a registered financial member of a State/Territory Division of TSA;
 - c. Are free from any current or impending suspensions or sanctions imposed by TSA, TA and/or the ITF;
 - d. Are free from any medical condition or injury which may impair, inhibit or prevent them from performing at their best during the relevant event;
 - e. Have reached or will have reached the minimum age limit by 31 December of the year in which the relevant event is conducted;
 - f. Have competed in at least three (3) ITF events over the 18 months preceding the nomination

deadline;

Note: Australian events are preferably, and players are encouraged to participate in MT700 or MT1000 tournaments in their own age group as they offer higher ranking points and are more likely to provide useful head-to-head results. Overseas based players are eligible to be selected based on their participation in ITF Masters events in Australia, or overseas. However, to be selected, overseas based players are required to achieve significant results to be preferred ahead of Australian based players.

- g. Only nominate to represent Australia in one age group in Team Championships in any calendar year. However, if the player is unsuccessful in their nomination, they may renominate in another age group which is being played at different dates during the same year;
- h. Have fully considered all matters such as family and business responsibilities, leave from work, financial costs or any other personal reason which might affect their availability at the time of the relevant event they are nominating for; and
- i. Players who do not meet these eligibility requirements are encouraged to share additional relevant information with reasons for their nomination. In exceptional circumstances, and at TSA and/or TA's discretion, the player may still be considered eligible for selection.

4. Selection Committee

- 4.1 The Men's and Women's Selection Committee (the **Selection Committee**) will comprise of three (3) representatives appointed by TSA and three (3) representatives appointed by TA.
- 4.2 The Selection Committee will have a Selection Chair appointed by TSA and TA. This role is separately documented on the [TSA website](#).

5. Process of Selection

- 5.1 The Selection Committee will endeavour to fairly select the best possible team to represent Australia.
- 5.2 The Selection Committee will make their selections from the eligible nominations, considering the Selection Criteria set out in Section 6 and in accordance with the Team Composition requirements set out in Section 8 of this Policy.
- 5.3 Following selection, players will be subject to a background check conducted by TA's Integrity team.
- 5.4 The Selection Committee will inform players who have nominated within 48 hours of the background check set out in clause 5.3. At this time, players will be advised of the team composition, the provisional Order of Merit, Team Captain and any reserve player(s).
- 5.5 Players will be advised of the finalised Order of Merit no later than two (2) months prior to the relevant

event.

- 5.6 In the event of vacancies in a team due to withdrawals after selection, any reserve player(s) should fill such vacancies. If the reserve player(s) have already been called upon or are no longer available, the Selection Committee has the discretion to approach other players, who may or may not have nominated, to fill such vacancies.
- 5.7 TSA and TA will appoint a Teams Administrator to support the team that is selected for each Team Championship, and a Team Manager to travel with and support the team on-the-ground. These roles are separately documented on the [TSA website](#).

6. Selection Criteria

- 6.1 The Selection Committee may consider the following to determine team selection:
- a. Masters' player results in both singles and doubles, with a greater focus on the past two (2) years. Other available player match data may also be considered.
 - b. Head-to-head results between any of the nominated players, with a greater focus on the past two (2) years.
 - c. Player ratings (ITF Masters, Universal Tennis and World Tennis Number ratings).
 - d. Overall suitability to represent Australia including but not limited to:
 - i. Past behaviour (both on and off the court) and any previous disciplinary history during involvement in any TSA, TA and/or ITF sanctioned events;
 - ii. Attitude and application to training and competition; and/or
 - iii. Ability for teamwork and to uphold spirit of tennis.
 - e. Composition and balance of team including but not limited to:
 - i. The match format of two singles and one doubles rubber; and/or
 - ii. Preference towards players with a proven record in singles and doubles matches ahead of doubles-only players.

7. Team Composition

- 7.1 The standard team composition is up to four (4) players. One (1) player will be appointed as Team Captain.
- 7.2 Where considered appropriate, selectors may choose reserve players from the list of unsuccessful nominees. Reserves can be selected from the same age group or from any older age group. Any reserve

has the right to decline the invitation.

- 7.3 Any reserve player(s) will not be considered a team member until they are invited by TSA and/or TA to fill a vacancy in the team
- 7.4 If an insufficient number of players nominate for any age group to form a standard team, the selectors may recommend to TSA and/or TA:
 - a. To select a non-standard team of three (3) players;
 - b. To bring a player(s) down from an older age group (subject to the consent of the player(s));
 - c. To extend the nomination date for that team and invite further nominations before the final team selections are made; and/or
 - d. To elect not to send a team to the relevant event for that age group.

8. Selection Appeals

- 8.1 A player (an **Appellant**) who has nominated and not been selected may make an appeal on the following grounds:
 - a. that their non-selection is a result of this Policy not being properly followed or implemented; and/or
 - b. no Selection Committee acting reasonably would have decided not to select the Appellant.
- 8.2 The Appellant must, within 48 hours of being notified of the team selection, give written notification of their intention to appeal to TSA.
- 8.3 As soon as practicable following receipt of the Appellant's notice to appeal, TSA (in liaison with TA), must determine the appropriate body to convene the appeal. The following is preferred:
 - a. a member of the TA Tribunal Panel (see Section 14 of TA's [Member Protection Policy](#)); or
 - b. the Appeals Division of the National Sports Tribunal (which is the Australian tribunal established by the National Sports Tribunal Act 2019 (Cth)) in accordance with the National Sports Tribunal's rules and procedures,

(in either case, **Appellant Tribunal Member**).
- 8.4 Within five (5) days of giving written notice of their appeal, (or if there is urgency such shorter time as determined by the Appellant Tribunal Member) the Appellant must submit in writing the reasons for their appeal, and any supporting material (**Statement of Appeal**). Within the same timeframe, the Appellant must pay an appeal fee of AUD1,500 to TSA and provide proof of payment.

- 8.5 On receipt of the Statement of Appeal, the Selection Committee has five (5) days to prepare a written reply which sets out the reasons for the decision against which the appeal is made (**Written Reply**).
- 8.6 If the timeline in clause 8.4 are not met, the appeal shall be deemed to be withdrawn and the original decision of the Selection Committee will be deemed to be upheld.
- 8.7 The Appellant Tribunal Member shall hear and determine the Appeal in whatever manner it considers appropriate. In conducting the appeal, the Appellant Tribunal Member:
 - a. must take into consideration the Statement of Appeal, Written Reply and any supporting material;
 - b. is not bound by the rules of evidence and may inform itself as to any matter in such matter as it thinks fit provided that the appeal accords with the principles of natural justice;
 - c. may rely on the written submissions or request the opportunity to hear from such individuals as it considers necessary;
 - d. will hear and determine the appeal by way of “on the papers” or otherwise, with as much expedition as the proper consideration of the matter permits; and
 - e. will not allow the Appellant to be legally represented except with the leave of the Appeal Tribunal Member. Such leave will only be given in exceptional circumstances and may be subject to conditions.
- 8.8 The Appellant Tribunal Member can also request up to two additional members be appointed to hear the appeal.
- 8.9 Following the hearing of the appeal, the Appellant Tribunal Member must determine to either:
 - a. dismiss the appeal; or
 - b. uphold the appeal.
- 8.10 Where the Appellant Tribunal Member decides to uphold the appeal, the Selection Committee will be directed to amend its team selections and TSA will arrange for the appeal fee to be refunded to the Appellant.
- 8.11 The decision of the Appellant Tribunal must be provided in writing as soon as practicable and must provide the Appellant, the Selection Committee and TSA with written reasons for its decision.
- 8.12 The decision of the Appellant Tribunal Member is final and binding on the parties. There is no right to appeal the decision of the Appellant Tribunal Member.

- 8.13 Except as otherwise provided in this Policy, the Appellant Tribunal Member and any others present at or involved in the any appeal hearing shall keep all matters relating to the hearing, other than the decision, confidential.

9. Conditions of Participation

- 9.1 Players that are selected to participate in any Team Championship agree to:
- a. Complete and return all forms, and provide all additional information requested by TSA and/or TA within required timeframes;
 - b. Abide by the [ITF World Tennis Masters Tour Regulations](#) and [TA National Policies](#) applicable in the year of participation;
 - c. Continue to satisfy any conditions set out in the Eligibility Criteria in Section 3;
 - d. Notify TSA and/or TA as soon as possible of any circumstance that might prevent them from taking their place in the team;
 - e. Arrive for practice with the team at least 24 hours before the opening ceremony;
 - f. Wear the team playing uniform in all matches and use official team clothing provided;
 - g. Help boost team morale by supporting the team;
 - h. Comply with the reasonable directions of the Team Captain;
 - i. Handle any personality conflicts if they arise in a mature manner with the Team Captain, and if they cannot be resolved at that level, with the Team Manager; and
 - j. Act in a respectful manner towards officials and other teams in the Team Championships and foster good sportsmanship with fellow players.

10. Breaches of Conditions of Participation

- 10.1 Any breach of the Conditions of Participation detailed in Section 9 may result in disciplinary action being taken by TSA and/or TA, ranging from a warning to exclusion from future selection. Prior to a decision being made, the player will be given the opportunity to respond to the breach and provide further information, which will be considered by TSA and/or TA.
- 10.2 The standard of proof used in determining a breach of this Policy is “the balance of probabilities”. In other words, to determine that this Policy has been breached, there must be evidence to satisfy to TSA and/or TA that it is “more likely than not” that the breach occurred.

- 10.3 Any disciplinary action shall be informed to the player in writing by TSA and/or TA, including the reasons for the warning or penalty applied.

11. Miscellaneous

- 11.1 This Selection Policy supersedes and replaces any previous versions of this Policy. This Policy may be amended, replaced or revoked by TSA and/or TA at any time.
- 11.2 This Policy will be made available to the general public on TSA's website and will be communicated to all executive and general members of TSA.
Any questions regarding this Policy may be directed to TSA via tsasec01@gmail.com.au

Updated and approved by the TSA Executive and TA, [January 2025].