



**TENNIS SENIORS AUSTRALIA
2012 SELECTION POLICY, AUGUST 2011**

**FOR SELECTION TO REPRESENT AUSTRALIA IN THE ITF SENIORS/SUPER-SENIORS WORLD
TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

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

1. Pre-Conditions for Nomination

Players who nominate for selection must:

- (a) be Australian Citizens or hold an Australian Passport with sufficient validity for travel (usually six months from expiry);
- (b) be registered financial members of a State/Territory Division of Tennis Seniors Australia or if no State or Territory division exists or if a pilot study for the 'pay for play' model is being conducted within a State or Territory, the relevant Member Association;
- (c) have reached or will have reached the minimum age limit by December 31 of the year in which that ITF World Team Competition is conducted;
- (d) Nominate for selection only in the age group determined by their date of birth (their own age group);
- (e) be certain that they have considered personal responsibilities and can afford the time and expense associated with competing if selected recognising that a nomination represents a commitment to compete if selected; and
- (f) agree to the terms of this Selection Policy and agree to sign a Player Agreement and Release form.

2. Team Composition

- (a) Teams shall consist of three players for Seniors (unless the Selectors' form the view that a fourth player is required) and four players for Super-Seniors.
- (b) Where considered appropriate, the Selectors may choose to select one or more reserve players. Any reserve player/s will not be team members unless they are invited by the TSA Executive to fill a vacancy in the team.
- (c) 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 judgment of the Selectors, be stronger players than some or all of the players who have nominated in a lower age group. They could also be named as a reserve for the lower age group or, if appropriate, be a reserve for both age groups.

3. Supporting Documentation

- (a) Players who wish to nominate should provide documentation detailing their past tournament participation in support of their nomination for selection.

- (b) Results from the previous two years may be listed with the understanding that, obviously, Selectors are influenced by more recent performances.
- (c) It is preferred that players who nominate will have played at least two ITF sanctioned Seniors/Super-Seniors Tournaments such as the Australian Championships and preferably a State Seniors Championships or another sanctioned ITF event in Australia, prior to nominating for selection and provide evidence of this as part of their nomination. It is however noted that this may not be possible for certain players, including, but not limited to, new Tennis Seniors players and Australian players who live overseas.
- (d) Australian players who live overseas and reach the finals of the previous ITF World Championships and compete in at least one other ITF Seniors/Super-Seniors Tournament will be considered eligible for nomination and selection. Any player in this situation must provide the appropriate documentation with their nomination.
- (e) Relevant information, especially for new players wishing to compete in Tennis Seniors events or eligible Australian players who live overseas, may include any outstanding singles results, outstanding doubles results, details of current pennant or grade status and results (i.e, head-to-head results) against other players of note and/or other players who may decide to nominate for selection.

4. Selection

- (a) The Selectors' role will be to use their best judgement to select the best teams to represent Australia from the players who nominate.
- (b) 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 results in the most recent Seniors/Super-Seniors Australian Championships. In particular:
 - (A) Players who nominate for events must have played in their own age group at the Australian Seniors/Super Seniors Championship, unless special circumstances apply;
 - (B) Consideration may be given to players who are unable to compete in the Australian Seniors/Super-Seniors Championships if there are significant and/or unavoidable circumstances that would prevent participation. Such circumstances may include but are not limited to circumstances like, injury, illness, being overseen at the time of the event, or being a new participant in Seniors or Super Seniors Tennis. Players in this category should include supporting information in his or her nomination. Should the non-participation be the result of an injury or illness (including an injury during the Australian Championships) the Selectors, through the Secretary, will advise the player of what is required to prove his/her fitness.
 - (ii) the player's overall performance over the previous two years (with particular attention on the last twelve months) including some or all of the following:
 - (A) Performance in recent Australian Seniors/Super-Seniors Championships
 - (B) Performance in ITF sanctioned and non-sanctioned Tournaments including World Championships and Team Events;
 - (C) Performance in tournaments and competitions sanctioned by Tennis Australia;
 - (D) Performances on the court surface of the proposed venue of the ITF Seniors/Super-Seniors World Teams Championships; and/or
 - (E) the player's current ITF and Australian Rankings;
 - (iii) the player's participation in Senior's tennis events in the past 12 months;
 - (iv) the player's overall suitability to represent Australia at the ITF Seniors/Super-Seniors World Teams Championship, taking into consideration the player's past conduct and sportsmanship both on and off the court, the limited spots available and the overall composition of the team.
- (c) 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 team/s from the players who nominate.

- (d) Nominations close on a date fixed by the Executive of TSA. Late nominations will not be considered unless there is insufficient nominations to make up a particular team, in which case the Executive of TSA may approach players that have not nominated regarding their interest in joining the team.

5. Appeals

- (a) A player may appeal a decision of the Selectors regarding his or her selection or non-selection in accordance with this clause.
- (b) The sole grounds for any appeal are that the Selectors have selected a player that has not met 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 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 5(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. Within 5 days of the player submitting his or her 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**).
 - (iii) On receipt of the Written Statement of Appeal and Written Reply, the TSA Executive must convene an Appeals 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 Appeals 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.
 - (iv) 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 entitled to be represented by a barrister or solicitor except with the leave of the Appeals Tribunal. Such leave will only be given in exceptional circumstances and may be subject to such conditions at the Appeals 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 Appeals Tribunal.
 - (ii) The Appeals 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.
- (v) If the Appeal Tribunal finds in favour of the player that has lodged the appeal, the Appeals Tribunal can:
 - (i) caution the Selectors, but uphold the Selectors' team selection decisions; or
 - (ii) direct the Selectors to amend its team selections, provided the Appeals 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.
- (f) 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.
- (g) Any decision of the Appeals Tribunal will be final and binding on TSA, the Selectors and the player.

6. Post Selection

- (a) Selected players who do not have the current Australian clothing must advise the TSA Secretary.
- (b) Players 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.

As approved by TSA on September 27th, 2011

Tom Hancy,
Honorary secretary,
September 27th, 2011