

Eligibility Rules

The Competitive Wheelchair Tennis Player

a) In order to be eligible to compete in ITF sanctioned wheelchair tennis tournaments and the Paralympic Games, a player must have a medically diagnosed permanent mobility related physical disability. This permanent physical disability must result in a substantial loss of function in one or both lower extremities. Players must meet one of the following minimum eligibility criteria:

- i. A neurological deficit at the S1 level or proximal, associated with loss of motor function, or;
- ii. Ankylosis and/or severe arthrosis and/or joint replacement of the hip, knee or upper ankle joints, or;
- iii. Amputation of any lower extremity joint proximal to the metatarsophalangeal joint, or;
- iv. A player with functional disabilities in one or both lower extremities equivalent to 1, 2 or 3 above.

b) A quad player must meet the criteria for permanent physical disability as defined above. In addition, the player must have a permanent physical disability that results in a substantial loss of function in one or both upper extremities. Quad players must meet one of the following minimum eligibility criteria:

- i. A neurological deficit at the C8 level or proximal, with associated loss of motor function, or;
- ii. Upper extremity amputation, or;
- iii. Upper extremity phocomelia, or;
- iv. Upper extremity myopathy or muscular dystrophy, or;
- v. A player with functional disabilities in one or both upper extremities equivalent to i, ii, iii or iv above.

c) In addition, a quad player must have at least one of the four following functional disabilities with regards to upper extremity use, with or without limitation of trunk function:

- i. Reduced motor function necessary to perform an overhead service
- ii. Reduced motor function necessary to perform a forehand and backhand
- iii. Reduced motor function necessary to manoeuvre a manual wheelchair
- iv. Inability to grip the racquet necessitating the need for taping and / or an assistive device in order to play

The combination of dominant and non-dominant upper limb function and trunk function will be considered when assessing eligibility for quad status. In order to be deemed eligible for quad status, players who can demonstrate a good level of trunk function and control will need to have a greater level of disability in their upper limbs than those with little or no trunk control.

d) In addition, a quad player must also:

- i. Have a minimum of three affected extremities with a permanent physical disability as defined above; and
- ii. Satisfy the classification points scoring system, the current version of which appears in the ITF Quad Tennis Classification Manual; and
- iii. Comply with any specific requirements of the particular classification status assigned; and
- iv. Co-operate fully, honestly and in good faith with any classification process and/or related procedure.

Quad players may not use either foot to propel a wheelchair.

Power Wheelchairs

Players who have severe limitations on mobility that prevent them from pushing a manual chair and therefore use a power wheelchair for every day mobility may use a power wheelchair to play tennis; however, once players have elected to play tennis in a power wheelchair, they must continue to do so in all ITF sanctioned events. Protests against any player playing in power wheelchairs should be directed to the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee in accordance with Appendix A.