

# TENNIS CANADA SELECTION POLICY FOR ITF WORLD TENNIS MASTERS TOUR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

## BACKGROUND

The objective of this Selection Policy is to field the strongest team, of eligible candidates, with the potential to medal at International Team events.

The International Tennis Federation ("ITF") currently recognizes Team Cup competitions in the following age groups: 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80 and 85.

All teams will be comprised of up to four players including the captain.

Tennis Canada's Masters International Team Selection Committee is responsible for the team selections. It is comprised of the Tennis Canada Masters Tennis Committee Chair, the Advisor of Masters Tennis and Events, and a Tennis Canada Tennis Development staff representative. At the discretion of the Selection Committee, additional Masters Tennis Committee Members may be brought in to provide feedback.

**The "Selection Committee" shall have the latitude to exercise discretion when making its final decisions for team selections.**

## A. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS

Tennis Canada will enter and support teams in International Cup competitions provided the following eligibility, criteria and selection guidelines are met:

1. Under current ITF regulations, all players chosen to represent Canada must be a Canadian citizen and must hold a Canadian passport.
2. **In order to be considered for team selection, all players must participate in the Steve Stevens Masters Tennis Championships, and one other sanctioned Canadian Masters tennis tournament or international ITF Masters tennis tournament in singles and doubles.**
3. Players selected must be physically fit to play at the time of the team event. An affidavit to that effect may be required by Tennis Canada. Failure to be able to compete at the World Championships due to a pre-existing injury (e.g., not sustained at the event) may affect future eligibility.
4. While participating in the ITF World Tennis Masters Tour Team Championships, team players are representatives of Canada. The players must show exemplary sportsmanship and display best-efforts while competing at the Championships and throughout the calendar year in all tournaments. All team players must be in good standing with their provincial association at the time of team selection. The same standard will also apply to team members representing Canada abroad. Players named to Canada's World Teams for international play shall assure their obligations toward the team notably by respecting team protocol and must sign the Player Responsibility forms. Failure to comply with this standard will jeopardize future team selections.
5. All players who are selected to represent Canada **MUST** have an IPIN number (International Player Identification Number).

## B. TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

1. All players wishing to be considered for a team are advised to compete in the corresponding age group in the Steve Stevens Masters Tennis Championships in singles and doubles in the year that is applicable for the team selection, in order to give themselves an opportunity of being ranked in both divisions. In addition, these players must compete in at least one other tournament in each category, singles, and doubles, to be recognized by Tennis Canada for team selection, either:

- a) A tournament recognized for national ranking, e.g., the Eastern or Western Indoor Championships, or a Tier 1, Tier 2 or Provincial Tier 3 event.
  - b) An eligible ITF event in the appropriate age group played outside of Canada.
2. Significant Singles and Doubles Year-End National Rankings will be the primary information used to select the individuals who will represent Canada in international team play. Other factors to be considered include exceptional performance, head-to-head results, previous tournament results, results by doubles teams and experience of players on different surfaces.

NOTE: In the event that the Selection Committee must consider players for the fourth spot on a National Team who do not have top results in both doubles and singles, and there is a player with a top Year-End Doubles Ranking (only) or Year-End Singles Ranking (only), the Selection Committee may consider selecting that “doubles or singles only” qualified player to enhance the ability of the team to perform successfully.

3. Players moving up an age group in the year of the event (e.g., the year after a player competed in the Championships) may receive “consideration” for selection to that age group team. Players must have a significant Year-End National Ranking in singles or doubles to be eligible for such consideration, provided they have met all other criteria. However, in the older categories - women 70, 75, 80 and 85 and men 75, 80 and 85 - due to the limited number of players available overall, it may be desirable to consider other qualified players.
4. **If eligible players selected for a team choose not to participate, the committee reserves the right to appoint other players to field a team.**

NOTE: If the World Team Championships ties are later in the year and an alternate player must be added to a Team because of an unexpected circumstance, the Selection Committee reserves the right to select the replacement player for the team from the current year’s results.

## **C. SELECTION (CONSIDERATIONS) FOR PLAYERS UNABLE TO COMPETE IN THE STEVE STEVENS MASTERS TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS TOURNAMENT**

Competing in the Steve Steven’s Masters Tennis Championships is a requirement for team selection consideration. However, the Selection Committee recognizes that there may be circumstances beyond the player’s control that make participation in the Steve Stevens Masters Tennis Championships event **impossible**. For athletes unable to compete in the Steve Stevens Masters Tennis Championships, one of the two scenarios listed below will apply for team selection purposes.

1. If the player’s inability to compete is communicated to the Selection Committee in writing **BEFORE** the start of the Steve Stevens Masters Tennis Championships:
  - To be “considered” on a team, players must submit their Exemption Letter to the Selection Committee **BEFORE** the start of the Steve Stevens Masters Tennis Championships. The Selection Committee will consider this exception request against the following two criteria:
    - (1) The reason must be due to a circumstance beyond the player’s control (for example, death in the immediate family or a serious injury supported by medical verification), and
    - (2) They must also have achieved a historical record of merit defined as multiple years of National and International success.
2. If the player’s inability to compete is communicated to the Selection Committee in writing **AFTER** the start of the Steve Stevens Masters Tennis Championships:
  - Players submitting Exemption Letters **AFTER** the start of the Steve Stevens Masters Championships may be “considered” for an alternate spot on a team. The Selection Committee will consider this exception request against the following two criteria:

- (1) The reason must be due to a circumstance beyond the player's control (for example, death in the immediate family or a serious injury supported by medical verification), and
- (2) They must also have achieved a historical record of merit defined as multiple years of National and International success.

## **D. DECISIONS**

The Selection Committee will select a preliminary list of Cup Team members and alternates in accordance with the criteria and guidelines listed herein and submit them to the Tennis Canada Masters Tennis Committee for approval. Once approved, any further changes will be at the discretion of the Selection Committee.

The Selection Committee reserves the right to change a member of a team or decide not to enter a team even after full consideration of all players who have met the criteria. Financial and other assistance to team members may be provided but is dependent on available funds and/or sponsorship.

In the event of an "unforeseen circumstance" (for example, a natural disaster such as an earthquake or flood) and the Steve Stevens Masters Tennis Championships or either of the Western or Eastern Senior Indoor tournament qualifying events is canceled, in the absence of results from any of these events, the Selection Committee will have the authority to adapt the selection process as they determine in order to field teams for that year.

## **E. APPEAL PROCESS**

If a player disagrees with the team nomination decision: as a first step, they must email their concerns to the Director Pro and National Events, Ryan Borczon, [rborczon@tenniscanada.com](mailto:rborczon@tenniscanada.com). If the disagreement is not resolved, the player should send their official appeal to the Vice President Tennis Participation and Partnership, of Tennis Canada, Eva Havaris [ehavaris@tenniscanada.com](mailto:ehavaris@tenniscanada.com) in accordance with the guidelines listed in Tennis Canada's Appeal Policy.