



This selection framework is in place with immediate effect.

## 1. The Selection Criteria Framework:

The SCF is a TSA Board approved protocol that forms the basis of TSA junior team selections. To this end, all officially appointed selectors are compelled to sign and confirm their commitment and adherence to this framework. It is expected that amendments and improvements may be added to this SCF over time.

1. The TSA Junior Ranking System is the key indicator and input of a player's performance.
  - a. The ranking system affords all players an opportunity to demonstrate their competitiveness locally and on the ITF circuit.
  - b. With 9 local TSA Series tournaments, a Nationals and Masters event, numerous minis and grand prix events, as well as 7 local ITF's (as at May 2017) and a host of international ITF's in neighboring countries and sub-Saharan Africa, all players have access to sufficient tournaments to ensure that their best 6 tournaments are a fair reflection of their performance.
  - c. A blended input is used from TSA tournaments and ITF's to ensure players have access to various levels of competition and that they are exposed to a variety of players. TSA uses this blended approach as opposed to some European countries that strictly use ITF's and countries such as New Zealand that uses strictly local tournaments. These variances in approach are mainly as a result of geographical realities.
  - d. The 'blend' of 6 qualifying tournaments constitutes any local TSA event and / or a maximum of any 3 ITF's (anywhere in the world) as part of that mix.**
  - e. A minimum of 3 local tournaments in a junior circuit that comprises 11 TSA events and at least 7 local ITF's, is not deemed an overly unfair expectation from any player, especially as top players are expected to participate in Nationals as well as Masters.
  - f. Local tournaments remain imperative to ensure that TSA motivates SA players to compete against direct peers and TSA are also able to assess the true "standard" of competition. It is difficult to assess the standard of an ITF being played in remote countries, as example.
  - g. ITF's are included to ensure players who focus on ITF rankings get a fair chance for those results to impact their rankings.
  - h. Both singles and doubles rankings are important. As such, the combined ranking is the key indicator of performance (100% of singles points and 25% of doubles points). This follows ITF recommendations on the importance of doubles as ITF uses the same combined ranking. A Singles, Doubles and Combined ranking will be maintained as each signifies a different strength in a player. Retaining a Singles, Doubles as well as Combined ranking enables Selectors to assess a players core strength, versatility and selection flexibility relative to the particular tournament and role a player is being selected for (TSA no longer includes Mixed Doubles as part of the combined ranking calculation).



- i. Participation at Nationals and Masters is mandatory for SA selection, unless TSA formally confirms non-participation as a result of injury or duty for SA elsewhere in the world. Having a different tournament schedule is not a justification for a player to miss these tournaments. This applies to all players.
    - j. All players are to play Nationals and Masters within their own age groups.
    - k. This SCF is based off a rolling 12-month ranking. The PPM will assess performance over a longer period of time.
2. A Player Performance Metric (PPM) template is to be developed by TSA for all qualifying players for selection purposes.
  - a. “Qualifying” refers to players who could be considered or would be in the running for selection for various teams.
  - b. In all likelihood, this list would comprise of between 10 and 20 players per age group and gender.
  - c. The PPM consists of the TSA rankings and trends, high level performance history, results in tournaments, win rates and head-to-heads. They are all factual and objective.
  - d. Head-to-heads is a contributing indicator only. Reference here is made to the Kevin Anderson/Stan Wawrinka results, Wayne Ferreira/Pete Sampras results and the Rafael Nadal/Federer duals, where in each case the better ranked player lost more than they won against the specific competitor.
3. The ranking system (as core indicator), together with the PPM as suggested in ‘2’ above, constitutes the objective and measurable factors for team selections.
  - a. Additional factors include, but are not limited to:
    - i. TSA’s policy on transformation - **please refer to the draft TSA Transformation Charter and Policy.**
    - ii. Fitness at a point in time.
    - iii. Court surface.
    - iv. Participation at SA based team orientated events and tournaments, such as top schools festivals, Inter provincial participation, and league participation. This demonstrates an ability to focus on ‘team’ rather than individual results.
  - b. These additional factors as described above will allow a relative level of subjectivity, in the case of 2 players having similar results. In this case, the subjectivity comes off the back of objectivity, and not the other way around.
4. International Players: A player can only be selected for representative teams outside of the abovementioned parameter if he/she is formally classified to be an ‘internationally based’ player. This classification should be formalized via the submission and acceptance by TSA of the formal “international” player classification form. A player is deemed to be an ‘internationally based’ player if the player has chosen to physically and practically live abroad and develop their game outside the borders of SA. A player who simply elects to play outside of SA for periods of time is not deemed to be an ‘internationally based’ player and would



need to qualify via the criteria as set out above. In the case of a player qualifying as an internationally based player, the Selection Committee could effectively issue such a player a Wild Card selection to a representative team.

5. Code of Conduct: A player's selection for a representative team will be dependent on a clean Code of conduct report as per TSA's criteria.
6. SA Squads: At the conclusion of Masters in October annually, a national squad of 10 to 12 players for each age group and gender will be announced (a minimum of 6 players for each year within that grouping e.g. the 2018 U18 squad will have 2000 and 2001 aged players). This squad will receive TSA national squad 'accreditation' and these players will form the core of players from which various representative teams will be selected to play various international events, participate in national training camps and effectively participate in High Performance Development activities. Details of the National Squad program are to be published annually.
7. Selected non-TSA tournaments / specific qualification criteria – it should be noted that various ITF/CAT, ITF/CAT Masters and other selected tournaments have pre-determined criteria over which TSA has no jurisdiction. In these cases, TSA may be compelled to nominate representative teams outside of the approved SCF.
8. TSA Masters qualification is based on the top ranked and available players in each age group (see players with International status criteria above). TSA retains the right to propose 2 Wild Cards per age group, specifically to ensure, where necessary and possible, adherence to the TSA Transformation policy.
9. Davis Cup / Fed Cup Selection: Where a junior player is being considered for selection to Davis Cup or Fed Cup, the Junior Selection Criteria Framework will apply to the relevant junior.

**Whilst team and squad selection is not an exact science, selections must be intellectually defensible. The intention of the SCF is to:**

1. Ensure selectors all work off a standard set of data, such as the SCF protocol and the PPM – eliminates subjectivity and focuses on facts.
2. Ensures a higher level of transparency – eliminates speculation.
3. Accommodates 'internationally' based players.