**Most Outstanding Inclusion Initiative SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCESS**

The Award period for the 2024 Australian Tennis Awards is November 2023 - October 2024.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

This award recognizes an outstanding inclusion initiative within the tennis community. Nominations are welcome from Tennis Australia affiliates, partner programs of Tennis Australia, Local Government Authorities, Volunteers, Tennis Australia, or MA-qualified coaches/officials who go beyond to create and support inclusive tennis environments for underrepresented\* groups.

\*Underrepresented groups include but are not limited to;

* People with disability
* People who identify as LGBTQ+
* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
* Culturally and Racially Marginalised (CARM) backgrounds
* Low socioeconomic communities
* Women and Girls

\*Inclusion Initiative examples

* Participation program
* Participation/Club event
* Education program
* Volunteer program
* Leadership program

**THE NOMINATION PROCESS FOR AUSTRALIAN TENNIS AWARD**

* The winners of the State Awards for Most Outstanding Inclusion Initiative will become a nominee for the National Award for Most Outstanding Inclusion Initiative.
* If a state/territory does not have an award in this category, the MA may nominate a candidate from that state/territory through the online portal, provided the nominee meets all the eligibility criteria.
* The national body reserves the right to enter wild card nominees for this award.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

The selection panel will give consideration to the following in assessing and comparing nominees:

* Measurable benefits to the underrepresented group and to tennis in general.
* Demonstration of Tennis Australia values including imagination, collaboration, humility, and excellence.
* The initiative has an ongoing participation plan and/or supports a connection to pathway opportunities linked with continued participation.
* If appropriate, media and promotional activities are undertaken prior to, during and following the program.
* Shows evidence of engaging people with lived experience and/or working with partner/community organisations in the development of the program.
* Contribute to making Tennis more accessible, welcoming and inclusive.

**SELECTION PROCESS**

The selection panel will be made up of the following:

* Diversity, Equity and Inclusion representative- Tennis Australia
* Diversity, Equity and Inclusion representative - external adviser
* Tennis Australia Executive

All decisions in relation to the Most Outstanding Inclusion Initiative (including any questions in relation to eligibility) will be determined by the selection panel at its absolute discretion.

All decisions are final, and no correspondence will be entered into. Any matters not covered in this document will be resolved by the selection panel in consultation with Tennis Australia Management.

**TIMELINE**

**Monday, 16th October 2024:**  All nominations due to Tennis Australia

* Nominees for the Australian Tennis Awards will be the winners of the **2024** State Awards.
* Nominations will only be accepted through the Newcombe Medal online portal.
* MAs must confidentially upload details of their state nominees by this date, regardless of whether the state awards night is scheduled later.
* No nominations will be accepted without a high-res image of the award winner.

***Monday, 6th November 2024*:** Tennis Australia Selection Panels to confirm finalists.

**Friday,10th November 2024:** Newcombe Medal Project Group to notify unsuccessful and successful finalists via email.

**Monday, 11th December 2024:** Newcombe Medal, Australian Tennis Awards

**REQUIREMENTS OF AWARD RECIPIENTS**

The successful recipients will be required to fulfil the following items upon reasonable request:

* Participate in marketing and promotional activities in the 12 months following the award.
* Prepare an article for the Australian Tennis Magazine. Tennis Australia will provide editorial assistance.
* Participate in tennis pilot programs and initiatives.

**2024 AUSTRALIAN TENNIS AWARDS SELECTION PANEL CRITERIA**

State and Territory Award Winners will be nominated by their Member Association (MA) for the equivalent national awards. From these finalists, the Australia Tennis Awards (ATA) Selection Panels will determine the winner and two finalists for their respective award categories.

To provide consistency in the selection of National Award winners, the ATA Selection Panels for each category must consist of the following:

* Three panellists, unless otherwise specified in the award selection criteria document.
* A lead panellist who is a full-time Tennis Australia Diversity, Equity and Inclusion representative, External Adviser with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion expertise and a Tennis Australia Executive.
* Gender and geographical diversity should be reflected in all panels.