

Athlete Development Scholarship Criteria

2010

Introduction

The Athlete Development criteria list objective components as entry requirements for the National Academy and the AIS Pro Tour Program for athletes considering a professional playing career. The Athlete Development criteria have been reviewed to remain as current as possible, reflecting the performances of today's professional players that are ranked in the top 100.

Research

Retrospective investigation of the ranking history of current successful male and female professionals (top 100 ATP and WTA players as at 1 January 2009) provides some of the performance benchmarks that comprise the Athlete Development criteria.

In simple terms, the rankings of the top 100 players in the men's and women's games were tracked from when they first appeared on the ITF, ATP or WTA ranking lists; and then every year thereafter. The tables below describe the year end ranking progression for the top 10 players (as at 1 January, 2009).

All relevant developmental variables were considered to develop the benchmark rankings.

End of year ranking trajectory of current ATP top 10 ranked players by birth year

	Athlete	Age	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1	Rafael Nadal (ESP)	ITF			208					
		ATP		811	200	411	51	2	2	2
2	Roger Federer (SUI)	ITF		448	63	1				
		ATP			704	301	65	29	13	6
3	Novak Djokovic (SRB)	ITF		102						
		ATP			679	186	78	16	3	3
4	Andy Murray (GBR)	ITF			6	10				
		ATP			540	411	64	17	11	4
5	Nikolay Davydenko (RUS)	ITF								
		ATP					653	133	79	81
6	Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (FRA)	ITF			71	12	2			
		ATP			899	500	394	163	338	212
7	Gilles Simon (FRA)	ITF								
		ATP					1331	487	177	124
8	Andy Roddick (USA)	ITF			27	6	1			
		ATP					156	14	10	1
9	Juan Martin Del Potro (ARG)	ITF		354	24	49				
		ATP			1047	157	92	44	9	
10	James Blake (USA)	ITF					92			
		ATP						682	220	212

End of year ranking trajectory of current WTA top 10 ranked players by birth year

	Athlete	Age	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1	Jelena Jankovic (SRB)	ITF	733	11	7					
		WTA			361	194	85	28	22	12
2	Serena Williams (USA)	ITF								
		WTA			99	20	4	6	6	1
3	Dinara Safina (RUS)	ITF	71	13						
		WTA		394	68	54	44	20	11	15
4	Elena Dementieva (RUS)	ITF		177	22	4	558			
		WTA		624	355	182	62	12	15	19
5	Ana Ivanovic (SRB)	ITF	709	21	34	40				
		WTA			705	97	16	14	4	5
6	Venus Williams (USA)	ITF								
		WTA		204	204	22	5	3	3	3
7	Vera Zvonareva (RUS)	ITF	443	82	8	4	443			
		WTA			357	371	45	13	11	42
8	Svetlana Kuznetsova (RUS)	ITF	258	65	1	100				
		WTA		889	259	43	36	5	18	4
9	Maria Sharapova (RUS)	ITF	51	7						
		WTA		186	32	4	4	2	5	9
10	Agnieszka Radwanska (POL)	ITF	51	7						
		WTA		941	381	57	26	10		

Athlete Development Criteria

The components of the Athlete Development criteria, namely ranking, results and participation, are designed to guide the development plans of our aspiring Davis and Fed Cup players. Generally, these plans are guided by the experiences of the coach (often as a player) or the schedules of the sport's well-performed contemporaries.

The Athlete Development criteria recognises the importance of these experiences, and, as described above, has compiled data outlining the ranking progression of current top 100 professional players to provide a more extensive and objective evidence base. Within the Criteria, at the younger ages, emphasis is still very much placed on performance relative to players' peers at the National level and then as teenagers, players are encouraged to achieve success on the international stage. Importantly, this approach is sufficiently flexible to capture the different competitive pathways (i.e. ATP-WTA vs juniors) to professional success.

The intent of the Athlete Development criteria is not to replace individuality nor is it to impose particular philosophies on scheduling. Rather, it is to supplement the coaches input by providing a series of performance and competition benchmarks achieved by current professional players.

Junior ranking (ITF) benchmarks are included for the males (14th – 18th birth year) and females (13th – 17th birth year) to reflect the performances of today's professional players progress through the junior circuit. For players who aspire to professional success, participation in the ITF circuit and more particularly the achievement of the described ranking benchmarks is an appropriate goal. Programs and policies aimed at facilitating players reaching these rankings are appropriate.

Tennis Australia will continue to adjust the criteria as necessary, with fair notice in order for standards to remain competitive internationally.

Full and Partial Scholarship Status

Full scholarship status is based on the international standard of the athletes' peer group and the Partial scholarship status is based on the national standard of the athletes' peer group.

The absence of the Partial scholarship status for the 18th – 21st birth years are reflective of the international focus of athletes in this age bracket.

National Training Philosophy

To identify talented athletes and place them in highly focused training environments and through world class coaching, sport science and medicine, foster successful professional athletic performance.

Athlete Development Objectives

To develop athletes who have the ability to win Grand Slam Championships:

1. To create a structured training environment to enhance the development of each athlete and maximize resources available.
2. To provide an environment where every athlete will receive world class on court training, sport science and medical services.
3. To provide greater opportunities for creating long term player development plans for each individual athlete.
4. To assist athletes in developing skills for post tennis professional life.
5. To provide the athletes with ongoing learning opportunities whereby athlete education is viewed as the joint responsibility of the Tennis Australia, athlete, parent and the educational institution.

Athlete Development Criteria



Athlete Benefits

Benefit	National Academy Full	National Academy Partial	AIS Pro Tour
12 Month scholarship	ü	ü	ü
Assigned Coach	ü	ü	ü
Weekly Access to Physio (as determined by National Academy Staff)	ü	ü	ü
Database access	ü	ü	ü
Gym Access (on-site)	ü	ü	ü
Annual Plan – individualised	ü	ü	ü
Strength & Conditioning staff	ü	ü	ü
Access to Sport Psychology			ü
Medical Screening	ü	ü	ü
Medical Gap payments paid			ü
Physio Screening	ü	ü	ü
Physical Testing	ü	ü	ü
Technical Analysis	ü	ü	ü
Match Analysis	ü	ü	ü
Domestic Tours – Coach Support	ü	ü	ü
International Tours – Coach support			ü
Subsidy TA Tours	ü	ü	ü
Athlete Education support	ü	ü	ü
Parent Education program	ü	ü	
Nike Clothing	ü		ü
National Tracksuit	ü		ü
Sponsorship Agreements (where applicable)	ü	ü	ü
AIS clothing			ü
Development of your own website (where applicable)			ü
Australian player services and benefits during the Australian Open			ü
Public relations and media training			ü
Access to National Academy facilities and opportunities (as appropriate)			ü

Athlete Development Obligations

In return for receiving the above benefits, athletes are required to:

Work toward the attainment of your full potential in tennis;

Make yourself available for all AIS Pro Tour Program, National Academy training, squad selection and team and individual competitions or matches for which you are selected to represent Australia;

Comply with the training requirements and all reasonable directions of the AIS Pro Tour Coaches, National Coaches, National Academy coaches and support personnel;

Comply with TA policies and By-Laws, including Anti-Doping Policy, Member Protection By-Law, education policy, dress/uniform policy and other disciplinary policies, which are available upon request;

Attend AIS Pro Tour and National Academy sponsor activities and meetings as reasonably requested by TA (i.e. sign merchandise, attend photo shoots if required);

Give 100% in all matches and training sessions and display fine sportsmanship at all times;

Display courteous and ethical behaviour both on and off the court;

Be available for medical/physiotherapy screenings within one school term of attaining Scholarship status;

Be available for physical testing and technical analysis within one school term of attaining Scholarship status;

Comply with the planned competition and training schedule as determined by the coaching staff in conjunction with the athlete, parent(s) and the private coach(if applicable);

Recognise that Tennis Australia provides this commitment with the reasonable expectation that you will continue to represent Australia, where selected whilst a scholarship holder and after leaving the AIS Pro Tour Program or National Academy.

Pay back a percentage of prize money earned – as determined by the head coach on signing an athlete contract (AIS Pro Tour athletes only).

Otherwise comply with the terms of the AIS Pro Tour and NA athlete agreement.

Athlete Obligations on Trips and Tours

Athletes acknowledge that any behaviour that could bring yourself and/or TA/National Academy into disrepute includes, but is not limited to:

- Consumption of alcohol, performance enhancing or other prohibited or illicit substances;
- Curfew breaches or entering other player's hotel rooms without coach/manager approval;
- Disobedience, or ignoring coach/manager instructions;
- Sexual activity;
- Gambling, or involvement in gambling activities;
- Any dangerous activities not approved by the coach/manager;
- Damage to property including hotel property;
- Disruptive behaviour.

This behaviour could result in any one or more of the following:

- disciplinary action;
- being dismissed from the Tour, Camp or Team event;
- non selection for future TA Tours, Camps or Teams;
- being suspended for a period of time from TA funded activities.

Scholarship Period

Athletes who meet scholarship status will receive a 12 month scholarship with a commencement date according to:

Application received

1st – 14th of the month:

15th – 30th/31st of the month:

Commencement Date

15st day of that month

1st day of following month

National Academy Scholarship Application

Once an athlete meets the criteria for their birth year, it is their responsibility to complete the application form and submit to Tennis Australia. Once the application form has been processed, the athlete and family will be notified in writing regarding their scholarship at the National Academy. The application form can be found on the Tennis website (www.tennis.com.au).

Ranking

Depending on the criteria these could be:

Australian Ranking	(AR)
International Tennis Federation	(ITF)
Women's Tennis Association	(WTA)
Association of Tennis Professionals	(ATP)

Result

Optus National Championships
Tennis Europe Events (TE)
ITF Men's and Women's events

Participation

Optus National Championships
AO Wildcard playoff
Australian Open Juniors
Pro Circuit events or equivalent
ITF junior events

Ranking

At the time of application, the Athletes most current ranking will be applied

Result

Result components are valid for 12 months from the time they are achieved

Participation

Participation components are valid for 12 months from the time they are achieved

Athlete Criteria - Males

As described above, significant time has been invested to ensure that the ranking component of the National Academy criteria are evidence-based. That is to say that they are based on the ranking progressions of not one but many current successful professional players. The following table summarises the ranking requirements for each birth year.

Birth Year	Full Scholarship			Partial Scholarship		
	ATP	ITF	AR	ATP	ITF	AR
1989	165	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	280	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1991	403	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1992	720	10	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1993	1062	45	N/A	1 point	100	N/A
1994	1 point	100	N/A	N/A	300	Top 6
1995	N/A	300	Top 3	N/A	550	Top 6
1996	N/A	750	Top 4	N/A	N/A	Top 8
1997	N/A	N/A	Top 4	N/A	N/A	Top 10
1998	N/A	N/A	Top 4	N/A	N/A	Top 10

Full Scholarship

To be eligible for a full scholarship with Tennis Australia, players must meet the ranking criteria.

Male Players born 1989

Ranking: [Top 165 ATP](#)

Male Players born 1990

Ranking: [Top 280 ATP](#)

Male Players born 1991

Ranking: [Top 403 ATP](#)

Male Players born 1992

Ranking: [Top 720 ATP](#)
[Top 10 ITF](#)

Male Players born 1993

Full Scholarship - To be eligible for a full scholarship with Tennis Australia, players must meet one of the ranking criteria.

Ranking: Top 1062 ATP
Top 45 ITF

Partial Scholarship - To be eligible for partial scholarship athletes must meet one of the criteria in the ranking and participation components.

Ranking: One ATP point
Top 100 ITF

Participation: Main Draw Australian Open Juniors
18's Australian Championships
AO Wildcard playoff
Compete in two Pro Circuit events

Male Players born 1994

Full Scholarship - To be eligible for full scholarship athletes must meet one of the criteria in all three of the ranking, result and participation components.

Ranking: One ATP point
Top 100 ITF

Result: Singles finalist 16's Nationals
Qualify, direct acceptance or win a main draw match in two Pro Circuit events
50 ITF singles rankings points in an event

Participation: Compete in 16's Nationals or championships
Compete in 18's National championships
Compete in two Pro Circuit events

Partial Scholarship - To be eligible for partial scholarship athletes must meet one of the criteria in all three of the ranking, result and participation components.

Ranking: Top 6 Australian Ranking for Players born 1994 or younger
Top 300 ITF

Result: Singles semi-finalist 16's Nationals
Qualify, direct acceptance or win a main draw match in two Pro Circuit events
40 ITF singles rankings points in an event

Participation: Compete in two 16's Nationals and two Pro Circuit events

Male Players born 1995

Full Scholarship - To be eligible for full scholarship athletes must meet one of the criteria in all three of the ranking, result and participation components.

Ranking: Top 3 Australian Ranking for Players born 1995 or younger
Top 300 ITF

Result: Singles semifinalist 16's Nationals
Singles quarterfinal 16/U Group 1 TE
Singles semifinalist 16/U Group 2 TE
40 ITF singles rankings points in an event

Participation: Compete in one 16's National and two Pro Circuit events

Partial Scholarship - To be eligible for partial scholarship athletes must meet one of the criteria in all three of the ranking, result and participation components.

Ranking: Top 6 Australian Ranking for Players born 1995 or younger
Top 550 ITF

Result: Singles semifinalist 16's Nationals
Singles finalist 14's Nationals
30 ITF singles rankings points in an event

Participation: Compete in one 16's Nationals and one Pro Circuit event

Male Players born 1996

Full Scholarship - To be eligible for full scholarship athletes must meet one of the criteria in all three of the ranking, result and participation components.

Ranking: Top 4 Australian Ranking for Players born 1996 or younger
Top 750 ITF

Result: Singles finalist 14's Nationals
Singles semifinalist two Nationals, either 14's or 16's
Singles semifinalist 14/U Group 1 TE
Singles finalist 14/U Group 2 TE
30 ITF singles rankings points in an event

Participation: Compete in two 14's or 16's Nationals
Compete in two ITF events

Partial Scholarship - To be eligible for partial scholarship athletes must meet one of the criteria in all three of the ranking, result and participation components.

Ranking: Top 8 Australian Ranking for Players born 1996 or younger

Result: Singles semifinalist in a 14's or 16's Nationals

Participation: Compete in two Nationals

Male Players born 1997

Full Scholarship - To be eligible for full scholarship athletes must meet one of the criteria in all three of the ranking, result and participation components.

Ranking: Top 4 Australian Ranking for Players born 1997 or younger

Result: Singles finalist 14's Nationals
Singles semifinalist two 14's Nationals
Singles quarterfinalist 14/U Group 1 TE
Singles semifinalist 14/U Group 2 TE

Participation: Compete in two 14's Nationals
Compete in one ITF event

Partial Scholarship - To be eligible for partial scholarship athletes must meet one of the criteria in all three of the ranking, result and participation components.

Ranking: Top 10 Australian Ranking for Players born 1997 or younger

Result: Singles quarterfinalist 14's Nationals
Singles semifinalist 12's Nationals

Participation: Compete in two Nationals

Male Players born 1998

Full Scholarship - To be eligible for full scholarship athletes must meet one of the criteria in all three of the ranking, result and participation components.

Ranking: Top 4 Australian Ranking for Players born 1998 or younger

Result: Singles winner of two 12's Nationals
Singles finalist 14's Nationals
Singles semifinalist two 14's Nationals
Singles Round 16 (for a full 64 draw) 14/U Group 1 TE
Singles quarterfinal 14/U Group 2 TE

Participation: Compete in one 14's Nationals

Partial Scholarship - To be eligible for partial scholarship athletes must meet one of the criteria in all three of the ranking, result and participation components.

Ranking: Top 10 Australian Ranking for Players born 1998 or younger

Result: Singles quarterfinalist 14's Nationals or 12's Nationals

Participation: Compete in two Nationals

Athlete Criteria - Females

A significant component of the criteria is the rankings. The following is a summary of the ranking requirements for each birth year.

Birth Year	Full Scholarship			Partial Scholarship		
	WTA	ITF	AR	WTA	ITF	AR
1989	89	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	120	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1991	153	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1992	222	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1993	359	20	N/A	568	35	N/A
1994	568	35	N/A	1 point	60	Top 6
1995	1 point	60	Top 3	N/A	240	Top 6
1996	N/A	240	Top 4	N/A	Ranking	Top 8
1997	N/A	Ranking	Top 4	N/A	N/A	Top 10
1998	N/A	N/A	Top 4	N/A	N/A	Top 10

Full Scholarship

To be eligible for a full scholarship with Tennis Australia, players must meet the ranking criteria.

Female Players born 1989

Ranking: [Top 89 WTA](#)

Female Players born 1990

Ranking: [Top 120 WTA](#)

Female Players born 1991

Ranking: [Top 153 WTA](#)

Female Players born 1992

Ranking: [Top 222 WTA](#)

Female Players born 1993

Full Scholarship - To be eligible for a full scholarship with Tennis Australia, players must meet one of the ranking criteria.

Ranking: Top 359 WTA
Top 20 ITF

Partial Scholarship - To be eligible for partial scholarship athletes must meet one of the criteria in the ranking and participation components.

Ranking: Top 568 WTA
Top 35 ITF

Participation: Main Draw Australian Open Juniors
18's Australian Championships
AO Wildcard playoff
Compete in three Pro Circuit events

Female Players born 1994

Full Scholarship - To be eligible for full scholarship athletes must meet one of the criteria in all three of the ranking, result and participation components.

Ranking: Top WTA 568
Top 35 ITF

Result: Singles semifinalist 18's Championships
Qualify for two ITF Women's \$25K events

Participation: Main Draw Australian Open Juniors
18's Australian Championships
AO Wildcard playoff
Compete in three Pro Circuit events

Partial Scholarship - To be eligible for partial scholarship athletes must meet one of the criteria in all three of the ranking, result and participation components.

Ranking: Top 6 Australian Ranking for Players born 1994 or younger
Top 60 ITF
One WTA point (must play 3 events to register a ranking)

Result: Singles finalist 16's Nationals
Qualify, direct acceptance or win a main draw match in two Pro Circuit events

Participation: Compete in 16's Nationals or championships
Compete in 18's National championships
Compete in three Pro Circuit events

Female Players born 1995

Full Scholarship - To be eligible for full scholarship athletes must meet one of the criteria in all three of the ranking, result and participation components.

Ranking: Top 3 Australian Ranking for Players born 1995 or younger
Top 60 ITF
One WTA point (must play 3 events to register a ranking)

Result: Singles winner 16's Nationals
Singles finalist in two 16's Nationals
Qualify, direct acceptance or win a main draw match in two Pro Circuit events
Singles semifinalist 16/U Group 1 TE
Singles finalist 16/U Group 2 TE
40 ITF singles rankings points in an event

Participation: Compete in one 16's National and three Pro Circuit events

Partial Scholarship - To be eligible for partial scholarship athletes must meet one of the criteria in all three of the ranking, result and participation components.

Ranking: Top 6 Australian Ranking for Players born 1995 or younger
Top 240 ITF

Result: Singles semifinalist 16's Nationals
Singles finalist 14's Nationals
30 ITF singles rankings points in an event

Participation: Compete in one 16's Nationals
Compete in three Pro Circuit events

Female Players born 1996

Full Scholarship - To be eligible for full scholarship athletes must meet one of the criteria in all three of the ranking, result and participation components.

Ranking: Top 4 Australian Ranking for Players born 1996 or younger
Top 240 ITF

Result: Singles finalist in a 16's Nationals
Singles semifinalist of two 16's Nationals
Singles semifinalist Group 1 TE
Singles finalist Group 2 TE
30 ITF singles rankings points in an event

Participation: Compete in two 14's or 16's Nationals and one Pro Circuit event

Partial Scholarship - To be eligible for partial scholarship athletes must meet one of the criteria in all three of the ranking, result and participation components.

Ranking: Top 8 Australian Ranking for Players born 1996 or younger
ITF Ranking

Result: Singles semifinalist 14's or 16's Nationals
20 ITF singles rankings points in an event

Participation: Compete in two Nationals
Compete in one Pro Circuit event

Female Players born 1997

Full Scholarship - To be eligible for full scholarship athletes must meet one of the criteria in all three of the ranking, result and participation components.

Ranking: Top 4 Australian Ranking for Players born 1997 or younger
ITF Ranking

Result: Singles finalist in a 16's Nationals
Singles semifinalist in two Nationals, either 14's or 16's
Singles quarterfinalist Group 1 TE
Singles semifinalist Group 2 TE

Participation: Compete in two 14's Nationals
Compete in two ITF events

Partial Scholarship - To be eligible for partial scholarship athletes must meet one of the criteria in all three of the ranking, result and participation components.

Ranking: Top 10 Australian Ranking for Players born 1997 or younger

Result: Singles quarterfinalist 14's Nationals
Singles semifinalist 12's Nationals

Participation: Compete in 14's or 16's Nationals

Female Players born 1998

Full Scholarship - To be eligible for full scholarship athletes must meet one of the criteria in all three of the ranking, result and participation components.

Ranking: Top 4 Australian Ranking for Players born 1998 or younger

Result: Singles finalist 14's Nationals
Singles semifinalist in two 12's or 14's Nationals
Singles Round 16 (for a full 64 draw) 14/U Group 1 TE
Singles quarterfinal 14/U Group 2 TE

Participation: Compete in one 14's Nationals

Partial Scholarship - To be eligible for partial scholarship athletes must meet one of the criteria in all three of the ranking, result and participation components.

Ranking: Top 10 Australian Ranking for Players born 1998 or younger

Result: Singles quarterfinalist 12's or 14's Nationals

Participation: Compete in two 12's or 14's Nationals