

# Athlete Development Scholarship Criteria 2015

## Introduction

The Athlete Development criteria outlines objective benchmarks for players considering professional playing careers that aspire to enter our National Academies.

## Research

Retrospective investigation of the ranking histories of current successful male and female professionals (top 100 ATP and WTA players' end of year rankings) informs 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 have been tracked from when they first appeared on the ITF, ATP or WTA ranking lists; and then every year thereafter. The tables below describes the year end ranking progression for the top 10 players (as at 1 December, 2014), with the ranks highlighted in yellow indicating that the 2015 criteria was met for those players for that birth year.

Relevant developmental considerations were also taken into account to develop the ranking benchmarks.

### Year end ranking trajectories of current ATP top 10 ranked players by birth year

Rank	Athlete	Age	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1	Djokovic, Novak	ITF		102	118	123					
		ATP			679	186	78	16	3	3	3
2	Federer, Roger	ITF		448	63	1					
		ATP			704	301	65	29	13	6	2
3	Nadal, Rafael	ITF			208						
		ATP		811	200	411	51	2	2	2	1
4	Wawrinka, Stanislas	ITF				230	14				
		ATP			1044	660	171	168	54	30	36
5	Nishikori, Kei	ITF	503	192	43	39					
		ATP				603	286	63	418	98	25
6	Murray, Andy	ITF		252	7	10					
		ATP			540	411	64	17	11	4	4
7	Berdych, Tomas	ITF		216	31	13					
		ATP			1383	398	113	45	24	13	14
8	Raonic, Milos	ITF		1090	206	116	68				
		ATP				1386	915	373	156	31	13
9	Cilic, Marin	ITF		296	54	2					
		ATP			1415	604	197	106	22	15	14
10	Ferrer, David	ITF									
		ATP					406	209	59	71	49

## Year end ranking trajectories of current WTA top 10 ranked players by birth year

	Athlete	Age	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1	Williams, Serena	ITF									
		WTA			99	20	4	6	6	1	3
2	Sharapova, Maria	ITF		7							
		WTA		186	32	4	4	2	5	9	14
3	Halep, Simona	ITF	735	225	25	3					
		WTA				352	210	81	53	47	11
4	Kvitova, Petra	ITF				46					
		WTA			773	150	44	61	34	2	8
5	Ivanovic, Ana	ITF	709	21	34	34					
		WTA			705	97	16	14	4	5	22
6	Radwanska, Agnieszka	ITF		144	3	17					
		WTA		941	381	57	26	10	10	14	8
7	Bouchard, Eugenie	ITF	155	39	39	4					
		WTA	1104	1068	538	302	144	32	7		
8	Wozniacki, Caroline	ITF	17	4	2						
		WTA			237	64	12	4	1	1	10
9	Kerber, Angelique	ITF	66	89	43	147					
		WTA		433	375	261	214	81	100	117	46
10	Cibulkova, Dominika	ITF	238	32	5						
		WTA			555	156	52	19	30	31	18

### 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 and top 10 junior ITF players for each birth year 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) or result benchmarks are included for the males and females (13th – 17th birth year) to reflect the progress of today's professional players through the junior circuit. For players who aspire to professional success, participation in the ITF junior circuit and, more particularly, the achievement of the described ranking benchmarks or results are relevant goals. Programs and policies aimed at facilitating players reaching these rankings are thus appropriate.

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

## Full Scholarship Status

Full scholarship status is based on the **international** standard of the players' peer group.

## Wildcard Status

Athletes can be wildcarded in to the National Academy at the discretion of the Head National Coach.

## Importance of Attitude

Eligibility for full and wildcard scholarships, and their associated benefits, is contingent upon players meeting the attitudinal and behavioural standards expected of Tennis Australia.

## National Training Philosophy and Values

To develop junior and young professional tennis athletes through high performance training environments, which expect and nurture **competitiveness, commitment, and respect**.

## Athlete Benefits

Benefit	National Academy Full	National Academy Wildcard
12 month scholarship	✓	✓
Assigned Coach	✓	✓
Annual Plan – individualised	✓	✓
Subsidised travel to tournaments	✓	✓
Technical Analysis	✓	✓
Match Analysis	✓	✓
Domestic Tours – Coach Support	✓	✓
International Tours – Coach support	✓	
Subsidy TA Tours	✓	✓
Sponsorship Agreements (where applicable)	✓	
New Balance Clothing	✓	
Athlete Education support	✓	✓
Medical Screening	✓	✓
Medical Gap payments (where applicable)	✓	
Physio Screening	✓	✓
Weekly Access to Physio (determined by National Academy Staff)	✓	✓
Strength & Conditioning staff	✓	✓
Gym Access (on-site)	✓	✓
Physical Testing	✓	✓
Access to Sport Psychology	✓	✓
Database access	✓	✓
Parent Education program	✓	✓
Public relations and media training	✓	

## **Scholarship Period**

Athletes who meet scholarship status will receive a 12 month scholarship with a commencement date aligning to one of four entry points being 1 February, 1 June, 1 September or 1 December.

## **National Academy Scholarship Application**

When athletes meet the criteria for their birth year, it is their responsibility to complete the application form and submit it 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](http://www.tennis.com.au)).

## **Ranking**

Depending on the birth year these could be:

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

All ranking criteria within this document refer to singles rankings only. At the time of application, the Athlete's most current ranking will be applied.

## **Result**

Depending on the birth year these could be:

ITF Men's and Women's events  
Tennis Europe (TE) events  
ITF Junior events  
Australian National Championships (excluding Bruce Cup in 2015)  
State Championships including the Victorian Junior State Championships and NSW State Junior Championships only

Note: All results criteria referring to the achievement of 12's and 14's Nationals or State Championships (VIC and NSW only in 2015) results require that players progress beyond the round robin stage where relevant on merit (i.e. not via a 'lucky loser' draw).

Result components are valid for a maximum of 12 months from the time they are achieved. Note an athlete may achieve a result component from the criteria of an above birth year that may serve as the result component of the criteria for his/her current birth year.

## **Participation**

Depending on the birth year these could be:

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

Participation components are valid for a maximum of 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 is 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		
	ATP	ITF	AR
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Year (1993)</b>	167	N/A	N/A
<b>21<sup>st</sup> Year (1994)</b>	213	N/A	N/A
<b>20<sup>th</sup> Year (1995)</b>	307	N/A	N/A
<b>19<sup>th</sup> Year (1996)</b>	447	N/A	N/A
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Year (1997)</b>	817	N/A	N/A
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Year (1998)</b>	1156	25	N/A
<b>16<sup>th</sup> Year (1999)</b>	Two ATP –points – Singles	61	N/A
<b>15<sup>th</sup> Year (2000)</b>	ATP Ranked - Singles	202	N/A
<b>14<sup>th</sup> Year (2001)</b>	N/A	782	Top 3
<b>13<sup>th</sup> Year (2002)</b>	N/A	ITF Ranked - Singles	Top 4
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Year (2003)</b>	N/A	N/A	Top 4

### 22<sup>nd</sup> Birth Year (born 1993)

Players must meet the ranking criteria.

Ranking: [Top 167 ATP](#)

### 21<sup>st</sup> Birth Year (born 1994)

Players must meet the ranking criteria.

Ranking: [Top 213 ATP](#)

### 20<sup>th</sup> Birth Year (born 1995)

Players must meet the ranking criteria.

Ranking: [Top 307 ATP](#)

### 19<sup>th</sup> Birth Year (born 1996)

Players must meet the ranking criteria.

Ranking: [Top 447 ATP](#)

### 18<sup>th</sup> Birth Year (born 1997)

Players must meet one of the following criteria.

Ranking: [Top 817 ATP](#)

Result: [Winner \(Junior Australian Open\)](#)  
[Winner or Finalist \(Junior Roland Garros, Wimbledon and US Open\)](#)

## 17<sup>th</sup> Birth Year (born 1998)

Players must meet one of the ranking criteria.

Ranking: Top 1156 ATP  
Top 25 ITF

## 16<sup>th</sup> Birth Year (born 1999)

Players must meet one of the criteria in the ranking and participation components.

Ranking: Two ATP points  
Top 61 ITF

Participation: Compete in 18's National championships  
Compete in three ITF Men's Pro Circuit events  
Note: Junior Davis Cup representation (finals) can replace one of the three ITF Men's Pro Circuit events

## 15<sup>th</sup> Birth Year (born 2000)

Players must meet one of the criteria in **all** three of the ranking, result and participation components.

Ranking: ATP ranked - Singles  
Top 202 ITF

Result: Qualify twice in an ITF Men's Pro Circuit  
Singles finalist 16's Nationals  
Singles quarterfinalist 16/U Group 1 TE event  
Singles semi-finalist 16/U Group 2 TE event  
40 ITF singles ranking points in an event (excluding closed events)

Participation: Compete in any two of the 16's Nationals and State Championships  
Compete in two ITF Men's Pro Circuit events  
Note: Junior Davis Cup representation (finals) can replace one of the two ITF Men's Pro Circuit events

## 14<sup>th</sup> Birth Year (born 2001)

Players must meet one of the criteria in **all** three of the ranking, result and participation components.

Ranking: Top 782 ITF  
Top 3 Australian Ranking for Players born 2001 or younger

Result: 30 ITF singles ranking points in an event (excluding closed events)  
Singles winner 14's Nationals  
Singles finalist at 14's Nationals and one 14's State Championships  
Singles finalist at two 14's State Championships  
Singles semi-finalist at 16's Nationals  
Singles semi-finalist 14/U Group 1 TE event or Singles finalist 14/U Group 2 TE event

Participation: Compete in any two of the 14's or 16's Nationals and State Championships  
Compete in two ITF Junior events  
Note: World Junior Teams representation (finals) can replace one of the two ITF Junior events



## 13<sup>th</sup> Birth Year (born 2002)

Players must meet one of the criteria in **all** three of the ranking, result and participation components.

**Ranking:** Top 4 Australian Ranking for Players born 2002 or younger  
ITF ranked – from a singles result

**Result:** Singles quarterfinalist 16's Nationals  
Singles finalist 14's Nationals  
Singles semi-finalist one 14's Nationals and one 14's State Championships  
Singles semi-finalist two 14's State Championships  
Singles quarterfinalist 14/U Group 1 TE event  
Singles semi-finalist 14/U Group 2 TE event

**Participation:** Compete in any two of the 14's Nationals and State Championships  
Compete in two ITF Junior events  
Note: World Junior Teams representation (finals) can replace one of the two ITF Junior events

## 12<sup>th</sup> Birth Year (born 2003)

Players must meet one of the criteria in **all** three of the ranking, result and participation components.

**Ranking:** Top 4 Australian Ranking for Players born 2003 or younger

**Result:** Singles winner 12's Nationals  
Singles finalist at one 12's Nationals and one 12's State Championships  
Singles finalist at two 12's State Championships  
Singles semi-finalist 14's Nationals or State Championships  
Singles finalist in 12/U TE event

**Participation:** Compete in one 14's Nationals or State Championships

## 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		
	WTA	ITF	AR
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Year (1993)</b>	108	N/A	N/A
<b>21<sup>st</sup> Year (1994)</b>	120	N/A	N/A
<b>20<sup>th</sup> Year (1995)</b>	150	N/A	N/A
<b>19<sup>th</sup> Year (1996)</b>	202	N/A	N/A
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Year (1997)</b>	305	N/A	N/A
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Year (1998)</b>	480	10	N/A
<b>16<sup>th</sup> Year (1999)</b>	664	29	N/A
<b>15<sup>th</sup> Year (2000)</b>	4 WTA points *	84	N/A
<b>14<sup>th</sup> Year (2001)</b>	WTA Ranked – Singles *	260	Top 3
<b>13<sup>th</sup> Year (2002)</b>	N/A	Ranking	Top 4
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Year (2003)</b>	N/A	N/A	Top 4

### 22<sup>nd</sup> Birth Year (born 1993)

Players must meet the ranking criteria.

Ranking: [Top 108 WTA](#)

### 21<sup>st</sup> Birth Year (born 1994)

Players must meet the ranking criteria.

Ranking: [Top 120 WTA](#)

### 20<sup>th</sup> Birth Year (born 1995)

Players must meet the ranking criteria.

Ranking: [Top 150 WTA](#)

### 19<sup>th</sup> Birth Year (born 1996)

Players must meet the ranking criteria.

Ranking: [Top 202 WTA](#)

### 18<sup>th</sup> Birth Year (born 1997)

Players must meet the ranking criteria.

Ranking: [Top 305 WTA](#)

### 17<sup>th</sup> Birth Year (born 1998)

Players must meet one of the ranking criteria.

Ranking: [Top 480 WTA](#)

[Top 10 ITF](#)

## 16<sup>th</sup> Birth Year (born 1999)

Players must meet one of the ranking criteria.

Ranking: Top 664 WTA  
Top 29 ITF

## 15<sup>th</sup> Birth Year (born 2000)

Players must meet one of the criteria in **all** three of the ranking, result and participation components.

Ranking: 4 WTA Singles points (\* excluding points earned for first round losses courtesy of wildcard entry)  
Top 84 ITF

Result: Semi-finalist of an ITF Women's \$10k event  
Qualify twice or win two main draw matches if awarded wildcards in an ITF Women's \$25k event  
Singles winner 16's Nationals  
Singles semi-finalist 16/U Group 1 TE or Singles finalist 16/U Group 2 TE event  
40 ITF singles rankings points in an event (excluding closed events)

Participation: Compete in three ITF Women's \$10k or \$25k events  
Note: Junior Fed Cup representation (finals) can replace one of the three ITF Women's \$10k or \$25k events

## 14<sup>th</sup> Birth Year (born 2001)

Players must meet one of the criteria in **all** three of the ranking, result and participation components.

Ranking: WTA Ranked - Singles (\* excluding points earned for first round losses courtesy of wildcard entry)  
Top 260 ITF  
Top 3 Australian Ranking for Players born 2001 or younger

Result: Singles winner 14's Nationals  
Singles finalist at one 14's Nationals and one 14's State Championships  
Singles finalist at two 14's State Championships  
Singles semi-finalist at 16's Nationals  
Singles semi-finalist Group 1 TE event or Singles finalist Group 2 TE event  
30 ITF singles rankings points in an event (excluding closed events)

Participation: Compete in any two of the 14's or 16's Nationals and State Championships  
Compete in two ITF events  
Note: World Junior Teams representation (finals) can replace one of the two ITF Junior events

## 13<sup>th</sup> Birth Year (born 2002)

Players must meet one of the criteria in **all** three of the ranking, result and participation components.

Ranking: ITF Ranking (achieved via singles results)  
Top 4 Australian Ranking for Players born 2002 or younger

Result: Singles quarterfinalist 16's Nationals  
Singles finalist 14's Nationals  
Singles semi-finalist in one 14's Nationals and one 14's State Championships  
Singles semi-finalist in two 14's State Championships  
Singles quarterfinalist Group 1 TE event  
Singles semi-finalist Group 2 TE event

**Participation:** Compete in any two of the 14's Nationals and State Championships  
Compete in two ITF events  
Note: World Junior Teams representation (finals) can replace one of the two ITF Junior events

## **12<sup>th</sup> Birth Year (born 2003)**

Players must meet one of the criteria in **all** three of the ranking, result and participation components.

**Ranking:** Top 4 Australian Ranking for Players born 2003 or younger

**Result:** Singles winner 12's Nationals  
Singles finalist at one 12's Nationals and one 12's State Championships  
Singles finalist at two 12's State Championships  
Singles semi-finalist 14's Nationals or State Championships  
Singles finalist at 12/U TE event

**Participation:** Compete in one 14's Nationals or State Championships