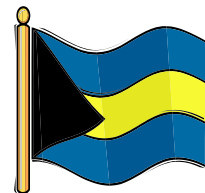


# THE BAHAMAS LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

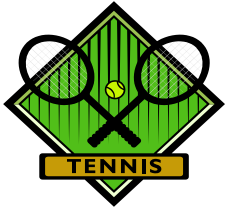


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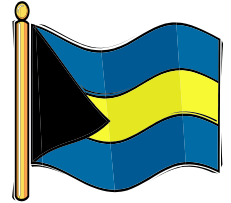
## *BAHAMAS NATIONAL TENNIS TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA*

### *JANUARY 2011*





# THE BAHAMAS LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION



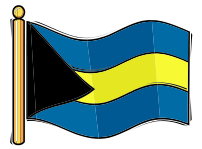
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# BAHAMAS NATIONAL TENNIS TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA



## *A. PURPOSE OF CRITERION*

**The Purpose of this criterion is to set out the process for the selection of The Bahamas National Tennis Teams to represent The Bahamas at a range of National and International events and to provide consistency and impartiality to the Team Selection process.**

## *B. SELECTION COMMITTEE*

The Selection Committee for, The Bahamas Adult National Teams, will be made up of members of the Bahamas Lawn Tennis Association (BLTA) Council and chaired by the President of the BLTA.

The Selection Committee for, The Bahamas Junior National Teams, will be made up of members of the Junior Development Committee and will be chaired by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the BLTA, responsible for Junior Development.

## *C. SELECTION DEADLINE*

Selection of the Bahamas Adult National Tennis Team will be completed after the Adult Invitational National Championships in December.

Selection of the Bahamas Junior National Tennis Teams & Coaches to participate in the WJTC and Junior Fed and Davis Cup will be completed by the 31<sup>st</sup> January of each year.

Selection of the Bahamas Junior National Tennis Teams & Coaches to participate in the JITIC will be completed after the RBC FINCO Tournament.

**Please note that the Committee's decision is absolutely final and is non-negotiable.**

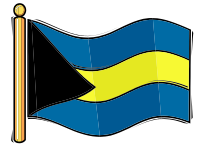
## *D. CRITERIA TO BE ELIGIBLE TO REPRESENT THE BAHAMAS ON A NATIONAL TEAM*

**The following criteria must be met absolutely for the selection process and are non-negotiable:**

- i. The player must have a Bahamian Passport and have not represented any Country, other than the Bahamas, within the last 3 years.
- ii. Any adult/Junior player having an adult International Tennis Federation (ITF) world ranking of below 500 in singles or doubles and is willing to represent the Bahamas, will be automatically selected to the Bahamas National Tennis Team.



# BAHAMAS NATIONAL TENNIS TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA



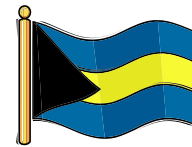
- iii. Any tennis player wanting to represent The Bahamas, must comply with the eligibility factors below to be considered, and will receive an invitation to participate in the Adult/Junior Invitational National Championships in December.
- iv. If a player has accepted the invitation, of the BLTA, to participate in the Adult/Junior Invitational National Championships and is sick/injured at the time of the Adult/Junior Invitational Nationals Championships, a doctor's certificate describing the illness/injury must be provided to Council prior to the start of the Championships.
- v. If a player is picked by the ITF for a special TEAM event or training that is being held at the same time as the Adult/Junior Invitational National Championships a letter must be submitted to Council from the ITF requesting an exception for the player from participating in the Adult/Junior Invitational National Championships. Additionally, the player must submit his/her win/loss record, year-to-date, to the Council, and only if the player has a top ITF ranking in singles or doubles will he/she be considered for team selection, provided that the relevant requirements are also satisfied.
- vi. Previous year (adult) Davis Cup, Fed Cup, CAC, Pan American or Commonwealth Team member participants are exempt from playing the local events, but they MUST play the Adult Invitational National Championships in December to be considered for selection to a National Team for the following year. If these participants do not win the Invitational National Championships, and do not make the above mentioned teams, they must comply with item 2) (i) to 2) (iv) below.
- vii. The Council highly recommends that players expecting to participate in future Invitational National Championships continue to participate in International Tournaments to improve their games. Players must also ensure that they provide the BLTA with regular updates of their current International Rankings.

## ***1. LOCAL COMPETITORS***

- i. Any Bahamian tennis player that participates **ONLY** in Bahamian ADULT Open tournaments and has played the requirement of 4 BLTA sanctioned events, and is in the top 2 of the ranking by November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, will be allowed automatic invitation to play in the Adult Invitational National Championships in December. (If there are fewer than four tournaments for the year, selection into the Adult Invitational National Championships will be based on the average of the player's cumulative local tournament ranking.)
- ii. Only Jr. Players, age 14 or older, will be allowed entrance into the Bahamas Adult Open National Championships, once all other requirements have been met.
- iii. The winner and runner-up of the 18u Jr. Nationals will get automatic invitation into the Adult Invitational National Championships in December each year. (Please see above age requirement.)



# BAHAMAS NATIONAL TENNIS TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA



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- iv. Bahamian Jr. Players participating in 14u and 16u tournaments in the Bahamas must play a minimum of 4 BLTA sanctioned events; one of them **MUST** be the Jr. National Championships. Players finishing in the top 4, of their age group, by November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year will have automatic selection into the Jr. Invitational National Championships, 14u and 16u Tournament, to be held during December each year.
  - v. If the Bahamas Junior National Championships or any other BLTA sanctioned national tournament, that awards points for local Rankings, conflict with a scheduled **NATIONAL TEAM EVENT** e.g. WJTC, Jr. DAVIS/ FED Cup and JITIC, the player will not be penalized for missing the local tournament because of their National TEAM selection. Players will instead be awarded quarter-final points, for the Tournament they missed, due to National Team obligations. The player will still however be required to play in the Jr. Invitational National Championship in December.

## **2) ADULT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITORS**

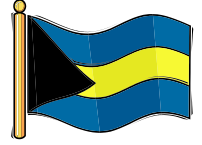
- i. Bahamians playing only the International Tennis circuits, i.e. the ATP, WTA, USTA or Junior ITF 18u tournaments, and not participating in any Bahamian local tournaments, must participate in a minimum of 5 ITF or 10 USTA Open Tournaments per year (The exception to this is listed in the criteria for persons receiving and maintaining subvention).
- ii. Players competing on the International Circuits must maintain an adult ranking on the ATP/WTA Circuit and also on the USTA Circuit, of the states that they participated in and an ITF Jr. Ranking of 1000 and under.
- iii. Those ADULT players with the top 5 ATP and WTA ranking, the 2 USTA players with the best rankings, of the states that they participated in, and the 2 ITF Juniors ranked 1000 and under will have automatic selection into the Adult Invitational National Championships in December.
- iv. If the Bahamian International Competitor does not maintain his/her rankings, they will have to play the local events to receive an invitation for the Adult Invitational National Championships in December.

## **3) JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITORS**

- (i) Junior Bahamian International competitors that are only playing tournaments within our Region like COTECC, COSAT, and USTA etc. will have to develop a ranking in 14's and or 16's ITF Jr. events. In USTA Jr. Tournaments (14's/16's) the players will have to maintain a top 75 ranking. Once the players have achieved these requirements, the top 3 Bahamians within the ITF zone (COTECC and COSAT combined) and the top 1 ranked Bahamian within the USTA zone will receive an automatic acceptance into the Junior Invitational National Championship in December.



# BAHAMAS NATIONAL TENNIS TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA



- (ii) Even though Tournaments like the Eddie Herr, Orange Bowl, USTA tournaments or ITF world ranking tournaments etc, are strong tournaments to play, they are not considered to be NATIONAL TEAM EVENTS. Therefore, if a player neglects to play the Bahamas Jr. National Championships and therefore is not invited to the Junior Invitational National Championship, in December, their selection to a National Team for the following year will be highly unlikely. (Please note that National Team events include WJTC, Junior DAVIS/FED Cup and JITIC)

**NB. PRIOR TO THE JUNIOR INVITATIONAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EACH YEAR, ALL BAHAMIAN JUNIOR PLAYERS MUST PARTICIPATE IN THE BAHAMAS JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A NATIONAL TEAM THE FOLLOWING YEAR.**

## **4) COLLEGE COMPETITORS**

- i. Bahamian College Players (NCAA/NAIA Div. 1, 2, 3) who are unable to participate in Local Tennis Tournaments, due to College commitments, must provide their College tennis win/loss records to the Council to be considered for participation in the Adult Invitational National Championships in December.
- ii. The top 3 College Bahamian Players will be considered, for participation in the Adult Invitational National Championships in December, based on the Level/Division of their College Conference. Special consideration will be given to those College Players that make the effort to play the Bahamas Adult National Championships, or at least 1 ITF or 3 USTA events during the summer. Their invitation into the Adult Invitational National Championships will be based on their performance records of these additional events if the BLTA has no other tournament results to base their decision on.

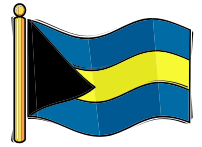
## **5) FINAL SELECTION CRITERIA**

Final Selection to the Bahamas National Tennis Team will be based on the following:

- The Player must have a Bahamian Passport and have not represented any Country, other than the Bahamas, within the last 3 years.
- The Player must be in good standing with the Bahamas Lawn Tennis Association, i.e., has not been reported for breach of the BLTA's Code of Conduct or is not currently suspended from participation in BLTA Tennis Tournaments due to breaches of the BLTA's Code of Conduct.(Please see BLTA.net 'Code of Conduct'.)



# BAHAMAS NATIONAL TENNIS TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA



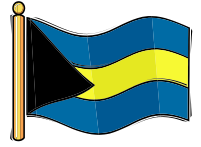
- The Player must have the Best ITF rankings of the group for that year.
- The Player must have played the Bahamas Adult/Junior Invitational National Championships in December.
- The Player must be the winner of the Bahamas Adult/Junior Invitational National Championships.
- The Player must be ranked #1 locally in his/her age group.
- Junior Players must have played the Bahamas Junior National Championships.
- The winner of the Adult Invitational National Championships, in December, will be automatically selected to his/her respective National Tennis Teams. The Junior 14u and 16u winner of the Junior Invitational National Championships in December will only have automatic selection on their respective Bahamas Junior National Tennis Team if they participated in the most recently held Bahamas Jr. National Championship
- In a situation where the Player has no International Ranking, but is ranked in the top three (3) locally and has played in both the Bahamas National Championships and the Invitational National Championships, the results of the Invitational National Championships will take precedence.
- The Player is sick/injured at the time of the Adult/Junior Invitational National Championships, but has provided to Council, prior to the start of the Championships, a doctor's certificate describing the illness/injury.
- The Player must have met all other requirements, as noted in this document.

## **6) NATIONAL TEAM COACH**

- i. The Bahamas National Team Coach must be a Bahamian and have a Bahamian Passport. (Please also see BLTA Code of Conduct 'Role of Coach Traveling with National Team' at BLTA.net)
- ii. Exception to above, as noted in the ITF Regulations is: A Coach who represented the Bahamas under the Regulations in force in 1994 or prior thereto, shall continue to be eligible to represent the Bahamas even if he/she is no longer qualified to do so under the amended terms of the ITF Regulation. This should be confirmed with ITF in advance.



# BAHAMAS NATIONAL TENNIS TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA



- iii. The Bahamas National Team Coach will be the sole decision maker in team presentation and will determine the ranking of the team members. (The best ITF ranking will always take precedence.)

## ***7) ORDER OF PLAY***

### **Factors determining who will play in Team Matches will be based on the following:**

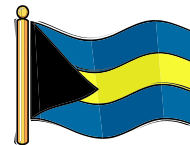
- i. Wins and Losses: significant direct and indirect wins and losses against a player of the same team and/or other competing country.
- ii. Surface of Competition: If Bahamian player records are otherwise equal; wins and losses on the surface of competition will be used as tiebreak.
- iii. Sportsmanship and Teamwork: Good sportsmanship and team relations with no valid grievances.
- iv. Physical condition: The player must certify that he/she is in good physical condition to play Singles and Doubles. Any player who is not physically able to play should contact the Team Coach or Council regarding their condition. Failure to do so will be considered poor teamwork for future consideration.

## ***E. CRITERIA FOR BAHAMIAN JUNIOR NATIONAL RANKING***

1. The player must be a permanent resident of the Bahamas for 1 year or have a Bahamian Passport.
2. The player must play a minimum of 4 BLTA sanctioned events.
3. The player must play the Bahamas Junior National Championships.
4. The player **MUST** play his/her own age group.
5. In addition to playing his/her own age group:
  - a. in the 10's, 12's and 16's the player can play one age group higher; and
  - b. In the 14's the player can play two age group higher.
6. The winner of the 18u Bahamas Junior National Championships must be age 14 to enter the Adult Invitational National Championships in December.



# BAHAMAS NATIONAL TENNIS TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA



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## ***F. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR BAHAMIAN PLAYERS SEEKING GOVERNMENT GRANTS***

These criteria will have to be based on a case by case situation. (Please refer to the criteria for receiving/maintaining Government Grants.)

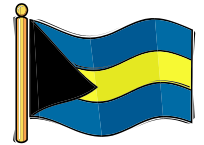
1. The Player must be a Bahamian and have a Bahamian Passport.
2. The Player must have participated in the Adult Invitational National Championships, if their ITF ranking is above 500.
3. The Player must be willing to represent the Bahamas at Tennis Team Events.
4. The Player is a junior player, age 14 or older, who is ranked in the top 2 in their age group, who has met the above criteria, and is highly recommended by the ITF for more intense training and participation in International Tournaments.
5. The Player is a former ranked (local or international) top 3 Junior Player, who now plays College Tennis and continues to participate in the Bahamas Open Nationals and the Adult Invitational National Championships.

## ***G. POINTS TO CONSIDER***

- If Bahamian Players do not maintain their International Rankings they must participate in the Bahamas local BLTA's Tennis Events and meet the relevant requirement.
- Players must maintain their participation in the required number of International Events to ensure they are eligible to represent The Bahamas.
- If Players are no longer active and do not have Local or International Ranking, they must conform to the criteria factors above before being invited to participate in the Invitational National Championships.
- Any Player reporting sick, for the Adult/Junior Invitational National Championships, The Bahamas Open Nationals or The Bahamas Junior Nationals, but has the 'required eligible ITF Ranking' or has to withdraw due to sickness/injury, an evaluation or physician's report must be provided to the BLTA's Council prior to the start of the Tournament before an exception is made. (see A1 above)



# BAHAMAS NATIONAL TENNIS TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA



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- It is the responsibility of the players to provide the BLTA with regular updates of their current International Ranking.
  - In all circumstances, players meeting the selection criteria, once invited to participate, are responsible for confirming to the Council their availability to play, 7 days before the start of the Adult/Junior Invitational National Championships in December. Failure to confirm participation, by the noted deadline, will result in the invitation being offered to the next available player, meeting the selection criteria, who must confirm their participation within 3 days.
  - Players as a condition of their membership in the BLTA, and their acceptance to participate in the Adult/Junior Invitational National Championships and be selected to the Bahamas National Tennis Team, agrees at all times to abide by the BLTA's Code of Conduct and understand that the BLTA's Sanctions will apply if they are in violation of these Codes.

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