

NTA Policy Regarding Men's/Women's Player Protection

The NTA has for long struggled with simplifying the selection process necessary for the establishment of Men's and Women's Tennis Teams for ITF and IOC affiliated international events. While there are many players who have chosen to pursue a professional path who hone their skills in the home grounds, there are international ranked players who are constantly travelling outside of Nepal for professional training and competition need. Both types of players are regarded highly by the NTA for their dedication. However, because international achievement in tennis, as desired by NTA, is only possible by achieving through international ranking possible only with international participation, the **NTA Competitions Department** recommends the following policy and regulations for NTA Board Consideration and immediate adoption for public release.

Player Protection Policy: *“NTA will protect players who have already achieved, as well as those striving for international ranking recognition, to ensure NTA always has their backing to stand a chance at achieving greater feats”*

1. Player Protection is applicable to events such as the Davis Cup, Billie Jean King Cup, South Asian Federation (SAF Games), Asian Games, or any other events organized by internationally recognized sports affiliates. Each new addition to the list of event will be discussed with the NTA before granting the player the right.
2. NTA will respect 1 player who has achieved the highest ITF/ATP/WTA (among players ranked 2000 and higher), and Nepal #1 men's and women's ranking through their hard work, and sacrifice on behalf of the nation under the Player Protection Policy by providing a reserved berth (**Protected Pro**) for their inclusion in the team with a self-nominated email request without undergoing a selection process, and will be based on the following conditions:
 - a) The player is healthy and has been competing/training for at least the past six months prior to the 1st day of the selection.
 - b) Must be in the ITF/ATP/WTA Men's and Women's top 2000 ranking at the time when selection matches are conducted and maintained the ranking for past 52 weeks.
 - c) Must be the current Nepal #1 and maintained the rank at the time when selections dates are announced.
 - d) Must be an active player with continued training and competition from the past six months and not been inactive during the period due to various reasons (injuries, education, social obligations etc.).
3. Remaining selection process will include 8 players from the NTA ranking system and the assigned Team Captain/s and the Selection Committee bear the right to include 4 additional potential deserving players (**Protected Select**) unable to maintain their ranking due to their prolonged absence from Nepal either due to their tennis related journey or education, in which tennis is their priority. It is up to the Selection Committee to establish a pre-established selection criteria with very strong justification for including the “Protected Select” four, who have not made it to the Pro ITF/WTA/ATP and Nepal Number 1 ranking, but potentially could.
4. Both categories of protected players are required to submit an interest for inclusion in the selection process through emailed self-nomination to the NTA.
5. The purpose of the granted protection under both types is applicable primarily for 1 Pro Player in ranking above 2000 and Nepal #1 ranked players, and inclusion of others (Protected Select) should

be strongly justifiable candidates with numerous rounds of vetting among committee members and approved by the NTA Board.

6. The Team Selection Committee will provide a final list of the team players to the NTA that includes the protected players ensuring all conditions have been fulfilled, as well as the players that have come through the selection process.
7. No rankings will be assigned for the enlisted players and the selection committee has the privilege of establishing internal ranking requirements based on performance testing during the mandatory camp.
8. Camp participation will be mandatory for all protected and non-protected players for a minimum of 3 weeks, or as determined by the committee before selection date announcement.