

Procedure for composing YDP training groups from 2022

Introduction

The new management of TAM having explored ways to improve the level of players and achieve results at the international stage in the medium/ long term have decided to change the guidelines for identifying players for the YDP groupings, effective 2022. As such, the Executive Committee of TAM will adopt the below guidelines for comprising YDP groupings in future. The Executive Committee is pleased to note that this new approach to identifying YDP groupings as decided by the Executive Committee has been presented to parents and players have received overwhelming support.

Effective 2022 TAM seeks to adopt a performance based annual grouping framework driven by an annual selection process and discontinue the current practice of YDP grouping, based on the players aggregate tournament rankings in the previous year.

Under the new framework, players will be grouped based on the outcome of an annual round of selection matches open for entry for all Maldivian tennis players, meeting the defined eligibility criteria.

Teams to be selected and trained under TAM YDP (effective 1st January 2022)

- National A Team (Men's)
- National A Team (Women's)
- National B Team (Men's)
- National B Team (Women's)
- Junior National Team (Boys)
- Junior National Team (Girls)
- 14 and Under Elite Team (boys)
- 14 and Under Elite Team (girls)

Based on the players eligibility (defined below) and level of play, players may chose to enter the selections for one of the appropriate teams.

National A Team and National B Team selection (Men's and Women's)

1. All players who have reached 14 years of age are eligible to compete in these selection. Players who have not reached 14 years can apply to play this selection but would be subjected to a review and approval by a Committee decided by the Executive Committee.
2. Players for the National A Team and the National B Team will be selected from a single selection. Players ranked from 1-8 (8 players) will be chosen for the National A team, while players ranked from 9-16 (8 players) will be chosen for the National B team.

3. The Player with the highest-ranking points in the latest Men's & Women's Open Singles Category, published by TAM immediately before the annual selection matches, will get an automatic position in the respective National A Teams.
4. Please note that the players ranked 1-6 in the National A teams (Men's and Women's) will be eligible for the National Team allowance provided by the Government.

Junior National Team

5. All players who have reached 14 years of age and have not reached 18 years of age as of the commencement date of the annual selection round, are eligible to compete in these selections. However, players who have not reached 12 years can apply to play the selection but would be subjected to a review and approval by a Committee decided by Executive Committee.
6. Players who have competed in the National A and National B team selections but who did not get selected to either of the teams but who meets the age eligibility criteria defined by 5 above, may choose to enter the selection rounds for the Junior National Team.
7. Players ranked 1-8 (8 players) will be selected into the Junior National Team (boys & girls).

14 & Under Elite team

8. All players who have reached 10 years of age and not reached 14 years of age are eligible to compete in these selections. However, players who have not reached 10 years can apply to play the selection but would be subjected to a review and approval by a Committee decided by Executive Committee.
9. Players who have competed in the Junior National Team selections but who did not get selected but who meets the age eligibility criteria defined by 8 above, may choose to enter the selection rounds for the 14 and under Elite Team.
10. Players ranked 1-8 (8 players) in this round of selections will be selected as the 14 and Under Elite Team (boys & girls).

Summary of Teams to be selected

Performance Teams	Age eligibility	Men's/ Boy's	Women's/ Girl's
National A Team	Open for players who have reached 14 years by the commencement date of the selection	8 players	8 players
National B Team	Open for players who have reached 14 years by the commencement date of the selection	8 players	8 players
Junior National Team	Open for players who have reached 12 years but not reached 18 years by the commencement date of the selection	8 players	8 players
Under 14 Elite Team	Open for players who have reached 10 years but not reached 14 years by the commencement date of the selection	8 players	8 players

Sequencing of selection rounds

11. Players for the National A team and the National B team will be selected in a single series of selection.
12. As stated in points (6) of these guidelines, those players who DO NOT qualify for the National A Team or National B Team but meet the age eligibility criteria for Junior National Team may enter the selection round for the Junior National Team, which will be held after the selections for the National A Team and National B Teams are concluded.
13. Similarly, players who DO NOT qualify for the Junior National Team but meet the age eligibility criteria for 14 and Under Elite Team may enter the selection round for the 14 and Under Elite Teams, which will be held after the selections for the Junior National A Teams are concluded.

Transition plan

14. TAM already has a published YDP grouping for 2021 based on the current practice, which is based on the players aggregate tournament rankings in the previous year.
15. Groupings for 2022, will be decided based on this round of selections, which will be held in December of 2021. These selections will be held annually in December of every year and will be used to determine the YDP grouping for the subsequent year.
16. The new groups will be made effective from 1st January 2022.
17. The annual selection will be featured in the official TAM calendar.
18. A total of 64 players will be trained under the YDP performance teams.

19. Players who are currently in YDP but who do not make into the 8 selected performance squads will be retained in the YDP but will be allocated limited coaching hours and other support by TAM.

Introduction of the Super-shot programme

20. TAM will continue to focus on ensuring that new talent is recruited to tennis at very young age.
21. As such TAM will introduce the Super-shot programme to scout young players (under 10 years) to join the game of tennis.
22. While TAM's YDP will primarily focus on the selected 8 teams, TAM will continue to give a special consideration to the 10 and under category to ensure that we have adequate number of younger players for the future.

Other consequences of the above guidelines on current guidelines of TAM

1. In future rankings as published by TAM after each tournament will be used for seeding players ONLY and will not have any bearing on the grouping of players under YDP.
2. Once the groupings are done, players are expected to attend regular training sessions and failure to meet set monthly attendance targets set by TAM will result in the players being removed from the selected squad.
3. Players selected for the performance groups will be charged a monthly fee. The fee will be determined by the TAM Executive Committee and will be announced, shortly.
4. The rankings in the annual selections will be used as the primary criteria to identify players for international competitions. For instance, if TAM is invited to send a team of 5 players for a 12 and under event. The selection of players will be based on the following criteria:
5. First priority will be given to players in the National Team who meets the age eligibility criteria for the tournament for which the invitation is received. If there are more than 1 players in the national team who meets the criteria, all players will be given the opportunity.
6. The second priority will be given to players who meet the age eligibility criteria in Elite Squad. Again, if there are more than 1 player who meets the criteria, all players will be given the opportunity.
7. The same procedure will be followed for the Junior Elite Squad and the under 12 elite squad.

8. TAM endeavors to arrange scheduled and supervised on court and fitness training for the players who have been selected for the 8 performance teams.
9. Players selected for the performance teams will be exempt from the Gym access fees normally charged from TAM members.

