

WILD CARD POLICY

Introduction

A 'wild card' is either

- a player included in the draw of a tennis event, or
- a player included in a team which will represent West of Scotland

at the discretion of the tournament's organising committee or organisation.

Both main draw and qualifying wild cards may be made available at events. Because Tennis West of Scotland runs and organises some tournaments (TWoS Staged Tournaments), it is able to allocate wild cards in the draws of the events within those tournaments. This policy is a general policy that explains how Tennis West of Scotland chooses the players which receive those wild cards.

The aim of this Policy is to ensure that players with similar profiles for the purposes of wild card allocations are given fair and equal consideration.

It is important to note that a wild card is normally awarded when a player has not been accepted into a draw or selected for a team on their own merit. Therefore, a wild card place is often providing an opportunity to a player that they would not otherwise have been accepted or selected based on either their current ranking or stage of development.

The allocation of wild cards is underpinned by the following principles:

- (a) Wild cards must be earned through performances that suggest the player is capable of competing with players at the level of the competition;
- (b) Wild cards are used to provide carefully planned competitive development experiences for players and
- (c) Wild cards are a privilege and not a right of players.

Therefore, when selecting which players should be allocated wild cards Tennis West of Scotland, using both its expert judgement and relevant sources of evidence where applicable, will take into account the factors below:

- i. Development opportunities: consideration will be given as to whether specific players will gain a particular benefit from playing in a higher age-group or standard of competition than can normally be accessed;
- ii. The player consistently demonstrates a clearly defined game style that is likely to be successful at the level of event under consideration now or in the next 1-2 years;
- iii. The player has clearly defined and consistently applied weapons which are likely to be successful at the level of event under consideration now or in the next 1-2 years;
- iv. The player demonstrates the highest levels of commitment and dedication towards their tennis throughout the preceding year in competition and training;
- v. The player is medically and physically ready and able to perform at the required level;
- vi. The player is committed to a training and competition plan appropriate for the age of the player and the level of event under consideration.

- vii. Recent results: the quality and consistency of recent results in other events will be considered, particularly where players have made progress within events close in standard to the event under consideration.
- viii. Recent injury or illness: Players returning from injury or illness will be considered in case a wild card might support an effective return to a former standard. Results prior to injury or illness, as well as recent reports and assessments regarding fitness, will be considered.
- ix. Public profile: players with a significant public profile at national or local level may be granted a wild card in order to encourage public support and interest and to enhance ticket sales.
- x. Conduct: the conduct of the player may be taken into consideration, including if the player has been in breach of any LTA rules, regulations or codes of conduct.
- xi. Late requests for adult events: Players entering adult events might be considered for a wild card after the entry deadline, subject to consideration of the factors set out above. Players are strongly advised not to rely on the allocation of wild cards in place of timely entry to tournaments.

General Availability of Wild Cards for TWoS Staged Tournaments

The number of wild cards available for each event/draw is determined by TWoS in accordance with the rules and regulations of the relevant sanctioning body. Tennis West of Scotland will not always allocate the full number of wildcards if an insufficient number of players are deemed to qualify taking into consideration the factors set out at paragraph 3 above. In these situations, the tournament acceptance criteria will be used to complete the draw.

Recording of Wild Card Decisions

Tennis West of Scotland will maintain records of the wild card allocations that it makes and the reasons for them.

Amendments to this Policy

Tennis West of Scotland may amend this Policy from time to time.