



The President

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To: Presidents  
ITF National Associations

Dear Presidents,

Further to our initial correspondence in February of this year, regarding the updated version of the Olympic eligibility rule as it relates to Davis Cup and Fed Cup ahead of the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, we have since considered different options to make the new Olympic eligibility rule more player-friendly while still meeting the objectives of our member nations and the ITF.

As you will see in the attached document, the final version of the rule will require players to compete in Davis/Fed Cup three times per cycle, with a reduction for length of service and clarification for players with long term injuries, for those from nations with great depth and for newcomers. We have also taken into consideration players who compete in the round-robin format. In addition, we have added an additional period of time (the second half of 2012) to give players a full four-year period to qualify. Unlike for previous Olympic cycles, the new rule starts the clock now instead of at the start of 2013.

It is our opinion that the length of service qualification rewards players who have competed in Davis/Fed Cup on a regular basis. Any player who has played in 20 home-and-away ties - and this includes players like Roger Federer, Francesca Schiavone and Tomas Berdych - will only be required to play twice in the cycle including once in 2015 or 2016. For players who have a combination of both home-and-away and round-robin formats, we will count each round-robin week as one tie, so that the player commitment time is the same, regardless of the level.

In summary ITF would like to reinforce the principle that participation in the Olympics is a reward for players who represent their country.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions relating to this matter.

Yours sincerely

Francesco Ricci Bitti

cc Mr Juan Margets – General Secretary

Davis Cup Fed Cup Olympic Tennis Event Pro Circuits Officiating  
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SPORT IN  
THE OLYMPIC  
PROGRAMME

## 1. ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE AND CONDITIONS OF COMPETING

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iii) Is part of the final nominated Davis/Fed Cup team (at the time of the Draw) on a minimum of **three (3) occasions** in the 4-year Olympic cycle (from the conclusion of the 2012 Olympic Tennis Event until the beginning of the 2016 Olympic Tennis Event), provided that one of those occasions is in either 2015 or 2016.

A player will be required to be part of the final nominated Davis/Fed Cup team (at the time of the Draw) on a minimum of **two (2) occasions** during the same 4-year Olympic cycle, provided that one of those occasions is in either 2015 or 2016, if they are within the following categories:

- **Length of Service:** A player reaches the milestone of 20 weeks in their Davis/Fed Cup career (each home and away tie and each round-robin event counts as a single week);
- **Zone Group Round Robin Event:** A player whose nation competes for four (4) or three (3) years in the Zone Group Round Robin format with the remaining year/s in the home and away format.

When selected to compete in Davis/Fed Cup, the player agrees to accept the jurisdiction of his National Association.

*While the ITF Olympic Committee has the right to make final judgement on a player's eligibility with regard to the Olympic Tennis Event, it will take into consideration the following special circumstances:*

### ***Long-term injury***

*A player is injured or otherwise unable to compete in any authorised tennis tournament for a minimum of six (6) months. The player must provide authorised medical information about his injury or illness if requested by his National Association or ITF.*

### ***Newcomer to Davis/Fed Cup***

*A player only reaches a ranking level sufficient for Davis/Fed Cup selection by his National Association during the latter part of an Olympic cycle.*

### ***Strength of Nation***

*A nation has a large number of highly-ranked players resulting in strict competition for selection, or its Davis/Fed Cup selection policy limits the opportunities for singles players.*