

## XIV. AGE ELIGIBILITY AND PRO U™

### A. AGE ELIGIBILITY RULE

PRO U™ requirements and the Age Eligibility Rule (“AER”) are applicable to competition in Professional Tennis Tournaments worldwide, including all WTA Tour Tournaments and ITF Women’s Circuit events that receive ranking points.

#### 1. Definitions

- a. Competition in a Professional Tennis Tournament

For the purposes of this rule, competition in a Professional Tennis Tournament is defined as participation in the singles and/or doubles Main Draw, or the singles and/or doubles Qualifying Draw of a WTA Tour Tournament or ITF Women’s Circuit event. Each Tournament in which a player earns ranking points (singles and/or doubles) counts towards a player’s allotment of Tournaments under the AER. However, participation in the draws of the ITF Women’s Circuit events in which a player does not earn ranking points does not constitute competition in a Professional Tennis Tournament under the AER.

- b. Age

For the purposes of this rule, a player’s age is determined by her age as of the date of start of a Tournament’s singles Main Draw.

A player 18 years old or older no longer is subject to Part A of this rule but is required to continue participating in PRO U™ (Part B) until she receives notification of graduation from a WTA representative.

#### 2. Event Participation

- a. WTA Tour, ITF Women’s Circuit and Fed Cup Event Participation

- i. Players Under 14 Years of Age

A player who has not yet reached the date of her 14th birthday may not participate in any Professional Tennis Tournament on the WTA Tour or ITF Women’s Circuit, or in any level of Fed Cup competition.

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### ii. 14 Years Old

A player may earn a WTA Tour Ranking; however, she may not participate in WTA Tour Tournaments by direct ranking acceptance, or participate in the WTA Tour Championships, by direct ranking acceptance or Wild Card.

#### (a) Number and Type of Tournaments

Between the date of a player's 14th birthday and the day before her 15th birthday, a player may participate in:

- (i) A maximum of eight (8) ITF Women's Circuit events, no more than three (3) of which may be at ITF Women's Circuit \$50,000 and above; plus
- (ii) Fed Cup (any level of competition).

The number of ITF Women's Circuit events in which a player may participate will be reduced, however, if the player receives a Wild Card or accepts a Feed-Up position into a WTA Tour Tournament as provided in sub-Section b below and on page 216 – Feed-Up/ITF Women's Circuit Events. The player may not compete in more than two (2) events at the WTA Tour level.

#### (b) Wild Cards

These players are permitted to receive a maximum of three (3) Wild Cards as follows:

- (i) One (1) Wild Card for use into the Main Draw or Qualifying Draw of either a WTA Tour International Tournament or ITF Women's Circuit event; and
- (ii) Two (2) Wild Cards exclusively for use into the Main Draw or Qualifying Draw of any ITF Women's Circuit event.

### iii. 15 Years Old

#### (a) Number and Type of Tournaments

Between the date of a player's 15th birthday and the day

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before her 16th birthday, a player may participate in:

- (i) A maximum of 10 Professional Tennis Tournaments; plus
  - (ii) The WTA Tour Championships (if she qualifies); plus
  - (iii) Fed Cup (any level of competition).
- (b) Wild Cards

These players are permitted to receive a maximum of three (3) Wild Cards as follows:

- (i) One (1) Wild Card for use into the Main Draw or Qualifying Draw of any category level of WTA Tour Tournament or ITF Women's Circuit event; and
- (ii) Two (2) Wild Cards exclusively for use into the Main Draw or Qualifying Draw of any WTA Tour International Tournament or ITF Women's Circuit event.

### iv. 16 Years Old

#### (a) Number and Type of Tournaments

Between the date of a player's 16th birthday and the day before her 17th birthday, a player may participate in:

- (i) A maximum of 12 Professional Tennis Tournaments; plus
- (ii) The WTA Tour Championships (if she qualifies); plus
- (iii) Fed Cup (any level of competition).

*Note: Players aged 16 as of January 1, 2009 will continue to be subject to the 2008 AER which provides that a player may play a maximum of 13 Professional Tennis Tournaments, the WTA Tour Championships, plus Fed Cup. Upon her 17th birthday, such player will be subject to sub-Section v below.*

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(b) Wild Cards

These players may receive a maximum of four (4) Wild Cards into any WTA Tour Tournament and/or ITF Women's Circuit event, provided, however, that players do not exceed the WTA Tour and/or ITF Women's Circuit maximum calendar year limits for singles or doubles, Main Draw or Qualifying Wild Cards.

v. 17 Years Old

(a) Number and Type of Tournaments

Between the date of a player's 17th birthday and the day before her 18th birthday, a player may participate in:

- (i) A maximum of 16 Professional Tennis Tournaments; plus
- (ii) The WTA Tour Championships (if she qualifies); plus
- (iii) Fed Cup (any level of competition).

*Note: Players aged 17 as of January 1, 2009 will continue to be subject to the 2008 AER which provides that a player may play a maximum a 17 Professional Tennis Tournaments, the WTA Tour Championships, plus Fed Cup. Upon her 18th birthday, such player will be subject to sub-Section vi below.*

(b) Wild Cards

Once a player reaches the age of 17, she is permitted to receive the WTA Tour and ITF Women's Circuit calendar year maximums. (See Section III.C.4 on page 58 for information on WTA Tour Wild Card maximums.) The number of Wild Cards she is allowed to receive pursuant to the Wild Card Rule is calculated over the course of the Tour Year in which she turned 17 (i.e., any Wild Cards used under the AER by the player in that Tour Year prior to turning 17 will count towards the total number of Wild Cards permitted under the Rules).

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### vi. 18 Years Old and Older

#### (a) Number and Type of Tournaments

Players 18 years of age or older may participate in an unlimited number of Professional Tennis Tournaments on the WTA Tour and ITF Women's Circuit.

#### (b) Wild Cards

Players 18 years of age or older are eligible to receive the at-large WTA Tour and ITF Women's Circuit maximum number of Wild Cards.

### vii. Top 10 and Premier Player List Eligibility

#### (a) Age Requirement

Because Top 10 and Premier List Players must commit to a minimum number of Tournaments, a player may not be included on the Top 10 or Premier Player List until the Tour Year during which she will reach her 17th birthday.

#### (b) Ranking Requirement

In order to be included on the Top 10 or Premier Player List, a player under the age of 18 years old must be ranked in the Top 50 (of singles) at the time of selection.

#### (c) Wild Cards

A Top 10 and/or Premier List Player under the AER will be allowed Wild Cards according to the guidelines outlined below.

#### (d) Player Obligations Before Receiving Top 10 and/or Premier Player List Benefits

Prior to the beginning of the Tour Year during which she will be on the Top 10 and/or Premier Player List and prior to determining her Player Commitment schedule, a player is required to meet with representatives of the Tour Operations and PRO U™ Departments for the purpose of developing and agreeing upon the player's schedule for the upcoming Tour Year.

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The player will be permitted to benefit from her Top 10 and/or Premier Player List status once she has:

- (i) Met with representatives from both staffs;
- (ii) Completed her PRO U™ requirements;
- (iii) Participated fully in PRO U™ programs; and
- (iv) Acknowledged in writing that she has a full understanding of the Top 10 and/or Premier Player List status and PRO U™ programs

If the player does not complete any of the above requirements, then she will not be permitted to benefit fully from her Top 10 and/or Premier Player List status.

### viii. Merited Increases

- (a) If a player aged 15-17 has earned her way into the Main Draw or Qualifying of a Premier Mandatory Tournament via a direct acceptance and has completed her PRO U™ requirements prior to competing in said Tournament, then her participation in that Premier Mandatory Tournament is in addition to her allotted number of Tournaments under the AER.
- (b) However, if a player is: i) accepted via a Wild Card; ii) 14 years of age; or iii) aged 15-17 and was accepted by direct acceptance but has not completed her PRO U™ requirements prior to competing in the Premier Mandatory Tournament, then participation in such Tournament is counted towards her total allotment of Tournaments under the AER.
- (c) *A player aged 15-17 in 2008 who has not used all four (4) of her available merited increases may participate in Grand Slam and Premier Mandatory Tournaments as merited increases prior to her birthday in 2009 and her participation in such events will be in addition to her allotted number of Tournaments under the AER; provided that, the total number of merited increases used prior to the player's next birthday does not exceed four (4). Upon the player's next birthday, she will be subject to sub-Sections*

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*(a) and (b) above.*

### b. Wild Cards

#### i. Wild Card Qualification

In order to qualify for any Wild Card into any WTA Tour Tournament, a player must have completed: i) the Annual Player Form; ii) the Official WTA Tour Entry Form; iii) submitted all requisite documentation (i.e., proof of identity [copy of player's passport or birth certificate], proof that her minimum educational requirements are being met, etc.); and iv) be current with all of her PRO U™ requirements.

#### ii. Wild Cards received at separate Tournaments

Wild Cards received at separate Tournaments count towards a player's total allotment, regardless of whether the Wild Card is for singles or doubles.

#### iii. Wild Cards received at same Tournament

If a player aged 14-16 receives both a singles and doubles Wild Card at the same Tournament, it will count as only one (1) Wild Card. The singles Wild Card will be used to determine how it is counted (Main Draw or Qualifying).

#### iv. Doubles Wild Card at Tournament where Singles Entry by Direct Acceptance

In the event a player aged 14-16 is accepted into the singles draw (Main Draw or Qualifying) by direct acceptance and receives a Wild Card into the doubles draw, the doubles Wild Card will not count towards her allotment permitted under the AER.

#### v. WTA Tour Tournament Wild Card Awarded through Pre-Qualifying Event/Circuit

In the event a player wins a pre-qualifying event/circuit that awards a Wild Card into a WTA Tour Tournament, the player will be permitted to accept the Wild Card if:

- (a) The pre-qualifying event/circuit has been accredited by the WTA (please contact the WTA's Legal or PRO U™

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Departments for full details and guidelines regarding accredited events); and

- (b) Acceptance of the Wild Card does not result in the player exceeding her allotment of Wild Cards permitted under the AER. Under no circumstances will a player be allowed to exceed the calendar year WTA Tour and/or ITF Women's Circuit maximum number of Wild Cards for singles or doubles.

### vi. WTA Tour Championships

If a 15-17 year old player receives a wild card into the Sony Ericsson Championships or the International Tournament of Champions, it shall count in addition to her allotted number of Wild Cards.

### c. Mandatory Tournaments

As set forth in Mandatory Tournament Entries – page 29 and Automatic Main Draw Entry Tournaments – page 197, all players, regardless of age, who by ranking qualify for acceptance into the Main Draw of a Premier Mandatory Tournament or the Main Draw of a Grand Slam will be entered automatically. Accordingly, players who are subject to the AER are responsible for planning their competition schedules to include these Mandatory Tournaments within their allotment of Age Eligibility Tournaments. Players who have reached their maximum number of Professional Tennis Tournaments under the AER prior to a Mandatory Tournament, unless they meet the provision for it to count in addition, will not be allowed to exceed their Tournament allotment to play.

The failure to play a Premier Mandatory Tournament or Grand Slam, even if due to ineligibility under the AER, will result in a fine and/or zero (0) ranking points for such player.

### d. Feed-Up/ITF Women's Circuit Events

If a player between the ages of 14-17 wins an ITF Women's Circuit event that has been designated a Feed-Up into a WTA Tour Tournament, the player will be allowed to accept the Feed-Up position into the WTA Tour Tournament. These will be counted in her allotted number of Tournaments under the AER. Under no circumstances will a player be allowed to exceed the WTA maximum number of Tournaments permitted under the AER.

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e. Olympic Participation

The Age Eligibility Restrictions with respect to the Women's Tennis Competition will be detailed in the 2012 WTA Tour Age Eligibility Rule and the ITF Olympic Tennis Event 2012 Regulations.

f. Exhibition/Non-Tour Events

There are no age-based restrictions on a player's participation in Exhibitions/Non-Tour Events. However, all players are subject to the WTA Tour Exhibition/Non-Tour Event Rule.

g. Summary Chart

The following table provides a summary of the event participation rules\* detailed in this sub-Section 2.

Age	WTA Tour <sup>^</sup>	ITF Women's Circuit <sup>^</sup>	Wild Cards <sup>±</sup>	Fed Cup	Olympics	Exhibition/Non-Tour Events <sup>‡</sup>
18	Unlimited	Unlimited	According to WTA Tour & ITF Circuit Rules	Yes	Yes	Unlimited, subject to Exhibition/Non-Tour Event Rule
17 <sup>‡</sup>	16 + Champs <sup>§</sup>		According to WTA Tour & ITF Circuit Rules	Yes	Yes	Unlimited, subject to Exhibition/Non-Tour Event Rule
16 <sup>‡</sup>	12 + Champs <sup>§</sup>		4	Yes	Yes	Unlimited, subject to Exhibition/Non-Tour Event Rule
15	10 + Champs <sup>§</sup>		3 (maximum of 1 for Premier Tournaments and remaining for International Tournaments and/or ITF Women's Circuit)	Yes	Yes	Unlimited, subject to Exhibition/Non-Tour Event Rule
14	0, except by Wild Card or Feed-Up	8 <sup>#</sup>	3 (maximum of 1 for International Tournaments and remaining for ITF Women's Circuit)	Yes	No	Unlimited, subject to Exhibition/Non-Tour Event Rule
13	0	0	0	0	0	0

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- \* Grand Slams and Premier Mandatory Tournaments are mandatory play events, which may impose additional regulations and/or restrictions on players subject to the AER. See page 216 – Mandatory Tournaments for further details.
- ^ For the purposes of the AER and this Tournament Eligibility Chart, a Tournament is defined as any singles and/or doubles Main Draw, or singles and/or Qualifying Draw of any WTA Tour Tournament or ITF Women's Circuit event in which a player competes. However, if a player participates in the Qualifying Draw and qualifies for the Main Draw, it will count as only one (1) Tournament. Similarly, if a player is competing in both the singles and doubles draws, it will count as only one (1) Tournament.
- § If a player aged 15-17 has earned her way into the Main Draw or Qualifying of a Premier Mandatory Tournament via direct acceptance and has completed her PRO U™ requirements prior to competing in said Tournament, then her participation in the Premier Mandatory Tournament is in addition to her allotted number of tournaments under the AER. However, if a player is: i) accepted via a Wild Card; ii) 14 years of age; or iii) aged 15-17 and was accepted by direct entry but has not completed her PRO U™ requirements prior to competition in the Premier Mandatory Tournament, then participation in the Tournament is counted towards her total allotment of Tournaments.
- ± In order to qualify for any Wild Card into any WTA Tour Tournament, a player must: i) complete and submit the Annual Player Form and an Official WTA Tour Entry Form; iii) submit all requisite documentation (i.e., proof of identity [copy of player's passport or birth certificate], proof that her minimum educational requirements are being met, etc.); and (iii) be current with all of her PRO U™ requirements. Under no circumstances will a player be allowed to exceed the WTA and/or ITF Women's Circuit calendar year maximum number of Wild Cards for singles or doubles.
- † There are no age-based restrictions on a player's participation in Exhibitions/Non-Tour Events. However, all players are subject to the Exhibition/Non-Tour Event Rule.
- # Players between the ages of 14 and 15 are permitted to compete in a maximum of eight (8) ITF Women's Circuit events, no more than three (3) of which may be at ITF Women's Circuit \$50,000 and above. The number of ITF Women's Circuit events in which a player may participate will be reduced if the player receives a Wild Card into or accepts a Feed-Up position into a WTA Tour Tournament. The player may not compete in more than two (2) events at the WTA Tour level.
- ‡ Players on the Top 10 and/or Premier Player List must refer to the current

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Rulebook and contact a representative of PRO U™ in the Florida office for specific details.

### 3. Player Activity On-site at Tournaments

#### a. Evening Play

The WTA and WTA Tour Tournaments shall use best efforts not to schedule any player under the age of 16 years for a match after 9:00 p.m. tournament local time.

#### b. Media Requirements

Players under the age of 18 years are not permitted to engage in an excess of for (4) total hours of media requests and engagements per Tournament. This time is to include: i) one-on-one media requests; ii) WTA Tour requests; and iii) Tournament functions.

#### c. Personal Endorsement Commitments

A player's personal endorsement commitments are at the discretion of the player, but must not conflict with her: i) match schedule; ii) PRO U™ requirements; iii) professional appearance obligations of the aforementioned; and/or iv) physiological limitations.

## B. PRO U™ PROGRAMS

### 1. Program Overview and Process

PRO U™ programs are divided into the following four (4) phases:

- a. Introductory;
- b. Rookie Phase;
- c. Elite Phase; and
- d. Premier Phase.

The specific player participation requirements of each phase are detailed below, but all players under the age of 18 and players still subject to PRO U™ requirements (regardless of age) are required to check in at each WTA Tour Tournament with the PRO U™ representative, or as designated by a PRO U™ representative (either on site or via tele-

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phone to the PRO U™ representative in the office), no later than the first day of Main Draw, one (1) hour prior to play (or at an alternate date and time as set by the WTA in advance) to participate in PRO U™ and their respective weekly PRO U™ activities.

### 2. Introductory

#### a. Eligibility and Timing

The Introductory Phase begins when a player is 18 years of age or younger enters in her first WTA Tour Tournament. Requirements for this phase must be completed as she completes the Annual Player Form process and by the end of her first WTA Tour Tournament.

#### b. Introductory Player Requirements

i. Relevant online modules including, but not limited to, Intro to the Pros and Safety and Security.

ii. Minimum Educational Requirements

Each player under the age of 18 must have met (or continue to meet) the minimum educational requirements of her country of legal residence and, upon entry into her first WTA Tour Tournament, must submit to the WTA a certificate verifying the fulfillment of this educational requirement. Players must continue to furnish proof of such fulfillment on an annual basis until the age of 18.

iii. Annual Medical Examination

Each player under the age of 18 must undergo an annual medical examination as specified by the WTA. This medical examination must be submitted to the WTA for continued approval to participate in Professional Tennis Tournaments. This information will be kept confidential and on file with SS&M Department.

### 3. Rookie Phase

#### a. Eligibility and Timing

The Rookie Phase begins when a player 18 years of age or younger participates in:

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- i. Two (2) or more WTA Tour singles events in a 52-week period;
- ii. A Premier Mandatory singles event; or
- iii. A Grand Slam singles event (Main Draw or Qualifying).

Players must complete their Rookie Phase requirements within two (2) additional WTA Tour Tournaments or three (3) months of the Tournament which has triggered their enrollment in the Rookie Phase, whichever comes first.

### b. Rookie Phase Player Requirements

- i. Participate in WTA Tour professional orientation, including:
  - (a) Completing the relevant online Pro U™ coursework and passing a written examination covering such material; and
  - (b) Participating in and passing the Onsite Activities portion of the 'Rookie Hours' Player Orientation.
- ii. Participate in Educational Programs offered through PRO U™.
- iii. Continue providing proof that minimum educational requirements of country of residence are being met (or have been completed).
- iv. Continue to undergo the Annual Medical Examination.
- v. Notify the WTA of any changes in Player Support Team Members. It is the player's responsibility to advise the WTA if there is a change in a coach or agent.

### c. Player Support Team Member Requirements

- i. Parent(s)

At least one (1) parent or guardian/chaperone of each player under the age of 18 who has qualified to meet all the requirements of participation on the WTA Tour is required to do the following:

- (a) Complete an online course and pass a written examination covering such material;

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- (b) Complete the PRO U™ orientation coursework within a maximum of three (3) months time;
  - (c) Agree in writing to abide by the Rules; and
  - (d) Comply with all requirements of any Player Support Team Registration program established by the WTA.
- ii. Coaches, Agents and Credentialed Individuals

Coaches and agents of and individuals being credentialed through PRO U™ players under the age of 18 must:

- (a) Complete the PRO U™ orientation coursework within a maximum of three (3) months' time;
- (b) Agree in writing to abide by the Rules;
- (c) Comply with all requirements of any Player Support Team Registration program established by the WTA; and
- (d) Sign in at the WTA office on site prior to the beginning of a WTA Tour Tournament.

### 4. Elite Phase

a. Eligibility and Timing

The Elite Phase begins when a player 18 years of age or younger moves into the Top 100 of singles on the WTA Tour Rankings.

Players must continue to participate and fulfill the requirements of PRO U™ until notification of graduation.

b. Elite Phase Player Requirements

- i. Participate in the “Partners for Success” Mentor Program.
- ii. Continue to undergo the Annual Medical Examination.
- iii. Continue providing proof that minimum educational requirements of country of residence are being met (or have been completed).

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- iv. Participate in educational programs offered through PRO U™.
  - v. Participate in the Career Development Program.
  - vi. Complete Advanced Media Training, to be conducted at designated Tournament sites throughout the Tour Year.
  - vii. Within one (1) month of eligibility, meet with a PRO U™ representative and a Tour Operations representative to review the annual Tournament schedule and agree to such schedule.
  - viii. Participate in a meeting with the CEO or President of the WTA.
- c. Player Support Team Member Requirements
- i. Coaches
    - (a) Continue to comply with all requirements of any Player Support Team program established by the WTA.
    - (b) Continue to sign in at WTA Tour Tournaments.
    - (c) Participate in PRO U™ on-line education, as required.
    - (d) Pass the WTA Tour Rules test.
  - ii. Parents and Agents
    - (a) Continue to comply with all requirements of any Player Support Team program established by the WTA.
    - (b) Sign a Code of Ethics.
    - (c) Complete the Orientation.
    - (d) Sign in at WTA Tour Tournaments.
    - (e) Participate in PRO U™ education, as required.

### 5. Exempt Players

Any player who is named to the Top 10 and/or Premier Player List or is ranked in the Top 50 of singles at age 18 and younger will participate in Premier Player education and any other relevant PRO U™ activities.

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### C. PLAYER PENALTIES

#### 1. Ranking Point Penalty

In the event a player plays in a Tournament that exceeds the number and/or level permitted to be played under the AER, or enters a Tournament that in any way conflicts with the AER, that Tournament will not be counted for ranking points for that player.

#### 2. Fine and/or Ban from Event Competition/Attendance

Additionally, players and/or registered members of their team who do not comply with any of the provisions of the AER or the requirements of PRO U™ are subject to a fine of up to \$25,000 and may be barred from competing in and/or attending WTA Tour Tournaments and ITF Women's Circuit events and Fed Cup for up to six (6) months.

#### 3. Appeals

Fine appeals must be filed within 21 days from the date of notice.

#### 4. Clarification of PRO U™ and Age Eligibility Rule

For any questions relating to PRO U™, including the AER, please contact the PRO U™ or Legal Affairs departments in the WTA's Florida office.