

## 2021 WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

After discussions with Tennis Australia regarding sending teams to the 2021 World Championships, below please find TA's position at present .

TA Position is as follows :

Whilst we are finely balancing the desire to support Seniors players in pursuing their tennis, we are also aware of the current risks of traveling overseas as well as the challenges in returning back to Australia. Subsequently, after some careful risk assessment we have arrived at the following:

1. Tennis Australia is happy to provide Seniors players with an explanatory letter highlighting that they are considered high performance tennis players competing on the ITF Seniors circuit.
2. Tennis Australia is not willing to provide players with a letter of endorsement to support their travels. This is due to the current innate risk in traveling abroad. We must also make it clear that Tennis Australia does not assume any responsibility should players require repatriation or government support whilst overseas. For these reasons, Tennis Australia does not intend to send any teams to the ITF Seniors World Championships in 2021.
3. However, this does not mean that Home Affairs will not consider Senior players' applications to travel. Home Affairs have said they will consider applications from players particularly if they are able to obtain a letter of support from the ITF, an invitation letter from the tournament/s as well as the explanatory letter that Tennis Australia can provide.
4. If players do manage to receive an exemption from Home Affairs, please ensure that they look into travel insurance with some element of COVID cover. It seems that a few now offer COVID medical cover but do not provide support for changes to travel plans (i.e. flight cancellations, extended accommodation) in light of COVID.
5. Anecdotally, securing a flight back to Australia is possible but can be challenging. Even if flights are booked and confirmed, we have seen instances of people still being bumped off flights. It seems that booking a business class ticket provides better assurance in getting on the flight. This is largely due to the fact that airlines need to recoup costs due to their limited capacities.
6. In addition to the out of country risks, there is also the ongoing requirement to undertake a 14-day quarantine on return.
7. This decision will be reviewed on a monthly basis but obviously deadlines for various events will require us to formally withdraw/advise where necessary.
8. We are reviewing what opportunities we can provide our affected athletes (ITF Juniors and Seniors) within Australia in light of this position.

As such TSA will not be calling for team nominations for 2021 until such time as when TA supports the sending of overseas teams.

TSA in consultation with TA will be posting updates when they come to hand .

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