



# OCEANIA TENNIS FEDERATION

## OTF Regional Championships and POJC Eligibility 2024

*(This eligibility criteria will remain in effect from 2024 moving forward, unless and until changes are made and approved by the OTF Executive).*

*The eligibility for the OTF Regional Championships and the POJC is very specific and applies to all nations in Pacific Oceania. You must comply with both the OTF eligibility requirements and your Nation's requirements (see Nation's prerogative) in order to compete.*

*To be eligible to play for your nation you must have a passport that states your place of birth as being in the nation you wish to compete for. It is not possible for players to be eligible only through the ancestry of their parents or grandparents even though they may obtain a passport from a Pacific Oceania nation.*

*One of the following additional requirements with respect to resident eligibility are also required as follows:-*

*A) A player that is currently enrolled in school (and has been for over 12 months) in the Pacific nation that they wish to represent with a passport from any Pacific Oceania nation.*

*(The OTF will accept in addition to sovereign nations that issue their own passports, the following passport scenarios as Pacific Oceania Nations:-*

*New Zealand passports for Cook Islands so long as the place of birth is within the Cook Islands,*

*French passports for Tahiti, Vanuatu and New Caledonia so long as the place of birth is within those respective nations.*

*US Passports for Guam, Northern Marianas Islands and American Samoa so long as the place of birth is within those respective nations).*

*B) A player that is enrolled in school in the Pacific nation that they wish to represent with a passport from a non Pacific Oceania nation provided they have been resident a minimum of 24 months before the first day of the OTF event.*

*(If you have a n NZ, US or French passport but your place of birth is not within these countries you will be deemed as coming from outside of Pacific Oceania and a 24 month residency will also apply).*

*C) A player that is enrolled in school in the Pacific nation that they wish to represent with a passport from a non Pacific Oceania nation provided they have been resident for at least 24 months in another Pacific Oceania Nation in the immediate 24 months prior to their school enrolment.*

*Note. If you move from one Pacific Nation to another Pacific Nation and are enrolled in a school in this new nation you are eligible for both nations for the first 12 months (subject to individual national eligibility requirements). You will therefore, for this year alone, have to nominate which nation you wish to represent. Once you have been absent from that nation for a period of 12 months or longer you are no longer eligible to represent that nation.*

*On a case by case basis there may be exemptions if a Pacific Oceania player has moved overseas for schooling and tennis and have been there over 12 months so long as their parents remain resident in Pacific Oceania and so long as they have played at least one (\*) POJC event before moving outside of PO within the 24 months prior to the event. The purpose of this is to consider genuine cases where families still reside in a PO nation but their child has moved to further their tennis and school and they continue to visit their home nation regularly. (\* in the event that a player has just become eligible to play with respect to their age, ie having turned 10, and it will be their first Regionals, an exemption request can be submitted by their National Association to the OTF for consideration).*

*Online schooling will be considered as enrolled in school so long as they are resident in the nation they wish to play for even if the online school is outside of Pacific Oceania. (So the player is physical resident in the nation they wish to represent).*

*In certain cases, the OTF may require confirmation of current and ongoing enrolment from a school in the nominating nation to support the players entry into the event.*



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*Those players on scholarship in the ITF centre may not represent the nation hosting the centre irrespective of the time spent in that nation.*

*Nations prerogative.*

Nations may set their own specific eligibility rules on top of this to protect the interests of their national players (i.e. player's from another nation must have resided in their nation for 3 years to be considered for nomination for example or the nation may consider the ITF eligibility for World Junior Team Competition where you would need to be a citizen of that nation for example) but the above criteria are the founding principles for eligibility by the OTF. All nominations must be made through a National Association and it is the nation's prerogative on which players they intend to nominate.

**All passports will be checked and documented prior to starting the event, an ineligible passport will disqualify that player from the event entered and any grants awarded to them will be liable to be reimbursed to the OTF (as per the guidelines that have been sent out to the nations for distribution to all player.**

Note:- Pacific Oceania Touring teams selected from the POJC results will exclude flight subsidies for "non-Pacific" Citizens.

An Oversight Committee of three to consider eligibility exemptions, will be made up of either the OTF Project Manager or an OTF Joint Executive Officer, the ITF Development Officer for the Oceania Region, and either a member of the OTF Executive Board (not directly involved in the events as a coach or manager) or an OTF Joint Executive Officer.