**DESCRIPTION OF STANDARD**

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<th>ITN</th>
<th>Gen Ref (*)</th>
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<th>GENERAL COMPETITIVE LEVEL</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Elite High Performance</td>
<td></td>
<td>Currently holds or is capable of holding an ATP / WTA ranking.</td>
<td>A world-class player who is committed to tournament competition on an international level and whose major source of income is tournament prize-money.</td>
<td>Has extensive professional tournament experience.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Can analyze and exploit an opponent's weakness.</td>
<td>Can vary strategies and style of play and is capable of hitting dependable shots in stressful situations.</td>
<td>Usually a highly ranked national player.</td>
<td>First and second serve can be relied upon in stressful situations and can be hit offensively at any time.</td>
<td>Has developed good anticipation for both returns.</td>
<td>Capable of hitting dependable shots in stressful situations.</td>
<td>Hits slice or drive approaches. Anticipates well at the net and has good court sense.</td>
<td>Improvises and passes very well off both sides and from the return of serve.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Good shot anticipation and frequently has an outstanding shot, consistency or attribute around which a game may be based.</td>
<td>The player is 'match wise', plays percentage tennis and can regularly hit winning return of serve or force errors in the return of serve from short balls.</td>
<td>Serve is placed effectively with the intent of hitting to a weakness or developing an offensive situation.</td>
<td>Can mix up aggressive and off-paced return of serve with control, depth and spin.</td>
<td>Can use a wide variety of serves to rely on.</td>
<td>Forehand is strong with control, depth and spin.</td>
<td>Approach shots are hit with pace and a high degree of effectiveness.</td>
<td>Consistent on passing shots and hits them with pace and a high degree of effectiveness.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Consistent play, capable of generating power and spin effectively and has begun to handle pace.</td>
<td>Good anticipation, sound footwork and covers up weaknesses well.</td>
<td>Can control the depth of shots and is beginning to vary game plans according to opponents.</td>
<td>Has an aggressive serve and commits few double-faults.</td>
<td>Power and spin can be used effectively to set up offensive situations, especially on first serves.</td>
<td>Uses speed and spin effectively.</td>
<td>Approach shots hit with good depth and control.</td>
<td>Able to lob defensively and offensively.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Good consistency (dependable strokes) including directional control and depth on both forehand and backhand sides on moderate shots, although rallies may be lost due to impatience.</td>
<td>Ability to use lobs, overheads, approach shots and volleys with some success.</td>
<td>Developing court coverage, experienced and tactically aware but not yet playing good percentage tennis.</td>
<td>Good consistency (dependable strokes) including directional control and depth on both forehand and backhand sides on moderate shots, although rallies may be lost due to impatience.</td>
<td>Ability to use lobs, overheads, approach shots and volleys with some success.</td>
<td>Developing court coverage, experienced and tactically aware but not yet playing good percentage tennis.</td>
<td>Able to lob defensively on difficult shots and offensively to set up the point.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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(*) General Reference / Label: To be decided by the National Association.

(**) National Rating: Corresponding National Rating (if applicable).
**GENERAL COMPETITIVE LEVEL**

**SERVE**
- Starting to serve with control and some power.
- Developing spin.

**RETURN**
- Can return serve consistently with directional control on medium-paced shots.

**BASELINE GAME**
- Forehand is quite consistent, varied on moderate shots and is played with directional control and some spin.
- Backhand is hit with directional control on moderate shots however difficulty is experienced on high and hard shots, which are often returned defensively.
- Will use either backhand drive or slice almost exclusively.

**APPROACHING / NET**
- Is developing approach shots and starting to look for the opportunity to come in to the net.
- More aggressive net play.
- Can direct forehand volleys, controls backhand volley but with little offence.
- Has difficulty in putting volleys away and in playing half volleys.
- Is capable of covering some passing shots and typically uses proper footwork.
- Consistent overhead on shots within reach.

**PASSING NET PLAYER**
- Can lob fairly consistently on faster paced shots.
- Developing basic passing shot ability but has difficulty in playing a pass with the backhand.

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**6**
- **Intermediate**
  - Has achieved improved stroke consistency with directional control on moderate shots but with little depth and variety.
  - Court coverage is improving yet there remains some hesitancy in moving forward.
  - Is developing teamwork in doubles.

  **SERVE**
  - Starting to serve with control and some power.
  - Developing spin.

  **RETURN**
  - Can return serve consistently with directional control on medium-paced shots.

  **BASELINE GAME**
  - Forehand is quite consistent, varied on moderate shots and is played with directional control and some spin.
  - Backhand is hit with directional control on moderate shots however difficulty is experienced on high and hard shots, which are often returned defensively.
  - Will use either backhand drive or slice almost exclusively.

  **APPROACHING / NET**
  - Is developing approach shots and starting to look for the opportunity to come in to the net.
  - More aggressive net play.
  - Can direct forehand volleys, controls backhand volley but with little offence.
  - Has difficulty in putting volleys away and in playing half volleys.
  - Is capable of covering some passing shots and typically uses proper footwork.
  - Consistent overhead on shots within reach.

  **PASSING NET PLAYER**
  - Can lob fairly consistently on faster paced shots.
  - Developing basic passing shot ability but has difficulty in playing a pass with the backhand.

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**7**
- **Intermediate**
  - Fairly consistent when hitting moderately paced shots but is not comfortable playing all strokes and can lack control when trying for direction, depth or power.
  - A singles match will be played almost exclusively from the baseline, whilst the most common doubles formation is one-up, one-back.

  **SERVE**
  - Is developing a rhythm, although is less consistent when trying for power.
  - Second serve is often substantially slower than the first serve.

  **RETURN**
  - Can return serve with reasonable consistency with the majority returned to the middle of the court.

  **BASELINE GAME**
  - Forehand is fairly consistent with some directional intent but has little control of depth.
  - Backhand is starting to become fairly consistent on moderate shots with most of the balls directed to the middle of the court.

  **APPROACHING / NET**
  - Approaches the net when play dictates it but needs to improve its execution.
  - Has a consistent forehand volley, but is less consistent on the backhand volley.
  - Has difficulty volleying shots played low and wide.
  - Sometimes caught out of position and can tend to take too large a swing.

  **PASSING NET PLAYER**
  - Can lob fairly consistently on moderate shots and often uses it on the return of serve instead of a drive.

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**8**
- **Recreational**
  - Learning to judge where the ball is going, although court coverage needs to be improved substantially.
  - When playing with other players of the same ability this player can sustain a short rally of slow pace with modest consistency.
  - Usually remains in the initial doubles position during doubles play.

  **SERVE**
  - Attempting a full swing. There is little difference between the pace of first and second serves.
  - Gets the ball in play at a slow pace.
  - Toss needs to be more consistent.

  **RETURN**
  - Can return a slow paced serve.
  - Will often have an abbreviated follow through.

  **BASELINE GAME**
  - Forehand form is developing.
  - Player is positioned and prepared for moderately paced shots.
  - Backhand grip and preparation problems may be evident and the player will often choose to hit a forehand instead of a backhand.

  **APPROACHING / NET**
  - Approaches the net only when forced to.
  - Needs to spend more time at the net to build some confidence.
  - Is currently uncomfortable at the net, especially on the backhand side and will frequently use forehand side of the racket face to play backhand volleys.
  - Can make contact on overhead.

  **PASSING NET PLAYER**
  - Can lob intentionally but with little control.
  - Will often play back to the opponent.

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**9**
- **Recreational**
  - Needs on-court experience.
  - While strokes can be completed with some success, stroke weaknesses are evident.
  - Is familiar with basic positions for singles and doubles play, although needs better positioning and may even prefer to play both back.
  - This player has begun to engage in match play.
  - Is learning the basic rules and scoring.

  **SERVE**
  - Service motion is not continuous and needs more co-ordination.
  - Toss needs to be more consistent and controlled.
  - Double-faults are quite common.

  **RETURN**
  - Return of serve needs to be more consistent in order to reduce unforced errors.
  - Will attempt to return almost exclusively with forehand.

  **BASELINE GAME**
  - Forehand needs to have a more complete swing and more directional intent.
  - Reluctance to play backhand is clear and experiences several technical problems on this side (i.e. grip, swing, contact).

  **APPROACHING / NET**
  - Not yet familiar with approach and net play.
  - Will look to play forehand volley exclusively and has problems making contact on overheads.

  **PASSING NET PLAYER**
  - Experiences difficulties lobbing intentionally.
  - Is not accustomed to playing a pass and will typically hit the ball straight back to the opponent.

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**10**
- **Recreational**
  - This player is starting to play competitively (can serve and return / rally) on a full court using a normal ITF approved ball.

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**10.1**
- **Recreational**
  - The player is able to rally with movement and control.

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**10.2**
- **Recreational**
  - The player has developed some simple tennis-specific skills in hitting an oncoming ball regularly, however rallying with movement and control is not yet achieved.

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**10.3**
- **Recreational**
  - The player is in the early stages of tennis skills development and is primarily learning simple tennis co-ordination tasks / exercises.

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**What’s your number?**

**DESCRIPTION OF STANDARD**

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