

## VII. THE COMPETITION

### 7.10 Special Exempts (SE)

#### A. Eligibility

Players may receive a special exempt into the main draw of the following week's tournament if they meet the criteria and apply for it in a timely manner.

- 1) A player is eligible to receive a special exempt into the singles main draw of the following week's tournament, subject to the provisions of this section, if he is unable to compete in that qualifying competition because he is still competing on the date the qualifying competition begins in another qualified event, and his current ranking as of the date of the entry deadline would not have otherwise qualified him as a direct acceptance on the original acceptance list if he had entered. In addition, a player who is still playing a match at 9 p.m. local time at the qualifying site, is eligible to receive a special exempt only if he wins that match.

- a) A Qualified event for special exempt to an ATP Tour Masters 1000 tournament is the singles event of another ATP Tour Masters 1000, ATP Tour 500 or Grand Slam tournament.

- b) A Qualified event for special exempt to an ATP Tour 500 tournament is the singles event of another ATP Tour 500, ATP Tour Masters 1000, ATP Tour 250\* or Grand Slam tournament.

\*The 250 event must be located in the same region as the 500 event, as determined by ATP and specified in "Exhibit M".

- c) A Qualified event for special exempt to an ATP Tour 250 tournament is the singles event of any ATP Tour 250, ATP Tour 500, ATP Tour Masters 1000 or Grand Slam tournament.

- d) A Qualified event for special exempt to an ATP Challenger Tour tournament is the singles event of an ATP Tour or ATP Challenger Tour tournament within the same geographic region, unless there are no Challengers in the same region the following week. If there are no Challengers in the same region the following week, then a qualified event would include all ATP Challenger Tour events scheduled in the following week, regardless of region. (Definition of Regions can be found in "Exhibit M").

**EXCEPTION 1:** A player who has entered and been accepted into the qualifying draw of an ATP Tour tournament and has been withdrawn because he is still competing in a Challenger or Tour event in the same region, will be added to the last position on the special exempt list of an ATP Challenger Tour tournament scheduled for the next week, even though he would have been a direct acceptance, had he entered the Challenger.

**Note:** EXCEPTION does not apply if player was Top 50 twenty one (21) days prior to the first Monday of the Challenger.

**EXCEPTION 2:** A player who has entered and been accepted into the qualifying draw of an ATP Tour 500 tournament and has been withdrawn because he is still competing in an ATP Tour event, will be added to the last position on the special exempt list of an ATP Tour 250 tournament located in the same region (as determined by ATP) if specific conditions are met. These conditions are:

- i) He is qualified for a Special Exempt spot in the ATP Tour 500 event.
- ii) Due to other qualified player(s) for the Special Exempt into the ATP Tour 500 event there is no Special Exempt available.
- iii) The player's ranking would have qualified him for the main draw of the 250 event, had he entered there instead of the 500 qualifying.

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### B. Number of Special Exempts

ATP Tour Masters 1000, ATP Tour 500 and ATP Challenger Tour tournaments shall have one (1) special exempt and ATP Tour 250 tournaments shall have two (2).

### C. Selection of Special Exempt

- 1) If there are not sufficient special exempt places in the draw for applicants, the players shall be selected according to their position on the most recent FedEx ATP Rankings list issued prior to the tournament or by their protected ranking, except:
  - a) If he is a direct acceptance using his protected ranking, then he is not eligible for a special exempt place, or
  - b) If he would have been a direct acceptance had he entered using his protected ranking, then the protected ranking cannot be used to determine his position on the special exempt list.
- 2) **ATP Tour.** If the special exempt places are not needed before the beginning of the qualifying competition, the special exempt places shall be filled by additional direct acceptances selected from the original acceptance list. Thus a player may be pulled out of the qualifying before the first ball is hit and replaced by an alternate list player.
- 3) **ATP Challenger Tour.** If the special exempt place is not needed prior to the 12 Noon withdrawal deadline, the special exempt place shall be filled by an additional direct acceptance selected from the original acceptance list. If the special exempt place has not been determined at the deadline, and then following the 12 Noon withdrawal deadline it is determined that the Special Exempt is not needed, the additional direct acceptance shall be filled from the next player who has properly preserved his eligibility on the original acceptance list for that event.

### D. Special Exempt Process

- 1) A list of possible eligible players is compiled by the player relations department by Wednesday/Thursday of the current week for the next week's tournaments.
- 2) The list of eligible players is supplied to the supervisors where the players are competing. The supervisors need to contact each player to inquire if the player is interested in the special exempt position and then contact player relations immediately following the player's decision to remove himself from consideration for any tournament for which he is eligible.
- 3) If the player is interested in an event, player relations coordinates with the supervisors at both events until the SE positions are filled.
- 4) If the main draw is to be made before a potential special exempt player plays on Friday, then such place(s) shall be drawn in the same manner as qualifier, i.e., four qualifiers ("Q") and one or two "SE" depending on whether there are one or two possibilities. Each of the five or six slots are marked "Q/SE." As soon as the "SE" match results are known, either the "SE" or the next direct acceptance (if the SE lost) is randomly drawn and inserted into the draw.

**NOTE:** The deadline for a player to declare his intent to accept a Special Exempt, if eligible, is no later than one hour following the completion of the match that qualified him for a Special Exempt. Once he has declared his intent to the Super-