

SECTION I

2005 REGULATIONS FOR THE ORGANISATION OF SENIORS TOURNAMENTS

The following Regulations apply to all Seniors Tournaments in Grades 1 – 4 and, with some exceptions, to those in Grades A and B. These exceptions are given in Section II (ITF Seniors/Super-Seniors World Team Championships) and Section III (ITF Seniors/Super-Seniors World Individual Championships), together with additional clauses.

For all other Seniors Tournaments, whether listed in the Seniors Calendar or not, they are to be regarded as guidelines to be followed in order to achieve desirable standards and uniformity for the benefit of Seniors players worldwide.

I. THE COMPETITION

1. The Competition

The Competition, an international singles and doubles competition, shall be called the “ITF Seniors Circuit”.

2. Ownership

The Competition shall be owned and managed by ITF Limited, hereinafter referred to as the “ITF”.

Ownership shall include, but not be limited to, the following national and international rights: registered trademarks of the ITF; commercial exploitation of the event; television and radio, film and video recordings.

3. Age Groups

Until otherwise determined by the Seniors Committee, the Age Groups to which ITF world ranking points will be awarded shall be:

Men:

35 years and over
40 years and over
45 years and over
50 years and over
55 years and over
60 years and over
65 years and over
70 years and over
75 years and over
80 years and over
85 years and over

Women:

35 years and over
40 years and over
45 years and over
50 years and over
55 years and over
60 years and over
65 years and over
70 years and over
75 years and over

To be eligible to participate in any Age Group, a player shall have reached the minimum age limit by 31st December of the year in which the competition is held.

Accordingly, a player shall, if requested, present his/her passport or national identity card to the referee prior to the start of the competition.

A player may play in more than one Age Group and therefore may appear in more than one Age Group ranking;

4. Rules to be Observed

a) The Competition shall take place in accordance with these Regulations, the Constitution of the ITF Limited, the Rules of Tennis adopted by the ITF and the approved Code of Conduct.

b) In submitting an application, a tournament automatically undertakes to abide by and fulfil all its obligations under the above rules and regulations.

c) In submitting an entry to a tournament sanctioned by the ITF as a constituent tournament of the circuit, a player automatically undertakes to commit him/herself to abide by and be bound by the above rules and regulations.

5. Final Ranking

The final ranking, issued at the end of each calendar year shall be compiled on the basis of points earned for success in singles play in both individual and team events.

II. MANAGEMENT

6. Board of Directors

a) Management

The ITF Seniors Circuit shall be managed by the Board of Directors of the ITF.

b) Duties

The duties of the Board of Directors shall be:

- i) to approve and adopt the Rules and Regulations and Code of Conduct for the Circuit;
- ii) to decide any appeals or disputes;
- iii) to register in the name of the ITF any trade marks in connection with the Circuit and to protect such trade marks;
- iv) the Board of Directors shall appoint every two (2) years a Seniors Committee, which shall consist of a Chairman, who shall be a member of the Board of Directors, and further members as determined necessary.

7. Seniors Committee

The duties and powers of the Seniors Committee shall be:

- (a) to manage the day to day administration of the Circuit;
- (b) to ensure uniform application of, and compliance with, the Rules, Regulations and Code of Conduct;

- (c) to administer the funds of the Circuit within the financial framework of the ITF;
- (d) to report to the Board of Directors on all financial matters;
- (e) to undertake other duties as laid down in these regulations;
- (f) to submit regular reports to the Board of Directors,
- (g) to decide any appeals or disputes in whatever manner they deem to be appropriate and whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

III. RULES OF THE CIRCUIT

8. Tournament Application and Approval

Applications for inclusion in the Circuit, giving full details of the tournament, are to be sent to the ITF, or as otherwise directed by the ITF.

Applications from tournaments must be received by 31 August of the year prior to that in which the tournament is planned to be held.

Only tournaments organised by a National Association, or sanctioned by the National Association concerned will be considered for inclusion. Applications from tournaments not previously included in the ranking circuit, must include draw sheets from that tournament for the previous two years.

All tournaments awarded ITF status will start at Grade 4 level in their first year on the Circuit

A Sanction Fee will be collected from each tournament. This fee should be paid to the ITF, or in the case of European tournaments to Tennis Europe, by November 30 of the year that the tournament is held. The amount of the Fee will vary according to the tournament grade and will be detailed in the application form.

The fact that a tournament is included in a series or a group of tournaments does not automatically entitle the tournament to be part of the ranking circuit, even though other tournaments of the same series have been accepted.

If a tournament is included in the calendar and subsequently withdraws within three months of the scheduled first day of play, that tournament may not be accepted for the following year or may be downgraded, at the discretion of the Seniors Committee, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

9. Tournament Responsibilities

All tournaments must be played in accordance with the Rules of Tennis.

Matches must be played over the best of three tie-break sets on a knock-out basis, with the exception of team competitions, where matches may be played on a round robin basis, at the discretion of the Seniors Committee. The seven (7) point tiebreak shall operate at six games all in each set.

In the men's 85 and women's 75 events, should the score reach one set all, one (1) ten (10) point tie-break game only shall be played to determine the winner.

In the event of unavoidable disruption to a tournament, such as bad weather, should the score reach one set all, the tournament committee may decide that a one (1) ten (10) point tie-break game only shall be played to determine the winner in the other age categories staged, or alternatively adopt any of the approved alternative methods of scoring as laid out in the Rules of Tennis, adopted by the ITF

In the event of a ten (10) point tie-break game being played to determine the winner, no rest shall be taken after the second set.

10. Tournament Entry Forms

Full details of the tournament shall be set out in the entry forms – closing date for entries, sign-in requirements, dates for start of play, conditions of play, arrangements for players etc.

The entry form and programme for the event shall publicise and correctly describe the approved status of the event.

If required, tournaments shall assign to the ITF, free of charge, one (1) page in the official tournament programme for an ITF editorial or advertisement

Provision shall be made in the entry form for a section for completion by players indicating their record of play in the previous twelve (12) months and their current national, regional and international ranking, where applicable.

A tournament shall include in its entry form that the ITF Seniors Circuit Code of Conduct shall be in force at the tournament.

11. Publicity and Promotion

Each player grants and assigns to the ITF the right in perpetuity to make, use and show from time to time and at its discretion, motion pictures, still pictures and live, taped or filmed television and other reproduction of him/her during the event and in connection with the promotion of the event without compensation for him/herself, his/her heirs, devisees, executors, administrators or assigns. Such promotional activities by the ITF shall not be identified as or represented to be an endorsement by the player of any product or company.

12. Waiver of Claims

In submitting an entry into an ITF Seniors event, all players agree, as a condition of entry, that for themselves, their executors, administrators, heirs and personal representatives, all claims of any kind, nature and description are waived, including past, present or future claims and injuries, if any, sustained in travelling to or from, or participating in an ITF Seniors event, against the ITF, the National Association or the Regional Association sanctioning such events.

13. Results Sheets

In order that records can be maintained, Tournament Directors shall:

- a) Two (2) months prior to the commencement of the tournament, send to the ITF a copy of the tournament entry form and fact sheet
- b) Upon conclusion of the tournament, send to the ITF, or Tennis Europe, in the case of European tournaments, by fax or email
 - i) typed copies of complete drawsheets of all events, denoting seeds, wild cards, qualifiers and lucky losers. Nationality of players should also be clearly indicated on the drawsheet.

- ii) alphabetical typed list of all competitors by age category, giving full forenames and family names, nationalities and full dates of birth for every player.
- iii) appropriate form advising whether any age category events were amalgamated due to reduced number of entrants.
- iv) programme and report of the tournament.

The Referee shall also submit a report, including details of any penalties imposed under the Code of Conduct. A list of any penalties imposed shall be posted during the tournament on the competitors' notice board and shall be updated on a daily basis.

Any tournament not complying with these Regulations will be allocated a lower grade the following year, at the discretion of the Seniors Committee, or in exceptional circumstances, may not be accepted in the Circuit the following year.

14. ITF Responsibilities

The ITF Seniors Committee is responsible for the overall administration of the circuit and shall do its utmost to ensure that the calendar is widely publicised.

The ITF shall process results from all the tournaments on the Circuit and shall issue, on a quarterly basis or as otherwise determined by the Seniors Committee, the latest world ranking points accumulated by competitors. These shall be circulated to the international press, National Associations, Seniors Associations, tournament organisers and on request to other interested parties.

15. Method of Ranking

To be ranked in singles a player must reach a round where points are available (see points table below). The number of points available will vary dependent upon the grading of the tournament and the round reached.

The official published rankings will be calculated on a 52-week rollover system and published on a quarterly basis. At any given time, however, only the latest ITF Seniors and Super-Seniors Championships will count for ranking purposes.

The best four singles results in ITF Seniors Circuit Tournaments listed in Grade A, Grade B and Grades 1-4 will be taken into consideration for the ranking.

If two or more players receive the same number of points, their ranking will follow the number of points they scored in Grade A tournaments. If two or more players are still equal, their ranking will follow the number of points they scored in Grade 1 tournaments and so on down to Grade 4 tournaments, excluding Grade B (ITF Team Competitions).

When a player qualifies for a new age group, the current ranking shall not be carried forward to the new Age Group and the ranking calculations shall start again;

16. Allocation of Points

- a) Tournaments shall be graded, based mainly on a computer evaluation of the standard of participant competing in the previous year's tournament, while maintaining a geographical balance, with ranking points as set out below in the points table below.
- b) Points shall be awarded for main draw singles play only. No points will be awarded to a player until he/she has won a round. Walkovers will be counted as a match won.

- c) If a tournament is abandoned, players will receive points for the round reached up to that point.
- d) Should any Age Group in an ITF Seniors Circuit event be amalgamated with a lower age group event, and players in the former be forced to play down, then those players shall be awarded points in his/her own age group provided that the event organiser notifies the ITF of the amalgamation and the date of birth of the player winning points is known,

17. ITF Points Tables

The Seniors Committee shall, from time to time, in its sole discretion, determine the points to be awarded in each tournament grade and to the events approved for inclusion therein. This change shall not take effect until 1st January following the decision.

The Points Tables operative from the commencement of these Rules shall be as follows:

Category	World Championships	1	2	3	4
Winner	250	180	120	80	60
Runner-up	180	120	80	60	45
Semi-finalist	120	90	65	50	35
Quarter-finalist	90	75	50	35	20
Loser in Last 16	75	50	30	20	
Loser in last 32	50				

Category B – ITF Seniors/Super-Seniors World Team Championships

Singles players (No. 1 & No. 2) will receive the following points per win in each match as appropriate:

Round Robin Section	No. 1 Player	No. 2 Player
	20	15

Final Stage Matches – No. 1 Player

Final Position of Nation	1st match won	2nd match won	3rd match won
1 st	40	50	60
2 nd	35	45	55
3 rd	30	40	50
4 th	25	35	45
5 th	20	30	40
6 th	15	25	35
7 th	10	20	30
8 th	10	20	30

Final Stage Matches – No. 2 Player

Final Position of Nation	1st match won	2nd match won	3rd match won
1 st	30	40	50
2 nd	25	35	45
3 rd	20	30	40
4 th	15	25	35
5 th	10	20	30
6 th	5	15	25
7 th	5	15	25
8 th	5	15	25

IV. TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

18. Variations to Regulations

If a tournament committee wishes to vary any of the following regulations, written application shall be made to the ITF office, giving full reasons for the request. Such application must be received not later than two months before the first scheduled day of play in the tournament.

19. Competitors

All tournaments shall be open to all eligible players of appropriate age category. However, closed tournaments may be open only to competitors qualified to represent a particular country or region.

Only players who are in good standing with their National Association, as set out in Appendix A, shall be permitted to participate.

20. Number of Entries

Main draw entries shall be limited in accordance with the availability of courts and time. There shall be a minimum number of 8 competitors in the singles main draw in any age category in Grade A, 1, 2, 3 and 4 tournaments to enable players to qualify for points. At a one age-group only tournament there shall be a minimum number of 32 competitors in the singles main draw. In the age categories of men's 75, 80 and 85 and women's 70 and 75, the minimum number should be 4 and 16 respectively.

If too few entries are received then categories should be merged to enable competitors to gain world ranking points, as laid out in Section 16 d

In the event that too many entries are received for the main draw, a qualifying event for local players shall be held.

21. Seeding

Seeding shall be at the discretion of the tournament committee, who shall take into consideration a player's national, regional and international ranking, players' head to head results, the results from ITF Seniors Circuit tournaments and results of the competition in previous years. Persons responsible for seeding should also check the Age Groups above and below to see if players are ranked in those categories

It should also be noted that a player's position on the national, regional or international ranking list does not guarantee that player a right to be seeded. However, the ITF strongly recommends that players appearing in the top 30 of the ITF Seniors ranking list are considered for seeding. Where no other information is available, the seeding should be based on the ITF Seniors ranking.

22. Number of Seeds

The number of seeds shall not exceed the following:

For a draw of 48/64/128:	16 seeds
For a draw of 24/32	: 8 seeds
For a draw of 16	: 4 seeds
For a draw of 8	: 2 seeds

23. Making a Draw

a) The Main Draw

The main draws shall be conducted in public and shall be made no earlier than the first day of the qualifying competition. If there is no qualifying competition, the draws should be made no earlier than 48 hours before play begins.

b) Placing of Seeds

With the exception of category A events when the placement of seeds shall take into consideration the provision of Section IV Regulation 21, seeds shall be placed or drawn as follows:

1. Place seed 1 on line 1 and seed 2 on the bottom line of the draw.
2. To determine the placement of the remaining seeds, draw in pairs of two (seeds 3 and 4) and groups of four (seeds 5-8, 9-12 and 13-16) from top to bottom as follows:

16 draw (4 seeds)	24/32 draw (8 seeds)	48/64 draw (16 seeds)	96/128 draw (16 seeds)
3,4	5	9	17
	12	24	48
			33
			96
5, 6, 7, 8	8	16	32
	16	32	64
	17	33	65
	25	49	97
9, 10, 11, 12		9	17
		25	49
		40	80
		56	112
13, 14, 15, 16		8	16
		24	48
		41	81
		57	113

24. Byes

In the event there are not enough competitors to fill the draw, then after the seeds are placed in the draw, the required number of byes shall be awarded to the highest seeds as a first priority and any remaining byes shall be drawn by lot in a manner so as to distribute them as evenly as possible throughout the sections of the draw.

25. Suspension and Postponement

The chair umpire may suspend a match temporarily due to darkness or conditions of the grounds or weather. Any such suspension by the chair umpire must be reported immediately to the Referee. The Referee must, however, make all decisions on the postponement of a match until a later day. Unless and until a match is postponed by the Referee, the players, chair umpire and all on-court officials must remain ready to resume the match.

Upon suspension of a match, the chair umpire shall record the time, point, game and set score, and the name of the server, the sides on which each player was situated and shall collect all balls in use for the match. If suspension is due to darkness it should be after an even number of games have been played in the set in progress or at the end of a set. There shall be five (5) minutes of warm-up before a match. In the case of a suspended or postponed match, the period of warm-up shall be as follows:

- | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------|
| 0 – 15 minutes delay | - | no warm-up |
| more than 15 minutes, but less than 30 minutes | - | three (3) minutes of warm-up |
| 30 or more minutes of delay | - | five (5) minutes of warm-up |

26. Withdrawal and Replacement of Seeds

Seeding will not be official until the final draw is made.

Any vacancy created by the withdrawal of a seed shall be filled by the next highest ranked player in the main draw eligible to be seeded. The position vacated by that next highest ranked player shall then be filled by the next player on the original acceptance list if prior to the commencement of qualifying or by the eligible lucky loser if after commencement of qualifying. Any vacancy created by the withdrawal of a seed which occurs after the release of the order of play on the day preceding commencement of play in the main draw shall be filled by an eligible lucky loser, where a qualifying event is staged.

V. ORGANISATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

27. Closing Date for Entries

The closing date for entries shall be set to enable those players required to take part in qualifying, or those players whose entry has not been accepted, to be advised in good time.

28. Entry Fees

The amount of an entry fee shall be determined by each tournament committee, however, such amount must be reasonable.

29 Courts

All match courts for each event shall be played on the same surface throughout the tournament. However, in the event of bad weather, play may be moved to another surface, either under cover or not.

The ITF recommends that scoreboards with players' names are used on all courts in Grade 1 and 2 tournaments.

It is also recommended that in tournaments with foreign participation, on-site player announcements are made in English as well as the local language.

30. Fact Sheet

All relevant information on arrangements for the tournament shall be made available to players and the ITF in the form of a fact sheet, which shall include the following information:

- i) Start and finish date of the tournament
- ii) Closing date for receipt of entries
- iii) Sign-in information, if appropriate
- iv) Name, telephone, facsimile and email details of the tournament director
- v) Tournament site (address, telephone and facsimile numbers)
- vi) Court surface
- vii) Make of ball
- viii) Official hotel (including rates, if appropriate, and contact details)
- ix) Transportation information
- x) Any other relevant details i.e. the name of the Referee, details of any social functions planned, etc.

Fact sheets must be forwarded to the ITF by facsimile or email at least two (2) months before the official start of the tournament.

31. Continuous Play

a) Between qualifying and main draw:

Other than in exceptional circumstances, no player shall be required to play his/her first round match in the singles main draw until at least twelve (12) hours after the completion of his/her final qualifying match.

b) Between matches:

Except when weather or other unavoidable circumstances causes schedule disruption, players shall be scheduled for a maximum of one (1) singles match and one (1) doubles match per day, which shall not be scheduled less than twelve (12) hours after completion of the last match of such player on the preceding day or round.

Whenever it is necessary to schedule more than one match in the same day such player shall, unless he/she is in a singles and doubles final to be played consecutively, be given the following minimum rest periods:

- i) played less than one (1) hour – half ($\frac{1}{2}$) an hour rest
- ii) played between one (1) hour and one and one half ($1 \frac{1}{2}$) hours – one (1) hour rest
- iii) played more than one and one half ($1 \frac{1}{2}$) hours – one and one half ($1 \frac{1}{2}$) hours rest

If play has been interrupted for thirty (30) minutes or more due to rain or other warranted delay, the length of match time would be assessed from the moment play resumes following the delay.

If play is interrupted for less than thirty (30) minutes, match time would be considered continuous from the moment the first ball of the match was put into play.

c) Between sets:

A ten-minute rest period shall be taken after the second set in singles and doubles events unless the players concerned agree otherwise. Players may leave the court during the ten-minute rest period.

The above does not apply in the case of a deciding ten (10) point tie-break game, in which case play should be continuous.

When a ten-minute rest period is taken, the players concerned shall immediately inform the chair umpire, or where there is no chair umpire, the Referee, so that he/she may determine the exact time for play to resume. In the event of failure by one or more of the players to return and commence play at the agreed time, the chair umpire or Referee may impose penalties according to the following schedule:

Point Penalty Schedule

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| a) Players returning to commence play within five (5) minutes of the agreed time for play to resume: | warning |
| b) Players returning to commence play later than five minutes after the agreed time for play to resume: | loss of point |
| c) Players returning to commence play later than ten minutes and for each subsequent period of five minutes after the agreed time for play to resume: | loss of game |

32. Balls

i) Main Draw / Qualifying

In main draw and qualifying there shall be a minimum of three new balls for each match; (another three new balls shall be provided for any third set.) Practice

Balls shall be provided for practice, but it is not obligatory to give new balls for this purpose.

33. Practice Facilities

Practice courts shall be made available to participants, free of charge, wherever possible.

34. Consolation Event

Unless courts are unavailable, a consolation event shall be held for all players losing in their first match in either the first or second round. Advancement by virtue of a bye or walkover in a player's first match shall not count as a match won for the purpose of the consolation event. It should be noted that ITF Seniors world ranking points are not awarded for matches won in consolation events.

35. Related Regulations

To the extent not covered herein The Constitution of ITF Limited and the Rules of Tennis shall be applicable to all ITF Seniors Circuit Tournaments. Such applicability shall not affect the right of the ITF Seniors Circuit Tournaments to promulgate and enforce their own special regulations insofar as they are consistent with the applicable provisions of these Rules and Regulations and have been approved by the ITF.