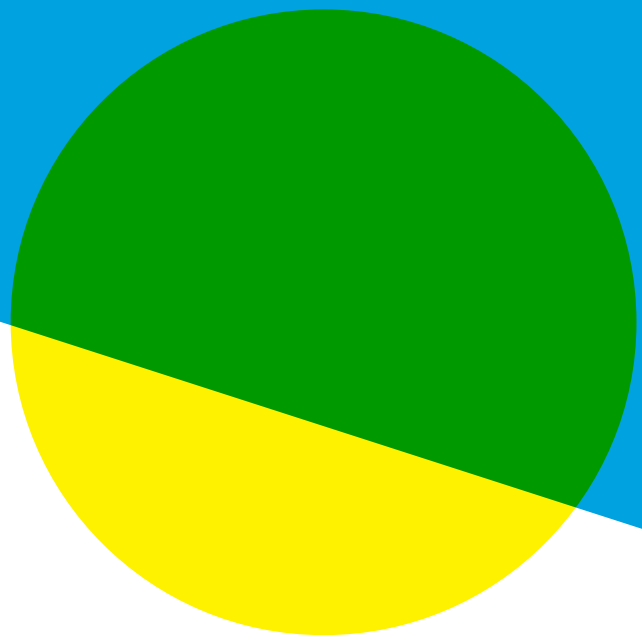




COURT
SURFACE
ASSESSMENT
PROGRAMMES





THE COURT INFLUENCES A PLAYER'S MOVEMENT, HOW THE BALL BOUNCES AND ULTIMATELY HOW A PLAYER MUST ADAPT THEIR GAME

With an estimated \$30 billion having been invested in tennis court construction worldwide, it is understandable that suppliers and end-users are keen to establish the quality of construction and how fast a court will play.

In response, the International Tennis Federation Science & Technical Department has introduced a range of programmes that categorise the speed of the court and quantify the quality of installation.

ITF Court Pace Classification Programme

This programme classifies tennis court surfaces according to their speed of play. Launched in 2000, the ITF Court Pace Classification Programme lists in excess of 200 classified products from all over the world.

ITF Recognition Programme

To complement the Court Pace Classification Programme, court owners and tournament organisers can have their courts tested for quality of installation and Court Pace Rating under the ITF Recognition Programme. In addition, ITF

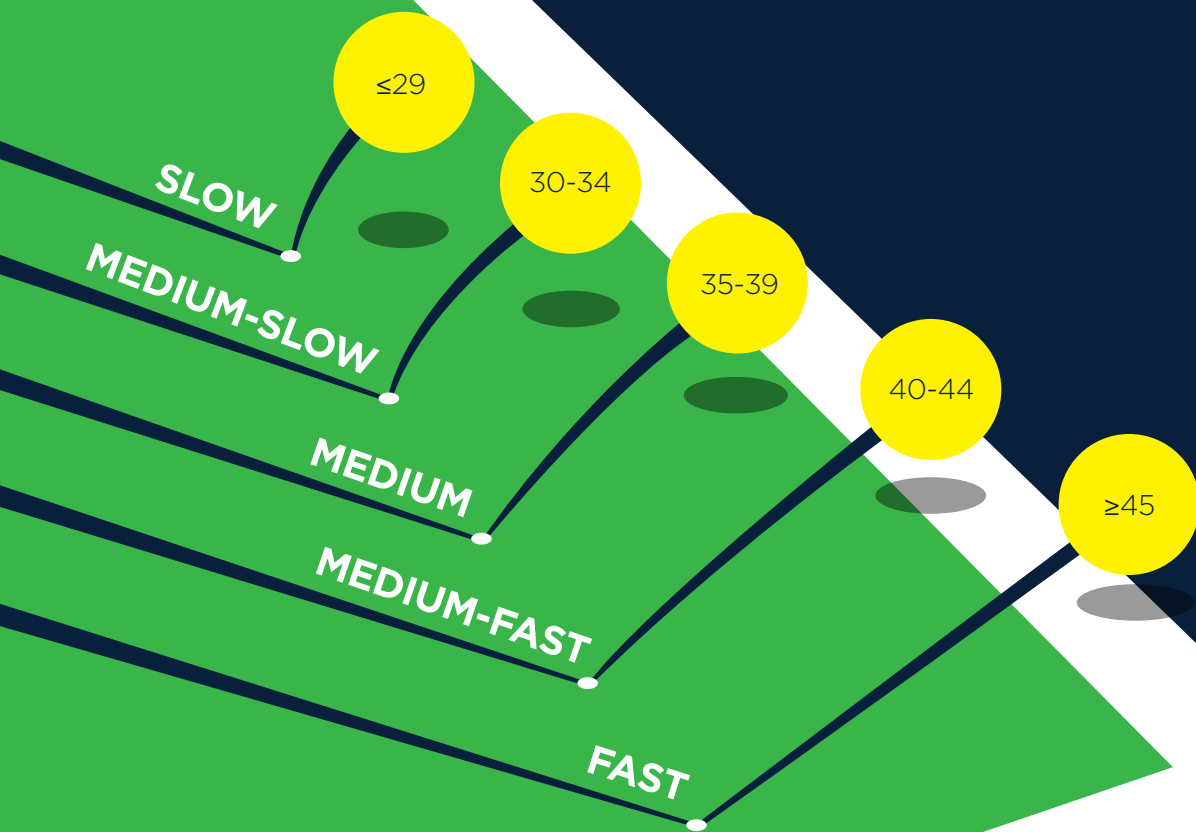
Recognition offers suppliers and contractors the opportunity to demonstrate the quality of their products and installation skills. Amongst the first courts to be awarded ITF Recognition were those at Eton Manor in London, the venue for the 2012 Paralympic Tennis Event.

Who should be interested in using these programmes?

- Court surface manufacturers and installers
- Facility designers, architects and engineers
- National Tennis Associations and tournament organisers
- Owners of tennis clubs

For more detailed information, please visit the ITF Technical website www.itftennis.com/en/about-us/tennis-tech/

ITF COURT PACE CLASSIFICATION PROGRAMME



The ITF Court Pace Classification Programme has been developed to help purchasers of tennis courts to select the surface most suited to their requirements. By classifying surfaces into one of five Court Pace Rating categories; slow, medium-slow, medium, medium-fast and fast, end-users can select a surface based on its speed of play.



COURT PACE RATING		SPEED
Category 1	Slow	≤ 29
Category 2	Medium-slow	30-34
Category 3	Medium	35-39
Category 4	Medium-fast	40-44
Category 5	Fast	≥ 45

Court pace is established by firing a ball at the surface and recording its velocity before and after the bounce. Rougher surfaces, which generate more friction between the ball and the court, reduce the horizontal speed of the ball, making a court 'slower'. Additionally, surfaces that have

a higher bounce play slower because players have more time to reach the ball. Court Pace Rating uses both of these factors to determine how fast, or slow, a court is.

Specialist testing equipment, comprising an air cannon and infrared timing gates, is used to measure court pace. This equipment, which can be used on all tennis surfaces, either on-site or in a laboratory, requires expert operation.

As such, all tests for ITF Classification are made by an ITF Accredited laboratory, either on-site or in the laboratory.

A product on the list of ITF Classified surfaces is included purely on the basis of its Court Pace Rating and is classified for 3 years.

ITF RECOGNITION PROGRAMME

ITF Recognition provides an independent assessment of the quality of a court and offers contractors an opportunity to demonstrate the calibre of their products and installation skills.



The ITF Recognition Programme is targeted at those venues where the standard of play demands the specification of precise playing characteristics, e.g. at international tournaments and national or regional tennis centres.

One-Star ITF Recognition

Key installation properties of a court must meet ITF recommendations, which include a visual inspection to identify any cracks or gaps in the surface and to confirm that the appearance is uniform. Next, any bumps or dips in the surface are measured and the slope and planarity of the court are established. Finally, the positions of the court markings and net are checked to ensure they are within acceptable limits.

Two-Star ITF Recognition

In addition to the One-Star tests described above, the Court Pace Rating is compared with the ITF Classified value for that surface product. Therefore, only surfaces which have obtained ITF Classification can be tested for Two-Star ITF Recognition. If the surface product is not classified, the supplier can apply for ITF Classification using the results of the on-site Two-Star Court Pace Rating test.

Applications and Validity

An application for ITF Recognition can be submitted by any party with an interest in the tennis facility, such as the owner, the organiser of a tournament held at that facility, or the supplier or installer of the court.

All organisations which are awarded ITF Recognition will have the venue and court(s) published on the ITF Technical website, and, for Two-Star ITF Recognition, the product brand name will also be displayed.

ITF Recognition expires when the court is resurfaced, or after 10 years, whichever is the sooner. However, the results are only valid on the day of testing, as properties of the court may change, due to factors such as ambient conditions, use and maintenance.



BECOMING AN ELITE ITF RECOGNISED SUPPLIER OR INSTALLER

Court surface suppliers and/or installers who obtain a certain number of ITF Recognition awards will be given Elite ITF Recognised Supplier/Installer status in recognition of the continued high quality of their products and workmanship.

ELITE SILVER LEVEL

FOR 10 OR MORE
ITF ONE-STAR
OR TWO-STAR
CERTIFICATES



ELITE GOLD LEVEL

FOR 50 OR MORE
ITF ONE-STAR
OR TWO-STAR
CERTIFICATES



GAME, SET, MATCH

THE BENEFITS

For any sport, the right environment is crucial. Whether attracting new participants or helping them reach their potential, facilities play a vital role in the growth of sport. Get it right and people will enjoy visiting; get it wrong and participation and attitudes may be negatively affected.

The ITF court assessment programmes have been designed to provide a range of benefits for:

Manufacturers – to show they can produce high-quality materials

Installers – to demonstrate their ability to install courts to a high standard

End-users – to confirm that their investment has been justified

Introduction

Francesco Ricci Bitti, President, International Tennis Federation:

The ITF Science & Technical Department continues to play a leading role in tennis equipment research and regulation. The ITF Court Pace Classification Programme, which first introduced the measurement of court speed in 2000, has become increasingly successful and has led to important changes to many tournaments, including Davis Cup and Fed Cup.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the ITF Recognition Programme, which complements the Court Pace Classification Programme, and aims to enhance the quality of tennis courts world-wide by providing a means of assessing whether a court meets ITF performance recommendations. By encouraging an improvement in the quality of tennis courts, the ITF Recognition programme can help to improve the enjoyment of tennis.

End-user testimonial

Stuart Smith, former President of the Lawn Tennis Association of Great Britain and Member of the ITF Board of Directors

The LTA has used ITF Recognition to establish the long-term performance of its courts, which has contributed to the process of identifying when a court should be resurfaced. This has helped the LTA ensure that its courts are consistently of the required quality.



Installer/Manufacturer testimonial

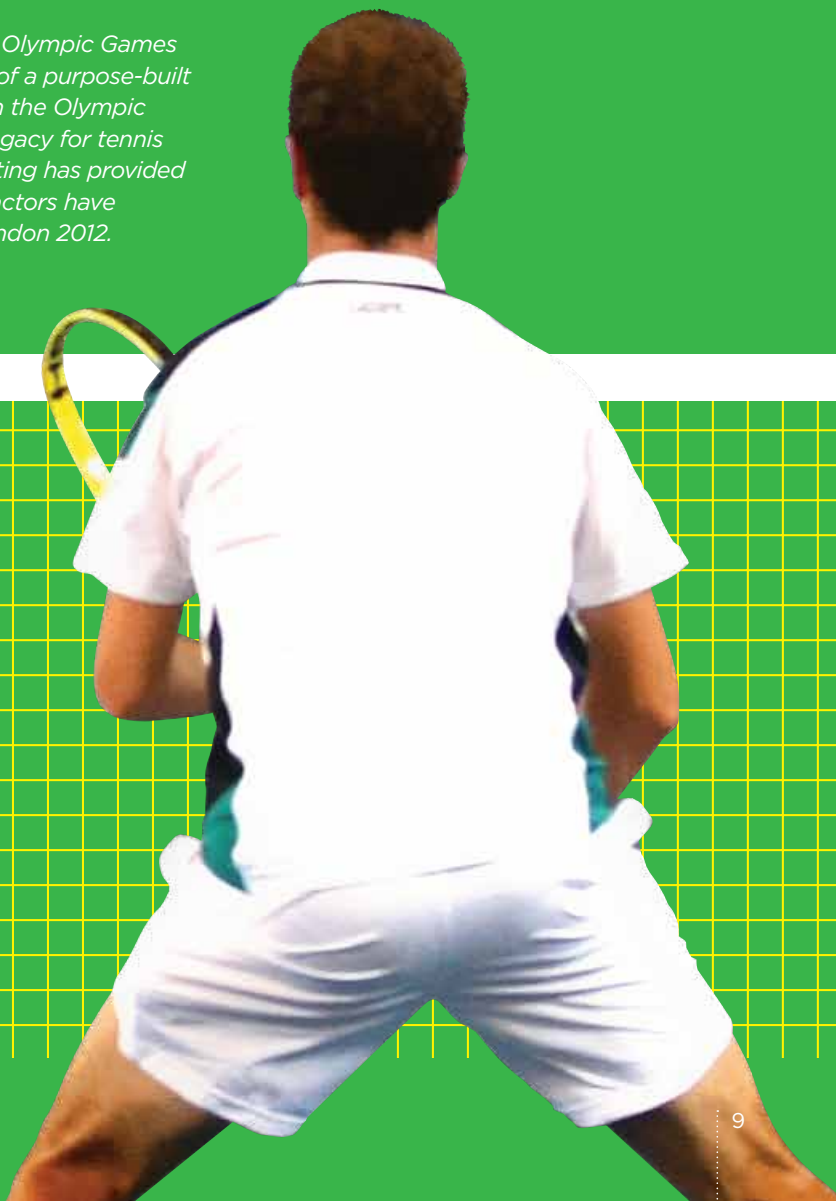
Davor Sarin, Concept 90, Zagreb, Croatia:

ITF Court Pace Classification has been invaluable in the marketing of our tennis court surfaces, and has helped our company to expand internationally. We were also the first company to obtain Two-Star ITF Recognition (for the Tennis Park in Moscow), which enabled us to provide evidence to our client of the high quality of installation. We have a number of other clients who are interested in obtaining ITF Recognition. We are proud to invest in a programme that enables the quality of our products and workmanship to be internationally recognised.

End-user testimonial

Clare Wood, Competition Manager for the Paralympic Tennis Event:

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) has invested in the construction of a purpose-built tennis facility at Eton Manor Sports Club in the Olympic Park, which will provide a much-needed legacy for tennis in this area of London. ITF Recognition testing has provided LOCOG with the assurance that the contractors have installed top quality tennis surfaces for London 2012.





TESTING ORGANISATIONS



ITF Accredited Laboratories

Only ITF Accredited laboratories can undertake testing for Court Pace Classification or Two-Star ITF Recognition. These laboratories are also eligible to conduct all necessary testing for One-Star ITF Recognition. These companies are professional organisations with expertise in testing sports surfaces. A list of accredited laboratories can be found on the ITF Technical website.

ITF Recognised Assessor

To facilitate the testing of tennis surfaces for One-Star ITF Recognition, the ITF approves companies who can demonstrate suitable experience in surveying, using internationally recognised standards.

HOW TO OBTAIN ITF COURT PACE CLASSIFICATION

How to obtain ITF Court Pace Classification

- 1** Contact an ITF Accredited laboratory to obtain a quotation for the testing fee and arrange for the surface product to be tested, either on-site, or using samples sent to their laboratory.
- 2** A draft test report will be issued, confirming the Court Pace Rating.
- 3** Submit an application form to the ITF, who will issue an invoice.
- 4** The final test report and an ITF Court Pace Classification certificate are provided, and the product(s) published on the ITF website www.itftennis.com/en/about-us/tennis-tech/classified-surfaces.
- 5** The product is Classified for 3 years, during which time the company can use an ITF Court Pace Classification logo to promote their product.

How to obtain ITF Recognition

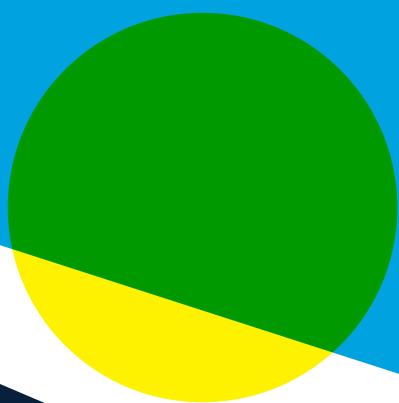
- 1** Submit an application for One-Star or Two-Star ITF Recognition to the ITF and pay the administration fee.
- 2** Select an ITF Accredited laboratory or ITF Recognised Assessor and arrange a test date. Have the court(s) tested and the report(s) sent to the ITF.
- 3** An ITF Recognition certificate and website listing for the court(s) will then be provided.

Note: Two-Star Recognition cannot be awarded without comparison against an ITF Classified product. If the surface product is not classified, the product supplier can apply for ITF Classification using the results of the on-site Two-Star Court Pace Rating test.

For more detailed information, please visit the ITF Technical website www.itftennis.com/en/about-us/tennis-tech/classified-surfaces

FACILITIES GUIDELINES AND SUPPLIERS' DIRECTORY

The ITF has established a working group of facilities experts from major tennis playing nations, to design and develop an international Facilities Guide, which represents 'best practice' from around the world. It is a simple reference for those wanting to build a tennis court whether domestic, club or tournament, and offers information about layout design and choosing and maintaining surfaces. This guide is available to view on the ITF Technical website www.itftennis.com/en/about-us/tennis-tech/facilities



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