

# INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION REGULATIONS FOR WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

## 2024 Summary of Changes

The following pages provide a summary of the key changes to the 2024 Wheelchair Regulations. These are not the regulations. The full Tour Regulations can be seen in the 'Governance - Rules & Regulations' section at [www.itftennis.com](http://www.itftennis.com). Changes made from the previous year (2023) are shown in underlined text.

### 5b) **Paralympic Games & Regional Games (Multi-sport Games)**

After being an exhibition sport at the 1988 Paralympic Games, wheelchair tennis became a full medal sport in 1992.

The regulations for the Paralympic Games & Regional Paralympic Games Wheelchair Tennis Events (together, "IPC Events") are decided by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) or Regional Paralympic Committees (RPC), as appropriate, and the Local Organising Committee in conjunction with the ITF. In order to participate, a country must be a member of the ITF and the IPC or RPC, as appropriate.

Alternative sanctioning, organisational, administrative and entry processes may be introduced for events sanctioned by the IPC or RPC, to be sanctioned and included as ITF Tournaments and as part of the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Tour.

All appropriate regulations and processes will be published by ITF and communicated as appropriate for the benefit of players and National Associations.

The ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee is responsible for sanctioning the events to the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Calendar.

## 6. APPLICATIONS

The sanctioning process for Regional Games and the Paralympics Games does not require the submission of a standard tournament application by the host National Association. Sanctioning of such events as ITF Tournaments will be considered and awarded at the discretion of the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee.

### 11e) **Schedule**

Every evening, the schedule for the following day's play shall be published and displayed in the stadium and hotels or otherwise be made available for competitors and coaches. The schedule shall be released no later than 20:00hrs local time the night before each day's play.

### **12b)b. Referee Duties**

After the draws are made and after the end of play each day, the Referee must submit results and Order of Play information to the ITF by uploading data from WheelsTP and also email PDF files of the up-to-date draws and next day's Order of Play to ITF. The Order of play shall be released by 20:00hrs local time the night before each day's play.

### **16 f) OFFICIATING**

During matches with Chair Umpires, if the view of a Chair Umpire is impeded the Chair Umpire may request or accept the assistance of a Line Umpire, Off-Court Umpire or Referee (where no Line Umpires exist) to help determine whether players are "lifting", more specifically whether they fail to comply with the requirement to remain in contact with the seat during the playing of a point, in accordance with Appendix A, section d) iii) and e)vi). Chair Umpires must inform players when such assistance is being used before relying upon this assistance to call "lifting".

### **17b. Tournament Fact Sheet**

A Tournament Fact Sheet should be sent to the ITF and available to the players and National Associations at least six (6) weeks before the start of the tournament. This must include the following information:

XV. Name and contact details of the designated safeguarding lead for the tournament

### **27. Player Recording of Matches**

Notwithstanding Regulation 26 above, the recording of matches by a Player/s and their Support Team Members for the sole purposes of performance video analysis and personal use is permitted subject to the conditions set out below. Recordings under this Regulation must be exclusively of tennis matches or tennis practices. Recording under this Regulation is at the sole discretion of the ITF Tournament Referee and the ITF Wheelchair Department.

- i. Recording may only take place once the ITF Tournament Referee, Tournament Director and the Opponent/s has given their express authorisation.
- ii. Recording may only be made using a Digital Camera – this may include Video Recorders, DSLRs and Go Pros. Currently Tablets, Mobile Phone and Laptop/Computers may not be used for recording.
- iii. For the avoidance of doubt, this Regulation does not apply for Junior players. All recordings of Junior players must be compliant with Regulation 26.
- iv. The recording shall not be used to determine or dispute any decision made by an Official in relation to the officiating or outcome of a match.

- v. During the match, if the Opponent/s or Coach withdraws their consent to the recording, and/or on instruction from the ITF Tournament Referee, the Player/s or their Support Team Member must immediately cease recording and delete the recording.
- vi. All decisions made by the ITF Referee are final and not subject to appeal.
- vii. Publishing the recording online or via social media is permitted subject to the following conditions:
  - a. publishing of the recording may only take place once [ITF Tournament Referee, the ITF Wheelchair Department and the Opponent/s has given their express authorisation;
  - b. the recording must not be streamed live or with a delay for any purpose;
  - c. unless otherwise agreed by the ITF, no more than 10 minutes in aggregate of any match recording should be included within any content posted online or via social media;
  - d. the recording must not bring the ITF or the sport of Tennis into disrepute, in ITF's sole discretion;
  - e. if the Opponent/s withdraws their consent for the recording to be published online or via social media, on instruction from the Opponent/s, the Player must remove the specified recording published by the Player.
- viii. The ITF shall not be responsible for the use, dissemination, retention or disposal of any recording, in whole or part, recorded permitted in accordance with the Regulations.
- ix. Any recording should be stored securely to avoid inappropriate or unauthorised use and deleted when it is no longer required.
- x. Failure to comply with this process shall be considered a breach of ITF Wheelchair Regulations Section 27. (Player Recording of matches) and the person responsible shall be subject to sanction.

### **37b) FORMAT OF PLAY**

All singles matches with the exception of consolation matches shall be the best of three (3) sets. Consolation matches will be the best of three sets, the first two to be played as tie-break sets but if the score is one set all, one match tie-break (10 points) shall be played to decide the match.

### **41 FEED-UP CARDS (SINGLES ONLY)**

Feed-up cards must be used in draws that meet the set draw size listed above. They cannot be used at events that offer a reduced draw size.

Feed-up cards cannot be used to enter Grand Slam and Singles Masters events, Paralympic Games or Regional Games.

### **42e) Withdrawals**

In Singles, players withdrawing where permitted in the Code of Conduct will receive Singles Ranking points and prize money for the round that they reached.

In Doubles, teams withdrawing where permitted in the Code of Conduct will receive Doubles Ranking points and prize money for the previous round, unless one of the following exceptions below is applicable in which case both players will receive loser's point and loser's prize money from the round in which they withdraw or retire. The exceptions are:

- i) Neither player was in the Singles main draw
- ii) The retiring/withdrawing player is still in the singles competition and at the time of the medical examination is declared unfit to play in the singles of that event or, if no longer involved in the Singles competition of that event, is forced to withdraw from the Singles or Doubles of the following tournament.
- iii) If the retiring/withdrawing player was not in the Singles draw of that event and forced to withdraw from the following tournament's singles or doubles event (before leaving the tournament site in the case of Prize Money);
- iv) if the retiring/withdrawing player had withdrawn/retired from his Singles match which was scheduled the same day, or if the Doubles match is scheduled for a following day the player is examined by the tournament Doctor and is declared unfit for competition in the Doubles event; or
- v) in the event the partner causing the withdrawal is declared medically unfit to play Singles or doubles at the same Tournament due to an illness that could cause a danger to the public health, he shall receive the ranking points per the round he withdrew.

#### **44. PRIZE MONEY**

Tournaments are responsible for any fees associated with electronic payments. Such fees must not be deducted from prize money.

- o) Where a tournament has started, but cannot be completed because of bad weather conditions, prize money will be added up and split equally between the players remaining in the tournament. For clarity, these are players who have not been eliminated and would therefore still have matches to play in the Main Draw. For clarity, these are players who have not been eliminated and would therefore still have matches to play in the Main Draw.

## 45 WHEELCHAIR TENNIS RANKING SYSTEM

### A. MAIN DRAW (Singles and Doubles)

#### ITF1 Reduced Draw Size New Events (updated April 2024)

	<b>W</b>	<b>RU</b>	<b>SF</b>	<b>QF</b>
<b>16</b>	275	192	124	69
<b>12</b>	255	178	115	64
<b>8</b>	235	164	106	2

### PARALYMPICS

#### MEN

<u>Draw</u>	<u>WR</u>	<u>RU</u>	<u>SF</u>	<u>QF</u>	<u>12/16</u>	<u>24/32</u>	<u>56/64</u>
<u>64/56</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>525</u>	<u>336</u>	<u>186</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>2</u>

#### WOMEN

<u>Draw</u>	<u>WR</u>	<u>RU</u>	<u>SF</u>	<u>QF</u>	<u>12/16</u>	<u>24/32</u>
<u>32</u>	<u>650</u>	<u>456</u>	<u>292</u>	<u>162</u>	<u>90*</u>	<u>2</u>

#### QUAD

<u>Draw</u>	<u>WR</u>	<u>RU</u>	<u>SF</u>	<u>QF</u>	<u>12/16</u>
<u>16</u>	<u>485</u>	<u>340</u>	<u>218</u>	<u>121*</u>	<u>2</u>

### REGIONAL GAMES

#### MEN

<u>Draw</u>	<u>WR</u>	<u>RU</u>	<u>SF</u>	<u>QF</u>	<u>12/16</u>	<u>24/32</u>
<u>24</u>	220	154	99	55	29*	2

#### WOMEN

<u>Draw</u>	<u>WR</u>	<u>RU</u>	<u>SF</u>	<u>QF</u>	<u>12/16</u>
<u>16</u>	195	137	88	49*	2

## QUAD

<u>Draw</u>	<u>WR</u>	<u>RU</u>	<u>SF</u>	<u>QF</u>	<u>12/16</u>
<u>12</u>	170	119	77	43*	2

*\* Stated points not applicable for doubles event. Two points will be allocated to that round instead.*

### **46. COMPETITION**

#### **d) Competition**

Only Open or Quad Division players with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) or Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD) (with the relevant date specified for the competition) are permitted to compete.

#### **52g) Match Tie Breaks**

Match Tie Breaks will be used in all doubles matches. In round robins match tie breaks will count as one set won and 1-0 in games.

Unless otherwise decided by the ITF, for all “non-live” play-off ties (ie. ties not played for relegation/promotion or for a medal position) the singles format will be best of three sets, the first two to be played as tie-break sets but if the score is one set all, one match tie-break (10 points) shall be played to decide the match.

This will apply to:

- (a) Men’s play-off for position 5-8 and 13-16.
- (b) Women’s play-off for position 5-8 and 9-12
- (c) Quad play-off for position 5-6 and 7-8 (please note that the first round of the quad play-off for position 5-8 is a live tie).
- (d) Junior’s play-off for position 5-6 and 7-8

No advantage will be played in all junior doubles matches. The receivers can decide who will play the return.

#### **53c) Nomination of Players, Reserves and Captains**

Nominations of individual players and captains to each team must be received by the ITF at least six (6) weeks prior to the Competition. Such nominations shall be made in accordance with Regulation 55(f).

A player can only be nominated for one team at the same event. For clarification purposes this means a junior can represent an Open/Quad team at a qualification event and then a junior team at the World Group

event, but not an Open or Quad team and a junior team at the World Group.

## V. ON-SITE OFFENCES

### V-1. COVID-19 PROTOCOLS (TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANTS)

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the ITF introduced a requirement for Covered Persons to comply with the *ITF Return to International Tennis Protocols* including without limitation the *Minimum Standards of Behaviour* (the “**Protocols**”).

The ITF reserves the right at any time to reintroduce the obligation for Covered Persons to comply with the Protocols. The ITF’s decision to reintroduce the obligation for Covered Persons to comply with the Protocols shall be made entirely at the ITF’s discretion and shall be made without any obligation to notify Covered Persons, National Associations, Regional Associations or other governing bodies.

In the event the ITF decides to reintroduce the obligation for Covered Persons to comply with the Protocols, the provisions in a) - d) below shall apply.

## VI. MAJOR OFFENCES

### c) Determination and Penalty

Where, as the result of an investigation under this Section VI(c), the ITF forms the view that a Player or Related Person has a case to answer for commission of a Major Offence, the ITF shall send a written notice to the Player or Related Person (the “Notice of Charge”), with a copy to the Chair of the Independent Tribunal, setting out:

## IX. TOURNAMENT OFFENCES

### h) Covid-19 Protocols

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the ITF introduced a requirement for Tournaments to comply with the *ITF Return to International Tennis Protocols* including without limitation the *Minimum Standards of Behaviour* (the “**Protocols**”).

The ITF reserves the right at any time to reintroduce the obligation for Tournaments to comply with the Protocols. The ITF’s decision to reintroduce the obligation for Tournaments to comply with the Protocols shall be made entirely at the ITF’s discretion and shall be made without any obligation to notify Tournaments, National Associations, Regional Associations or other governing bodies.

In the event the ITF decides to reintroduce the obligation, a Tournament shall comply with the Protocols. Any failure to comply with the Protocols shall amount to a violation of this Article IX(h). Violation of this Article IX(h) shall subject the Tournament to a fine of up to \$5,000, forfeiture of all sums, if any, previously paid or due to the ITF, an order for reimbursement of unrecoverable expenses incurred by Covered Persons, withdrawal of its sanction and/or denial of subsequent applications to host.

## **APPENDIX G**

### **RECIPROCITY & INFORMATION SHARING**

The ITF requires a National Association and requests other tennis organisations (including but not limited to the Women’s Tennis Association and Association of Tennis Professionals and the Grand Slam Board) to inform the ITF in the event that it imposes a suspension of 6 months or longer against an individual player as a result of disciplinary proceedings (or equivalent proceedings).

The ITF reserves the right to ask the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel to affirm, modify, extend or reject with respect to any or all ITF Wheelchair Tennis tournaments, a suspension or other sanction issued against a Covered Person (as defined in Appendix F - ITF Welfare Policy) either by or on behalf of the ITF pursuant to a conduct or disciplinary process under any ITF code or policy or by any other tennis organisation (including but not limited to the Women’s Tennis Association and Association of Tennis Professionals, the Grand Slam Board, and each member national association) or other relevant authority.

When deciding whether to affirm, modify, extend or reject a suspension or other sanction imposed, the ITF will reciprocate the decision unless it considers that there is good reason not to do so. A good reason would include (but is not limited to):

- i) That the decision to impose the suspension or sanction was unreasonable;
- ii) That a fair process was not followed in reaching the decision to impose the suspension or sanction.

## **APPENDIX H**

### **THE PLAYERS**

Any Appeal against a final decision handed down by a National Association shall be lodged with the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel (‘IAP’) within 21 days of notification of the decision in question. Recourse may only be made to the IAP after all other internal channels of appeal to a National Association have been



exhausted. The IAP may set aside the determination of a National Tennis Association that a player is not of “Good Standing” only in exceptional circumstances, including if the IAP considers that:

- i) the Player has been deemed not of ‘Good Standing’ due to a suspension imposed as a result of conduct that was not intended to be captured by the ‘Good Standing’ requirement.
- ii) the decision of the National Association was unreasonable;
- iii) The National Association did not follow a fair process when reaching its decision.

The IAP will give a ruling having taken into account all relevant matters. The decision of the IAP will be provided in writing and shall be final and binding.

A Player with unpaid fines of \$500 or above owing to the ITF, having been afforded sufficient time to pay the fine(s), shall not be considered in ‘Good Standing’ and shall be ineligible to play in ITF Team Competitions until the fine(s) have been paid.