

## **UNIQLO WHEELCHAIR TENNIS TOUR RETURN TO TENNIS RANKING MODEL (COVID-19)**

***Last updated 8 September 2020***

### Ranking system criteria

Across the ITF Circuits department, the overall approach to reintegrating the different rankings is to provide fairness to players to the greatest extent possible, while also keeping the familiar concept of the rankings. For Wheelchair Tennis, ensuring a fair approach for qualification for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games that recognises results achieved during the original qualification period was also a priority.

As a result, until March 2021, those wheelchair players who cannot play because of travel restrictions or those who do not want to play because of health concerns, will not be penalised by losing points. Players who do play will be able to earn ranking points which may replace existing points as part of their best results for ranking purposes. For Wheelchair Tennis the ranking period will be extended, rising from 52 weeks up to 104 weeks by March 2021.

Given the ever-changing circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic, the ITF reserves the right to modify the rankings approach if a lack of tournaments or ongoing travel restrictions require it.

The amended rules for the UNIQLO Wheelchair ranking outlined below have been approved by the ITF Board (following consultation with and recommendations by both the ITF Wheelchair Committee and Player Council) and shall come into effect when Wheelchair Tennis resumes:

- From the resumption of competition (10 September – US Open, New York [USA]) and until 14 March 2021, a player's ranking will be comprised of his / her best X results (X = 7 for Quads, 8 Women, 9 Men) achieved between 18 March 2019 – 14 March 2021 (i.e. a 24 month /104 week ranking period).
- From resumption of competition until 14 March 2021, the Mandatory Event rule is suspended and therefore '0 pointers' will not be applied to the ranking of any relevant player who does not compete in a Mandatory Event.
- Results earned between 18 March 2019 and 15 March 2020 (i.e. 52 weeks) are protected and will have their ranking drop date extended by 52 weeks.
- Effective from 15 March 2021, points earned from 16 March 2020 will drop on an ongoing weekly basis and be replaced with points earned from tournaments in 2021 and 2022, as per the standard 52-week system.
- Results from all ITF tournaments can be counted a maximum of once within a player's best X results (i.e. double counting of the same tournament is not permitted). Results from tournaments upon resumption in 2020 until/through 14 March 2021 will replace a player's result from that tournament held the previous year if it is a better result and provided it is one of the player's best X results.
- By 13 March 2022, the ranking period will have reverted to 12 months / 52 weeks.