

## 2024 ITF BEACH TENNIS WORLD TOUR REGULATIONS

### Summary of Key Rules Changes (as at 13 December 2023)

The following pages provide a summary of the key changes to the 2024 ITF Beach Tennis World Tour Regulations. These are not the regulations. The full Tour Regulations can be seen in the 'Beach Tennis' section at [www.itftennis.com](http://www.itftennis.com).

Changes made from the previous year (2023) are shown in underlined text.

#### E.10 Rankings and Allocation of Points

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Ranking points earned at major events (i.e. categories above BT400) will remain active until the end of the next respective editions of those events. Where a major event is cancelled in the following year, the points earned will be removed in accordance with the standard 52-week rollover system.

Points earned at any non-annual tournament will be removed in accordance with the standard 52-week rollover system.

If the same BT100, BT200, or BT400 tournament is held twice within a 52-week period then only a player's best result over the two tournaments shall count with the points from each tournament being eligible for World Ranking for a 52-week period.

#### F.3 Entry, Freeze, and Withdrawal Deadline

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Following the entry deadline, the ITF Beach Tennis Department will review the entry lists with the potential following outcomes:

If there are less than four entries in both men's doubles and women's doubles draws, the Tournament Organiser will be provided with the opportunity to cancel the tournament with no liability.

If a men's or women's draw has less than half the available entries (based on the published draw size), the department will update the published draw size as follows:

Less than 16 entries in a 32 draw – draw size reduced to 24

Less than 8 entries in a 32 draw – draw size reduced to 16

Less than 12 entries in a 24 draw – draw size reduced to 16

Less than 8 entries in a 16 draw – no change to draw size

Entries received after the Entry Deadline, and before the Freeze Deadline, may be accepted at the discretion of the Tournament Organiser. Acceptance priority shall be given to teams that enter before the Entry Deadline. The Tournament Organiser must advise the ITF of any accepted teams promptly. Changes will be made on the ITF website.

The Freeze Deadline is at 14.00 GMT on the Tuesday of the Tournament Week, except in the case that the tournament commences on a Monday-Wednesday, when the Freeze Deadline will be the same date as the Withdrawal Deadline.

Entries received after the Freeze Deadline must be submitted to the ITF Supervisor and the team must sign in as On-Site Alternates. On-site Alternates will be accepted after existing Entries, using the System of Merit.

## **F.6 Player Sign-in / Registration**

Teams in the Main Draw and Qualifying Draw do not need to sign in with the ITF Supervisor.

Teams on the Alternate List must sign in with the ITF Supervisor, by the time stated on the Fact Sheet for Qualifying Sign-In. One member of a doubles team may Sign-In for the team. Sign-In by telephone is accepted.

## **G.2 Format of Draw**

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A Main Draw event must have a minimum of three teams in order to proceed.

## **G.3 Knock-out Draws**

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\*Qualification draw size of 48 is only permitted in the World Championships

## **G.8 Hospitality**

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Where hospitality is offered it is defined as a complimentary room (including breakfast) for the use of each pair beginning at least one (1) day before the start of Main Draw until the day following the last day of the Tournament.

## **G.16 Entry Fee**

The following maximum Entry Fee (including any taxes and fees) may be charged per team per Tournament (unless otherwise authorised by ITF), covering teams in both Main Draw and Qualifying:

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Entry fees must be payable in at least two of the following formats (additional payment methods are recommended):

- ONE of Cash or Bank Transfer, AND
- ONE of Credit/Debit Card or Online Payment System

The ITF may request tournaments to trial the payment of entry fees using a global payment system.

## **G.17 Prize Money**

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The ITF may request tournaments to trial the payment of entry fees using a global payment system.

## **H.6 The Captain**

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Removed the requirement for the Captain to be a minimum of 23 years of age

## **H.7 Eligibility**

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A player may only play in either the ITF Beach Tennis World Cup or the ITF Beach Tennis Junior World Cup in any given week.

## **H.10 Conduct of the Competition**

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### **b. Order of Matches**

The order of matches in each tie shall be Men's Doubles followed by Women's Doubles followed by Mixed Doubles. The Women's Doubles match may be played first if both Captains are in agreement, and they notify the Referee in person a minimum of sixty (60) minutes before the tie is scheduled to start.

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### **g. Seeding**

Seeded Nations shall be determined by the combined ranking of the top two (2) men and top two (2) women in each team using the latest available ITF Beach Tennis World Rankings at the time of the Draw.

If two nations are equal on combined Beach Tennis Ranking, then the nation with the highest ranked individual player will be the higher seeded team.

The top four (4) teams will be seeded and positioned as follows:

- i. Seed 1 shall be placed in pool A;
- ii. Seed 2 shall be placed in pool B;
- iii. Seeds 3/4 shall be drawn for pools C/D;

Teams ranked 5-8 shall be placed in a draw to determine their pools. The same procedure will be repeated for teams 9-12 and then 13-16.

## **Appendix E – ITF Beach Tennis World Tour Code of Conduct**

Non-major offence breaches of the Code of Conduct shall now result in a suspension point sanction as opposed to a financial sanction.

#### Article III D. Time Violation / Delay of Game

A maximum of sixty (60) seconds shall elapse from when the last player arrives to his seat on court until the players are ready for the pre-match meeting with the Chair Umpire. This will be followed immediately by the warm-up period of five (5) minutes. At the end of the warm-up period the players have sixty (60) seconds to be ready to start the match. These timings may be altered where a tournament is using a pre-match protocol approved by the ITF and shared with players in advance.

#### X. SUSPENSION POINTS

Suspension points shall be recorded against a player for the following:

<u>Code Violation</u>	<u>Suspension Points</u>
<u>Late Withdrawal</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Before Freeze Deadline</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>After Freeze Deadline</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>After Qualifying Sign-in Deadline</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>No Show / Failure to sign in at a tournament</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Punctuality</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>For first warning given</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>For warning + point penalty</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>For warning + point penalty + first game penalty</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>For warning + point penalty + second game penalty</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>For any subsequent game penalty</u>	<u>+1</u>
<u>Default after any of the above</u>	<u>+1</u>
<u>Any Default for a single violation of the Code (Immediate Default)</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Any Default for punctuality</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Missing a Ceremony or Media Responsibilities</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Leaving the Tournament</u>	<u>5</u>

The ITF Internal Adjudication Panel (IAP) may reduce or waive the suspension points on appeal. Appeals to the IAP shall follow the Procedural Rules Governing Procedures Before an Internal Adjudication Panel Convened Under ITF Rules.

Any player receiving a total of ten (10) suspension points within one 52-week period shall be suspended from competing in ITF Beach Tennis World Tour tournaments for a

period of four (4) weeks. At the Notice of Appeal Deadline, the suspended player will be removed from the entry list of any tournament entered that is due to take place (for any part of its duration) during the period of suspension, and prevented from entering any tournament due to take place (for any part of its duration) during the period of suspension. Once the period of suspension has been served, the ten (10) points will be deducted from the player's suspension points total. Should a player have more than ten (10) suspension points when he/she commences his/her period of suspension, the balance of the points will be carried over.

The suspension shall commence from the date to be specified by the ITF, which shall take into account the time required to notify the player's National Association and all other relevant parties.

The ITF is responsible for notifying the National Associations and entry authorities of the ITF Beach Tennis World Tour tournaments of any suspension incurred by a player.

Supervisors of ITF Beach Tennis World Tour tournaments shall be in breach of the regulations governing these tournaments if they allow any player appearing on the suspension list sent to them by the ITF to participate in a tournament. Such players will be red flagged in the Tournament Planner system.