

ITF SAND SERIES TOUR FINALS 2024

RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Entry Deadline

Entries will close at 4pm (GMT) on Monday 18 November 2024 via IPIN.

2. Acceptance Method

The ranking of Monday 18 November will be used to determine the final acceptances. The top eight (8) Men's and Women's Teams based on their combined doubles ranking (men's and women's) will be accepted into the Sand Series Tour Finals.

Alternates will be listed individually and as a Teams as per the acceptance entry ranking and contacted by the ITF Beach Tennis Department to establish availability if required at short notice. Alternates may be required on an individual or team basis.

3. Withdrawals

Withdrawals after the Entry deadline by a member of a Directly Accepted Team or the Team (both players) prior to the draw will be handled similarly to Retirements & Substitution as per point 8 below:

- 3.1. Member of a Team withdraws – will be replaced by the next eligible and available player on the Alternate list
- 3.2. Team withdraws – will be replaced by the next eligible and available Team on the Alternate List

4. Draw Size and Format

The competition will comprise of two (2) phases. Phase 1 – Round Robin, Phase 2 – Knock Out competition (Semi Finals and Finals). There will be no positional match play-off.

The rankings of Monday 2 December will be used to determine the seedings.

The draw will be conducted on Monday 2 December in the morning. Time to be determined.

Phase 1 – Round Robin Competition:

- The 8 men's and women's teams will be drawn into two (2) Round Robin groups of four (4) teams.
- Seed 1 will be placed in Group A, seed 2 in Group B
- The remaining six (6) teams will be drawn randomly in pairs of two (2) as per their final ranking order between Group A and B.
 - 3 & 4 – drawn by lot. 1st team drawn to Group A, 2nd team drawn to Group B
 - 5 & 6 – drawn by lot. 1st team drawn to Group A, 2nd team drawn to Group B
 - 7 & 8 – drawn by lot. 1st team drawn to Group A, 2nd team drawn to Group B

All matches within the Round Robin phase must be completed.

Round Robin daily order of play:

Day 1:	1 vs. 4	&	2 vs. 3
Day 2:	1 vs. 3	&	2 vs. 4
Day 3:	1 vs. 2	&	3 vs. 4

Phase 2 – Semi Finals and Final:

- The top two (2) teams at the completion of the Round Robin phase in Group A and Group B will qualify for the knock-out semifinal phase of the competition.
- Winning team from Group A will play against 2nd positioned team in Group B.
- Winning Team from Group B will play against 2nd positioned team in Group A.
- The winning team from each semifinal will proceed to the Final and will compete for the 2024 ITF Sand Series Tour Final Title.

5. Playing Days

The tournament will be played over five (5) competition days:

- Day 1, 2 & 3 - Round Robin.
- Day 4 – Semi Finals.
- Day 5 – Finals.
- One (1) match per day.

Players may be required to play more than one (1) match on a day due to unforeseen circumstances i.e. weather. In such cases suitable rest will be considered between matches.

6. Practice Days

Official practice will commence two (2) days prior to the start of competition. Match and practice courts to be available for players to book courts/sessions.

7. Scoring Format

All matches (Round Robin & Knock-out) will consist of **three (3) tie-break sets**.

Each match won during the Round Robin phase will result in the winning Team being awarded one (1) point.

During the round robin phase of the competition if a team retires during a match the score will be recorded as per the following example:

Team A leads **Team B 6-4 3-6 1-2** when a member of Team B must retire. The final score for media releases will be recorded as 6-4 3-6 1-2 (Ret.), but for the purpose of the Round Robin competition the score will be recorded as **Team A 6-4 3-6 6-2** with the **remaining games of the set being awarded to Team A**. This is for possible three (3) way ties within the Group at the completion of the Round Robin phase.

8. Determining Final Positions in the Round Robin Groups

The standings calculation will only include the results of matches played amongst the players/teams who completed all matches in the round robin group. Retired matches count as completed for this purpose.

All matches for a team that concedes one (1) or more walkovers shall not be included for the purpose of the final standings' calculation.

The final positions within a Group will be determined by:

- Highest number of points. A Team is awarded one (1) point per match won.
- If the number of points is equal for two (2) Teams, the head-to-head result will be used i.e. Team A and Team are tied for 2nd position. Team B defeated Team A. Team B will be positioned 2nd, with Team A finishing 3rd.

- If the number of points is equal for three (3) or more Teams, for these Teams only:
 - The percentage of sets won from sets played against all Teams within the Group (including the 4th Team not part of the tie) will be calculated.
 - If, after the calculation, only two (2) Teams remain tied, the head-to-head result between the two (2) Teams will be used to break the tie.
 - If, after the calculation of percentage sets, a three-way tie still exists, the percentage of games won from games played against all Teams within the Group (including the 4th Team not part of the tie) will be calculated.
 - If, after the calculation, only two (2) Teams remain tied, the head-to-head result between the two (2) Teams will be used to break the tie.
 - If, after the above, a three-way tie remains, the final standing will be drawn by lot.

9. Retirement & Substitution

If a team is forced to retire due to injury or illness during a Round Robin match, the score will be recorded as point 7 – Scoring Format. The team may continue to compete in any remaining matches within the Round Robin competition provided the necessary medical clearance is given by the Tournament Physiotherapist and/or Doctor.

All matches for a team that concedes one (1) or more walkovers shall not be included for the purpose of the standing's calculation.

If a Team is forced to withdraw from the Round Robin phase, Alternates may be considered as follows:

1. The non injured player of the team may be paired with the next eligible player who entered the competition in order of the acceptance ranking on 18 November.
2. The non injured player may elect to withdraw from the competition, in which case an Alternate Team may be included in the draw to complete the Round Robin phase.

In the event of an Alternate or Alternate Team substitution results will be considered as follows:

1. All results recorded against the original team will count.
2. The new pairing / team's results will only be considered for any remaining matches as the new pairing / team.
3. Ranking points and prize money will be awarded to the new pairing / team.

Alternates or Alternate Teams may not substitute for a retirement during a match that is in progress.

No substitutions will be permitted in the knockout phase. If a player or team is forced to withdraw prior to their semi-final or final a walkover will be awarded to the opposing team.

10. Tennis Balls

Practice Balls:

- Each Team will receive six (6) new balls daily, commencing two (2) days prior to the start of the tournament (official practice days) until elimination.

Match Balls:

- Three (3) new balls will be used in all matches, with balls being changed after the 1st 9 games and every 11 games thereafter (9/11).

11. Officials

The following Officials will be appointed:

- Referee – minimum ITF Silver badge certification.
- Chair Umpires – all matches will have a chair umpire that is Nationally certified.
- Line Umpires – minimum of two (2) line umpire for all matches.
- Ball retrievers – minimum of three (3) ball retrievers for all matches.

12. Prize Money

The total Prize Money will be \$100,000 divided equally between the men's and women's Competition (\$50,000 each).

Local taxes will not be deducted. It is the player's own responsibility to declare prize money on their own personal tax returns in the country where they are registered to pay tax.

Prize Money Distribution:

Winning Team -	\$15,000 per team
Finalist -	\$10,000 per team
Semi Finalists -	\$6,500 per team
3 rd position Teams (Round Robin Phase) -	\$4,000 per team
4 th position Teams (Round Robin Phase) -	\$2000 per team

13. Hospitality

All Teams will receive full hospitality commencing two (2) days prior to the competition (start of official practice) until the **morning after the completion of the tournament (7 nights)**.

Full hospitality is defined as:

- Accommodation (sharing basis per Team) + breakfast at the official hotel.
- Lunch (as determined by organisers and approved by ITF).
- Dinner (as determined by organisers and approved by ITF).

Each **player** will receive a \$300 travel allowance, which will be added to their final prize money.

14. Code of Conduct

The general code of conduct as per the Beach Tennis Tour Regulations will be in effect.

Press and Ceremonies:

Players are obliged to attend all requested press conferences and ceremonies. Failure to attend mandatory press conferences and ceremonies may result in all prize money and points due to the Team being forfeited.

Mandatory Ceremonies are but not limited to:

- Draw ceremony.
- Player reception.

- Prize giving ceremony (Finalists + Winners).
- Other sponsor-related activities as agreed between ITF and the organisers.

All information will be circulated to players ahead of time.

Mandatory Press conferences are but not limited to:

- Post draw.
- Pre-Tournament.
- Post match interview on court.
- Post match press conference in media center (if required).
- Other requested interviews deemed to be applicable and important.

15. Ranking Points

Ranking points will be awarded as per the Ranking tables in the ITF Beach Tennis Tour Regulations.