

## ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors Grading Criteria for 2025

The purpose of this document is to set out the tournament grading procedure to be applied to all 2024 ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors tournaments and will impact on tournament grading for 2025. Advanced notice is provided to National Associations and Tournament Organisers to allow for the criteria to be understood in advance of tournaments taking place.

### Background & Context

In general, all ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors (WTTJ) tournaments retain the same week in the Calendar from one year to the next unless a week change is requested by the National Association and approved by the ITF. Each tournament is allocated a grade which recognises the strength and delivery standards of the tournament, and which corresponds to the value of ranking points on offer to participants. The ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors consists of the following grades:



Tournament numbers continue to increase from year to year to meet the growing global demand, increasing from 397 tournaments in 2015 to 975 tournaments in 2024. This grading criteria aims to provide a robust, fair, and balanced calendar of tournament opportunities to players on a national, regional, and global level.

### Grading Criteria

The ITF Juniors Committee is responsible for the allocation of grades at all ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors tournaments. The following grading principles apply to all tournaments:

#### Tournaments per Grade

- The tournament structure follows a pyramid approach. I.e., each nation and region should have more tournaments of a lower grade to support the player pathway from national and regional tournaments as well as supporting the junior rankings, with the number of tournaments at each grade reducing at higher grades of the pyramid.
- Nations are permitted to host up to five (5) J30 tournaments. Nations may apply to host more than five (5) J30 tournaments which will be subject to an ITF review, as outlined below.
- Save for exceptional circumstances, only one J300 or higher tournament per week in a region.
- Save for exceptional circumstances, a maximum of one J300 tournament per nation.
- Save for exceptional circumstances, a maximum of two J200 or higher graded tournaments shall take place in the same week and region, with a reasonable distance between venues.

### 2025 WTT Juniors Tournament Calendar

A National Association must submit their full 2025 WTT Juniors calendar proposal to the ITF Juniors Department no later than 30th August the previous year, inclusive of any new tournament applications. The Juniors Department can consider up to one further review of minor calendar amendments for each nation, provided the request is received at least six (6) months prior to the start date of the tournament(s) in question. Note, as per the grading criteria outlined below, the ITF Juniors Department will proactively contact a National Association where a tournament upgrade is applicable.

### New Tournaments

New tournaments start at J30. Applications for additional tournaments at J30 level will be reviewed against the following:

- Assessment of existing tournaments in the tournament week(s) applied for, and the demands (player base) of the sub-region and region for additional tournaments
- ITF ranked and national ranked player base in the host nation
- Main Draws of existing tournaments in the nation are full;
- Qualifying Draws in both Boys and Girls events are at a minimum 70% occupancy or achieve above - average draw occupancy for tournaments at that grade within the region.
- Existing tournaments in the nation must not be placed within the bottom 10% of tournament strength, based on the assessment of measures below, in their respective grade. The WTNs of Main Draw participants may be reviewed to support the assessment of draw strength at existing tournaments within the nation.
- The new tournament(s) should form part of a swing (as defined below)

In exceptional cases, and where each of the criteria above are satisfied, a nation may apply for a new tournament to begin at J100 or J60 provided the nation has experience hosting ITF WTTJ events, and where the grade is deemed by the ITF to be beneficial to achieve a more optimal, balanced calendar for the nation and region.

### J200, J300 & J500 tournaments

Tournaments must remain in the same week from year to year, unless otherwise approved by the ITF Juniors Department. To support this, requests from National Associations for a week change in the calendar for any J200 or higher-level tournament must be submitted no later than twelve (12) months prior to the scheduled start date of the tournament.

Where a J300/500 tournament date must change from one year to the next as a result of religious holidays and/or festivals, tournament dates for the next three (3) editions should be submitted to the ITF Juniors Department.

### Tournament Swings

A tournament swing is defined as back-to-back consecutive tournaments of the same grade (preferably) and surface, or one grade higher or lower, taking place in the same nation (preferably) or in a neighbouring nation. In each case, transport links must be efficient in terms of time, distance and cost between both tournaments.

### J30, J60, J100 and J200

Tournaments are strongly encouraged to form part of two (2) week swings.

### J300 & J500

Tournaments must form part of a swing of a minimum of two (2) weeks. I.e. A tournament of the same grade, or one grade higher or lower must take place in the same nation or sub-region in the week preceding or following the tournament week.

National Associations are encouraged to engage with neighbouring National Associations within their sub-region to coordinate the scheduling of higher-level WTT Juniors tournaments.

### Existing Tournament Upgrades

The Juniors department will proactively contact a National Association if an upgrade is applicable. This will be based on an assessment of the measures outlined below (Grading review criteria).

### Existing Tournament Downgrades

Tournaments must meet minimum standards of player strength and tournament delivery relative to other tournaments of that grade in the same region. J500, J300, J200 will be compared globally.

A tournament may be considered for downgrade if it scores amongst the lowest 10% in their grade and region based on the draw strength and tournament delivery measures. The ITF will communicate with National Associations directly where a tournament falls within this threshold.

### More than one tournament per nation per week

There shall be only one (1) tournament per nation per week. In exceptional cases, large nations based on geographical size, resources and player base may be permitted to host more than one tournament in the same week, with a sufficient distance of 1,500km or more between the venues.

To be eligible to request more than one tournament per week, National Associations must:

- Demonstrate the ability to meet all minimum organisational requirements of hosting multiple tournaments in the same week. For example, minimum officiating requirements
- Full Main Draw Occupancy of existing tournaments
- Minimum 70% Qualifying draw occupancy of existing tournaments
- Minimum of 1,500km distance between the two proposed tournaments

### Grading Review Timeline

Tournament grading will be reviewed by the ITF on two occasions each year:

- January to June tournament grades will be reviewed in July of the previous year National Associations will be informed by August 2024 if an upgrade or downgrade is applicable.
- July to December tournament grades will be reviewed in January 2025. National Associations will be informed by February 2025 if an upgrade or downgrade is applicable.

## Grading review criteria

### **Stage 1: Calendar Assessment**

The ITF shall firstly consider the existing WTTJ calendar. This shall include an assessment of the following:

- 1. Calendar Position** – The established tournament week and its position in the regional calendar. Consecutive tournaments of the same grade in the same location (venue and/or nation and/or sub region) will be considered favourably for the benefit of players.
- 2. National, Regional, and Global Pyramid** – The national, regional, and global pyramid will be considered for tournament upgrades or downgrades. As a principle, there should be more

tournaments of a lower grade at a national, regional, and global level.

### Stage 2: Assessment Measures

The following measures shall be reviewed to assess the draw strength of tournaments and the quality of tournament organisation & delivery.

The measures aim to provide an objective comparison amongst other tournaments by grade and region (global for J500, J300, J200) to indicate whether a tournament is eligible for upgrade or suitable for downgrade.

### Draw Size & Strength (Primary Measures)

1. **ITF Junior Ranking**– A calculation of the ranking points amongst those who competed in the main draw of the tournament. This includes an assessment of the total ranking points of players who participated, and an average number of ranking points of players who participated. Tournaments at J300 level or higher will be measured based on the rankings on the top 32 ranked players who participated in the recent editions of the tournament.
2. **ITF World Tennis Number (WTN)** – The WTNs of Main Draw participants may be reviewed to support the assessment of draw strength at a tournament.

Main draws must be full at the existing grade awarded, and qualifying draws must achieve a high occupancy level in order for a tournament to be considered for upgrade.

Existing J200 or better tournaments will be compared on a regional and global level, where they should be amongst the top 10% amongst tournaments within their current grade to be considered for upgrade. Exceptions may apply for existing J200 tournaments located in regions that are underrepresented.

J100, J60 and J30 tournaments will be compared amongst tournaments in their own region only (e.g. Asia).

### Tournament Organisation & Delivery (Secondary Measures)

Secondary measures will be reviewed in respect of the standard of organisation and delivery.

A tournament must score favourably in each of these areas relative to other comparable tournaments:

1. **Administrative & Technical Responsibilities** - National Associations & Tournament Directors must complete all pre-tournament and post-tournament duties accurately and by the deadlines provided. This includes all administration duties (for example, application and fact sheet submission) as well as adherence to the regulations and Organisational Requirements.
2. **Player Feedback Survey** - Following each ITF WTT Juniors tournament, players are asked to provide feedback on their tournament experience. The results of this survey shall be used to understand the level of player satisfaction regarding the tournament delivery standards. Player feedback survey scores shall be shared biannually with National Associations.
3. **Tournament Supervisor Report** – The report must be completed on time and will be reviewed by the Juniors department to support the assessment. This supervisor report helps validate whether delivery standards were met.

Please contact [juniors@itftennis.com](mailto:juniors@itftennis.com) if you have any questions.