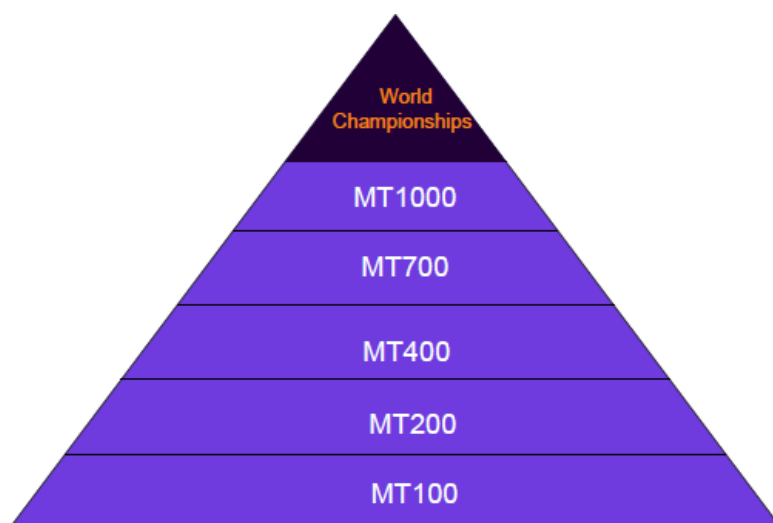


**ITF World Tennis Masters Tour**  
**2026 Grading Criteria**

The document sets out the tournament grading structure to be applied to all tournaments on the 2026 ITF World Tennis Masters Tour.

**Background & Context**

Each tournament on the ITF World Tennis Masters Tour 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. There are six (6) tournament grades. The entry level tournament grade is MT100, followed by MT200, MT400, MT700, MT1000 and the World Championships.

**Grading Criteria**

The ITF Masters Committee are responsible for the allocation of tournament grades at all ITF World Tennis Masters Tour events. This grading criteria aims to provide a robust, fair, and balanced calendar of tournaments on a national, regional, and global level.

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. This allows for entry level players – whom are the majority - to benefit from a more appropriate competition experience. This also supports the global rankings model whereby a limited volume of high-graded events aimed at the smaller number of elite players.
- Tournaments awarded the MT1000 grade must not overlap event dates with the World Team & Individual Championships for the corresponding age group(s) and should not overlap with other MT1000 tournaments for the corresponding age group(s).
- MT700 grade tournaments must not overlap event dates with MT1000 grade tournaments in the same region, unless approved by the ITF and where in its discretion there is a sufficiently large distance between the two tournament locations.

- MT100 or MT200 grade tournaments may take place in the same nation as another ITF World Tennis Masters Tour event (MT400 upwards) in the same tournament week where, in the ITF's discretion there is a reasonable distance between the two tournament locations, or sufficient difference in grade (e.g. MT200 and MT1000) and approved by the National Association and ITF.

#### New Tournaments

- New tournaments start at the MT100 grade.
- Exceptionally, a nation may apply for a new tournament to begin at the MT200 or MT400 grade provided the nation, and venue has suitable travel accessibility, has experience hosting ITF World Tennis Masters Tour events, and where the grade is deemed by the ITF to be beneficial to achieve a more optimal, balanced calendar for the nation and/or region. Exceptions may be considered only where the pyramid structure remains in place. Nations applying for new tournaments at MT200 or MT400 will be subject to an assessment of the grading measures outlined in this document. Enquiries to start a new tournament at MT200 or MT400 must be received a minimum of 5 months prior to the proposed tournament date.

#### Existing Tournament Upgrades

The ITF department will proactively contact a National Association if an upgrade is applicable, in line with the timelines and assessment of the measures outlined below. This allows for all tournaments within each tournament grade to be assessed against objective measures, as opposed to reviews of individual tournaments by request. Therefore, National Associations are no longer requested to submit special upgrade requests for the consideration of the ITF.

#### Existing Tournament Downgrades

Tournaments must meet minimum standards of player strength and tournament delivery relative to other tournaments within their grade and region. MT700 and MT1000 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 an assessment of the draw strength, and tournament delivery measures. The ITF will communicate with National Associations directly where a downgrade is deemed appropriate.

#### Grading Review Timeline

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

- Tournaments taking place between January-June 2025 will be reviewed in July 2025. National Associations will be contacted by 30 August 2025 if a grade change is applicable. If there is no contact from the ITF by this date, the grade will remain the same in 2026.
- Tournaments taking place between July-December 2025 will be reviewed in January 2026. National Associations will be contacted by 27 February 2026 if a grade change is applicable. If there is no contact from the ITF by this date, the grade will remain the same in 2026.

#### Stage 1: Calendar Assessment

The ITF shall first consider the existing 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 provide an objective comparison amongst other tournaments by grade within the same region for MT100, MT200, and MT400 grades; and a comparison of global tournaments by grade for any existing or potential MT700 and MT1000 tournaments.

### Draw Strength (Primary Measures)

- 1. ITF Ranking** – A calculation of the ranking points amongst those who competed in the main draw of the tournament in the previous two editions of the event. The ranking of players at the time of the event shall be used.
- 2. ITF World Tennis Number (WTN)** – The WTN's of Main Draw participants at the time of the event shall be reviewed and compared. This will include an average WTN of main draw participants.
- 3. Number of Participants** – The total number of unique players that take part in a tournament. The minimum number of players expected at each grade is as follows:
  - MT100 – No minimum number of players
  - MT200 – Minimum 100 players
  - MT400 – Minimum 150 players
  - MT700 – Minimum 220 players
  - MT1000 – Minimum of 300 players

Existing 100, 200 and 400 level tournaments will be compared on a national and regional level, where they should be amongst the top 10% amongst tournaments within their current grade to be considered for upgrade. In exceptional cases, existing MT700 may be considered for upgrade to MT1000 which shall involve an analysis of the tournament relative to all other MT700 and MT1000 tournaments.

### 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 compared to other comparable tournaments:

- 1. Player Feedback Survey** - Following each tournament, players are asked to provide feedback on their tournament experience. The results of this survey should be used to understand the level of player satisfaction regarding the tournament delivery standards.
- 2. Administrative & Technical Responsibilities** - National Associations & Tournament Directors must complete all pre-tournament and post-tournament duties accurately and on-time. This includes all administration duties, as well as adherence to the regulations and organisational requirements.

The Tournament Referee and Tournament Director report must have been completed and submitted to the ITF office within 14 days of the last day of the tournament. Both will be reviewed by the ITF to support the assessment. This Referee report confirms whether the minimum delivery standards were met, and if the tournament over delivered in any area.

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