



AGM AGENDA

VIRTUAL MEETING
21 NOVEMBER 2020



AGENDA

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AGENDA

1. OPENING ADDRESS FROM THE PRESIDENT

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM – ARTICLE 18(b)

The quorum shall be one half of the Class B Members or any number of Class B Members holding, in aggregate, at least half of the Class B Shares, but a vote may be taken even if at any time some of the Class B Member delegates comprising a quorum have left the conference hall.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

APPOINTMENT OF A PARLIAMENTARIAN

The Board of Directors has appointed Jonathan Taylor QC (Bird & Bird LLP) as Parliamentarian for the duration of the 2020 Meeting.

ELECTION OF SCRUTINEERS – ARTICLE 18(f)

APPROVAL OF THE 2019 MINUTES – ARTICLE 14(b)(i)

To approve the minutes of the previous General Meeting.

[Click here to access the 2019 AGM Draft Minutes.](#)

OBITUARIES

2. FINANCE

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO ALL NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2019

The consolidated financial statements of the ITF make a distinction between Operating Activities, Strategic Initiative expenditure and Investing Activities. Operating Activities represent the ongoing activities of the ITF as distinct from Strategic Initiative expenditure on activities and projects aimed specifically at delivering the objectives of ITF2024. Investing Activities reports the performance of the investment portfolios which underpin the ITF reserves.

The enclosed financial report details the 2019 actual result, as detailed in the financial statements which accompany the ITF Annual Report, with comparisons to the 2019 Budget approved by the AGM in Lisbon.

This report is provided in conjunction with the Annual Report and Accounts and the Consolidated Financial Statements, which give further details of the performance as well as Cash Flow and Balance Sheet information.

In addition to the historical information, the financial summary also gives information on the budget for 2020 as approved by the Board in November 2019, the Mid-Year Review for 2020 and a preliminary forecast for 2021.

It is important to note that the 2020 Mid-Year Review shows a stark departure from the approved 2020 budget due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the corresponding effect this has had on the ITF's revenues and expenditure. Further comment can be found in the 2020 Mid-Year Review and 2021 Forecast section of this report.

Further information will be given in the Finance Update Session of the AGM.

2019 RESULTS SUMMARY

We are pleased to report that the 2019 result for Ongoing Activities as shown in the Annual Report and Accounts records an operating surplus of \$2.3m which is considerably better than the 2019 breakeven budget.

Expenditure on Strategic Initiatives totalled \$3.8m against the budget of \$3.9m. This expenditure is recorded as operating expenditure but represents the planned utilisation of Reserves. The Operating Result after Strategic Initiatives shows an improvement of over \$2.2m, to a deficit of \$1.5m, thereby limiting the utilisation of reserves to that amount.

In stark contrast to 2018, investment market gains in 2019 resulted in the ITF portfolios making significant investment returns, amounting to \$8.2m for the year.

Overall, the ITF made a Total Surplus of \$6.0m after tax of \$0.7m, arising primarily from the Hopman Cup settlement agreement. This Total Surplus compares very favourably to the budgeted deficit of \$2.0m, an improvement of \$8.0m.

In addition to the surplus, favourable foreign exchange rate movements of \$2.3m on the ITF's currency hedges held at the year end, result in a corresponding increase of reserves. In all, the total increase in reserves amounts to \$8.3m for the year and at the end of 2019, Reserves stood at \$57.8m.

Since the beginning of the programme of Strategic Initiative projects in 2016, \$8.6m has been invested over the three-year period. Due to an improvement in revenue generation and prudent management of expenditure and the investment portfolios, we are able to report that, despite the

decision that this significant investment in Strategic Initiatives could be funded from reserves, those reserves have increased over the period.

Operating Result

Operating income for 2019 was \$110.2m against a budget of \$109.5m.

The financial impact of the first year of the new format Davis Cup is contained within 2019, which reflects \$61.8m of revenues from Davis Cup Licence Fees.

Income increased against budget due to the recognition of a Hopman Cup termination payment. The ITF strongly believe in the importance of combined men and women's events in the international tennis calendar and are committed to support the creation of a new Hopman Cup event.

Increases in revenue are offset by a reduction in Davis Cup commercial commission due to a contractual timing difference. This revenue was due to be earned in 2020, rather than as budgeted in 2019.

Operating expenses from ongoing activities were \$107.9m, \$1.4m lower than the budget of \$109.3m.

Once again, the impact of the new format Davis Cup can be seen with the substantial increases in prize money, participation payments and hosting grants for both Davis Cup and Fed Cup (now renamed to the Billie Jean King Cup and from hereon in referred to as "BJK Cup").

The budget included \$2.5m of contingencies for costs arising from the implementation of the new format of the Davis Cup finals. Although not all of this was required there were some increases in Davis Cup and BJK Cup event expenses.

Development expenditure for 2019 increased against budget by \$0.3m. It is important to note, however, that when compared to 2018, this represents a \$1.0m increase, in line with the ITF2024 strategic priority to increase expenditure on development activities. In addition to this, Wheelchair development expenditure has also increased by \$1.0m over 2018 levels after funding was specifically allocated from the Davis Cup license fees.

The ITF made a gain on foreign exchange transactions of 0.6m.

Strategic Initiatives

Strategic Initiatives represent expenditure directly related to delivering the objectives of ITF2024, but that are not considered as ongoing activities. Strategic Initiatives totalled \$3.8m in 2019 against the budgeted amount of \$3.9m.

Projects classified as Strategic Initiatives for 2019 included investment in the BJK Cup with the work to bring about the new format Finals in Budapest, the World Tennis Number project, creating a revenue generating Video Archive and cost saving digital Photo Archive, and upgrading ICT infrastructure and systems such as significantly improving the previously outdated IPIN system and ITF website, both launched during 2019.

BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2020

(Note that, due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the 2020 Budget is no longer an accurate forecast of the expected result for the ITF in 2020. However, a discussion of the budget is still given below. See the 2020 Mid-Year Review and 2021 Forecast section below for a more accurate forecast for 2020 and 2021)

The budget for 2020 provided in the financial summary outlines the expected result for 2020 presented to the Board in November 2019. The budget result shows an ongoing operating deficit of \$0.7m, and Strategic Initiative project expenditure of \$4.4m supporting the final phase of delivery of ITF2024 key projects.

The ITF's aim is to ensure the ongoing result is a surplus to maintain financial discipline and secure the long-term financial stability of the ITF. However, this was not possible for 2020 given the late introduction of the additional Play-off Davis Cup rounds and associated prize money which added an additional \$2.8m of costs.

Operating income increases by \$24.6m to \$134.8m reflecting \$20m of licence fees for the BJK Cup Finals. This increase in income has allowed for significant investment in the BJK Cup for the Nations with equivalent prize money and participation payments for the BJK Cup as with Davis Cup on a like-for-like basis.

Expenditure on ongoing activities has increased by \$27.7m to \$135.5m. As discussed above, the main increase is in BJK Cup prize money and participation payments of \$17.4m, as well as \$3m of contractual costs to support the hosting of the event in Budapest. In addition, with the re-introduction of play-off rounds for the Davis Cup between the two world groups, Davis Cup participation payments have increased by a further \$2.4m along with additional operational costs of \$0.4m.

The budget includes total development expenditure of \$12.3m excluding staff costs, an increase of \$1m on the 2019 budget.

The subscription rebate programme is continuing after the first year in 2019 was extremely successful.

Strategic Initiatives

For the 2020 budget, expenditure on Strategic Initiatives totals \$4.4m, in addition to the \$8.8m of expenditure in 2017-2019 previously invested.

Of the total, \$1.4m represents continuing projects or the depreciation of the investments in IPIN and website, which have been capitalised.

A further \$1.6m was for a newly approved project to provide tournament incentives to increase the level of \$25k tournaments to support the ITF's Data Rights agreement.

Lastly, after the excellent start to the World Tennis Number project in 2018-2019, a further \$1.4m of strategic funding was approved by the Board in 2020 to continue working to deliver this digital transformation project for the National Associations.

2020 Mid-Year Review and 2021 Forecast

Included within the figures this year is the Mid-Year Review for 2020 and a preliminary forecast for 2021. It is worth pointing out that any financial projection carried out in the current circumstances must be subject to a strong caveat due to the ongoing uncertainty in the tennis world caused by COVID-19. However, the ITF executives and I felt it was important to provide the most up-to-date forecast to the members for this AGM.

As became clear in March, the budget assumptions for 2020 have been rendered invalid by COVID-19 and its devastating impact on tennis at all levels. Revenues are expected to decrease to \$37.9m in 2020 against a budgeted level of \$134.8m, and then to remain depressed in 2021 rising to only \$105.0m.

The budgeted income of \$134.8m depended heavily on the Davis Cup, BJK Cup and the circuits. As a result of the decision to postpone Davis Cup and BJK Cup events into 2021, revenues for both events are effectively split over two years and, for the Davis Cup, are necessarily reduced to limit the losses being suffered by our partners, Kosmos.

For 2020, the Data Sales revenues from Sportradar are expected to halve to \$6.3m from \$12.6m as the suspension of the World Tennis Tour for six months has meant a significant reduction in the number of matches providing data.

The revenue from the IOC for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games has also been reduced to nil in the Mid-Year Review, a reduction of \$7.5m, following the postponement to 2021. This revenue is assumed to instead be recognised in 2021. The ITF are grateful to the IOC for their provision of an interest free loan of \$2m in 2020. This is helpful in regard to cashflow but, as a loan, cannot be recorded as revenue.

Although these are the largest four income variances for the 2020 Mid-Year Review, almost no income line is unaffected by the pandemic and total revenue shows this with a fall of over 70%.

Operating expenses (including strategic initiative project costs) are forecasted in 2020 to be \$52.8m, an \$87.1m decrease from the original budgeted expenditure of \$140.0m. In 2021, expenditure is forecast to increase to \$116.4m.

The reduction in costs for 2020 is almost as dramatic as the reduction in income with the postponement of the Davis Cup and BJK Cup meaning Prize Money and participation payments are also postponed, and there are many income and cost interdependencies within the ITF's finances that automatically adjust, for example the Data Rights distribution, Anti-Doping and Grand Slam Development Fund expenditure.

In addition, the ITF have implemented swift and decisive cost saving measures early on in the global pandemic. These include utilising the UK government's Job Retention Scheme to place over a third of the ITF's staff on suspended leave for a period of three to six months; staff pay reductions of 10-20% depending on seniority through to the end of the year (and 30% in the case of the ITF president); and contract reviews and supplier negotiations to reduce any fixed costs as far as possible.

Despite these actions it has not been possible to reduce costs to the same extent that the income has been reduced. Whilst discretionary costs have been significantly reduced, fixed costs have not been able to be reduced to such an extent and as a result the ITF is currently forecasting to make an operating deficit of \$15.0m in 2020.

For 2021, the situation is similar, as fixed costs required for the business to run on an annual basis are funded by revenues received for events which are split over two years. The operating deficit for 2021, which is to a large degree predetermined by events and decisions arising in 2020, is expected to be \$11.3m.

To address this, further cost saving measures are being implemented for 2021 including a reduction in participation payments and prize money, a reduction in development expenditure, and continued reductions in staffing costs with a reduction in headcount and staff benefits.

Non-Operating Result for 2020 and 2021

The COVID-19 global pandemic has impacted the performance of the ITF's investment portfolios. Investment market losses in February and March gave rise to losses which at one point stood at over \$5m. However, as markets have subsequently recovered, in many cases back to pre-COVID levels, at the time of the Mid-Year Review, the losses stood at \$2.1m. At the time of writing, these losses have been recouped in full and the investment portfolios now show year to date gains.

For 2021, a conservative 3% return has been included based on the new decreased portfolio values, after drawdowns required to sustain the operating deficits, providing a net non-operating surplus in 2021 of \$0.9m.

Total deficits after tax for 2020 and 2021 are forecast to be \$17.3m and \$10.5m respectively. With the opening reserves level on 1 January 2020 of \$57.8m, these new forecasts now suggest that the ITF's reserves will fall to \$40.5m at the end of 2020 and \$30.0m at the end of 2021.

Future Outlook

The Finance Committee and Board have tasked the ITF executives with keeping the ITF's reserves above \$30m and, if possible, to keep them higher than this. While the 2021 forecast is an initial view of what could occur in 2021, the full budget process is being carried out in September, and further cost savings are being sought, with difficult decisions being considered.

The ITF executives, Finance Committee and Board are committed to ensuring the long-term success of the ITF to ensure it can deliver Tennis for future generations. While COVID-19 has presented one of the biggest challenges to the ITF in a generation, the strong financial position in which we entered the pandemic has meant the ITF is expected to be secure and stable to overcome the crisis until the end of 2021, and to build reserves back up from 2022 onwards while continuing to deliver the strategic priorities of ITF2024.

BUDGET & ACTUAL 2019, BUDGET & MID-YEAR 2020, 2021 FORECAST

Figures in US\$ '000

SUMMARY

	BUDGET 2019	ACTUAL 2019	VARIANCE TO BUDGET 2019	BUDGET 2020	MID-YEAR REVIEW 2020	FORECAST 2021
INCOME	109,462	110,218	756	134,850	37,874	105,038
EXPENSE	(109,271)	(107,878)	1,393	(135,542)	(50,563)	(115,436)
OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) before S.I.s	191	2,340	2,149	(692)	(12,689)	(10,398)
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	(3,927)	(3,837)	90	(4,381)	(2,318)	(1,000)
OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) after S.I.s	(3,736)	(1,497)	2,239	(5,073)	(15,007)	(11,398)
Investment income (Including interest)	2,120	8,427	6,307	2,150	(2,100)	1,010
Investment management	(221)	(204)	17	(181)	(181)	(150)
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) BEFORE TAXATION	(1,837)	6,726	8,563	(3,104)	(17,288)	(10,538)
Less: Taxation (including Hopman Cup)	(200)	(724)	(524)	(75)	(75)	(10)
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(2,037)	6,002	8,039	(3,179)	(17,363)	(10,548)

INCOME

	BUDGET 2019	ACTUAL 2019	VARIANCE TO BUDGET 2019	BUDGET 2020	MID-YEAR REVIEW 2020	FORECAST 2021
Davis Cup Licence Fee	61,800	61,800	0	62,895	11,169	41,507
BJK Cup Hosting Fee (previously Fed Cup)	0	0	0	20,000	5,000	15,000
Sponsorship Income						
Davis Cup	1,408	387	(1,021)	2,000	50	150
BJK Cup (previously Fed Cup)	2,236	2,322	86	2,870	655	2,466
Olympic	5,773	5,774	1	7,491	0	7,716
Junior Davis Cup/BJK Cup	585	622	37	660	0	585
Wheelchair	930	929	(1)	898	582	898
Hopman Cup	460	1,995	1,535	0	0	0
Other Sponsorship	1,370	1,409	39	2,081	1,758	1,969
Sub-total	74,562	75,238	676	98,895	19,214	70,291
Receipts from Events	5,871	5,845	(26)	6,029	2,591	5,452
TV & Licensing	3,212	3,036	(176)	3,302	648	2,221
Data sales	12,600	12,600	0	12,600	6,300	12,600
Merchandising	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subscriptions	2,279	2,269	(10)	2,314	2,337	2,384
Authorisation Fees	1,005	940	(65)	958	670	977
Foundation	150	158	8	161	126	111
Technical	986	984	(2)	970	801	947
GSDF	2,813	2,738	(75)	3,012	1,458	3,012
Wheelchair Silver Fund	55	63	8	62	62	61
Development Generation Funding	771	872	101	771	166	791
Anti-Doping	4,366	4,617	251	4,875	2,791	5,316
iCoach	74	85	11	110	40	150
Olympic Solidarity	356	394	38	361	315	350
Sundry	362	379	17	430	355	375
TOTAL	109,462	110,218	756	134,850	37,874	105,038

BUDGET & ACTUAL 2019, BUDGET & MID-YEAR 2020, 2021 FORECAST

EXPENSE	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	BUDGET	MID-YEAR	FORECAST
	2019	2019	TO BUDGET 2019	2020	REVIEW 2020	2021
<u>PROFESSIONAL TENNIS</u>						
DAVIS CUP						
Prize money and Hosting Grants	38,930	38,757	(173)	41,196	7,010	30,763
Davis Cup Contractual Costs	6,000	3,500	(2,500)	4,400	1,099	4,273
Event Expenses	2,790	3,006	216	3,346	1,541	1,672
BJK CUP (previously Fed Cup)						
Prize money	6,792	6,793	1	24,210	3,038	19,098
BJK Cup Contractual Costs	0	0	0	3,000	229	3,200
Event Expenses	2,484	2,777	293	2,610	1,447	1,490
Hopman Cup Event Expenses	30	22	(8)	0	0	0
Olympics	93	52	(41)	1,893	40	1,439
Men's Tennis	78	60	(18)	57	53	45
Officiating	780	783	3	862	619	722
Women's Tennis	267	228	(39)	427	91	395
Beach Tennis	111	110	(1)	246	80	117
Juniors Tennis	504	437	(67)	494	29	490
Seniors	592	550	(42)	376	34	376
Wheelchair	1,672	1,526	(146)	1,632	625	1,342
Wheelchair Silver Fund	55	63	8	62	62	61
Data Sales	9,521	9,038	(483)	7,880	4,207	8,697
ITF Contribution to GS Board	180	203	23	180	160	180
ITF Contribution to Tennis Integrity Unit	482	907	425	2,030	1,078	2,554
Staff Costs	3,394	3,485	91	3,178	2,633	3,097
TOTAL ONGOING EXPENDITURE	74,755	72,297	(2,458)	98,079	24,075	80,011
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	422	728	306	1,200	45	0
<u>TENNIS DEVELOPMENT</u>						
Development	7,119	7,116	(3)	8,026	4,075	6,410
GSDf	2,813	2,738	(75)	3,012	1,458	3,012
Development Assistance	170	160	(10)	0	0	0
Subscription Rebate	287	234	(53)	291	218	291
iCoach	0	3	3	4	4	505
Regional Grants	932	930	(2)	983	636	725
Staff costs	1,026	1,182	156	1,149	1,030	1,247
TOTAL ONGOING EXPENDITURE	12,347	12,363	16	13,465	7,421	12,190
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	1,101	1,437	336	1,399	895	0
<u>COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT</u>						
TV Costs	641	1,212	571	1,726	466	908
Commercial	621	789	168	363	285	533
Marketing & Promotion	83	58	(25)	80	25	308
Merchandising	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff Costs	1,161	1,117	(44)	1,045	908	922
TOTAL ONGOING EXPENDITURE	2,506	3,176	670	3,214	1,684	2,671
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	303	327	24	224	224	0
<u>PRESIDENTIAL / COMMUNICATIONS</u>						
Communications	1,664	1,866	202	1,617	1,055	1,630
Annual General Meeting	704	761	57	751	53	691
Board of Directors	545	362	(183)	352	82	117
Management	539	636	97	589	136	456
NA Assistance and Player Grants	0	0	0	0	2,414	0
Staff Costs	2,485	2,665	180	2,516	2,148	2,468
TOTAL ONGOING EXPENDITURE	5,937	6,290	353	5,825	5,888	5,362
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	664	75	(589)	418	97	0

BUDGET & ACTUAL 2019, BUDGET & MID-YEAR 2020, 2021 FORECAST

EXPENSE (Continued)

	BUDGET 2019	ACTUAL 2019	VARIANCE TO BUDGET 2019	BUDGET 2020	MID-YEAR REVIEW 2020	FORECAST 2021
SCIENCE, TECHNICAL AND INTEGRITY						
Anti Doping	4,733	5,023	290	5,319	2,872	5,816
Technical	158	152	(6)	163	54	47
Sport Science & Medicine Commission	40	34	(6)	45	11	4
Foundation	80	76	(4)	98	0	96
Constitution	25	16	(9)	29	16	55
Regulation & Governance	648	775	127	413	755	807
Gender Equality in Tennis	127	125	(2)	142	125	127
Safeguarding	0	23	23	35	14	64
Staff costs	1,148	1,187	39	1,219	1,009	1,081
TOTAL ONGOING EXPENDITURE	6,959	7,411	452	7,463	4,856	8,097
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	193	0	(193)	0	0	0
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION						
Administration	89	99	10	96	27	60
ICT	975	820	(155)	1,460	1,398	1,434
Legal & Professional	266	238	(28)	245	208	195
Security	206	240	34	195	235	240
Insurance	317	330	13	342	369	379
Finance	33	32	(1)	21	11	6
Premises	1,335	1,485	150	1,304	1,147	1,283
Staff Costs	2,454	2,607	153	2,523	1,936	2,108
Provision for Doubtful debts	0	13	13	0	0	0
TOTAL ONGOING EXPENDITURE	5,675	5,864	189	6,186	5,331	5,705
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	645	534	(111)	0	0	0
DEPRECIATION	1,092	1,103	11	1,310	1,226	1,400
STRATEGIC INITIATIVE DEPRECIATION	599	736	137	1,140	1,057	1,000
FOREIGN EXCHANGE (GAIN) / LOSS	0	(626)	(626)	0	82	0
TOTAL ONGOING EXPENDITURE	109,271	107,878	(1,393)	135,542	50,563	115,436
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	3,927	3,837	(90)	4,381	2,318	1,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	113,198	111,715	(1,483)	139,923	52,881	116,436

BALANCE SHEET

	BUDGET 2019	ACTUAL 2019	VARIANCE TO BUDGET 2019	BUDGET 2020	MID-YEAR REVIEW 2020	FORECAST 2021
NET ASSETS						
TOTAL NET ASSETS	47,433	57,833	10,400	54,654	40,470	29,922
RESERVES						
Opening Reserves	49,470	49,470	0	57,833	57,833	40,470
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	(2,037)	6,002	8,039	(3,179)	(17,363)	(10,548)
Movements in reserves	0	2,361	2,361	0	0	0
TOTAL RESERVES	47,433	57,833	10,400	54,654	40,470	29,922

3. CONSTITUTION

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS – INCREASE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VICE-PRESIDENTS ELECTED FOR EACH TERM

[This Resolution requires a **2/3 majority** of votes to pass]

Summary

The Board of Directors **recommends** that the AGM approve an increase to the number of Vice-Presidents that may be elected by the Board.

Rationale

At the 2018 ITF AGM, the number of members elected to the Board of Directors was increased by one member (from thirteen to fourteen members – not including the President). The objective of this increase was to broaden representation and improve participation within the ITF membership. In response to the increase in members on the Board, the Board of Directors elected for the 2020-2023 Term, agreed to increase the number of Vice-Presidents that could be elected from time to time from three (3) to four (4) directors.

The Board further recognised that the Treasurer ought to be permitted to hold office as both Treasurer and Vice-President (though this is not expressly prohibited in the Constitution in any event).

The appointment of one additional vice-president increases transparency within the ITF leadership and allows the President more room to delegate certain responsibilities. This in turn improves the efficiency of the Board's governance functions and encourages wider involvement from the ITF's elected leaders.

Drafting

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE 24. OFFICERS

(1) (a) The Officers of the Company shall consist of a President; and up to ~~three~~ FOUR Vice-Presidents or such other Officers as the Board of Directors may from time to time think necessary

...

(2). A Vice-Presidents

(a) The Board of Directors shall every four years elect from among the Board of Directors up to ~~three~~ FOUR Vice-Presidents for a term of four years and they shall continue to hold office until the end of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company held four years after their appointment, unless removed prior to the end of the four year term by a two-thirds majority resolution of the Council following a Resolution submitted by the Board of Directors which itself carried a two-third majority.

Resolution

The AGM hereby resolves to amend the Constitution as set out in this Resolution.

Under Article 32(b), the AGM hereby delegates to the Board of Directors the responsibility to approve the final wording of the amendments (including consequential changes to the Constitution and Bye-laws) to give effect to this Resolution.

The AGM hereby determines that this amendment shall take effect immediately, on 21 November 2020, pursuant to its discretion under Article 32(c).

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS – JURISDICTION OVER E-TENNIS

[This Resolution requires a **2/3 majority** of votes to pass]

Summary

The Board of Directors **recommends** that the AGM approve broadening the scope of the ITF's jurisdiction in order to assert ITF jurisdiction over virtual (simulated) versions of traditional tennis, e.g. "e-tennis".

Rationale

The Board of Directors recognises that e-sports is gaining traction amongst the International Federations as a digital strategy that further promotes a federation's position as the world governing body for a particular sport. This in turn increases exposure, engagement (particularly amongst youth) and commercial opportunities.

In 2019, ASOIF published a report that examined the current status of 33 International Federations' engagement with the e-sports industry. ASOIF recommended that International Federations should, subject to economic limitations, actively establish "ownership" of the "e" version of their sport and create applicable regulations in order to sanction and regulate those virtual competitions.

The ITF is keen to take ownership of the "e" versions of its tennis competitions. Any adoption of "e-tennis" would be confined to the ITF's current framework for traditional tennis competitions. This means that the ITF may only assert ownership over its events, including Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup, e-versions of the ITF Circuits and an e-version of any "world championship". Because the ITF has no intellectual property or sanctioning rights to the Grand Slams or the ATP/WTA tours, any "e" version of those specific competitions would be reserved to the appropriate governing body.

In order for the ITF to protect its traditional competitions and proactively take control of "e-tennis", including any "e-tennis" world championship, the Board of Directors recognises that the ITF Constitution ought to be amended at Article 27 and Bye-law 2 (see drafting proposal below).

Drafting

Articles of Association:

CONSTITUTION ART 27. COMPETITIONS

- (a) The title "World Championships" in connection with tennis, OR TENNIS COMPETITIONS OR EVENTS OF ANY KIND, shall not be instituted or revived at any time without the unanimous consent of a General Meeting of the Council;
- (b) The term "World" or any other term attributing a similar global dimension to TENNIS, a tennis competition OR EVENT OF ANY KIND or to a title, shall only be used by the ITF, or otherwise with the permissions of the ITF;
- (c) ...

Bye-laws:

BYE-LAW 2.3. VIRTUAL (E-TENNIS) COMPETITIONS [NEW]

- (1) THE FOLLOWING COMPETITIONS ARE OWNED AND MANAGED BY THE INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION.
 - (a) ANY VIRTUAL VERSION OF A TENNIS COMPETITION DESCRIBED IN BYE-LAW 2.1 OR BYE-LAW 2.2 WHICH IS ORGANISED AND MANAGED BY THE INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION; AND
 - (b) ANY VIRTUAL VERSION OF ANY OTHER INTERNATIONAL TENNIS COMPETITION WHICH IS OR MAY BE ORGANISED AND MANAGED BY THE INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION AT THE DISCRETION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
 - (c) THE INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION SHALL OWN ALL INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE COMPETITIONS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED, AND SHALL REGISTER IN ITS NAME ALL TRADE MARKS.

Resolution

The AGM hereby resolves to amend the Constitution as set out in this Resolution.

Under Article 32(b), the AGM hereby delegates to the Board of Directors the responsibility to approve the final wording of the amendments (including consequential changes to the Constitution and Bye-laws) to give effect to this Resolution.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS – GENDER NEUTRAL NOMENCLATURE IN ITF CONSTITUTION

[This Resolution requires a **2/3 majority** of votes to pass]

Summary

The Board of Directors **recommends** that the AGM approve that any gender bias language in the ITF Constitution be removed and replaced with gender-neutral language.

Rationale

As part of the ITF's Governance Review, the Board commissioned the Gender Equality in Tennis Committee (GET Committee) to identify ways in which the ITF could remove barriers to achieving gender balance within the ITF structure. The GET Committee recommended, and the Board agreed that gender neutral language should be introduced and maintained across all ITF governance documentation, including the ITF Constitution in order to promote gender equality and discourage subconscious bias.

Drafting

- All references to “Chairman” shall be revised to “Chair” or “Chairperson”.
* in French and Spanish the male and female equivalents will both be written.
- All references to “*he*” and “*him*” or “*she*” and “*her*” to “*they*” (where appropriate to do so).
*changes in the French and Spanish translations may require consequential changes to account for the masculine and feminine form in certain contexts.
- An example is set out below at Article 19(c) of the ITF Constitution:

CONSTITUTION ART 19. COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- (a) ...
- (b) ...
- (c) No person shall be eligible for nomination, election or appointment as a member of the Board of Directors unless ~~he~~ **THEY**:
 - (i) ~~Is~~ **ARE** a national of a country (including a newly formed independent country resulting from the division of a former country) which has played in the Davis Cup Competition at least ten times;
 - (ii) ...
 - (iii) ~~Is~~ **is** able to take office without ~~his~~ **THEIR** position on the Board of Directors becoming automatically and immediately vacated by virtue of any of the grounds set out in Article 21(k), or vacated as a consequence of the application of Article 21(l) or (m).

Resolution

The AGM hereby resolves to amend the Constitution as set out in this Resolution.

Under Article 32(b), the AGM hereby delegates to the Board of Directors the responsibility to approve the final wording of the amendments (including consequential changes to the Constitution and By-laws) to give effect to this Resolution.

4. MEMBERSHIP

Note: Applications approved at the AGM for Class B or Class C Membership, an increase or decrease in shares take effect from 1 January 2021. Expulsions, suspensions and re-admittance take effect immediately.

APPLICATIONS FOR AN INCREASE IN SHARES

Portugal

To consider an application from the Federação Portuguesa de Tennis for an **increase** from three (3) to five (5) Class B Shares

Report of the Board of Directors

The Board **recommends acceptance** of this application.

Ukraine

To consider an application from the Ukrainian Tennis Federation for an **increase** from three (3) to five (5) Class B Shares

Report of the Board of Directors

The Board **recommends acceptance** of this application.

APPLICATIONS FOR A TRANSFER FROM CLASS C TO CLASS B MEMBERSHIP

Burundi

To consider an application from the Fédération de Tennis du Burundi for a transfer from Class C Membership to Class B Membership.

Report of the Board of Directors

The Board **recommends acceptance** of this application.

Laos

To consider an application from the Lao Tennis Federation for a transfer from Class C Membership to Class B Membership.

Report of the Board of Directors

The Board **recommends acceptance** of this application.

Macau

To consider an application from the Macau Tennis Association for a transfer from Class C Membership to Class B Membership.

Report of the Board of Directors

The Board **recommends acceptance** of this application.

Maldives

To consider an application from the Tennis Association of Maldives for a transfer from Class C Membership to Class B Membership.

Report of the Board of Directors

The Board **recommends acceptance** of this application.

Seychelles

To consider an application from the Seychelles Tennis Association for a transfer from Class C Membership to Class B Membership.

Report of the Board of Directors

The Board **recommends acceptance** of this application.

Tanzania

To consider an application from the Tanzania Tennis Association for a transfer from Class C Membership to Class B Membership.

Report of the Board of Directors

The Board **recommends acceptance** of this application.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A TRANSFER FROM CLASS C TO CLASS B MEMBERSHIP

In accordance with Article 3 (i) of the 2020 ITF Constitution, the following Class C Member National Associations hereby give notice of their intention to apply for a transfer from Class C to Class B membership at the 2021 ITF AGM, to take effect from 1 January 2022:

Bhutan
Congo DRC
Curacao
Nicaragua
Nepal
Somalia
Suriname

RESIGNATION, SUSPENSION OF MEMBERSHIP, TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP AND EXPULSION

In accordance with Articles 4(d), 4(g) and 4(h) of the 2020 ITF Constitution:

- (d) Any Class B Member or Class C Member who fails for two successive years to pay its subscriptions may either (i) be suspended (by a resolution of the Council passed with at least a two-thirds majority) or (ii) be expelled (by a resolution of the Council passed with at least a two-thirds majority) from the Company and its shares forfeited to the Company. The Board of Directors shall determine whether the sanction in the resolution to be put to the Council should be suspension or expulsion. Any proposed suspension or expulsion shall be upon notice as specified in Article 4(e) below.
- (g) Notice of any proposed suspension (including any resulting from a provisional suspension imposed under Article 4(e) or 4(f)) or termination of Membership, expulsion or re-admittance to Membership, with the exception of the lifting of a suspension under Article 5(f), shall appear on the agenda of the General Meeting at which it is to be moved.
- (h) Any Member who is suspended shall not be entitled to submit resolutions to, attend or vote at any General Meeting of the Company and shall not participate in the Official Team Competitions of the Company.

Suspension of Membership for failure to pay subscriptions:

CLASS B MEMBERS

Lesotho

CLASS C MEMBERS

Liberia

Report of the Board of Directors

It is with regret that the Board of Directors advises that the above Members should be **suspended** from the Company for having failed for two successive years to pay their annual subscriptions.

MEMBERSHIP OF PHILIPPINES LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Summary

The Philippines Lawn Tennis Association (**PHILTA**) has suffered from long-standing governance failings for more than 4 years. Earlier this year, the ITF Board referred a complaint to an Independent Tribunal seeking a declaration that PHILTA had breached the ITF Constitution in its capacity as an ITF member nation. The Tribunal found in favour of the ITF and declared that PHILTA was in breach.

Having regard to PHILTA's breach of the ITF Constitution, the AGM is asked to determine the appropriate consequences. Pursuant to the ITF Constitution, the AGM is entitled to (a) expel PHILTA from ITF membership; (b) suspend PHILTA from ITF membership; or (c) not impose a sanction and affirm PHILTA's ITF membership.

The Board of Directors **recommends** that the AGM **suspends** the Philippines Lawn Tennis Association (**PHILTA**) from membership to the ITF pending resolution of its long-standing governance failings. (Option 2 below)

Rationale

(a) Background

Since 2016, PHILTA has failed to comply with numerous requests by the ITF to resolve several problems in its governance framework. In particular:

- a. PHILTA has not held a valid presidential election since 2014 (**Leadership issue**); and
- b. PHILTA's constitution does not provide for a truly representative membership to deliver tennis in the Philippines (**Representation issue**).

• Leadership Issue

To date, the ITF does not recognise Mr Antonio Cablitas (who purportedly replaced Mayor Edwin Olivarez) as PHILTA president because Mr Cablitas' election, in June 2017, was not, according to the Philippines Olympic Committee (**POC**), carried out in accordance POC procedure. Moreover, it is not clear that Mr Cablitas was a member of PHILTA at the time he was elected and so was not, at the time, eligible for election. Despite the ITF's concerns, Mr Cablitas has continued to operate as the elected president of PHILTA¹.

PHILTA's trusteeship has continued to ignore requests from the ITF spanning three years (2017 – 2019) to provide copies of its membership register, minutes of trustee meetings and evidence to confirm Mr Cablitas' election was valid.

In response to PHILTA's Leadership issue, four (4) PHILTA trustees set up a separate group called Unified Tennis Philippines (UTP) which claims to be the country's legitimate national tennis association. UTP has been funding and administering player and coaching clinics in the Philippines since 2016, and organising domestic tennis tournaments since August 2017. UTP is recognised by the Philippines Sports Commission as a sports organisation. The ITF is particularly concerned that the concurrent operation of PHILTA and UTP is likely to cause disputes within the country which may spill over into the international arena.

¹ Despite the ITF's concerns, in the interests of tennis in the Philippines, Mr Cablitas was permitted to attend the 2018 and 2019 AGM as PHILTA's representative.

- Representation Issue

On 20 October 2017, the ITF wrote to PHILTA, setting out its expectation that constitutional changes be made as a matter of priority. The ITF requested a road-map for how PHILTA was going to make those changes, and a report on the state of tennis in the Philippines. No response was ever received.

PHILTA's current membership criteria is narrow so only the trusteeship (12 individuals) can vote on matters of governance and the delivery of tennis in the Philippines. It does not permit players, coaches, tennis clubs or any other relevant stakeholder the opportunity to engage with, vote and act in the best interest of tennis in the Philippines. Therefore, the PHILTA governance structure does not provide for the usual means of broader representation and consultation with tennis players, clubs and other tennis stakeholders. This has called into question whether PHILTA can be said to "*represent the game of tennis*" in the Philippines, in accordance with Article 4(b) of the ITF Constitution.

In November 2018, PHILTA advised the ITF that it would increase its membership from 12 to 15 individual members. The ITF Board did not agree that this was an adequate remedy. The fundamental gap, which was explained to PHILTA, is that the Trustees, whether 12 or 15 of them, are (a) not elected or appointed by the membership, and (b) not formally guided or informed by the views of those that participate in the sport. The ITF therefore advised PHILTA on 15 May 2019 to broaden the scope of its member categories in order to adequately represent tennis in the Philippines.

(b) Breach of the ITF Constitution

Over the years the ITF has tried to assist PHILTA. The ITF President travelled to the Philippines in 2017 to work with PHILTA's leadership and agree a proposal to address the Leadership and Representation issues. The ITF reached out to both the Asian Tennis Federation and the POC for support. Unfortunately, no progress was made and PHILTA continued to ignore the ITF's correspondence regarding its governance failings.

The ITF Board formed the view that after more than four (4) years, the situation in PHILTA had escalated to a point where the ITF needed to progress the matter to independent review. The Board recognised that the ITF would be negligent in its obligation as an international federation if it failed to ensure that its members complied with their membership obligations.

In response to PHILTA's refusal to address its governance failings, the Board of Directors referred the matter to the Independent Tribunal in February 2020 (pursuant to Bye-law 7(a) of the ITF Constitution). The Board submitted to the Tribunal that, as an ITF member nation, PHILTA had breached the following articles of the ITF Constitution:

- Article 3(a): a member nation must remain a properly constituted sports body throughout its membership;
- Article 4(c): a member nation must adequately represent the game of tennis in its country or territory; and
- Bye-law 7(a): a member nation must not engage in conduct that is likely to bring the game of tennis into disrepute.

(c) Relevant provisions of the Constitution (underlined text has added emphasis)

Constitution

3. Applications for membership

- (a) A National Association ... shall ensure that on becoming a Member of the Company it shall remain such a properly constituted sports body throughout its Membership of the Company, and shall advise the Company should there be a fundamental change in its ability to meet these requirements.

4. Resignation, suspension or membership, termination of membership and expulsion

- ...
- (b) Any Class B or Class C Member whose continued Membership would, in the opinion of the Council, seriously damage the international standing of tennis as a world sport, shall be suspended as a Member of the Company if a Resolution of the Council to that effect is carried by a two-thirds majority...
- (c) Any Class B or Class C Member which, in the opinion of the Council, does not adequately represent the game of tennis in its country or territory or which has not acted in accordance with the Constitution (or any Rules or Bye-laws published from time to time by the Company), shall stand expelled from the Company and its shares forfeited if a Resolutions of the Council to that effect is carried by a four-fifths majority.

Bye-Laws

7. Penalties and suspensions

- (a) The Board of Directors shall have power (which it may delegate as it sees fit) to investigate and bring a complaint against any National Association (and/or, where applicable, any of that association's affiliated organisations) for (i) any apparent breach of the Constitution or failure to represent the game of tennis adequately in its country or territory; (ii) any apparent breach of these Bye-laws, or of any Rules or Regulations of the ITF, or (iii) any other act that brings the game into disrepute.
- (b) The complaint will be referred to and heard and determined (a) by the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel (if the relevant Rules and Regulations of the ITF so specify); but otherwise (b) by the Independent Tribunal. Article 33(b) and (d) of the Constitution shall apply in respect of the proceedings before that body.
- (c) In the case of complaints alleging breach by a National Association of the Constitution or failure to represent the game of tennis adequately in its country or territory, upon request by the ITF the Independent Tribunal may suspend the National Association from entry in Official Team Competitions, on a provisional basis (i.e., pending determination of the complaint) and/or as a final sanction.
- (d) The ITF shall publish the decision resolving the complaint, which decision shall be recognised by each National Association, which shall take all necessary action to give effect to that decision in its national jurisdiction.

(Emphasis added)

(d) Proceedings before the Independent Tribunal

In February 2020, a three-person panel was appointed to hear the matter. Several directions hearings were convened to allow the ITF and PHILTA to agree the appropriate procedural steps (including a timeline for disclosure, filing submissions and holding a hearing – if necessary). Unfortunately, PHILTA did not attend any of the scheduled directions hearings. PHILTA failed to substantively engage with the proceedings. The Tribunal afforded PHILTA every opportunity to engage. The Tribunal granted PHILTA additional time to file its submissions. However, PHILTA did not comply and did not submit any material.

In the absence of PHILTA, the Tribunal determined the matter solely on the ITF's papers, namely the ITF's Referral of Complaint and supporting submissions. The Tribunal handed down its decision on 8 July 2020.

- Orders made:

In its decision, the Tribunal made the following orders:

- a. a declaration that PHILTA is not a properly constituted sports body in breach of Article 3(a) of the ITF Constitution;

- b. a declaration that PHILTA has not adequately represented tennis in the Philippines in breach of Article 4(c) of the ITF Constitution;
- c. a declaration that PHILTA's breach of Articles 3(a) and 4(c) and its failure to engage with the ITF has brought the game of tennis into disrepute in breach of Bye-law 7(a) of the ITF Constitution; and
- d. an order that PHILTA be suspended from all ITF team competitions for a period of two (2) years pending resolution of its governance issues. The Tribunal recognised that should PHILTA resolve its governance issues within that two-year period, to the reasonable satisfaction of the ITF, the remainder of any suspension period could be lifted at the direction of the ITF Board of Directors.

- Findings of Fact:

The Tribunal undertook a detailed assessment of the chronology of events and facts relevant to PHILTA's non-compliance with the ITF Constitution. In sum it made the following findings of fact:

Article 3(a): Properly constituted sports body

- a. PHILTA has failed to hold valid elections since at least July 2016; therefore
- b. Mr Antonio Cablitas was not validly elected as a PHILTA Trustee or as PHILTA President; and
- c. PHILTA's Trusteeship has been operating in a hold-over capacity since at least 2016.
- d. For these reasons, PHILTA is in breach of the Philippines Corporations Code and the PHILTA Constitution and so is not a properly constituted sports body.

Article 4(c) – Failure to adequately represent tennis in the Philippines

- a. National tennis associations like PHILTA ought to have membership structures that benefit from contributions of a broad tennis community including players, coaches and tennis clubs;
- b. The establishment of the rival tennis organisation, Unified Tennis Philippines indicates there is a material degree of dissatisfaction in the Philippines regarding the way tennis is administered and promoted at a national level by PHILTA; and therefore
- c. PHILTA's existing structure does not and has not adequately represented the game of tennis in the Philippines.

Bye-law 7(a) – Conduct that has brought the sport of tennis into disrepute

- a. The negative media attention that PHILTA's disputed elections received since 2016 has significantly lowered the reputation of tennis in the Philippines in the eyes of ordinary members of the public;
- b. This lowering of estimation resulted in the loss of domestic sponsorship; and
- c. PHILTA's failure to engage with the ITF and comply with the ITF's reasonable directions is conduct that, when viewed in context over a period of nearly four years, has brought tennis into disrepute.

Next steps for the ITF AGM

In its decision, the Tribunal declared that the ITF Council shall “*determine the fact of PHILTA's membership pursuant to Article 4(b) and/or 4(c)*”. This means that the ITF Council is afforded the discretion to determine whether PHILTA's breaches of the ITF Constitution warrants:

- a. expulsion under Article 4(c) – which requires a 4/5 majority to pass; or
- b. suspension under Article 4(b) – which requires a 2/3 majority to pass; or
- c. no sanction.

The Board's recommendation to the AGM is that PHILTA be **suspended** from membership under Article 4(b).

Below are *alternative* resolutions that the ITF Council are asked to vote on. Expulsion requires a 4/5th majority. If there is not a 4/5th majority in favour of PHILTA's expulsion (**Option 1**), the ITF

Council will vote on whether to suspend PHILTA. If there is not a 2/3rd majority in favour of suspending PHILTA (**Option 2**), PHILTA will not be subject to any sanction by the ITF Council and will remain an active ITF member nation.

For the avoidance of doubt, the decision of the ITF Council, does not affect the Tribunal's decision to suspend PHILTA from ITF international team competitions for two (2) years. That suspension shall remain in force regardless of the outcome of the Council's vote.

Resolution of the ITF Council

OPTION 1 – Expulsion under Article 4(c) [requires a 4/5th majority to pass]

Not recommended by the ITF Board of Directors.

Having regard to the governance failings of PHILTA while acting in its capacity as an ITF Member Nation, which have been outstanding since at least 2016, the ITF AGM hereby resolves to expel PHILTA from membership of the ITF until such as time as it addresses its governance failings, in particular the valid election of a President and Trustees and the implementation of constitutional reforms to increase PHILTA's membership and representation.

PHILTA may apply for re-admittance to membership in accordance with Article 5(a) of the ITF Constitution once PHILTA resolves those governance failings to the satisfaction of the ITF Board of Directors, acting reasonably.

[Alternatively, if the required 4/5th majority is not reached to declare expulsion]

OPTION 2 – Suspension under Article 4(b) [requires a 2/3rd majority to pass] **Recommended by the ITF Board of Directors.**

Having regard to the governance failings of PHILTA while acting in its capacity as an ITF Member Nation, which have been outstanding since at least 2016, the ITF AGM hereby resolves to suspend PHILTA from membership of the ITF until such as time as it addresses its governance failings, in particular the valid election of a President and Trustees and the implementation of constitutional reforms to increase PHILTA's membership and representation.

PHILTA may apply for its suspension to be lifted in accordance with Article 5(e) of the ITF Constitution once PHILTA resolves those governance failings to the satisfaction of the ITF Board of Directors, acting reasonably.

2021 SUBSCRIPTION

Details of the 2021 subscription will be announced at the Annual General Meeting.

5. AWARDS FOR SERVICES TO THE GAME

National Association Nominations

Name	Category	
Mr Calton Enrique Alvarez Aguilar (HON)	Players	60 Davis Cup Rubbers - Singles W/L - 31/17. Doubles W/L - 7/5. Total W/L - 38/22.
Mr Hans-Peter Born (GER)	Coaches	1992-2019 – Deutscher Tennis Bund Coach. Served on the ITF Coaches Commission '97-'99 & '001-'19. Has written various articles and books about training and education and been a speaker at ITF and TE conferences and symposiums.
Mr Slah Bramly (TUN)	Coaches	Federal and national coach for Tunisia 1981-1993. National Technical Director at FTT 1993-2001, and at Tennis Emirates 2001-2020.
Ms Margalita Chakhnashivili-Ranzinger (GEO)	Players	39 Fed Cup Ties - Singles W/L 21/15. Doubles W/L - 9/12. Total W/L - 30/27
Ms Marina Marienko (RUS)	Coaches	Over 25 years working at Spartak Tennis Club and National Team. Worked with many players at different stages of their careers, including four ITF World Champions – Anna Kournikova (together with Larisa Preobrazhenskaya), Daria Gavrilova, Irina Khromacheva and Andrey Rublev. A Merited Coach of Russian Federation.
Mr Barry McMillan (AUS)	Others	For the last 26 years has held 2 key roles assisting the OTF in its Development and Administration since the OTF's inception in 1993. OTF's Honorary Auditor for 20 years 1999-2019. Tennis Australia Delegate Member to the Board from 1993-1999. President of Tennis South Australia 1982-1984; South Australia Tennis Board Member 1979-1981; Member of the Board of Tennis Australia 1982-1984.
Mr Toshiro Sakai (JPN)	Administrators	Executive Board Member of Japan Tennis Association for 18 years. Vice President of JTA. <i>(Additionally, played Davis Cup - 1968, 1971-1977; Davis Cup Captain - 1981-1985; Fed Cup Captain - 1990-1992, 1995-1996; Olympics Games Team Leader - 1996; Tournament Director Japan Open - 1987-2000)</i>
Ms Aliaksandra Sasnovich (BLR)	Players	37 Fed Cup Rubbers. Singles W/L – 17/11. Doubles W/L – 6/3. Total W/L – 23/14.

Coaches Commission Nomination

Mr Ian Barclay (AUS)	Coached a number of Victorian and Australian Junior Champions, singles and doubles, most notably Pat Cash. National Junior Coach for the Lawn Tennis Association for nine years before returning to Australia. As of 2010 was still coaching and involved with junior development programs with Tennis Australia. Coached over 20 Grand Slam junior title winners and over 40 national and international junior and senior title winners in two different countries. His awards include; 2011 Order of Australia Medal For Services to the Sport of Tennis; 2012 Tennis Australia Presidents Spirit of Tennis Award; 2016 Tennis Coaches Australia – Victoria Awarded Legend Status; 2013 Tennis Coaches Australia – Victoria Hall of Fame Inductee; 2007 Tennis Coaches Australia – Victoria Coach of The Year Award; 2011 – 12 Tennis Victoria – Victorian Spirit of Tennis Award.
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Report of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors **recommends acceptance** of all the above nominations.

6. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

Article 14(b)(viii) To appoint annually the Auditors to the Company

The Board of Directors recommends the appointment of the below company as Auditors to the International Tennis Federation from 21 November 2020 up to and including the final day of the 2021 General Meeting:

United Kingdom PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Future Annual General Meetings

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

COMMUNICATIONS

The impact of COVID-19

The ITF entered the COVID 19 'lockdown' period with an announcement on March 11 of the postponement of 2020 Fed Cup Finals and Play-Offs. A further announcement followed, on April 1, of the suspension of all ITF circuits in alignment with the ATP and WTA. On June 26, the ITF announced that the 2020 Davis Cup by Rakuten Madrid Finals would be postponed until 2021. The ITF adopted a proactive and transparent approach in order to ensure that all those affected received timely notification and to minimise speculation. With regards to Davis Cup Finals, whilst some questioned the timing of the announcement as premature, it was widely accepted as a responsible action that provided certainty to players, member nations, fans and stakeholders.

From July, communications turned to the 'return to tennis', as we published guidelines containing health and safety protocols with best practice at recreational and tour levels, as well as provisional dates for the resumption of the tours. Players expressed strong views about whether professional tennis competition – national and international - should resume. Thanks to the newly formed ITF World Tennis Tour (WTT) player panels, clear communication helped explain the rationale behind the decisions, provided the athletes with a necessary forum to have a voice and provided valuable athlete insight to the ITF in its decision-making process.

The pandemic imposed new ways of working and provided a context to modernise our means of communications and to increase the opportunities to provide information and exchange views, enabled by technology, such as Microsoft Teams.

From a recreational perspective, the ITF published weekly digital maps to provide a global picture of where tennis can be played safely within the health and safety protocols. The digital maps were widely consulted by web users and social followers throughout the tennis hiatus and its progressive return.













New ways of communicating using technology included webinars. In August, the ITF hosted a panel and Q&A online, attended by over 150 people; the webinar was part of the wider launch of 'Advantage All' campaign to drive awareness and engagement with National Associations around the ITF's global gender equality initiative. ITF webinars are recorded, and the presentation materials are made available for all member nations. Furthermore, a series of webinars addressing several topics of global relevance will be produced and offered to ITF member nations beginning January 2021.

ITF on Social

With live action tennis in a hiatus, social media provided the ITF with the opportunity for unique storytelling and opened its archives to showcase historic moments in tennis with exclusive imagery and video content, thus providing compelling content and attracting additional followers:

Followers	561,500	+24%
Video views	8,374,400	+146%
Minutes viewed	2,399,500	+146%
Interactions	298,000	+60%

The **ITF** remains well-positioned in the IOC Olympic Sports index. Compared to eleven other IFs, the **ITF** ranks equal third on Twitter and equal sixth overall in the ranking score league table:

Overall Rank	Change	International Federation	f	🐦	📷
1	+1	 BWF	1	=3	1
2	-1	 FIVB	2	1	3
3	=	 ICC	7	2	=4
=4	+2	 ITTF	4	=6	=7
=4	=	 World Athletics	5	10	2
=6	=	 ITF	6	=3	9
=6	=	 UCI	11	=3	=4
8	+1	 FINA	3	11	6
9	-4	 FIBA	=8	=6	=7
10	=	 FIFA	10	=6	N/A*
11	=	 WR	=8	9	=10
12	=	 FIH	12	12	=10

Women’s World Cup of Tennis – a new era for Fed Cup:

Since the beginning of 2020, Fed Cup social accounts experienced a significant year-on-year increase in total engagements:

Followers	378,100	+6%
Video views	687,400	+1,948%
Minutes viewed	206,400	+1,692%
Interactions	41,200	+2,146%

A new name: Billie Jean King Cup by BNP Paribas

On September 17, 211 media tuned in to the virtual media conference via Microsoft Teams LIVE. In addition, 2,300 people tuned in to the public livestream, with millions more viewing videos online via YT and via the website as well as those following the news on ITF social channels.

The ITF engaged with Regional and National Association communications team prior to the announcement, with many actively promoting the news on the day, using assets provided by the ITF global team which enabled a consistent message and brand launch, globally. Team Captains also supported the launch of the name change by informing the national team players and posting on their own social channels. Billie Jean King (BJK) sent a personal WhatsApp audio message to players, shared by the Captains, saying how proud she is to represent the players, the nations and this historic competition. BJK played in the victorious US team in its inaugural year, in 1963. Today, she still holds the record for the most wins as a player and a captain. Many social influencers were contacted prior to the announcement and voiced their support on the day, thus widening the reach and engagement of this news beyond tennis circles.

The ITF and the combined efforts of many National Association communications teams resulted in over 1,700 media articles in print, online and broadcast, reaching hundreds of millions of people across Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Americas.

Lead pieces in the New York Times, CNN, BBC, The Guardian, Forbes, Der Spiegel, El Pais, Le Figaro and the Times of India reached an audience of more than 200million people. Articles include:

- UK – 31 pieces of print and online coverage
- USA – Currently 34 pieces of online coverage
- Australia – 9 pieces of online coverage
- France – 26 pieces of online coverage
- Germany – 28 pieces of print and online coverage
- Hungary – 15 pieces of print and online coverage
- Czech Republic – 11 pieces of print and online coverage
- China – 30 pieces of online coverage
- Russia – 18 pieces of online coverage
- Slovakia – 4 pieces of online coverage
- Spain – 15 pieces of online coverage
- Italy – 5 pieces of online coverage
- Swiss – 40 pieces of online coverage

With many high-profile social influencers positing positive comments, the news created buzz over a 48-hour period. For example, Serena Williams’ post reached 10.8m followers and Maria Sharapova, 8.6 million. Elton John’s post reached 3.1m and many legends of the game such as Tracy Austin, Monica Seles, Lindsay Davenport, Kim Clijsters posted on the day.

This response to the news supports the decision for change by the ITF Board, creates a powerful global brand with an icon as its figurehead and elevates the women’s world cup of tennis. At the same time, positioning the ITF 2024 strategic pillars of equality & inclusion.

Davis Cup

With regards to the men’s world cup of tennis, Davis Cup, the total number of followers year to date are 980,000. A [video](#) of Rafael Nadal sweeping his court after training garnered more than 1M video views on **Facebook**:

Followers	980,700	+8%
Video views	5,353,200	+4,532%
Minutes viewed	1,823,600	+8,333%
Interactions	192,900	+1,375%

Davis Cup and Davis Cup Finals digital merge

The ITF and Kosmos are working on the project to merge the Davis Cup and Davis Cup Final social channels, website and apps, with a view to rolling out unified platforms ahead of the Finals in 2021.

The Davis Cup and Davis Cup Finals social media merger begins September 23, 2020. Moving forwards there will be Davis Cup accounts in English and Spanish on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, with a dedicated YouTube channel.

Web Development Project – ITFTENNIS.COM

ITFtennis.com website reach remains significant, and tournament pages continue to be the main driver of traffic and engagement, as follows (for the period 11-17 September 2019):

1. ITF Website overall: 2.605million (page views)
2. **Tournament pages: 1.14million**
3. Player profiles: 573,000

4. Live scoring platform: 215,910
5. ITF Tour landing pages: 81,079
6. Rankings: 30,111
7. About us section (contains player specific documents): 29, 832
8. News and media: 17,350

In modernising the ITF website and ensuring its compatibility on mobile, the ITF undertook a significant project of work converting 25+ ITF microsites into one main site for the ITF as a three-phase project.

Phase 1 (launch) saw the site go live, however, without certain key features. Phases 2 and 3 of development were planned to add (and improve) key features that users were able to access previously, refine other elements that need improvement and improve the overall user experience. Due to the impact of COVID 19 on staffing and re-prioritisation, phases 2 & 3 have been delayed but work is set to resume later in 2020. Examples of key items to be worked on include:

1. Revised homepage with more visibility of ITF Tours, rankings, tournaments,
2. Make results available beyond draw sheets,
3. Reduce size of draw sheet cards,
4. Create pages to display ITF team competitions – i.e. Junior Davis Cup/Junior Billie Jean King Cup,
5. Enhance calendar pages to display tournament winners,
6. Add automated honour rolls to key tournaments.
7. Enhance player activity pages to include filter options
8. Improve relationship between live score platform and itftennis.com – provide smooth links to player profiles/tournaments

ITF Photo Archive

The ITF's photo archive now contains more than 440,000 images and the project to add historic imagery has been ongoing in 2020. Our entire archive of photos from Davis Cup, Billie Jean King Cup (formerly Fed Cup), the Olympics and the Grand Slam tournaments is now available online and forms 85% of the current content.

This project of work continues, adding more imagery from ITF Juniors, Development, Coaching, Wheelchair, the Paralympics, Seniors, Beach Tennis and the ITF World Tennis Tour.

ITF-commissioned photography from current ITF events and Grand Slams is now uploaded directly to the archive by our photographers. The benefits of this online resource for staff, partners and other ITF stakeholders have become clear with the arrival of remote working due to COVID-19.

The platform has been used to share selections of rights-free photos with national associations during Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup ties. If nations need help sourcing photos, they can contact Communications via email communications@itftennis.com to find out what the archive could provide and if licensing fees apply.

Media Services

It remains a priority of the department to raise the standard of media operations and services at the major ITF events, with the ultimate goal of offering an enhanced media service across all the ITF's world-class international competitions, including the non-professional circuits. The current pandemic creates considerable challenges in the area of press, photographer and TV operations, and alongside the establishment of appropriate social distancing measures on site, events are now having to be creative to ensure that they continue to receive worldwide coverage, not least through the introduction of virtual credentials and press conferences.

Away from the finals of our two major team competitions, the Communications department will look to work more closely with our member nations on media operations at Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup home-and-away ties, looking at the specific situation in each nation and the resourcing available to determine the best approach for servicing the media.

The department continues its work with the ITF Olympic department and Tokyo 2020 organising committee on plans for media operations at the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic tennis events that have been rescheduled for 2021. There are ongoing discussions with the IOC on changes that might need to be made to the traditional Olympic media operations model to ensure the safety of all those on site. The ITF onsite team during the Games will work in a variety of areas, including media operations, media information, player liaison and coverage via the ITF's digital properties.

The department continues to provide a range of onsite media services to the Grand Slam tournaments. At the rescheduled Roland Garros tournament, the ITF's Grand Slam media filled its traditional roles of interview management, men's media information and junior player liaison, with all interviews held as virtual press conferences involving media on and off site.

The ITF continues to oversee and administer the Media Commission which is composed of a steering group comprising representatives of the ITF, the four Grand Slams, the ATP and WTA, plus a general membership of at least 20 media and photographers who serve for a 2-year term. The ITF will continue to explore ways in which we can provide added value and preserve good relationships with the Grand Slams, the Tours and with the international media.

World Tennis Number

Since June 2020, communications representatives from USTA, LTA, FFT and the ITF established a Communications Subgroup to collaborate on the launch of the World Tennis Number. The Subgroup has agreed key principles for communicating about the project:

- ITF will apply a B2B approach, providing strategic direction and amplifying national association communication activity – having a truly global benchmark is a key benefit of WTN. This is an international collaboration led by the ITF
- Strategic support, content and toolkits will be developed for the National Associations to assist with their localised communications and marketing and ensure consistency of approach
- Onboarded national associations will be responsible for communicating to their players about registration with ITF support
- **November 2020 - Platform launch for ITF Player WTN Data**
 - Drive NA engagement
 - Activate social media channels and build advocacy and excitement ahead of 2021
- **January 2021 – Platform opened to all Players** - PR & Marketing campaign launch

Grassroots Development

Participation is the key focus for ITF Communications in 2021 and preparation is already underway with a number of new workstreams established to work in close collaboration with the Development department. The two departments have created a workflow - with input from Development Officers and the editorial team - to facilitate a clear and timely flow of stories from around the world, with fortnightly meetings to discuss and agree priorities. In addition to this, we are also utilising the expertise and insight of the ITF Participation Group to inform our planning and the direction of our 2021 campaign.

Tokyo 2020

The ITF engaged and amplified all of the IOC and IPC's One Year To Go content earlier this year and we will be looking to finalise plans for our own Tokyo 2020 campaign, which will form a key part of our content strategy and audience engagement in 2021. The Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games are the ideal platform to promote tennis and wheelchair tennis and attract new players to pick up a racquet and player, whether a beginner, a lapsed player or regular player in search of new partners to play with and places to play.

Gender Equality - Advantage All

The International Women's Day in March was the ideal opportunity to re-engage audiences with our Advantage All strategy and commitment to gender equality in tennis. To mark the day, we arranged an exclusive OpEd with Andy Murray for the IOC which was placed in major online and print outlets around the world with excerpts shared on itftennis.com. We also launched the Advantage All campaign with a video featuring, Billie Jean King, Lindsay Davenport, Jennie Price and other ambassadors, which has been viewed over 2.4 million times across digital platforms.

The postponement of the Fed Cup Finals until April 2021 also meant we postponed our Gender Equality Summit, with the event now scheduled to take place virtually in December. July was a key month with the roll-out of the Advantage All toolkit to national associations. The Advantage All toolkit included three guides: Write Your Own Strategy; Balance the Board; and a Brand & Communications Guide. The distribution of the toolkits was followed by two successful webinars which were joined by more than 150 people and provided case studies and an opportunity for national associations to engage and ask questions about developing their own strategies.

To coincide with the roll-out of the toolkits and webinars, we also launched an 'Inspiring Women' content series across our digital and social media channels. The series profiled six female leaders from within the sport and followed a 2020 ITF Female Leadership Survey that identified the lack of female role models as one of the greatest challenges women face in their careers. The series featured Lindsay Davenport, Wanjiru Mbugua-Karani, Hannah Behan, Valerie Maalouf, Jennie Price and Amanda Hopmans and resulted in more than 1.8million video views across the six episodes.

2021 Communications

The focus of communications in 2021 will be participation and supporting the company-wide goal of 30 million more players by 2030 – a target that is based on the 2019 ITF Global Tennis Report. An updated report will be published and communicated in 2021. We strongly believe the launch of the ITF World Tennis Number in 2021 will contribute greatly to this end. As an Olympic year, the Olympics and Paralympics will not only serve to promote tennis and Wheelchair tennis in 2021 but will also serve as a springboard for participation.

Beyond sports performance and participation, ITF communications will promote ITF circuits and major events but also develop corporate communications regarding corporate activities and achievements around the world linked to the ITF 2024 strategy. The ITF is committed to working in closer collaboration with the Regional and National Associations as communications partners, with an aim to raise the profile of professional tennis circuits and majors as well as promoting development and participation at national and regional levels. The ITF's 2021 communications strategy will support the Stakeholder Engagement programme of work and the global cocreation projects established as an outcome of the current work in progress by the Stakeholder Engagement Taskforce (SET).

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Now in its fourth year, the International Relations department continues with a three-tier communication strategy focused on proactive, direct interaction with our National Associations, developing stronger links with our six Regional Associations and utilisation of the ITF's global network of Development Officers.

Its primary purpose is to provide a direct channel of communication between our 210-member National Associations and the ITF Executive and staff, acting as the first point of contact for member nations and aligning with each of the ITF departments to ensure that National Associations receive timely support from the most appropriate ITF resource.

Engagement

Whilst COVID pandemic travel restrictions remain in place, engagement techniques that had seen a significant increase in engagement in recent years were adapted to become virtual. The traditional Information Sessions that the department organised at Roland Garros and Wimbledon in 2018 and 2019 have been replaced by a series of ITF webinars on key strategic subjects such as the Advantage All programme, World Tennis Number and use of social media.

Replacing visits to the ITF office, National Associations have been invited to participate in virtual clinics that provide an opportunity to meet with various ITF departments in order to discuss operational issues. These clinics will be complemented by a new 'onboarding' process designed to support National Associations that have undergone leadership change as they integrate into the ITF environment.

The department has collaborated closely with the Communications Department to deliver a complete stakeholder engagement review, with the objective to drive the next step in the evolution of our communication and engagement strategy. A new Stakeholder Engagement Taskforce now provides regional and national-level guidance. Under its advice, the department has initiated a survey of the National Associations to recognise strategic priorities for stakeholder groups within the ITF community. The taskforce will explore more collaborative methods of project development to better integrate the National Associations in ITF strategic projects.

Regional Associations

The department has delivered a series of routine virtual meetings of the Regional Association President's Taskforce (RAPTF). This is a platform for Regional Association and ITF leadership to meet and discuss ITF strategy and activities with a regional perspective. These meetings support the ITF2024 'partnerships' priority and the empowerment of Regional Association offices via the delegation of development programmes and greater alignment with ITF2024.

The existing Memorandum of Understanding between the ITF and each of the 6 Regional Associations has been evolved in order to incorporate ITF strategy and will continue to be developed as part of the Governance Review's focus on regional governance, roles and responsibilities.

Regional Association AGM's have moved to virtual platforms and the majority have been re-scheduled for the second half of 2020. The department will support delivery of ITF information and participation in these meetings.

A Regional Association Communications Taskforce was introduced in late 2019, to ensure that our regions are well informed of ITF communication plans. In 2020, the taskforce has supported the cascade of key information through regional offices to the nations. In return, the ITF Communications Department has used its own communication platforms to support and enhance the social media content created by the Regional Associations.

Membership

In 2020, a record number of nations have applied to upgrade to Class B membership. This follows collaboration between the International Relations and Development departments to better define a pathway for National Associations to progress from Class C to Class B membership. In recent years there has been a re-structure of the ITF Subscription Fees for Class C members and the introduction of the Subscription Fee Rebate Programme for Class B 1-Share members. The department has worked with the Development Officers to identify Class C nations with the future potential to apply for Class B membership, then supported those nations via development programmes, integration with the ITF2024 strategy and engagement opportunities with the ITF office.

The department is also directly involved in supporting member nations through leadership dispute resolution and has commenced development of administration and management resources and toolkits, including a new online platform for National Associations.

NA Assistance Programme

This programme is one of a range of measures introduced by the ITF Board of Directors to provide financial aid and technical support to member National Associations for national tournaments, Officiating and Coaching workshops during the COVID pandemic. The programme offers over \$1.4m in financial grants to a pool of 182 nations, running until the end of the year. The department also administered the player grant programmes available to Professional players ranked below ATP/WTA 500, Wheelchair Tennis and Junior players.

RIOU

In 2020, a fourth National Association staff member received a full scholarship to study a Masters in Sport Administration at the Russian International Olympic University. The programme is one example of the ITF's commitment to providing professional development opportunities for the next generation of tennis leaders and administrators. The candidate identification process is aligned with the Advantage All strategy and reflects the truly international nature of our organisation. The scholarship programme covers the cost of the academic course, accommodation and a monthly contribution towards living costs. The department supports the scholarship student during the academic year by providing thesis research support, if applicable.

ADVANTAGE ALL

The Advantage ALL programme commits the ITF to delivering a range of diversity and inclusion initiatives. It forms part of the ITF2024 strategic vision, falling under the Governance reform programme.

Developed in 2018, the Gender Equality in Tennis (GET) Strategy is a key strand within Advantage All. It aims to help empower, inspire and enable women and girls to reach their full potential, both on and off the court.

The Strategy is built on five pillars: empowerment, balance, culture, value and voice, and is designed to:

- Create more opportunities for women to become leaders in sport
- Encourage more women and girls to play tennis
- Champion female role models to inspire the next generation on and off the court
- Increase investment and award equal prize money
- Ensure our sport is addressing and eliminating bias and discrimination at every level

Since the 2018 AGM, the ITF has launched a range of GET initiatives, with an annual grant received from the Foundation for Global Sports Development (GSD) to support an 'Empowering Female Leaders' campaign. The new Billie Jean King Cup format also provides increased commercial value to raise the appeal of the women's game, with equal prize money.

In 2018, the GET Committee was established, chaired by Katrina Adams, to help guide and promote the ITF's work in this area.

National Association awareness and engagement

In 2020, work has focused on engaging with Regional and National Associations (RA and NAs) to encourage them to adopt their own gender equality strategies and programmes, to address gender imbalances at all levels.

In June, an Advantage All toolkit was launched, comprising a series of guidance documents, supported by a communications campaign and webinars. The toolkit comprises three guides:

- Write your own Strategy Guide – outlining how NAs can research and develop their own gender equality strategies given that each NA faces its own challenges and a 'one size fits all' model is not sufficient.
- Balance the Board Guide – a key steps guide aimed at increasing the number of leaders and women's representation at RA/NA Board level
- Brand and Communications Guide – highlighting the key principles of effective communications campaigns to promote gender equality, along with brand guidelines to ensure that Advantage All is presented consistently across all regions and nations in a modern, attractive style.

The guides are supported by accompanying templates and tools, such as a NA Self- Assessment tool which allows NAs to reflect on the current status of their gender equality related policies and procedures.

Developing the leadership pipeline

A comprehensive questionnaire was sent to all female leaders within the tennis nations in late 2019 to inform the development of a bespoke ITF leadership programme. From 122 responses, we gained valuable insight into the need to further address issues such as leadership training, mentoring, male advocacy etc.

The GET Committee had its first meeting of 2020 in May and members shared their own nations experiences and approaches to gender equality, as well as providing valuable feedback on the leadership programme direction.

Other gender equality related actions have included:

- Tailored workshops, panels and programmes for officials and coaches. All NAs are being encouraged to identify a female 'officiating ambassador' who can help promote and raise awareness of the opportunity to develop a career in officiating to women
- Development of an 'unconscious bias' training module, delivered as part of leadership training courses for ITF staff, plus revised maternity and family friendly policies for ITF staff
- Increased visibility for women's tennis by focusing on balanced gender coverage within all ITF publications and media releases
- Year 2 of Women's Sport Leadership Academy (WSLA) High Performance Coaches programme, continued from 2019, involving 2 ITF coaches on a programme involving 5 other International Federations and IOC Olympic Solidarity funding
- International Women's Day promotion, with accompanying [video](#) led by Advantage All Ambassador, Billie Jean King
- Inspiring Women Content Series – a series of 8 films featuring inspirational women & leaders, aimed at encouraging more women into off court roles such as coaching, officiating and leadership
- Balanced number of World Tennis Tour tournaments, with improved infrastructure that includes women's and men's player panels
- GET Committee Chair, Katrina Adams, was a panellist on an IOC Webinar Series, on how International Federations can improve the 'portrayal' of women in tennis by removing gender bias and achieving gender balance
- Governance and constitution review

Billie Jean King Cup alignment

The postponement of the 2020 Fed Cup due to Covid-19 has meant a delay to the proposed Advantage All activation programme. However, engagement will continue in the build up to the 2021 Billie Jean King Cup Final. The 2021 Final will be a key platform to showcase the ITF Women's Leadership Programme and other Advantage All initiatives, using ambassadors such as Billie Jean King and others to promote gender equality messages.

Implementation of the ITF Women's Leadership Programme

For 2021-2024, the goal is driving a meaningful increase in female representation at ITF board, committees, commissions and senior leadership levels, by actively encouraging women to take up leadership roles and creating the pathway to enable them to progress.

A GET Committee Working Group has helped to develop the ITF Women's Leadership Programme to be launched in January 2021. It will be available to all women who currently hold leadership positions on RA or NA Boards, Committees or Commissions.

There are three core elements:

- Webinar series – to inform, empower and inspire women to become leaders and decision makers in sport
- Networking – to provide enhanced opportunities for women to broaden their networks and develop their networking skills
- Mentoring – selected female participants to have access to mentoring, with a scheme to be launched in 2021/22 to help guide and support them as they develop their careers in tennis

Communications and engagement

The communication of Advantage All initiatives will continue to promote gender equality including:

- Further NA and RA engagement to encourage the development of Gender Equality Strategies at a national and regional level
- A Gender Equality Virtual Summit, scheduled for December 2020, will place gender equality in the spotlight; invited panellists will discuss and share high level insight, experiences and build knowledge about promoting gender equality
- Awareness campaigns. Continued promotion of role models and targeted communications to encourage women to be more involved in all aspects of the game, both on and off the court
- Research findings: collation of data to help measure progress in promoting gender equality at all levels

HUMAN RESOURCES

UK Government Job Retention Scheme

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been extended to the end of October.

Furloughed staff remain on 20% salary reduction whilst active staff members' salaries are reduced by 10% including SLT (from 1 September) along with Development Officers, Officials (Team) and Regional Officiating Officers. This arrangement will continue until the end of the year. The position is reviewed on a monthly basis.

We are due to receive £43k (\$55k) via the Job Retention Bonus Scheme the Government are operating. Any staff member who were previously furloughed and leave before the end of January would reduce this amount by £1k (\$1.3k) per person.

Headcount

Our overall headcount is a total of 115 (as at mid-September) and when taking into account part time workers and those on project based fixed term contracts working on the implementation of our strategic initiatives, the figure is 105.

To date we have reduced by 18 people this year which is still a manageable staffing level in line with the present level of activity.

We have an almost even split of male and female employees overall. However, we are very focused on increasing the level of females in management and senior roles and we are currently in the process of reviewing how we action this.

We are developing a new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy that will mean we commit to ensuring that this topic remains in our line of sight at all times and in everything we do – recruitment, training, learning and development initiatives and promotions.

The ITF Offices

We know that working from home, albeit under considerably reduced activity levels, has been successful. We are an organisation that wants to keep our offices and we value the improved communication and camaraderie that being together brings. With this in mind, we have commenced returning to the office which is being actioned in phases and in line with strict ITF protocols and UK Government guidelines. The first volunteers returned on 7 September split in to two teams working from the office on 2 days per week each. Feedback has been very positive so far and we continue to improve the protocols that we have put in to place.

We had planned to return to the office (main Phase 1) in earnest from 5th October, however, UK Government guidelines have recently changed and therefore we have delayed this but are still allowing team members to work from the office on a voluntary basis and this remains in line with current guidelines.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

2020 has been dominated by the impact of Covid-19 and one aspect of this has been the need for staff to be able to work effectively from home and access the full range of information and services that they require. This put additional demands on staff and on the IT department, but we have benefitted from our strategy of migration to cloud-based IT services which meant that the organisation was well prepared for working remotely.

During lockdown our reliance on remote access to files and data and on online collaboration tools has been absolute. We were fortunate to have completed the final stages of our year-long migration to Microsoft Office 365 in February, just ahead of the lockdown, and in that same month we also moved all staff to using laptop PCs as part of a pre-existing initiative to facilitate more flexible working.

ITF staff adapted quickly to embrace the new ways of working and in particular the use of Microsoft Teams with its document sharing and video conferencing capabilities. These new ways of working and communicating will permanently transform our office working practices going forward as well as offering opportunities to save costs by reducing the amount of travel for meetings.

IT security remains one of the biggest challenges and concerns with people working outside of the protective boundaries of the ITF office. In any period of major disruption to normal activity there are those who will seek to take advantage of the situation, and we have been aware of heightened levels of security threats and a significant increase in attacks that target individuals such as email 'phishing'. The ITF is subject to such attacks on a daily basis, and we have also received reports of other tennis and sports governing bodies being specifically targeted, including some of our own National Associations.

We have responded to the threat by investing again this year in additional layers of protection designed to protect our systems and data against such attacks. Unfortunately, however, no amount of technical measures can offer guaranteed protection and so it is vital that we continue to provide education and training to our staff and stakeholders on how to remain vigilant through the use of regular training and awareness campaigns.

IPIN

The new version of IPIN which launched at the end of last year delivered important changes and improvements for players across all ITF Circuits and we have continued to support and enhance the new service in 2020 with updates and the introduction of new features.

Many of these updates have focussed on providing essential back-office administration tools to assist ITF Circuits staff in the management of player and membership information. There have also been improvements to usability and ease of access to information in response to feedback from players, and regular ongoing work to monitor and enhance the security and performance of the IPIN system.

Beach Tennis joined IPIN in January after precursor work to automate the capture of results and the calculation of tour rankings was completed in our Baseline database. We currently have 1500 active Beach Tennis players who can now keep up with the latest developments on the tour and manage their tournament entries and playing schedules centrally via the IPIN digital platform on either desktop PC, tablet, or mobile phone.

As part of the ITF's new commercial partnership with Tennis Point another new feature on IPIN has been its integration with a dedicated online shopping portal. This provides all ITF circuit players with access via their secure IPIN login to a private version of Tennis Point's e-commerce website where they can benefit from substantial discounts on tennis equipment, clothing, and accessories purchased online.

We hope that players will find that this new service adds value to their use of IPIN, and we will continue to work with the ITF Commercial Department to find other ways in which the new IPIN platform can be built upon to provide an even wider range of benefits for our players.

ITF World Tennis Number

The ITF World Tennis Number international rating is one of the key IT-dependent initiatives central to delivering the ITF 2024 strategic plan. The digital platform that will bring the ITF World Tennis Number to National Associations and players around the world relies entirely on data and as we bring individual National Associations onboard the platform, getting high quality, accurate data into the system is critical to the project's success.

The new ITF-led Tennis Open Data Standards (TODS) have been designed to facilitate the efficient transfer of the large amounts of player and results data between National Associations and the World Tennis Number central database system and to also allow this process to be automated.

Having a common framework for data exchange also depends on the ability to confidently and uniquely identify any tennis player, at any level, across different databases and sets of match results that will be coming in from a large number of very varied sources. We have introduced the 'Tennis ID' to provide a way to achieve this by assigning every player with a globally unique and globally recognisable ID. Working alongside any existing national membership or player ID schemes, Tennis ID enables player and results data to be shared accurately with and between the ITF, National Associations, and any third parties such as technology partners.

We will continue to work with those technology partners who provide player membership or results and rankings data management services to our nations to encourage the adoption of our open data standards and Tennis ID in their products. This will not only make it easier to integrate their systems with the World Tennis Number, but in demonstrating the wider benefits of this new data exchange framework we hope to enable and encourage better information sharing and utilisation of tennis data more widely within the tennis community.

Looking ahead to 2021, the ITF World Tennis Number will continue to be one of our biggest areas of focus and activity as we accelerate the process of onboarding individual National Associations and assist them in reaching as many new players as possible via the new digital platform.

ATP & WTA TOURS

ATP

The ATP's new Chairman Andrea Gaudenzi and CEO Massimo Calvelli both began their four-year terms on 1st January 2020. The new leadership team has undertaken a complete review of the ATP business including key issues such as calendar, event structure, prize money and player mandatory commitment.

As well as the issues around Covid-19 they have also had to deal with the creation, at the 2020 US Open, of a new player's representative body led by Novak Djokovic and Vasek Pospisil called the Professional Tennis Players Association (PTPA).

The ITF has worked closely with both the ATP and WTA to address the issues raised in 2020 by the Covid-19 pandemic leading to the creation of a revised tennis calendar from \$15k to Masters 1000 levels and new 'either/ or' ranking system to address concerns around the fairness of the ranking for players unable or unwilling to travel and compete.

Following the announcement of major changes to the Davis Cup at the ITF AGM in August 2018 and the subsequent announcement of the reintroduction of the ATP Cup, the ITF has continued discussions with the new ATP leadership on the optimum calendar for men's professional tennis and the placing of the Davis Cup Finals in future calendars.

The ATP continues to have one full member on the Rules of Tennis Committee and Anti-Doping Working Group. It has an observer on the Davis Cup Committee and Olympic Committee, and ex-officio members on the Sport Science and Medicine Commission and Technical Commission.

WTA

There continues to be a strong spirit of cooperation between the ITF and WTA with both organisations working closely, and with the ATP, to address the considerable challenges faced in 2020.

The agreement between the ITF and WTA reached on scheduling for 2019 with the WTA Tour saw the calendar continue to respect the traditional Billie Jean King Cup dates and we will continue this approach to the calendar for 2021.

As a founding member of the WTA, the ITF is a voting member on the WTA Board. To ensure collaboration the WTA has one full member on the ITF Women's Circuit Committee, Rules of Tennis Committee and Anti-Doping Working Group. The WTA has an observer on the Billie Jean King Cup Committee and Olympic Committee, and ex-officio members on the Sport Science and Medicine Commission and Technical Commission.

GRAND SLAM® BOARD

The Grand Slam Board was formed as a key strategic alliance and consists of the four Grand Slam Chairmen and the ITF President with the mandate for the Board, as it related to the ITF, as follows:

- Tournament matters (ITF as observer)
- Service Provider (ITF as counterpart)
- Strategic Matters of Professional Tennis (ITF as a full member)

The ITF hosts the office of the Grand Slam Board in Roehampton and the Grand Slams and ITF are full members of the Tennis Anti-Doping Programme (“TADP”) and Tennis Integrity Unit (“TIU”).

The Grand Slam tournaments continue to make contributions to the Grand Slam Development Fund (GSDF) to support international competitive tennis opportunities in emerging tennis nations. Since its inception, the Grand Slam Development Fund has contributed over \$55 million towards tennis development through the ITF member nations and their players. This year their contribution to the fund was US\$2.62 million. Additionally, as Official Tennis Championships of the ITF, each Grand Slam tournament pays the ITF a % of their gross prize money.

ITF ETHICS COMMISSION 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

ETHICS COMMISSION MANDATE

The ITF Code of Ethics (**Code**) came into force on 1 January 2019 and was amended on 4 March 2019 and further amended on 27 September 2019. The mandate of the Ethics Commission (**Commission**) is to administer and enforce the Code, while the Election Panel, a sub-set of the Commission, is charged with oversight of elections under the Code.

The Chair of the Commission is required to report to the Council at each Annual General Meeting (**AGM**) on the non-confidential aspects of the activities of the Commission in the previous year. This Report covers activities undertaken for the period October 2019 to September 2020.

COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

The period between March 2019 (when the Commission became fully operational) and September 2019 (when presidential and board of directors' elections were held) was characterised by much activity largely centred around the elections and preparations for the AGM. This is in stark contrast to the period under review, in which no complaints were initiated, but during which the Commission has focused on improving certain administrative aspects of the Code. Following is a summary of the activities engaging the attention of the Commission.

Complaints

There was one complaint which was started before the period under review and which was completed during this period. The complaint related to whether an ITF Official (whether acting in a personal capacity, in the capacity as an Official, or in any other capacity) had committed an act that brings or risks bringing the ITF or the sport of tennis into disrepute.

The decision of the Commission was that there was no breach of the Code.

Constitutional Matter

Following an amendment to the ITF Constitution at the 2019 AGM, a matter was referred to the Commission pursuant to Article 21 of the 2019 ITF Constitution, requesting an opinion as to whether the continued presence of a Director on the ITF Board of Directors would be likely to cause serious damage to the image, reputation or integrity of the ITF.

The finding of the Commission was that the continued presence of the Director on the Board was not likely to cause serious damage as contemplated by the Article.

Review of Code and 2019 Elections

The Commission is required to make recommendations to the Board from time to time in relation to changes or additions to be made to the Code to ensure that the Code remains fit for purpose. The Election Panel is similarly required to prepare a report to the ITF Board regarding the electoral process and areas for improvement. The Commission and the Election Panel fulfilled these responsibilities by submitting a report to the ITF Board following a comprehensive review.

Based on the complaints and issues encountered during 2019, the Commission and the Election Panel submitted a number of recommendations for consideration by the ITF Board for amendments to the Constitution and the Code. The Code was however found to be generally fit for purpose, providing adequate support to the ITF's culture of ethics, accountability and good governance. None of the recommendations therefore calls for fundamental changes, while many are proposals to make the administration of the Code and the operation of the Commission and the Election Panel more efficient.

Administrative Matters

As noted earlier in the Report, the Commission's focus in 2020 is to improve the administration of the Code. As such, a number of work streams are in progress on initiatives designed to:

- enhance the visibility of the Commission as an independent body;
- streamline the process for the filing of complaints; and
- enhance the understanding of the Code by persons bound by the Code.

It is expected that these initiatives will be rolled out over the remainder of 2020 and in 2021.

Sandra Osborne, QC
Chair, ITF Ethics Commission

20 September 2020

COMMERCIAL

The ITF's central commercial objective is to generate maximum revenue on behalf of the organization and members through media rights sales, sponsorship, data rights, and other new or existing sources across the ITF Portfolio of assets and think beyond major events.

The commercial strategy follows a clear process:

- i) Retain ITF partners through excellent client service and genuine business value
- ii) Evidence and prove tangible business value and audience knowledge
- iii) Develop new business, diversify revenue
- iv) Stakeholder communication: National Association support and collaboration

This report will detail 2020 annual results:

1. Partnerships: Retention and New Business
(excluding Billie Jean King Cup, for which an update will be provided at the ITF2024 Webinar on 18 November)
2. Broadcast
3. Brand

PARTNERSHIPS: RETENTION AND NEW BUSINESS

The approach of the ITF Commercial team shared at the ITF AGM 2017 has been to widen the appeal of ITF platforms, increase audience size, evidence intimate understanding/ engagement of ITF audiences in order to attract and retain partner business.

Following this direction, the ITF commercial team focusses on promoting a portfolio of assets and a narrative of 'delivering tennis for future generations' complimenting ITF 2024 vision.

ITF Wheelchair Tennis: NEC, Uniqlo

ITF Junior Tennis: Davis Cup/ Fed Cup Juniors: BNP Paribas

ITF Live Scoring Data: Sportradar

ITF Beach Tennis: Decathlon

Licensing: Rosland Capital

ITF Digital & IPIN: Tennis Point (ITF Retail Partner), OFX (FX Partner), ICP (Tennis Court Partner)

ITF Digital and IPIN New Partners:



Global Clothing & Equipment Partner of (ITF)



Global Preferred Court Supplier (ITF)

In July 2020 the ITF partnered with Tennis Point, the number one tennis multi-channel retailer in Europe (and one of the largest worldwide). Tennis Point is the Official Global Tennis Equipment Online Retail Partner of the ITF and, as part of the partnership, created a designated ITF, Tennis Point webshop to serve ITF stakeholders worldwide. This online store provides ITF stakeholders with exclusive benefits and discounts on Tennis equipment and apparel. This webshop is accessible to ITF IPIN Players, Coaches, National Associations and Tournament Organizers.

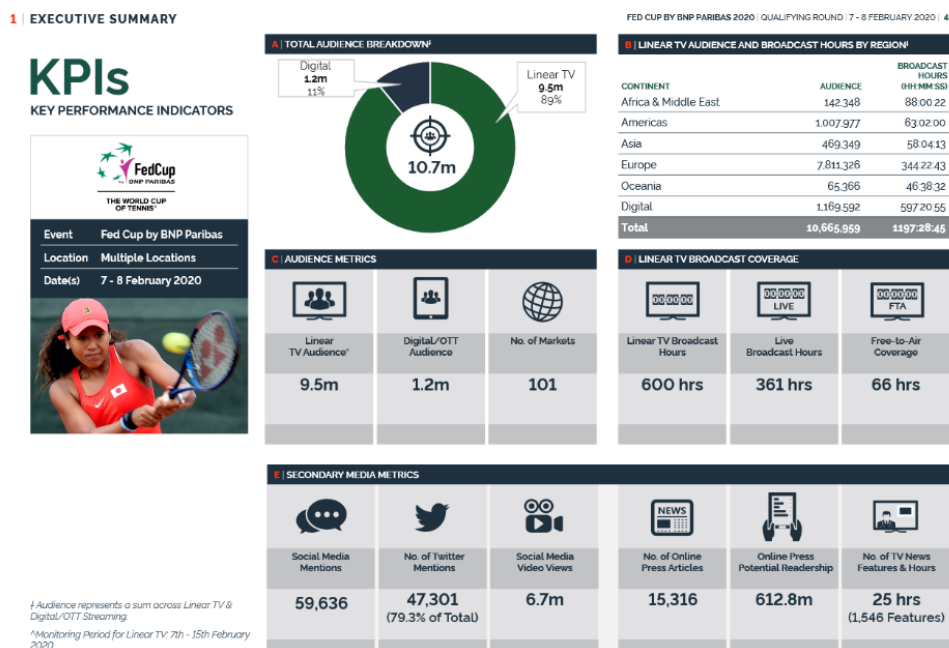
The ITF has partnered (September 2020) with the ICP Group, a leading, building solutions Group whose sports products include a variety of famous tennis brands such as California Sports Surfaces, DecoTurf, Plexipave and Rebound Ace. The ICP Group is the only supplier to have the 'Elite Silver supplier status' of the ITF Recognition programme (at present) and is the Official Preferred Court Supplier of the ITF. The partnership supports the ITF in its efforts to grow Tennis globally and increase quality of the tennis facilities. The ITF and its stakeholders will benefit from direct access to ICP Group who will be able to support them in the development of Tennis related projects and provide their expertise in delivering adequate solutions at all levels.

BROADCAST 2020

Fed Cup Qualifiers 7-8 February 2020

During 2020 the Fed Cup Qualifiers broadcast rights were sold as a standalone product, which is a change of direction from previous decades of being sold together with Davis Cup broadcast rights. In February 2020 the eight qualifier matches were played between 16 nations and reached a total audience of 10.7m, with over 70% reach from Europe; 11 of the participating nations were from Europe.

The Fed Cup Qualifiers 2020, broadcast results produced some encouraging results, given the change of format, with many more broadcast agreements being brokered for the Fed Cup Finals, originally scheduled for April 2020.

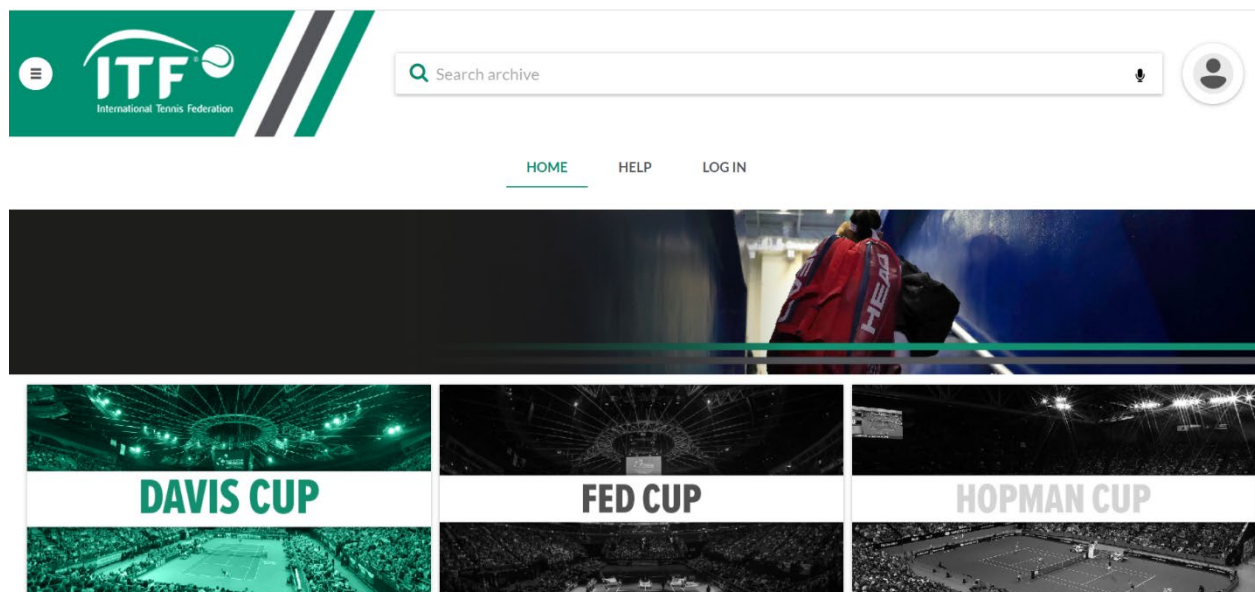


Fed Cup 2020 Covid-19 Impact and Adjustments

The ITF has contacted all broadcast partners to service broadcast agreements and extend the term to enable the rescheduled 2020 Finals to be broadcast when played: 13-18 April 2021.

DIGITAL ARCHIVE

Following the launch of the digital archive project the ITF has continued to digitise and ingest the footage on to an easy to access content portal, with over 2,500 hours already available.



The archive has been an invaluable asset for the ITF social media and digital teams, and the ITF has been working hard to make it accessible to partners and member nations. National Team clips will be made available, through the content portal, to member nations under the rights outlined in the [Terms and Conditions](#) of the portal. Any further information required please contact the Broadcast Team BroadcastTeam@itftennis.com.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the archive has serviced many International Broadcasters and also ITF social and digital channels to ensure that our competitions are still enjoyed.

BRAND

During 2020 the ITF brand team has created a strong brand identity for the refreshed Fed Cup competition, rebranding to the Billie Jean King Cup and creating the accompanying campaign 'Destination Budapest'.

Refreshed brand toolkits sales materials and guidelines available to all member nations:

Finals logo

On light / On dark

When pairing the logo with the 2021 Finals Budapest wordmark, please use the trophy lock-up without the competition descriptor.



Applications



DAVIS CUP & BILLIE JEAN KING CUP BY BNP PARIBAS

DAVIS CUP

All of the Davis Cup WG I and II Play-off ties were brought to a successful conclusion just before the start of the global lockdown, but no further Davis Cup competition play is scheduled for the rest of 2020.

The following rounds of the 2020 competition are yet to be played;

Originally scheduled for w/c 8 June

Africa Group IV: Congo

Asia Group IV: Turkmenistan

Europe Group IV: North Macedonia

Date and venue TBC (Application to Host process yet to be launched)

Africa Group III

Americas Group III

Asia Group III

Europe Group III

All of these round robin events will be rescheduled for 2021, dates tbc.

Originally scheduled for 18-19 or 19-20 September

World Group I and World Group II ties (24 ties)

These ties will take place in March (5-6 or 6-7) or September (17-18 or 18-19)

Originally scheduled for 23-29 November

Davis Cup by Rakuten Madrid Finals

The 2020 Finals will take place 22-28 November 2021.

Some rule changes were approved by the Davis Cup Committee and Board of Directors during the year for the 2020 Finals onwards. They were; the reduction in time between singles matches, the introduction of 'away' Team ID kit, measures to mitigate against dead doubles not being played including an increase in the minimum numbers of players in a team to four and a one-year trial of promotional "squad" announcements.

BILLIE JEAN KING CUP BY BNP PARIBAS

Since the 2020 Qualifiers in February there has been no play in the Billie Jean King Cup competition, with the remainder of the 2020 competition postponed until 2021.

The following rounds of the 2020 competition are yet to be played;

Originally scheduled for w/c 8 June

Europe/Africa Group III: Lithuania
Americas Group II: Bolivia & Panama
Asia Group II: Malaysia

The exact dates of these round robin events that will take place in 2021, are tbc.

Originally scheduled for w/c 13 April

Billie Jean King Cup by BNP Paribas: Play-offs and Finals

The Play-offs will take place 5-6 February and the Finals 14 to 19 April 2021.

The ITF will be collaborating with all National Associations to ensure that the postponed 2020 events take place safely in line with national C-19 requirements and protocols, as well as those of the ITF.

During 2020 some rule changes were approved by the Billie Jean King Cup Committee and Board of Directors for the 2021 Finals onwards. They were; an increase in the minimum numbers of players in a team to four, the reduction in time between singles matches, no-ad scoring in all doubles matches, the doubles match in the actual Final to be played as the best of three tie-break sets, introduction of 'away' Team ID kit and measures to mitigate against dead doubles not being played. In addition, the wild card criteria was amended to ensure that no nation will be relegated from the Finals to Group I.

OLYMPIC, PARALYMPIC, AND YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES TENNIS EVENTS

TOKYO 2020 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

Postponement and New Dates

Tokyo 2020 and the IOC took the decision in March 2020 to postpone the Olympic and Paralympic Games until the summer of 2021 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Olympic Games will now take place from 23 July – 8 August with the **Olympic Tennis Event from 24 July – 1 August**. The Paralympic Games will take place from 24 August – 5 September with **Wheelchair Tennis from 27 August – 4 September**.

Challenges

This is the first time in the history of the Olympic and Paralympic Games that the event has been postponed and it has set enormous logistical challenges for all stakeholders. For tennis it has meant rewriting the Qualification Systems for both events, agreeing new qualifying ranking dates in line with the new ranking procedures to be implemented (in agreement with the ATP/WTA for Olympics), and re-confirming the eligibility rules. Newly updated Regulations have been published and all Officials for both Games have been re-appointed. Nearly 250 flights across both Games have needed to be individually assessed according to airline policies, alongside re-booking of the associated accommodation nights.

For Tokyo 2020 the logistical challenges are myriad, but some of the obvious large-scale issues have included re-confirming the venues, including, crucially, the Athletes' Village, re-negotiating staffing contracts for several thousand staff for an additional year, and finalising the schedule with each International Federation and the IOC and IPC.

With such unprecedented upheaval there is clearly a significant financial burden to be borne by the host city and all major Games stakeholders. The ITF is working closely with Tokyo 2020 and the IOC and IPC to assess where any assistance can be provided in terms of savings, whilst not affecting the athlete experience at Games-time, a stated goal of all parties.

The ITF will continue to work assiduously with all our partners to ensure that the Tokyo 2020 tennis and wheelchair tennis events will be memorable for everyone when play does finally get underway next summer.

PARIS 2024

The knock-on effect of the postponement of Tokyo 2020 has been felt across world sport. One significant impact is the requirement to now plan for two Games simultaneously in the same Olympic cycle, as we work towards Tokyo and Paris in the coming year.

Our relations with the Paris 2024 team remain excellent, and the French Tennis Federation and Roland Garros have been extremely accommodating in our early preparations.

Currently the ITF, alongside all summer Olympic Federations, is engaged with the IOC in reviewing a new event-based delivery model. This is a comprehensive evaluation of the approach to how the individual sporting events at an Olympic and Paralympic Games are run, with a view to moving away from the traditional standardised model for all sports, run centrally through the local organising committee. Instead the vision is to tailor the management of each event based on sporting requirements and using bespoke event specialists in place of the LOC Functional Areas.

How this new approach will apply to tennis and wheelchair tennis in 2024 should become clearer in the coming months.

SENEGAL 2022 YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

This is another Games to have been affected by the knock-on effects of the Tokyo 2020 postponement combined with the ongoing impact of COVID-19.

In mid-July the IOC and Dakar 2022 issued a joint statement notifying that the Games would be postponed until 2026. While deeply disappointing, especially for those athletes set to miss out on the opportunity to participate, the decision was a reflection of the enormous difficulties of attempting to host three Olympic Games inside 15 months (Tokyo in July/Aug 2021, the Beijing Winter Olympics February 2022, and the YOG in Oct/Nov 2022).

While 2026 is a long time to wait, there had been some concerns over establishing an appropriate venue for the tennis event in the lead up to the announcement. The additional time will enable us to work with the Senegalese Tennis Federation and the organisers to make sure that we are in the best possible position to maximise the opportunity these Games can provide to boost our sport's popularity and presence in the region.

ITF WORLD TENNIS TOUR

2019

Although 2019 was a year of transition and some disruption – the introduction of the ITF World Tennis Ranking; the restoration of ATP and WTA ranking points throughout professional tennis; the increase in the permitted Qualifying draw sizes from August 2019 - the rebranded Pro Circuit, known now as the ITF World Tennis Tour, was not only remarkably stable in terms of tournament numbers but also saw at least two major positive developments.

2019 saw 1,097 professional tournaments, almost exactly the same as 2018 (1,102 tournaments). This is despite a fall of approximately 12% of tournaments in Europe, which can largely be attributed to uncertainty in the first half of 2019. This, in turn, was offset by additional tournaments in the United States and Tunisia, and a new series of tournaments in Mexico.

The major success of 2019 was the introduction of reserved main draw places at \$15,000 tournaments for players with a Top 100 Junior ranking. The programme is designed to help reduce the growing time it has been taking the best new talent to break through into the ATP/WTA Top 100. In 2019, there were 768 instances of players taking up a “Junior Reserved” place. This resulted in 19 tournament winners (12 women, 7 men), 93 reaching the semi final or better, and 411, more than 50%, winning at least one match.

Encouragingly, there was also significant investment in the women’s game, where for the first time, there more women’s events than men’s events (555 vs 542), and a 19% increase in the number of women’s tournaments at the \$25,000 level and above: 201 \$25,000 tournaments (an increase of 35 tournaments against 2018) and 76 \$60,000-\$100,000 tournaments (compared with 66 in 2018).

2020

Prior to the Covid-19 outbreak, which caused the suspension of professional tennis between March and August 2020, 2020 had begun strongly. The first three months of the year (i.e. including tournaments on the calendar but not played due to the suspension) would have seen 243 tournaments played, compared to 191 in 2019, with increases across all prize money categories for both men and women.

Return to Tennis

Although professional tennis resumed in the week of 17 August, there have been significantly fewer tournaments due not only to the covid-19 pandemic itself, but also its consequences, for example closed borders or mandatory quarantines or lost sponsorship. The period from 17 August until the end of the year as at the time of writing sees 151 tournaments (73 women’s, 78 men’s) which represents a 66% fall against the same period in 2019 (442 tournaments). Although additional tournaments may be published on the calendar, equally it must be expected that some tournaments will be cancelled, amid a general climate of uncertainty for the rest of 2020.

All tournaments are now operating under the ITF’s Return to Tennis protocols, and the effort made by tournament organisers has to date been excellent. Feedback from tournament directors and the Player Panels (see below) has generally been positive, with further feedback being sought from the wider playing community.

The ATP, WTA and the ITF are following the same approach to their respective professional rankings (ITF World Tennis Ranking points are earned in the qualifying rounds of \$15k and \$25k tournaments). Under the revised system, which extends the ranking period from March 2019 to at least December 2020, players can only add points to their ranking between August and the end of the year. The objective was to provide fairness to all players with the result that if players do not play, for example because of travel restrictions or not wishing to play, they will not lose ranking points

in this period. Decisions on whether to further extend the ranking period into 2021 are under continual review and will be dependent on the strength of the professional calendar in the new year.

ITF World Tennis Tour Player Panels

In April, the ITF announced to players the process for the creation of the ITF World Tennis Tour Player Panels for athletes competing on the men's and women's ITF World Tennis Tour. The Panels provide a forum for players to provide their input and have their say on how the tour is run and are a further opportunity for the ITF to engage with the player community. The Panels, chaired by Mark Woodforde and Mary Pierce respectively, are an ongoing part of the ITF2024 strategy and follow Panels already in place for Wheelchair, Seniors and Beach Tennis players. The Player Panel elections were held in June this year with the new members of the women's panel and the men's panel [announced](#) in the week of 15 June. A series of profiles of each of the player members (and designated coach) were published in July and August.

The ITF has already held three meetings with each of the men's and the women's panels with the focus being on briefing the panels and getting feedback from the panels in relation to the Return to Tennis protocols. The panel meetings to date have been valuable, open and engaging and have so far fulfilled their purpose of providing a forum for players to provide their input and for the ITF to communicate with players. Panel members have also provided important input on the day-to-day running of the World Tennis Tour.

Live scoring

In 2019, all 1,097 ITF World Tennis Tour tournaments benefited from the live scoring service, provided by ITF's Official Data Partner, Sportradar AG, for a total of 57,582 matches with 99.7% of matches meeting the Service Level Agreement (SLA) agreed with the ITF's Official Data Partner.

Between 1 January and 06 September 2020, all 180 ITF World Tennis Tour tournaments benefited from the live scoring service for a total of 9,139 matches with 99.7% of matches meeting the SLA.

ITF JUNIORS

ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors

In recent years, the ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors has experienced excellent growth in tournament numbers and nations hosting tournaments. The following table shows the breakdown of tournament numbers within each tournament grade:

ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors - Tournament Numbers by Grade									
Year	Grade A	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade B	Total Tournaments	# Host Nations
2018	9	25	54	42	174	258	10	572	135
2019	11	26	55	70	179	301	8	650	139

The total number of tournaments has risen steadily. As an example, a total of 414 tournaments took place in 2015, compared to 650 in 2019. Much of this growth has taken place at Grade 5 which has risen from 128 tournaments in 2015 to 301 tournaments in 2019.

The 2020 Tour has of course been impacted by the effects of COVID-19 pandemic with the Tour suspended from 12 March 2020.

Return to Tennis

Following a principle of minimising travel for players, tournaments are permitted to take place from 31 August with Grade 3 (J3), Grade 4 (J4) or Grade 5 (J5) ranking points only. Any higher graded tournament scheduled for September-December 2020 are permitted to take place but will receive J3 points.

An exception to this is the Junior event at Roland Garros which is scheduled to take place from 4-10 October 2020 with Boys Singles, Girls Singles, Boys Doubles and Girls Doubles events. The tournament shall feature a singles main draw size of 64 players, doubles main draw size of 32 pairs, and receive Grade A ranking points.

There are several nations where travel restrictions are greatly impacting on player accessibility to the nation. In consideration of this, the ITF are permitting some nations with a high volume of ITF ranked players to host tournaments with Grade 5 (J5) ranking points. This provides competitive opportunities for players in the host nation.

The following outlines the known and anticipated tournament numbers that are expected in 2020:

- In the period from 1 January 2020 to 12 March 2020, a total of 103 tournaments took place.
- 50 tournaments are confirmed to take place from 31 August 2020 to 27 September 2020. The majority are in Europe, although tournaments are also taking place in South Korea, Egypt, Singapore, Tunisia and New Zealand in this period.
- From 28 September 2020 to 31 December 2020, it is anticipated a further 120-130 tournaments will take place.

Rankings Approach

A new rankings approach has been agreed to provide a fair system for players in consideration of their previously earned ranking points, and the missed tournament opportunities in 2020. From the resumption of competition on 31 August 2020, until 14 March 2021, a player's combined ranking will be comprised of his / her best 6 singles results and 25% of his / her best 6 doubles results achieved between 18 March 2019 – 14 March 2021 (i.e. 104 week ranking period), during what is an extended ranking period.

Results from tournaments upon resumption on 31 August 2020 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 6 results.

Results from higher graded (JA, J1/B1, J2/B2 and J3/B3) tournaments can be counted a maximum of once within a player's best 6 results during the 104-week period (i.e. double counting of the same tournament is not permitted). Results from lower graded (J4 & J5) tournaments can be counted more than once within a player's best 6 results during the 104-week period.

The ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors circuit plan to return to the 52-week ranking in December 2021.

ITF Junior Team Competition Update

Pre-qualifying events for the 14U World Junior Team Competition and the 16U Junior Davis Cup and Junior Fed Cup successfully took place in Santa Domingo, Jakarta and San Salvador early in 2020. However, remaining qualifying events and each of the respective Finals were cancelled as a precautionary measure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Juniors Department have confirmed with both respective Finals hosts from 2020 to stage the event in 2021. This applies to Prostějov, Czech Republic for the 14U World Junior Tennis Finals and to Orlando, USA for the 16U Junior Davis Cup and Junior Fed Cup Finals.

Beginning in 2021, the Junior Fed Cup by BNP Paribas will be re-named the Junior Billie Jean King Cup by BNP Paribas. This is an exciting opportunity for the event to develop, particularly with the Finals taking place in the United States. The ITF Office will work closely with hosts organisers at all stages of the 2021 competition to maximise the promotion of the Junior Billie Jean King Cup and to help create a special experience for all players and officials involved.

SENIORS CIRCUIT

2020 Circuit Update

Seniors tennis is going from strength to strength, with more than 27,500 players between the ages of 35 and 97 currently competing on the ITF Seniors Circuit in 2019. For the first time in the circuit's history, over 500 tournaments were staged in 2019 (total of 502).

The 2020 Circuit has of course been impacted by the effects of COVID-19 pandemic with the Tour suspended from 12 March 2020.

ITF Seniors Circuit - Return to Tennis

Following a principle of minimising travel for players, tournaments at Grade 2, Grade 3 and Grade 4 only are permitted to take place from 31 August until the end of 2020. ITF Regional Championships, Grade A and Grade 1 tournaments may take place as Grade 2 tournaments in 2020, subject to the approval of the ITF, and revert to their assigned grade in 2021.

All tournaments must satisfy all elements of the ITF Return to Tennis protocols for the tournament to take place. This includes several new processes to safeguard players, officials and guests on site at each tournament. Key statistics regarding 2020 Seniors tournament numbers can be seen below:

- In the period from 1 January 2020 to 12 March 2020, a total of 58 tournaments took place.
- 21 tournaments are confirmed to take place from 31 August 2020 to 27 September 2020. Each of these tournaments are located within Europe.
- From 28 September 2020 to 31 December 2020, it is anticipated a further 40-50 tournaments will take place with several nations outside of Europe hosting tournaments in this period.

Rankings Approach

A new rankings approach has been agreed to provide a fair system for players in consideration of their previously earned ranking points, and the missed tournament opportunities in 2020. From the resumption of competition on 31 August 2020, and until 14 March 2021, a player's ranking will be comprised of his / her best 4 results between 18 March 2019 – 14 March 2021 (i.e. 104-week ranking period). Results from tournaments upon resumption on 31 August 2020 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 a player's best 4 results.

Results from higher graded tournaments can be counted a maximum of once within a player's best 4 results (i.e. double counting of the same tournament is not permitted). This includes the World Championships, Regional Championships, Grade A, Grade 1 and Grade 2 tournaments.

Effective from 15 March 2021, points from 2019 and/or 2020 will drop on an ongoing weekly basis and be replaced with points earned from tournaments in 2021. The ITF Seniors Circuit plan to return to the 52-week ranking in December 2021.

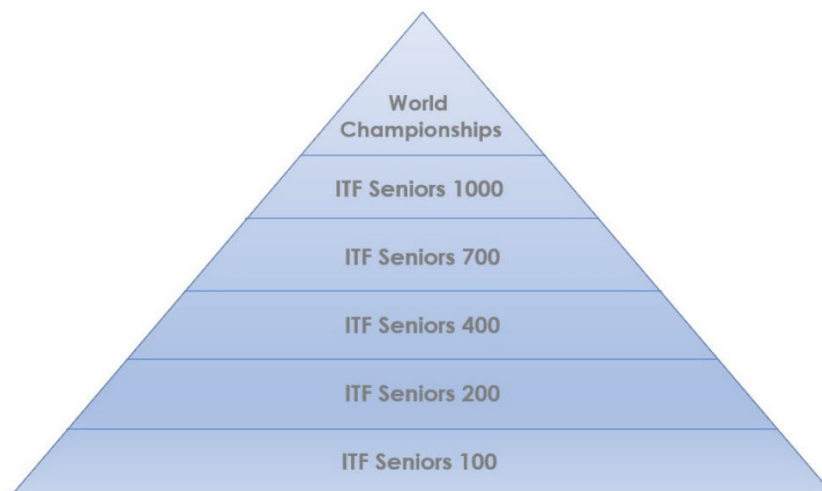
New 2021 Tournament Structure

The ITF Seniors Tour will launch the new tournament structure from 1 January 2021. The previous Grade A to Grade 4 naming will be replaced by numeric figures which represent the points available to the winning player(s) in each event. The ITF Seniors World Championships (in Young Seniors, Seniors and Super-Seniors categories) remain a highlight in the season and remain the highest grade on the circuit.

The 2021 structure will also introduce a new grade (ITF Seniors 1000) where a small number of global tournaments will offer a greater value of ranking points, relative to the points available at the World Championships. In addition to this, only four further grades will exist to provide a more

appropriate tournament experience to players of different standards. The image below shows the new structure:

2021 ITF Seniors Tournament Structure



Clearly defined entry-level tournaments (ITF Seniors 100) are in place to provide a greater number of competitive opportunities and appropriate tournament formats, to cater for the huge number of players who already compete, and to help attract new tournaments and players to the circuit.

A thorough review of all tournaments has taken place to assess the grade of each existing tournament for 2021. National Associations were informed of the outcomes of this process on or before 31 July 2020.

New 30+ and 90+ Age Groups

As part of the ITF's mission to make Seniors Tennis the leading sport in terms of player participation, we need to ensure we are offering age appropriate competitive opportunities to maximise enjoyment and engagement. Following independent research and feedback from national associations, advisory panels and players, National and Regional Associations were informed on 28 July 2020 that the ITF Seniors Tour will introduce 30 plus and 90 plus age from January 2021. This includes the ITF Seniors World Individual Championships from 2021. The potential inclusion of a 30 plus and 90 plus age category at the World Team Championships will be reviewed by the committee later, with the earliest inclusion being 2023.

Seniors World Championships Update

Each of the 2020 ITF Seniors World Team & Individual Championships have been cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the host organisers from 2020 remain very supportive and have committed to host the events in 2021. The following outlines the future hosts of each the 2021 World Championships:

2021 ITF Seniors World Team & Individual Championships - Confirmed Locations		
Year	Age Groups	Location
2021	Young-Seniors (35-40-45)	Umag, Croatia
2021	Seniors (50-55-60)	Boca Raton & Palm Beach, USA
2021	Super-Seniors (65-70-75-80-85-90)	Mallorca, Spain

85+ Cup Names

The Seniors Committee and Board approved the following nominations for the 85 and over Men's and Women's Team Cups at the ITF Super-Seniors World Team Championships:

- The 85 Men's Cup will be named the 'Lorne Main Cup' from 2021 in honour of Lorne Main from Canada. Lorne was one of the most successful players in the history of the ITF Seniors Circuit and was the first recipient of the ITF Outstanding Achievement Award in Seniors Tennis. Lorne competed on the Seniors Circuit for over 30 years, winning titles at every age category he competed in. Lorne also competed at Grand Slams and represented Canada in the Davis Cup.
- The 85 Women's Cup will be named the 'Angela Mortimer Cup' from 2021 in honour of Angela Barrett (nee: Mortimer) from Great Britain. Angela was Britain's leading female tennis player in the 1950s and had a distinguished international career in which she won three grand slam titles in all and was World Number 1 in 1961.

BEACH TENNIS

2019 Tour

A total of 307 tournaments were staged on the ITF Beach Tennis Tour in 2019 totalling US\$784,000 in prize money. This is an increase of 28 tournaments and US\$129,000 in prize money compared to \$655,000 in 2018. The 2019 season sets the highest total prize money level in the history of the Tour and second highest in terms of number of tournaments.

In October 2019, following the change in Host Nation earlier in the year, the inaugural ANOC World Beach Games were held in Doha, Qatar. A total of 15 nations took part across the Men's, Women's and Mixed Doubles Beach Tennis events which were won by Spain, Italy and Brazil respectively. The late venue change resulted in a number of organisational challenges both in the lead-up to the and on-site during the Games, but the efforts made by ANOC and the Qatar Tennis Federation ensured that the event was a success and was well-received by players.

2020 Tour

Up until the postponement of the Tour in March 2020, 21 tournaments took place offering US\$67,000 in prize money, including a BT400 in Santos (Brazil) which was broadcast for the first time on terrestrial TV. Although these figures were slightly down on the same period in 2019 which saw 28 tournaments take place offering a total of US\$69,000 in prize money, the average prize money per tournament is rising. Following the restart of the Tour on 31 August, 1 tournament has been approved and confirmed, while 6 others were approved but subsequently cancelled due to Covid-19 related matters. Nevertheless, interest has been received for further tournaments to take place during the last three months of the year.

The ITF Beach Tennis Player Council elections were held in May 2019 and announced in June 2019. To date, ITF Beach Tennis has already held two personal meetings (June and July 2019), several calls (in 2019 and 2020) as well as a Facebook Live discussion (May 2020) with the Player Council. The engagement with the Council takes place on a regular basis with the focus being on briefing the Council and getting feedback in relation to key topics, such as 2020 Return to Beach Tennis. The engagement with the Council to date has been very useful and appreciated by both parties.

The newly elected ITF Beach Tennis Committee has also been actively engaged throughout 2020, working with the department to ensure a smooth Return to Tennis, as well as focusing on future strategic initiatives.

The Committee and Player Council agreed a solution for the revised ranking model following regular consultations between March and August. The overall approach to reintegrating the ITF Beach Tennis Tours rankings follows the guiding principles of the reintroduction of the ATP/WTA rankings. The ITF Beach Tennis Tour will see the ranking period extended from 52 weeks to 104 weeks. Starting from 31 August 2020, up until and including the ranking release of 22 March 2021, a player's ranking will be comprised of his / her best 8 tournament results contributing to ranking releases from 1 April 2019 to 22 March 2021 inclusive. After 22 March 2021, a player's ranking will continue to be comprised of his / her best 8 results over a rolling 104-ranking period until the ranking release of 21 March 2022 at which point the ranking will revert to the standard 52-week ranking. Results from major and high prize money events may be counted only once towards a player's best 8 results during the period.

2020 also marked the introduction of the Junior Tour (U18) with 4 tournaments taking place across Italy, Russia and Brazil prior to the Tour's postponement. No tournaments have been approved since the restart however expressions of interest have been received from several nations looking to hold tournaments before the end of the year. Junior Tour automation is a goal for the future, which it is anticipated will further promote growth in terms of tournaments and players as well as allowing the latter to manage their own entries online.

The IPIN platform was launched in 2020 for the Beach Tennis World Tour, with 1,484 players signed up to the system (912 Men and 572 Women). The ITF Beach Tennis World Tour Ranking list is available to view on the ITF website and is updated on a weekly basis.

From those four Beach Juniors tournaments staged earlier in 2020, a total of 78 players (50 boys and 28 girls) from the same three host nations have gained ITF ranking points. Currently ITF Beach Tennis Juniors tournaments attract mainly national players, but we expect regional / international travel to become a reality once the Tour expands and becomes more established as the pathway to the Pro Beach Tour. The ITF Beach Tennis Juniors ranking list is available to view on the ITF Beach Tennis Facebook Group and is updated at least on a quarterly basis.

2020 saw the introduction of new tournament category nomenclature on the ITF Beach Tennis Tour in line with the Circuit re-brand. Tournaments which historically have been categorised by their prize money total (\$0, \$10,000 etc) are now named by the number of points on offer to the winners, ranging from BT10, BT50, BT100, BT200, BT400 to Sand Series. The complete branding package, including logos and colour palettes, is due to be launched at the start of 2021.

COVID has caused major disruption and postponement of several major events in 2020, including:

- ITF Beach Tennis World Championships, Terracina, Italy (postponed until 2021);
- ITF Beach Tennis World Cup, Moscow, Russia (the 2021 edition will take place in a new host nation, with an application received from Brazil);
- European Beach Tennis Championships, Bulgaria (postponed until 2021);
- Sand Series (postponed until 2021).

The inaugural Sand Series, planned for a 2020 launch, will now get underway in 2021. The Series is the new top Tour tournament category offering a minimum of US\$35,000 prize money per tournament (expected to increase in the future) and will initially comprise four tournaments, including a Tour Final. Ideally the Series will be expanded to provide at least one event per region going forward. The objective of the Sand Series is to create a stable long-term high prize money platform for the best athletes, as well a new media promotional platform for the sport. The ITF and Host Nations will work closely on the organisation and promotion of these tournaments, consistent with the collaborative approach with respect to the World Cup and the World Championships.

A World Cup Qualification System will see Regional Cups (team format), where held, act as qualifying events. Such events will be held between January to August 2021, to give National Associations enough time to prepare for the 2021 World Cup later in the year.

As part of the ITF Beach Tennis Global Development Programme, Sandever superkits have been allocated to 40 nations, based on applications received, with delivery expected by mid-October 2020.

The Rules of Tennis Committee has granted an extension to 2021 for the trial of 180cm net height (men's events at BT100 and above tournaments), as well as for the alternative colour ITF Stage 2 balls.

A survey was conducted in April 2020 to find out more information about the demographic of the Beach Tennis Community. The survey was distributed in 7 languages was completed by 2,932 respondents. Key findings from the survey include the following:

- The majority (85%) of respondents identified themselves as either an ITF Beach Tennis Player (played at least 1 tournament) or a Recreational Player, 41% and 44% respectively.
- Two thirds (66%) of respondents were aged 35 and above which indicates the importance of the introduction of a Junior Tour to better engage young players. The potential also exists for the introduction of a Senior category in due course.

- Instagram is the prominent social media channel to follow beach tennis for all respondents apart from those aged 55 whose preference is Facebook. This reinforces the importance of using Instagram as the main social media channel for beach tennis promotion.
- Most respondents (89%) first discovered beach tennis either through friends and family or from a local beach or club, which indicates the growth of the sport to date has been primarily by word of mouth. Improved media promotion is expected to assist in growing the sport further.
- The vast majority (84%) of respondents stated that they participate in beach tennis activities on a daily or weekly basis, which indicates a dedicated playing community.

New initiatives

The department continues to look at ways to further develop and promote beach tennis and several new initiatives are ongoing:

- **Mixed Doubles:** Work is underway to explore the introduction of Mixed Doubles at Pro and Junior level, as supported by the survey respondents.
- **Nations Ranking:** The introduction of a Nations Ranking is being considered as an incentive for increased participation in the World Cup and the Regional Cup events.
- **Coaching:** Together with the Italian Tennis Federation and ITF Coaching, the department is seeking to develop a beach tennis coaching programme, which it is hoped will be available for launch in 2021.

WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

Competitions and Calendar

2019 UNIQLO Wheelchair Tennis Tour

One hundred and sixty-four (164) tournaments were held across 42 countries in 2019, representing an increase of 5 tournaments from 2018. Total prize money increased by 9% (\$3,250,582 in 2019 compared to \$2,960,515 in 2018), principally due to increased contributions from the Grand Slams and with the introduction of official Quad events at both Roland Garros and Wimbledon.

2020 UNIQLO Wheelchair Tennis Tour

For 2020, 149 events were originally scheduled on the UNIQLO Wheelchair Tennis Tour, 18 of which were held prior to the suspension of ITF competitions in March, including the Australian Open and Tweed Heads Super Series events in January. A high proportion of Tour events ordinarily are held through the European summer, but over 80 tournaments have been cancelled.

Following the introduction and publication of ITF's Return to International Tennis Protocols, the Wheelchair Tennis Committee agreed to re-start UNIQLO Tour tournaments, initially for the period 14 September-11 October and, after further review of organiser capabilities, from 12 October until the end of the year. Only tournaments able to meet the ITF Return to International Tennis protocols will be approved, which at the current time includes 25 events compared to 37 originally scheduled during this period. Certain tournaments suspended earlier in the year that are able to re-schedule into this period will be permitted to do so in order to provide additional (previously lost) playing opportunities, subject to the conditions above, but will only be sanctioned at Futures (lowest) grade to minimise any potential impact on the rankings and player qualification for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

Grand Slams

In January the Australian Open was held despite significant challenges relating to air quality as a result of widespread bushfires in the region. Following an initial postponement due to Covid-19, Roland Garros confirmed adjusted dates for the tournament in October, which will also include the wheelchair events. The AELTC was forced to cancel The Championships, Wimbledon but in June the US Tennis Association took the decision to run the US Open in New York on its scheduled dates in September, including the wheelchair tennis events, subject to implementation of a 'bubble' to protect the health and safety of approximately 1800 players and other staff and participants on-site.

Rankings

As with ranking systems for other ITF Circuits and ATP/WTA, the overall approach to reintegrating the UNIQLO Wheelchair rankings after resumption of the Tour has been 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. In consultation with key stakeholder groups, including the Player Council, a suitable solution was developed and subsequently approved by the ITF Board of Directors.

In summary, from the resumption of competition a player's ranking will be comprised of his/her best X results (X = 7 for Quads, 8 Women, 9 Men) but the ranking period will rise to 104 weeks by March 2021, at which time results achieved between March 2019 and 2020 will start to drop on a week by week basis, as normal. The ranking system will revert to the standard 52-week period in March 2022. A tournament with more than one edition during the extended ranking period (e.g. US Open 2019 and 2020) can only count once for ranking purposes – results from tournaments upon resumption in 2020 until March 2021 will only replace a player's result from the same tournament held the previous year if it is a better result and provided it is one of the player's best X results. All events within the

original Paralympic Games Qualification period (June 2019-June 2020) will remain valid for ranking purposes for qualification for the re-scheduled Tokyo 2020 (qualification date 7 June 2021).

BNP Paribas World Team Cup

The BNP Paribas World Team Cup includes one World Group event for Men, Women, Quads and Junior divisions and four regional qualification events for Men and Women. Two combined-region qualification events (Euro-Africa, Asia-Americas) were introduced for the Quads in 2020.

The regional qualification events were held as scheduled in the Americas (Argentina), Asia (Malaysia) and Africa (Kenya) in February/March prior to COVID-19 restrictions and suspensions being introduced. However, the European event in Italy was postponed and subsequently cancelled. The World Group Event was due to be hosted by the Portugal Tennis Federation (FPT) in Vilamoura from 4-10 May but the event was also initially suspended and later, cancelled. FPT will instead host the 2021 edition of the World Group event – hosts of the regional qualification events are to be confirmed.

NEC & UNIQLO Wheelchair Tennis Masters

The 2019 NEC and UNIQLO Wheelchair Tennis Masters, hosted by the USTA in Orlando, FL, USA, was a highly successful event where the singles (NEC) and doubles (UNIQLO) events were combined for the first time since 2015. While the event was due to return to Orlando in 2020, USTA have confirmed they will be unable to host it due to COVID-19 challenges but are looking forward to hosting the event in 2022. The ITF are eager to run the event in 2020, subject to Covid-19 restrictions, and are looking to identify and confirm an alternative host (most likely in Europe) as soon as possible.

Tokyo 2020 (re-scheduled for 2021)

Following the postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games the Wheelchair Tennis Committee supported the principle of using the same Qualification System for the re-scheduled event (also consistent with the approach for the Olympics) but with a revised qualification date of 7 June 2021 (delayed by 12 months). The Committee also supported closing the eligibility window to compete at Tokyo 2020 (via participation in World Team Cup events) at the existing date (i.e. 7 June 2020) and introducing an additional appeal criterion into the Eligibility Rules to recognise and manage players who were not able to fulfil the participation requirement due to the cancellation of World Team Cup events as a result of COVID-19 related issues. The ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee will meet on 10 December 2020 for the first Tokyo 2020 Appeals meeting followed by a second Appeals meeting in June 2021.

Strategic activities

Classification

By the time international tennis competitions and activities were suspended in March 2020, 232 players had been classified since the introduction of revised Classification Rules in 2019 and an additional 17 classifiers had completed level one training, bringing total ITF qualified classifiers to 21. The classification programme was also suspended from March, causing the cancellation of six scheduled classification events.

Delivering classification and completing Player Evaluations remains a key priority ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. With the resumption of wheelchair tennis events in September, ITF will also look to resume the classification programme (by early 2021), following a review of assessment procedures to ensure they comply with ITF Return to International Tennis Protocols that safeguard the health and safety of players and all other event participants, including classifiers.

Further to the postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, the period of validity of the Confirmed (Transition) Sport Class Status was extended until the end of 2021, thereby maintaining the original principles of the transition of eligibility criteria in the ITF Classification Rules to ensure existing players remain eligible to compete in ITF wheelchair tennis competitions (and including Tokyo 2020) through the existing Paralympic Cycle.

ITF is committed, on an ongoing basis, to deliver a classification system that is evidence-based and informed by scientific research. The current research priority is to review the sport's Minimum Impairment Criteria to ensure they are sport-specific and deliver a robust and inclusive framework for wheelchair tennis. An existing research project focused on this priority and being conducted by a team from Loughborough (UK) and Queensland (AUS) Universities is making good progress.

In June, Dr Babette Pluim, a member of the ITF Sport Science & Medicine Commission (SSMC), joined ITF's wheelchair tennis team as ITF's Classification Consultant with primary responsibility for driving ITF's classification research projects and strategy. As an enhancement to the existing research project, Dr Pluim will also run a consultation project with a group of medical and tennis experts, which together with the existing research will help deliver updated, sport-specific Minimum Impairment Criteria for wheelchair tennis (expected by May 2021 following thorough stakeholder consultation).

Development

Wheelchair tennis Development activities are principally funded through the annual \$1m Kosmos contribution to wheelchair tennis. There are 7 main pillars of activity which include:

- Participation
- Performance
- Coaching
- Events
- Facilities
- Administration and Resource
- Investment and Partnerships

Given the uncertainty of COVID-19 and the potential financial implications, 2020 development activities were put on hold. Certain no-cost activities can proceed where resources allow, which includes initial scoping and integration of wheelchair tennis into the World Tennis Number project.

2021 development activities will be guided by the funding available, which is likely to be impacted by broader ITF budget challenges. ITF will work to identify key 2021 development activities through October following the ITF's 2021 budget process.

Player Council

The current term of the Player Council was due to end on 31 August this year (two years since its introduction). In February the Wheelchair Committee approved to extend the term until the end of 2020, to align a standard two-year term for the Player Council with the Tour calendar and provide a one-year overlap between Council and Committee terms for optimal continuity and knowledge-sharing.

HOPMAN CUP

The last edition of the Hopman Cup was held in Perth from 29 December 2018 to 5 January 2019 and featured teams from Switzerland, Germany, France, USA, Greece, Spain, Great Britain and Australia. Switzerland was the winning team defeating Germany to win its third title. This was the seventh year the tournament was held at the Perth Arena.

Following the decision by Tennis Australia to launch the ATP Cup in January 2020, with Perth as one of the host cities, the decision was taken to end the current Licence Agreement with Tennis Australia.

The Hopman Cup continues to be an important strategic professional tennis asset in the ITF portfolio and a bidding process for a new host partner was concluded in early 2020. A number of potential hosts across three continents expressed an interest in hosting the event and a number of bids were reviewed by the ITF Board at their 09 March 2020.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the ITF Board took the unanimous decision to place the bidding process on hold with the next edition expected to be held in 2022 unless conditions for 2021 allow it to be played in the second half of the year.

OFFICIATING

ITF Officiating Schools

The core strategic focus of the ITF Officiating Team in 2020 was to continue with the development and training of officials in all regions.

The Level 2 School in Germany was completed in February 2020 and since then no further ITF Schools have been able to take place this year.

The representatives of the Joint Certification Programme have decided to postpone the Level 3 School(s) until 2021. The 2021 Level 3 School calendar will be discussed at the end of the year. Announcements regarding Level 1 and Level 2 Schools are to be decided.

The number of ITF certified officials as of September 2020 is 1448. The badge distribution per region can be found below, considering some officials hold multiple certifications:

REGION/BADGE	GREEN	WHITE	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	TOTAL
EUROPE	0	465	89	121	90	765
ASIA	0	199	31	20	10	260
OCEANIA	0	29	8	14	10	61
AFRICA	28	108	17	12	4	169
NORTH AMERICA (USA+CAN)	0	78	17	16	15	126
CENTRAL AMERICA	7	27	1	2	1	38
SOUTH AMERICA	35	68	18	18	9	148
TOTAL	70	974	181	203	139	

Since the Certification Programme was created in 2012, the total number of Green Badge officials now stands at 70; 60% of these officials are from Central and South American Spanish-speaking countries and the remainder are from French-speaking countries in Africa.

The Umpires' Lounge

Beginning 20th April, ITF Officiating launched "The Umpires' Lounge"; a series of free online webinars and workshops for all registered national and certified officials to get involved in during the period of inactivity. The vast range of topics have included Evaluations, Tips for Chiefs & Line Umpires, Davis Cup and Rules & Regulations. The webinars are scheduled in the different regions and include external guest speakers alongside ITF Officiating representatives.

Regional updates have been successfully completed for all regions. Collectively the Regional updates have drawn approximately 1000 attendees from Africa, Asia/Oceania, Americas & Europe over four separate webinars. The attendee numbers and attentiveness have remained high and the feedback from officials has been positive.

ITF Officiating have also implemented 'Return to Tennis' webinars, providing updates on the various ITF circuits and how the new protocols and ways of working will apply to officials. Information on how an official should prepare for an ITF event and what procedures should be followed when on and off-court have also been explained to the attendees.

For additional support, the ITF Regional Officiating Officers have arranged 'Return to Tennis' webinars specific to their regional group.

New National School Programme

The ITF Officiating National School Programme is designed to introduce new entrants, or those with limited experience, to tennis officiating. While some students may be tennis players and others may already have some experience in officiating, the new modules and the General National School Package assume no previous knowledge of tennis officiating.

New Rules of Tennis and Off-Court Umpiring modules are ready for National Associations to order. The previous National School package is still available.

ITF Officiating Education

The ITF Officiating Education portal contains resources to educate and update officials. This includes materials to help officials working in various roles who are returning to officiating, allowing them to become familiar with new procedures and protocols after the long period of inactivity. The Education Portal has become an integral communication tool for officials of all levels.

Open Book Test

As in previous years, the 2020 Open Book Test was made available for officials to submit their answers via the ITF Officiating Education portal. One of the main purposes of this year's test was to encourage officials to connect with officiating colleagues and discuss the questions, by using the different online communication platforms.

The pass rate for the 2020 Open Book Test was set to eight for all International officials by the members of the Joint Certification Programme. White and Green Badges were required to achieve a minimum of seven correct answers.

This year, 43.44% of all officials achieved a maximum pass rate of ten.
98.45% reached a pass rate of eight or higher (compared to 95.89% in 2019).
0.96% scored seven points (compared to 1.53% in 2019).

Advantage All

Members of the ITF/Grand Slam and ITF/Grand Slam Development Teams invited participants from the 2019 Shenzhen & Johannesburg Advantage All workshops to meet again via video conference. The purpose of the calls was to follow up and to hear about activities and tournaments the participants have been involved in since the workshop. Once normality resumes around the world, we aim to expand the Advantage All project to other areas.

SCIENCE & TECHNICAL

Upholding the highest levels of integrity, governance and transparency is a strategic priority of ITF2024. To contribute to this aim, the Science and Technical department's objectives are to make the sport both safe and fair, by protecting the nature of the game, encouraging innovation and improvements, reducing the risk of injury and illness, and identifying and promoting the health benefits of tennis.

Resource constraints have meant that publication of the department's annual State of the Game report, designed to assist in protecting the nature of the game, has been postponed. However, the department has maintained its certification programmes and meetings with stakeholders during the COVID-19 pandemic, which have helped to encourage innovation in step with the changing needs of the sport.

ITF Approval, Classification and Recognition Programmes

Ball approval testing for 2021 began in June, when the ITF Technical Centre reopened its laboratory following the shutdown enforced by the COVID-19 pandemic. A limited number of submissions have been received so far, which is typical for this time of year. Brands continue to be submitted for approval for 2020. At the time of writing, a total of 283 brands have been approved for use in play under the 2020 Rules of Tennis, which includes 82 Stage 1, 2 and 3 brands.

The ITF Court Pace Classification Programme has remained active throughout the year and includes 314 court surface products at present. ITF Recognition stands at 94 Two Star and 70 One-Star courts worldwide. The historical trends in the three programmes are shown in figures 1, 2 and 3.

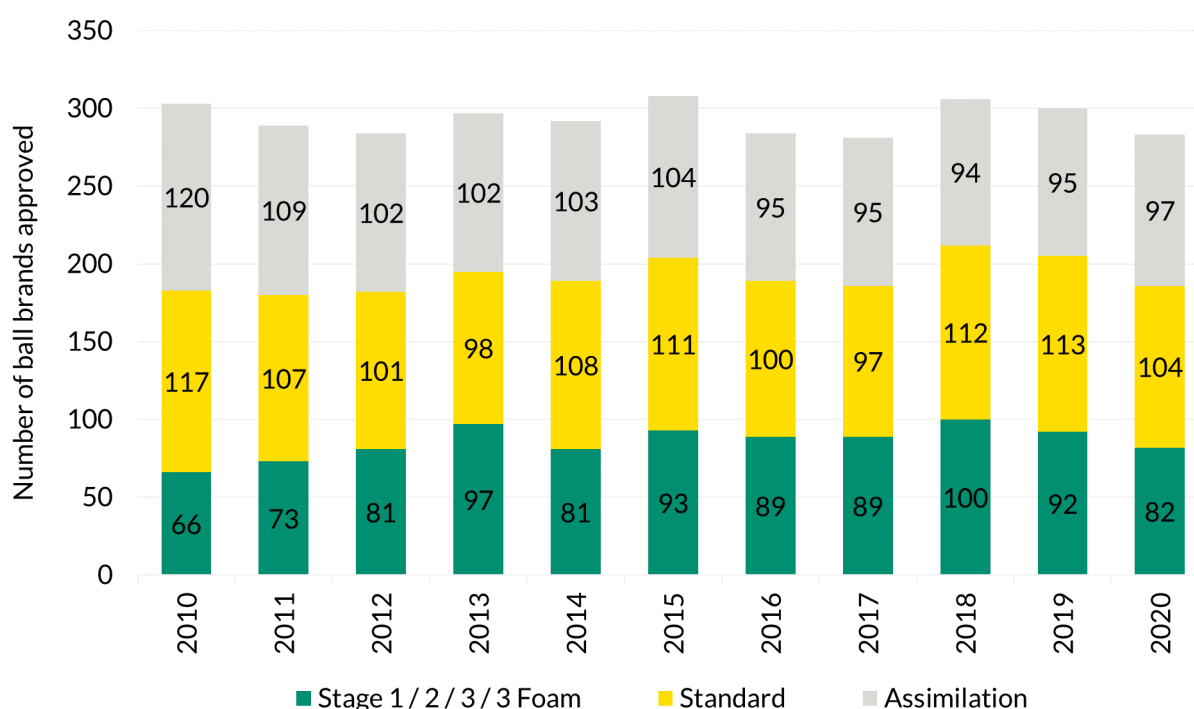


Figure 1. Number of ITF Approved balls brands each year since 2010. The year refers to the approval year (i.e. 2020 = balls tested in 2019/20 for 2020 Approval).

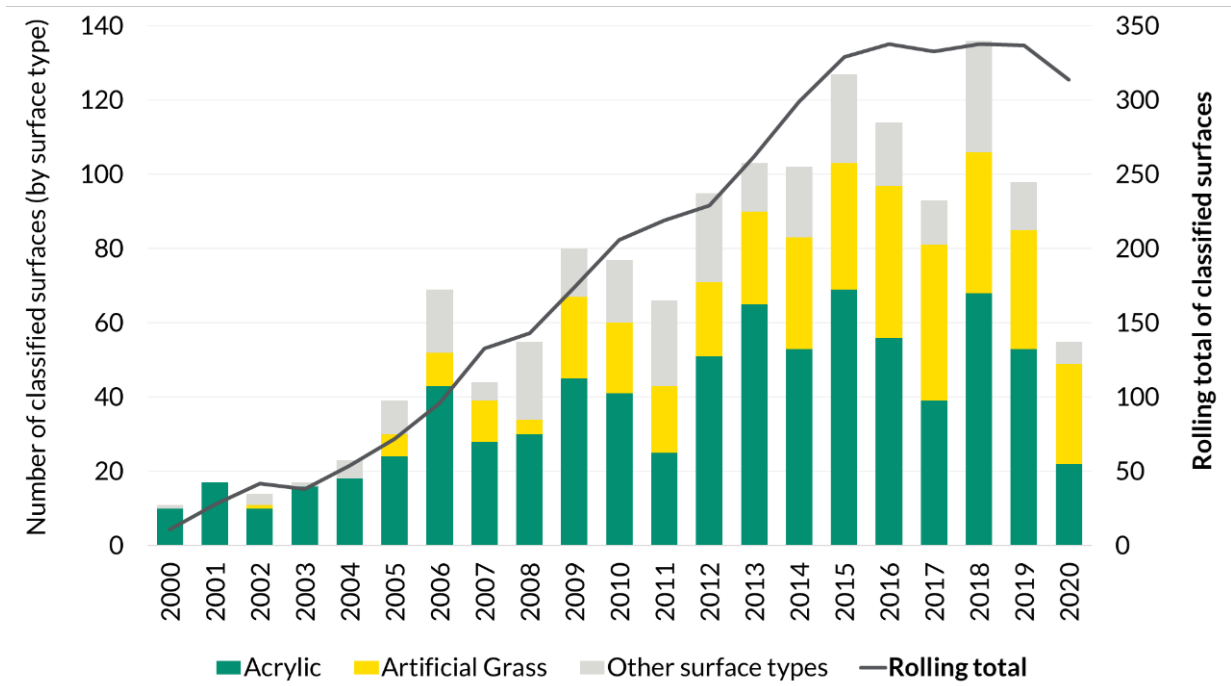


Figure 2. Number of ITF Classified court surface products (by surface type) each year since the start of the programme. Data for each year were recorded at calendar year end, except for 2020 data (which are recorded at the time of writing).

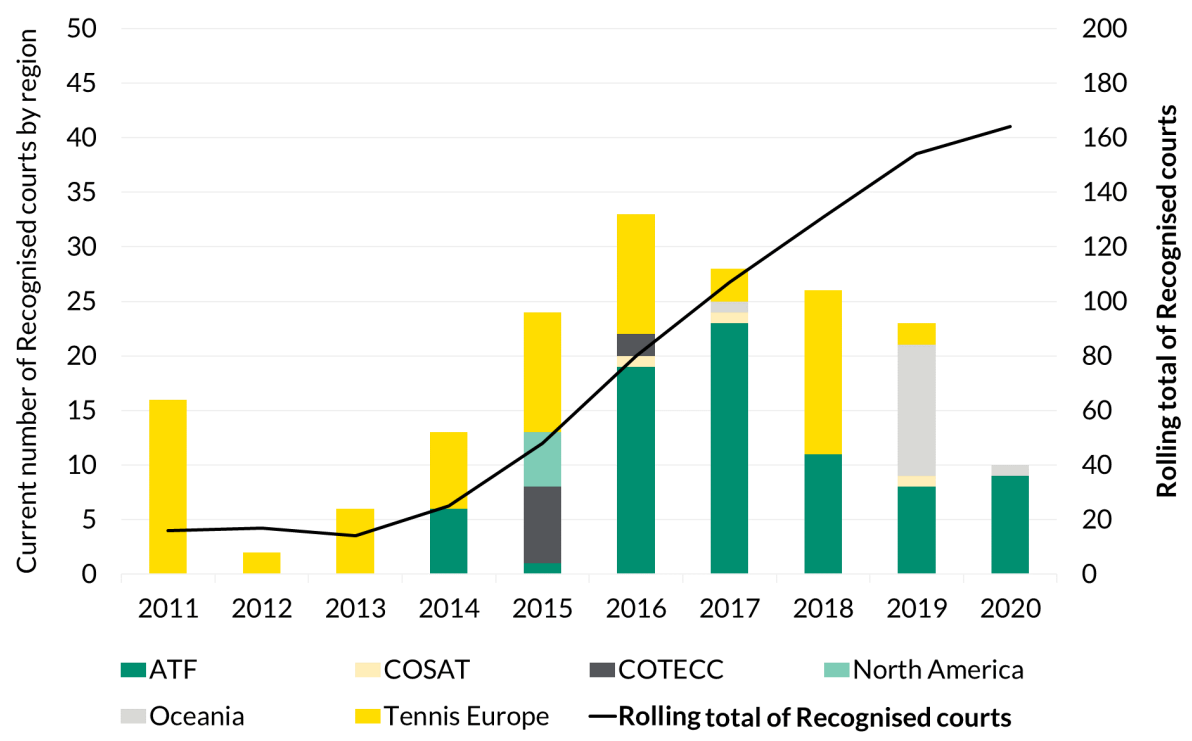


Figure 3. Number of ITF Recognised courts by location (Regional Association) each year since the start of the programme. Data for each year were recorded at calendar year end.

ITF Technical Centre

Court pace and Hawk-Eye testing took place at the 2020 Fed Cup Qualifiers in Romania (ROU v RUS), Switzerland (SUI v CAN) and USA (USA v LAT) and Davis Cup Qualifiers in Australia (AUS v BRA), Austria (AUT v URU) and Japan (JPN v ECU).

FOXTENN was also tested prior to its use in the Fed Cup Qualifier in the Netherlands (NED v BLR), where a line-calling system was used for the first time in the competition on a clay court. At the beginning of the year, FlightScope became the third line-calling system to complete the evaluation process for use on hard courts at the elite level. In July, Hawk-Eye Live became the first line-calling system to complete the ITF evaluation process for use as a real-time system (i.e. to provide instant calls).

There are currently 26 ITF Approved Player Analysis Technology (PAT) products available for players and tournament organisers to use in matches played under the Rules of Tennis.

The Technical Centre successfully retained its certification for ISO 9001:2015 quality management system following its remote audit by the British Standards Institute in March.

The first meeting of the Technical Commission in 2020 took place in April. Tennis' response to the COVID-19 pandemic dominated the agenda. The Commission discussed the benefits of increased use of line-calling systems, particularly at the non-elite levels of the game, to support the provision of officiating. The Commission received updates on testing of balls and court surfaces used in tournaments and made two decisions on the conformity of products with respect to the Rules.

Sport Science & Medicine

The first meeting of the Sport Science & Medicine Commission in 2020 took place in March. The members of the Commission discussed medical issues relating to the outbreak of COVID-19, including the precautionary measures that tournaments should take in preparation for the resumption of competition. The Commission also agreed to develop guidelines for monitoring air quality at tournaments.

ANTI-DOPING AND ANTI-CORRUPTION

Tennis Anti-Doping Programme (TADP or Programme)

The Covid-19 outbreak severely affected testing under the 2020 Programme. No In-Competition samples were collected between the weeks of 9 March and 22 August, and only limited Out-of-Competition testing took place between those dates. In-Competition testing resumed at the joint ATP/WTA Cincinnati event, since when 312 samples have been collected at 7 tournaments. Around 200 Out-of-Competition samples were collected from 174 players since March. Covid-19 precautions have been implemented during all sample collection sessions, including the use of gloves and face protection, while maintaining physical distancing where possible.

The Anti-Doping Working Group met in March and September. The main item of business was to discuss the draft 2021 Programme rules, which must be revised to comply with the new World Anti-Doping Code, which comes into effect in January 2021 (see below). The Programme rules have been unified across all of professional tennis since 2003.

Anti-Doping Rule Violations

The sanctions listed below have been imposed under the Programme since the last report. Details can be found on the [‘decisions page’](#) of the Programme website, but include:

- Lucas Sithole (RSA) was suspended for twenty-four months for failing to be available and accessible for testing three times in a twelve-month period.
- Robert Farah (COL) committed an Anti-Doping Rule Violation by providing a sample containing boldenone. No period of ineligibility was imposed.
- Beatriz Haddad Maia (BRA) was suspended for ten months, for providing a sample containing SARM S-22 and SARM LGD-4033.
- Nicolas Jarry (CHI) was suspended for eleven months, for providing a sample containing SARM LGD-4033.
- Arklon Huertas Del Pino (PER) was suspended for twenty-four months for providing a sample containing cannabis.

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

The 2021 WADA Code (**Code**) comes into effect in January 2021. Amendments to the Tennis Anti-Doping Programme has been drafted to comply with its mandatory requirements. The 2021 Code contains several key changes from the previous (2015) version, including:

- More individuals are covered under the Code, including employees of National Associations that are involved in doping control. For those National Associations that have no direct involvement in anti-doping, this change has little impact.
- A new violation of intimidation to discourage reporting violations or non-compliance has been introduced.
- Prohibited Substances may be identified as ‘Substances of Abuse’, which attract lesser sanctions.
- The concept of a ‘Protected Person’ has been introduced, which is a player who (a) has not reached 16; or (b) has not reached 18 and has not competed in any International Event, or (c) lacks legal capacity. Protected Person may, under certain circumstances, receive reduced sanctions.
- The criteria for granting Therapeutic Use Exemptions have been amended.
- The process for handling apparent violations has been amended.

Education

The total number of downloads of the TADP app stands at 4,319, while the ITF Knowledge anti-doping education programme has been completed 4,583 times. The first joint education program was conducted between the Tennis Anti-Doping Programme and Tennis Anti-Corruption Program. This program highlighted the risks to the integrity of tennis arising from the return to tennis.

Tennis Anti-Corruption Program (TACP)

The Supervisory Board of the Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) has met frequently in 2020. It has focussed on implementing the Independent Review Panel recommendations, including:

- Amendments to the TACP;
- Managing potential violations of the TACP; and
- Reducing the backlog of cases.

In particular, the TIU will become a separate legal entity from 1 January 2021 and so become independent of the International Governing Bodies of tennis. It will also change its name to the *International Tennis Integrity Agency*. The International Governing Bodies also hold a minority number of seats on the Supervisory Board of the TIU.

Corruption Offences

The sanctions listed below have been imposed under the Programme since the last report. Details can be found on the TIU website, but include:

- Youssef Hossam (EGY) was suspended for life.
- Joao Olavo Soares de Souza (BRA) was suspended for life and fined \$200,000.
- Jonathan Kanar (FRA) was suspended for four years and six months and fined \$2,000.
- Armando Alfonso Belardi Gonzalez (VEN) was suspended for thirty months and fined \$5,000, of which \$4,000 is suspended.
- Majed Kilani (TUN) was suspended for seven years and fined \$7,000.

INTEGRITY

Rules of Tennis Committee

The Rules of Tennis Committee met by conference call in early September. During that meeting, the Committee:

- Rejected an application by Tennis Australia for a permanent amendment to Appendix V to permit a new final-set scoring system;
- Granted Tennis Australia an extension to its trial of that scoring system for the 2021 Australian Open;
- Approved the extension of all 2020 trials (save for those trials that had already taken place in full or for which the applicant did not wish to continue its trial) to 2021 as a result of the partial suspension of the 2020 tournament calendar.

Constitutional Committee

The Constitutional Committee met in May and August 2020. The Committee discussed several matters relevant to the ongoing ITF Governance Review and endorsed proposals to progress those matters. These included:

- Supporting ITF members in development of good governance principles;
- Facilitating submission of resolutions to the AGM
- Increasing the maximum number of ITF Vice-Presidents;
- Asserting jurisdiction over e-tennis, and;
- Reviewing membership matters.

The Committee is due to reconvene later this year to discuss the review of the ITF Constitution.

Dispute Resolution Update

2020 statistics of cases (from 1 October 2019 to 1 September 2020) are:

Investigations	Davis Cup/Fed Cup	ITF Circuits
	2019/2020	2019/2020
Major Offence	0	35 (24 complete, 11 in progress)
Tournament Offence	N/A	0
Welfare Offence	0	1
Nation breach	0	N/A
Internal Adjudication Panel		
Eligibility applications	8 (7 approved, 1 pending)	3 (3 approved)
Appeals of Entry Offences	N/A	42 (31 upheld, 11 rejected)
Appeals of On-Site Offences	N/A	28 (8 upheld, 20 rejected)
Welfare Offences	0	2 (2 complete)
Other	0	0
Officiating (white and green badge)	N/A	1
Independent Tribunal		
Major Offences	0	2
Welfare Offences	N/A	0
Tournament Offences	N/A	0
Appeals of On-Site Offences	0	N/A
Appeals of IAP decisions	0	2
Other	0	0

DEVELOPMENT

Events

Junior development events

All regional development events scheduled from January until mid-March were completed in Africa, Asia and Europe prior to the suspension of international tournaments. Junior development events that were scheduled to take place from mid-March until the end of the year have been cancelled due to the current pandemic. The department is currently liaising with Regional Associations to discuss the scheduling of development events in 2021.

Professional Tournament Grants

World Tennis Tour (WTT) tournaments that were due to be supported by the Grand Slam Development Fund (GSDF) and the ITF during the lockdown were cancelled due to COVID-19. With the resumption of the WTT in August, several nations have been awarded ITF tournament grants.

Facilities

ITF Facility Grant Programme

In February, the ITF Facility Grant Committee awarded a total of \$575,000 in facility grants to 16 National Associations to establish new National Training Centres, or to maintain/extend existing facilities as part of the Facility Grant Programme. The department continues to liaise with nations to assess the impact of COVID-19 on existing projects.

National Training Centre (NTC) Recognition & Support

The USTA National Campus in Lake Nona, Orlando was awarded Gold recognition in June. The USTA Centre is the second NTC to receive Gold level status after the French Tennis Federation's National Training Centre in Paris last year. Earlier this year, the Colombian Tennis Federation's National Training Centre was awarded Silver level status. The following National Associations have applied for recognition at one of the three levels (Gold, Silver, Bronze) and are currently going through the assessment process: Belarus, Chinese Taipei, Great Britain, Hong Kong, Kenya, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mauritius, Pakistan, Qatar, South Africa, Switzerland, Tahiti and Trinidad & Tobago.

ITF experts conducted NTC support visits to Guyana, Peru, Seychelles, St Vincent and Surinam between December 2019 and March 2020. The NTC visits support developing tennis nations to improve their NTCs so that in future they can apply for ITF recognition.

Coaching

Courses

During the first three months of the year, seven of the 12 scheduled courses took place before all remaining courses and conferences were postponed due to COVID-19 related restrictions. One of the seven courses was funded by Olympic Solidarity (OS). For the period September to November, 13 OS-funded courses have now been approved and are scheduled to take place, with a further six courses receiving OS funding approval but are on-hold due to travel restrictions.

The OS Scholarship programme for the ITF Coaching High Performance Players courses delivered in Valencia will proceed and will be delivered through the ITF Academy. Candidates will complete the six-week theoretical part of the course by completing the assigned online subjects as well as daily webinars, all facilitated through the ITF Academy. The practical aspects of the certification will be completed in 2021.

ITF Academy (digital platform)

In August, a letter regarding the ITF Academy membership plans was sent out to National Associations. The letter detailed the various packages, benefits and costs applicable to each nation based on their class membership and number of votes. Furthermore, Regional Associations received the conditions to collaborate with the ITF to promote the project and receive a financial Annual Bonus.

The “Certification” phase of the ITF Academy has also been completed and will be used to support the blended (online combined with face-to-face) delivery of all ITF-supported certification courses starting from September 2020. The “Continuous Professional Development” (CPD) phase is set to launch in September with individual tracking of CPD activities. Details of all CPD activities will be available in each individual user profile which National Associations with membership plans can access via the National Manager dashboard.

At the time of writing, the ITF Academy has more than 25,200 registered users and 96,750 anonymous users who have access to more than 105 English courses, 100 French and Spanish courses, 45 courses in Portuguese and three courses in Russian. More courses are being added on a weekly basis. Work on the Player Education section is underway and will be available in the coming months, while work continues on the existing sections for coaches and parents. Translation of Portuguese and Russian content is the priority for the remainder of the year.

Within the content library (former iCoach), there are more than 1,200 content items currently available in English, French and Spanish. During the period 1 June - 1 September 2020, more than 995,000 page-views were recorded, with users spending an average of 15 minutes per session.

Development of a National Sport System (DNSS)

At the time of writing, the OS DNSS project in Botswana has resumed after being interrupted by the pandemic. Three other DNSS projects also approved for 2020 are currently under review.

ITF Coaching Publications

In August the 81st issue of ITF Coaching and Sport Science Review (CSSR) was published in English, French and Spanish. The issue was dedicated to the impact of COVID-19 and the ‘Return to Tennis’ post COVID. The 82nd issue of CSSR is due for publication in December 2020. In addition, there are more than 160 publications available on the ITF eBooks app in up to 13 languages.

Regional Coaches Conferences (RCCs)

Webinars for coaches, coach education directors from National Associations and international tutors were organised by the ITF in different regions (South and Central America, Europe, Asia and Africa) during August. The webinars have now been stopped as the biennial ITF Regional Coaches Conferences will be delivered digitally through the ITF Academy. The RCCs will take place from mid-November after all the OS courses have been completed in order to avoid events clashing. The department is currently in the process of finalising the dates and speakers for the various conferences.

Participation

ITF World Tennis Number

The aim of the ITF World Tennis Number is to encourage more players of all ages, genders and abilities to play tennis with someone of a similar standard to make the sport more enjoyable and keep players engaged for longer. The project supports the ITF’s initiative to increase participation and will enable users to see themselves on a global scale whilst finding more localised opportunities.

The ITF World Tennis Number is a number assigned to a tennis player that reflects their current level of playing, it is not a ranking.

The ITF World Tennis Number provides National Associations with a modern digital platform for collecting and storing data that can work alongside and support existing systems that National Associations may already have in place. National Associations own their data and can be supported in launching the platform to their players by the ITF. There will be no financial barriers to entry – inclusivity, fairness and equality is at the heart of the ITF World Tennis Number project.

The ITF World Tennis Number is an inclusive platform and players of all genders, ages and abilities will be on one scale. A key motivation is that it promotes gender equality by matching players based on their ability and ignoring their sex, it is also the future intention to expand this to all circuits including wheelchair tennis in 2021.

A bespoke algorithm has been created based on objective mathematical calculation created by the ITF's own data scientist alongside the Department of Computing at Imperial College London. The algorithm continues to perform very well in testing over a dataset of 1.1 million records for nine countries.

There is a robust legal framework in place to support licensing and data sharing activities. In early 2020, detailed Data Protection Impact Assessments were completed for both adults and children alongside privacy notices, a legitimate interest assessment and the user terms and conditions. Each nation that shares data will have to sign a data sharing agreement, while we can rely on legitimate interests to share data responsibly, all users must be informed about how their data is being used. Safeguarding and the protection of children online is the primary consideration behind the system design.

In June the ITF Board of Directors approved the inclusion of the ITF World Tennis Number in the 2021 Circuits rule books. Each Circuit Committee will decide how and when to use the ITF World Tennis Number for acceptance and/or seeding purposes after the professional and ITF rankings. This decision sends an important message to all tennis stakeholders that the ITF World Tennis Number is here to stay, not only within the amateur and recreational ecosystem, but also in the ITF competitive structure and that will be adopted on a large scale around the world. At the time of writing, the ITF Juniors Committee has decided that from 1st July 2021 the ITF World Tennis Number will be used as an entry acceptance criteria ahead of national rankings as well as one of the tools to assist with seeding at ITF Junior Team Competitions.

The ITF World Tennis Number brand and scale will be released to players via the ITF websites in October and November, a launch of the platform for ITF Players is scheduled for November and December ready for a public release and communications campaign in January 2021. A communications plan to successfully educate and market the vision for the product is being led by the ITF Communications team, with input from a communications subgroup of experts from the project steering committee of ITF, FFT, LTA and USTA. A key focus during this period will be to educate and support National Associations so they can explain the benefits and opportunities to players. A tool kit of branding and communications resources will be provided.

ITF World Participation Conference

Following the cancellation of the 2020 edition of the ITF World Participation Conference, the ITF has provisionally set the 2021 dates for Sunday 04 and Monday 05 July.

Junior Tennis Initiative (JTI)

There is now a total of 138 active JTI nations, with China, Egypt, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Puerto Rico submitting declaration forms to join the programme, whilst Antigua & Barbuda, Haiti, and Moldova all re-joined during 2020. At the time of writing, limited ITF tennis equipment shipments have been dispatched since March due to national lockdowns and increased travel restrictions for

cargo. The ITF will be dispatching shipments during the remainder of 2020 to the recipient active JTI nations where it is safe to do so and where tennis activity has returned.

Since lockdown began, specific sub-regional based conference calls have taken place with National JTI coordinators and their respective ITF Development Officer. These calls have provided nations with an update on the JTI, to discuss return to tennis strategies, their challenges and opportunities, as well as to share best practice. These calls will continue to be organised by the ITF Development Officer throughout the remainder of the year with Head Office staff joining them.

In July, the ITF launched a free online course entitled 'Understanding the ITF Junior Tennis Initiative' on the ITF Academy, targeting all National Coordinators and their respective programme deliverers. At the time of writing, 549 Academy users have taken the course, highlighting the significance of the 14-and-under grassroots programme.

Tennis Parents

The ITF Tennis Parent course for parents of beginner and intermediate tennis players has now been completed by 1,982 registered users. In early October, the ITF will host the first ITF Tennis Parent Webinar, titled 'An introduction to the ITF tennis parent education programme'. Targeting tennis parents and coaches in Europe, West & Central Asia, Africa and the Caribbean regions, the webinar will provide an overview of the ITF's new parent education programme and feature the second ITF Tennis Parent course launched in September.

Tennis Xpress

The first ever ITF Tennis Xpress online course was published on the ITF Academy in July. At the time of writing, the course has been completed by 3,081 Academy users and is available in English, French and Spanish. Before the end of the year, three specific content focused ITF Tennis Xpress courses will be published on the Academy in the three languages.

Rules of Tennis: Net Height for Tennis10s

In July, a study titled 'How does net height affect children's ability to play tennis?' was completed by Victoria University, Melbourne in conjunction with Tennis Australia and the ITF. In line with the recommendations from the study, the Development department has applied to amend Appendix VII in the ITF Rules of Tennis. The application to the ITF Rules Committee requests that an initial one-year trial be conducted during 2021 to lower the recommended net heights at the centre for the Red (Stage 3), Orange (Stage 2) and Green (Stage 1) formats for 10-and-under tennis competition. The trial will include a consultation with National Associations and the Tennis Industry.

Performance

Touring Teams

The International 18 & under GSDF Team to Australia completed a three-week tour in January culminating in the Australian Open Junior Championships where Priska Nugroho (INA) together with ITF Junior Player Grant recipient Alexandra Eala (PHI) won the girls' doubles event.

For a second successive year, the International 18 & under GSDF Team to South America completed a four-week tour of Paraguay and Brazil in February. The team consisted of two boys and five girls from seven different countries.

Some regional touring teams involving players from Central America, the Caribbean and Pacific Oceania were stopped in March and players returned home early due to COVID-19. All remaining 2020 GSDF international and regional touring teams scheduled from mid-March to the end of the year have been cancelled due to the current pandemic.

ITF Regional Training Centres

The Centres in Kenya and Fiji remain physically closed. The ITF Centre coaches continue to maintain direct communication with all players and are following their tennis and fitness programme as well as monitoring their online schooling. At the Centre in Morocco, outdoor training resumed in July for the players who were unable to return home due to the government closing the border at short notice.

During lockdown, players from the three centres had the opportunity to interact virtually with current and former players, including Mary Pierce who shared her experience of being on the tour with the centre players and answered their questions.

Player Grants

Twenty-nine players from 22 countries received the 2020 International Grand Slam Player Grants.

This year's recipients include seven players who received grants in 2019 and who continue to meet the programme criteria. Seven recipients competed in the main draw of a Grand Slam during 2020, with Jurij Rodionov (AUT), Sumit Nagal (IND), Kaja Juvan (SLO) and Renata Zarazua (MEX) all achieving first round victories. In addition, Mayar Sherif (EGY) became the first Egyptian woman to compete in the main draw at a Grand Slam in the Open Era.

Fourteen players from 11 countries received an International ITF Junior Player Grant this year. Notable achievements include Clara Tauson (DEN), who qualified and reached the second round of Roland-Garros en route to achieving a career high WTA ranking of 155. Daria Snigur (UKR) played the qualifying event at Roland-Garros after reaching a career high WTA ranking of 218 and Alexandra Eala (PHI) became the first Filipina to reach the last four of a Grand Slam Junior event since 1985.