

Statement from the Independent ITF Ethics Commission

The independent ITF Ethics Commission seeks to clarify the candidacy rules for the ITF President and Board of Directors. The candidacy rules were introduced on 4 March 2019. The rules are part of a revised ITF Code of Ethics, following a review by the independent ITF Ethics Commission. The Commission was formed to uphold the ITF's commitment to the highest standards of integrity, governance and transparency. Its initial task was to define, review and enforce the framework of ethical principles outlined in the ITF Code of Ethics.

The candidacy rules have been implemented to ensure a fair election and prevent favouritism. They were approved by the Election Panel, which is a sub-committee of the Independent Ethics Commission. The Election Panel is formed by Ms Sandra Osborne, Mr David Howman and Ms Urvasi Naidoo. The Election Panel has responsibility for ensuring that the ITF Presidential and Board of Directors elections (taking place at the ITF AGM in Lisbon on 24-27 September) are conducted fairly and with integrity. As part of its remit, the Election Panel has issued the rules that will apply to all candidates for both elections, including those who are presently in office. The rules stipulate the following:

- Candidates cannot distribute official campaign material in any form before valid candidates have been officially announced. The deadline for announcing a candidature is 26 May. Beyond this date, all candidates can freely distribute campaign materials.
- Candidates cannot participate in any official public forum or debate for the sole or main purpose of promoting their candidacy, unless all candidates are offered equal opportunity to participate.
- Candidates cannot receive individual or special support or services from the ITF.

Existing ITF Directors, Officers or Committee or Commission Members (including the incumbent President) must not, while performing their official ITF duties, organize or participate in meetings or events or social functions solely or mainly for the purpose of promoting their candidacy. The candidacy rules can be found in full here: <https://www.itftennis.com/media/302565/302565.pdf>

The independent ITF Ethics Commission would encourage candidates who have questions regarding the interpretation and application of the Code of Ethics and the candidacy rules to contact the Ethics Commission via ethics@itftennis.com.

The ITF Ethics Commission was established by the ITF Board in November 2018. The Chair of the Commission, Sandra Osborne QC, took up the role on 1 December 2018. In her role as the independent Chair, she has overseen the process of recruiting and appointing the additional commission members for the ITF Ethics Commission, announced recently: Jack Anderson (Oceania), Brian Havill (Europe), David Howman (Oceania) and Urvasi Naidoo (Europe/Africa), effective 15 February 2019. The members are all drawn from outside tennis stakeholders, ensuring independence.