



## 2019 ITTF CHALLENGE | Additional Changes for 2019

Updated 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019

### 1. Introduction of new tiers 2019 ITTF Challenge

- a. ITTF Challenge Plus, minimum prize money **US\$ 60,000**
  - Streaming production and commentator costs provided by ITTF
- b. ITTF Challenge, minimum prize money **US\$ 30.000**

### 2. Cancellation of the event

- a. At any time after the bid was confirmed by ITTF and before the ITTF calendar is officially published, the host association will be fined with US\$ 1.500 (ITTF Challenge) & fined with US\$ 3.000 (ITTF Challenge Plus).
- b. At any time between the times the ITTF Calendar is officially published and earlier than 4 months before the event start date, the host association will be fined with US\$ 5.000 (ITTF Challenge) & fined with US\$ 10.000 (ITTF Challenge Plus) and not be entrusted an ITTF World Tour or ITTF Challenge event for the next calendar year.
- c. In case the LOC makes changes:  
After the calendar is published, on dates, cities and other details affecting the calendar details, the LOC is subject to a fine of up to US\$ 1000 fee. Any changes are subject to the ITTF approval from ITTF and ITTF has the right to decline.

### 3. Events (categories)

#### a. **Mandatory:**

- Men's and Women's Singles
- Men's and Women's Doubles
- Mixed Doubles (only for Challenge Plus)
- Under 21 Men's Singles and U21 Women's Singles events (born in **1998** or later)

### 4. Playing System

#### a. **General implementation:**

Numbers of seeded players and Main Draw, are defined according to the number of entries, at the final entries deadline, as follows (the CM can amend the playing system if necessary):

Doubles number of pairs	Seeded pairs	Main Draw of
maximum 72 Doubles	8	16
maximum 24 Mixed Doubles	8	16

U21 Singles	Seeded players	Main Draw of
15 or less	0	16
16 to 20	4	16
21 to 40	8	16
40 to 63	16	32
maximum 64 Entries	-	64

**b. Men's and Women's Singles:**

- Matches in the Main Draws, First Stage (knock-outs) and Preliminary Rounds are played best of 7 games.
- Matches in first stage (groups) will be played best of 5 games.
- For each NA all players who should be seeded (according to number of entries) will be approved automatically and remaining positions per NA will be filled as well by WR or by the NA request, if notified prior to the entry deadline by e-mail to the ITTF Competition Manager.

**c. Men's and Women's Doubles:**

- The first stage event will be played with a maximum of 64 Doubles
- Maximum 2 pairs or 4 players per NA.
- If, at the doubles deadline, the maximum number of approved doubles entries does not reach the total of 72 pairs, the remaining places will be filled according to the latest available Doubles Ranking with maximum an additional 3rd pair per NA, which has to be entered before the doubles entry deadline.
- All additional Doubles pairing will go to the Waiting List. Pairs on the waiting list will be accepted according to the Doubles World Ranking list.

**d. Mixed Doubles:**

- Main Draw of 16 played in knock out. Top 8 seeded pairs according to the Doubles Ranking (or Top 7 plus 1 pair from the host association, if not already included in the Top 8 doubles by default).
- 8 pairs from the qualification event (Knock out of 16)
- Maximum number of mixed doubles entries is 24 pairs, according to the latest available Doubles Ranking on the doubles deadline with a maximum 1 pair or 2 players per NA, including the host association (regardless if this double is in the Top 24 pairs).
- Mixed pairs, composed of players from different associations are not allowed for Mixed Doubles with the exception of players from the same National Olympic Committee.
- If, at the doubles deadline, the maximum number of approved mixed doubles entries does not reach the total of 24 pairs, the remaining places will be filled according to the latest available Doubles Ranking with maximum an additional 2nd pair per NA, which has to be entered before the doubles entry deadline.
- All additional Mixed Doubles will go to the Waiting List.
- All matches are played best of **5 games**, in all stages of the competition.
- For the Main Draw Round of 16, matches might be scheduled to start on Day 2 of the first stage.

**e. U21 Singles Events:**

- **Maximum 4 players per NA** regardless if the maximum of 64 entries is reached. **All players will be accepted according to the latest U21 World Ranking on the final entries deadline.**
- The Maximum number of entries for U21 will be 64 Players, if 64 players are reached
  - A straight Knock out Main draw will be played
  - The best ranked 64 players can participate
  - All additional players will need to go on the Waiting List
- The competition manager has the right to decide the playing system to accommodate the overall schedule.

## 5. First stages Draw

- Should there be a need for **preliminary round** to qualify for the main draw if the first stage is played in **Groups**, players from the same association **CAN** meet in the first round of the preliminary round.

## 6. General Schedule

Below are the recommended tables for ITTF Challenge Plus and ITTF Challenge, indicating the maximum number of entries that can be accepted according to the number of tables:

- If an organizer is unable to reach the minimum number of recommended tables but still wish to be considered as a host for the Challenge Series, the ITTF will consider the conditions on a case by case basis.

### ITTF Challenge Plus

- Including Mixed Doubles and Groups Qualification

Number of tables	Maximum entries
8 tables	130
10 tables	150
12 tables	170
14 tables	200
16 tables	230

- Including Mixed Doubles and K.O Qualification

Number of tables	Maximum entries
8 tables	190
10 tables	220
12 tables	240
14 tables	270
16 tables	280

### ITTF Challenge

- Groups Qualification

Number of tables	Maximum entries
8 tables	180
10 tables	220
12 tables	260
14 tables	300
16 tables	340

- K.O Qualification

Number of tables	Maximum entries
8 tables	230
10 tables	260
12 tables	290
14 tables	330
16 tables	360

## 7. Specific Time Schedule

- Earliest start of matches is **09:30 am** during all days of the main events and **08:30 am** on the first stages days.

## PLAYING FACILITIES/EQUIPMENT

### 8. Main event facilities

- a. **Recommended** eight (8) courts must be used from the Main Draw on.
  - If an organizer is unable to reach the minimum number of recommended tables but still wish to be considered as a host for the Challenge Series, the ITTF will consider the conditions on a case by case basis
- b. The set-up of 1 Show-court **is obligatory for the last 1 day of the event** for the ITTF Challenge Plus. From two (2) to four (4) show-courts have to be installed at particular events based on case-by-case agreement with ITTF at the ITTF Challenge Series.
- c. The set-up of 4 courts **is obligatory for the second last day of the event** (for ITTF Challenge Plus)

## OTHER FACILITIES

### 9. VIP Facilities

- a. VIP Lounge is **mandatory at least for the last 2 days for ITTF Challenge Plus** and the following should be offered:
  - At least snacks and refreshment service for sponsors and guests.

### 10. Hotels

- a. For the ITTF Challenge Plus it is recommended that the OC should provide special service to the TOP seeded players (see file "**Players' Service**").

### 11. Hospitality of ITTF Officials

The LOC has to provide:

- a. Free hospitality to the streaming production team and commentator (for ITTF Challenge Plus)

## TRANSPORTATION

### 12. Arrival Service

- a. For the ITTF Challenge Plus it is recommended that the OC should provide special service to the TOP seeded players (see file "**Players' Service**").

### 13. Departure Service

- a. For the ITTF Challenge Plus it is recommended that the OC should provide special service to the TOP seeded players (see file "**Players' Service**").

### 14. Shuttle service (Hotels/Venue)

- a. For the ITTF Challenge Plus it is recommended that the LOC should provide special service to the TOP seeded players (see file "**Players' Service**").

### 15. Staff and Volunteers

- a. The OC must employ the right number of employees and engage sufficient number of volunteers for a smooth preparation and implementation of the event.

### 16. TV PRODUCTION/ITV STREAMING

The OC is responsible to make arrangements for:

- a. Assisting the **Streaming Production** team (provided by the ITTF), for the last day of competition for ITTF Challenge Plus (including Awarding Ceremonies). ITTF will cover the
- b. **itTV Streaming** (as decided by ITTF, commentator to be provided by ITTF for ITTF Challenge Plus)