



ITTF TABLE TENNIS WORLD RANKING REGULATIONS

FAQ – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Latest update: 24th November 2023

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Find the most updated ITTF Table Tennis World Ranking Regulations [here](#).

1. How can a non-ranked player enter the ITTF Table Tennis World Ranking?

Players and pairs are ranked on a given week when their total number of ranking points is greater than zero. Ranking points are awarded in sanctioned events, have a validity of one year and a maximum of 8 results are counted for the ranking.

Therefore, players must participate in at least one sanctioned event in the past twelve months and be awarded ranking points to be ranked for the first time.

2. How is it possible for young players or players in development to progress into the professional level and participate in WTT events where entries are selected by ranking?

The following measures ensure that young or rising players have chances of competing at the professional level in WTT events, where entries are restricted:

- Ranking points are awarded at Under 19 events, which allows young players to progress in the ITTF Table Tennis World Ranking while playing Youth events.
- The National Entry Restriction allows nations to only enter a maximum number of players at each event.
- The Top-20 Play-Down Restriction allows very few top players to participate in lower-level events.
- Host Wildcards give the organizing country the chance to promote local players.
- WTT Nominations enable rising stars to prove their level at WTT events.

3. Why are the first-round points so low in comparison with the past? Are players starting in the Qualifying rewarded somehow?

The ranking points are awarded to reward the players performance and effort to achieve wins at relevant events. For this reason, players who lose in the first round only receive a symbolic number of points which allows the others to progress in the rankings.

This way, settlement of players in certain tier of events is avoided, as players losing consistently in the first round need to move to lower tiers to prove their value.

Following the same logic, players starting in the Qualifying and making it to the Main Draw, carry-over the points achieved (“QUAL” in the points breakdown table), which are added to the points awarded in the Main Draw.

4. How are points awarded at Team competitions?

Currently, the ITTF Mixed Team World Cup is the only Teams event which awards points for the Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles rankings. Points are awarded to the teams based on their final position, and then split between the members of each team depending on the share of wins achieved by each of them.

The share of each player or pair is obtained by calculating the total number of singles and doubles matches won by the team, and the percentage of them achieved by each of the components. In the ITTF Mixed Team World Cup, due to its special playing system, the shares are calculated using games instead of matches.

Example: team finishing in 5th position (QF) of the ITTF Mixed Team World Cup.

Team points: 175

Matches results (total count of games won-lost): 8-2, 8-7, 4-8, 8-5, 8-2, 3-8, 2-8, 8-4, 1-8

Total games won: 50

Shares:

- Mixed Doubles pair #1: 14 games out of 50 = 28% of 175 points → 49 points
- Female player #1: 7 games out of 50 = 14% of 175 points → 25 points
- Female player #2: 5 games out of 50 = 10% of 175 points → 18 points
- Male player #1: 12 games out of 50 = 24% of 175 points → 42 points
- Women's Doubles pair #1: 6 games out of 50 = 12% of 175 points → 21 points
- Men's Doubles pair #1: 6 games out of 50 = 12% of 175 points → 21 points

The female and male players of the team would be awarded their corresponding points for the singles rankings. The Mixed Doubles, Men's and Women's Doubles pairs would be awarded their points for the Mixed, Men's and Women's Doubles pair rankings, and both members of each pair the same points for the corresponding Doubles Individuals ranking.

5. How do automatic and mandatory entries work? Is it possible to cancel the participation in case of injury?

The entry for WTT Grand Smash, WTT Champions and WTT Finals events is automatic and mandatory for qualified players by ranking. In practice, this means that the entries procedure starts with all the qualified players already entered.

Cancellation of automatic entries is only allowed for players who provide an official medical certificate signed by a doctor that justifies the absence. Otherwise, the player gets a one-year penalty which counts as a 0-points result always included in the best-eight composing the ranking record.

Other reasons are ultimately evaluated by the ITTF World Ranking Working Group for decision.

6. When are the points awarded at sanctioned events included in the ranking? For how long are they valid? Are there any events valid from edition to edition?

Points awarded at sanctioned events are added to the ranking the next time it is published after the event has finished. As events typically finish on Sundays, and the ITTF Table Tennis World Ranking is published every Tuesday, unless the event has unexpected delays, results are included within two days.

Results are valid for one year, after which they expire and are not included in the ranking anymore. For example, a result included in week 28 of 2021 will be also valid for week 29, 30, and so on... until week 27 of 2022. That would be the last time the result is included in the ranking, as week 28 of 2022 would not have it.

There is one exception to this rule: Continental Championships, Continental Games and Continental Games may have their duration extended for 26 more weeks (6 months), in cases in which the expiration of an event would leave a Continent with less than two events counting for the ranking.

7. How does the point 1.9.1 about limiting the inclusion of events with nationality restrictions work?

When the ranking is computed every week, a restriction is applied in the selection of the best-8 results of each player. Only the best result from all the events that have restriction in the entries by nationality is a candidate to be included in the best-8.

Examples of events affected by this restriction are the European Championships, the Commonwealth Games, the African Cup, the Pacific Games or any other event in which only some nations can compete or have the chance to qualify to it.

8. Is there any ranking protection for players who cannot compete for a long time to avoid being back to the game with zero points?

Players who are pregnant, injured or under any other circumstance that prevents them from competing for six months or more have the right to request the protection of their ranking points at the moment they played for the last time.

The protection must be requested within the first six months of absence, and it is valid for a maximum of eighteen (18) months. If the player is inactive for longer, the protection expires, and the player must start with zero ranking points when coming back.

The following is an example of a timeline of events of a player who makes use of the ranking protection:

1. The player gets injured on the 15th of April 2022 during a match in a WTT Star Contender event.
2. After taking several medical tests, surgery is required and considering the recovery time, the estimated date to return to compete is December 2022.
3. As the absence is expected to be for more than six months, the player requests ranking protection by submitting the official form at <https://itf.com/rankings>.
4. The ITTF World Ranking Working Group evaluates the case and decides to approve the protection. The Singles, Doubles Individuals and Mixed Doubles Individuals ranking points on the player at the



moment the request was received are stored and become the provisional protected points. However, the rankings of the player keep being updated every week, having results expired as normally.

5. As the protection differs depending on the absence duration, the procedure is on-hold until the player is again entered at a sanctioned event.
6. The player is entered to compete in a WTT Contender event starting on the 10th of December 2022. The absence duration is calculated (7 months and 25 days), and therefore the player obtains a protection of 3 events or up to 6 months. The protected ranking points are used at the moment the entries are selected, and the player competes in the event obtaining ranking points. These ranking points are included in the next published ranking as usual.
7. In upcoming month, the player keeps competing and participates in three more events. In the first two, the protected ranking points are used for entries selection. However, after that, the player has already used the protection in three events, and it is considered as expired or completed. Therefore, the player's ranking is used for the third event, and any upcoming events in the future.

Any more questions or doubts?

Do not hesitate to contact us at rankings@ittf.com.