



## PRESS RELEASE

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### ITF, WTA AND ATP DELIVER OPTIMISED PROFESSIONAL TENNIS STRUCTURE

**Roehampton, UK** - The ITF (International Tennis Federation) has today announced an agreement with the ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) and the WTA (Women's Tennis Association) to optimise the structure of men's and women's professional tennis. This will provide additional competitive opportunities and a clear and fair pathway for talented players.

The agreement includes the allocation of ATP and WTA ranking points at \$15,000 ITF World Tennis Tour tournaments, additional ranking points at men's \$25,000 tournaments, as well as increased playing opportunities with 48-player qualifying singles draws. Players' rankings will be updated with the new points allocations on 5 August 2019. These points will be applied retroactively to all tournaments played since August 2018.

Updated men's and women's ATP/WTA rankings will be used for acceptances into ITF World Tennis Tour events plus ATP Challengers and WTA 125K tournaments beginning the week of 26 August 2019.

ATP ranking points are to be awarded according to the following points table (singles and doubles):

	Winner	Finalist	Semi-finalist	Quarter-finalist	Round of 16
M25 - Singles	20	12	6	3	1
M25 - Doubles	20	12	6	3	
M15 - Singles	10	6	4	2	1
M15 - Doubles	10	6	4	2	

WTA ranking points are to be awarded at \$15,000 (W15) ITF World Tennis Tour events according to the following points table:

	Winner	Finalist	Semi-finalist	Quarter-finalist	Round of 16
Singles	10	6	4	2	1
Doubles	10	6	4	1	

For tournaments to increase from 32-player to 48-player Qualifying Singles Draw sizes, the integrity implications of moving from seven to eight-day events were fully discussed with the Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU). The TIU recognise the benefits of a balanced calendar that provides additional playing opportunities, which along with other measures, will contribute to an improved integrity environment for players.

To provide continuity to players, ITF ranking points will be awarded in \$15,000 and \$25,000 qualifying rounds and a player's ITF ranking will continue to be valid for acceptance purposes after ATP or WTA ranked players. Three reserved places in \$15,000 tournaments for ITF top 100-ranked juniors will continue to facilitate entry into professional tennis for the best-performing players at junior level.

The ITF's agreement with the ATP and WTA has been reached to achieve the key objectives of a clearly defined group of professional players and a structure that allows for smooth mobility.

Steve Simon, WTA CEO and Chairman said, "The WTA is pleased to work with the ITF in the shared goal of developing a clear structure and pathway to provide for the competitive opportunities and rewards needed for a Player to transition through the ITF World Tennis Tour in their quest to compete on the WTA Tour."

David Haggerty, ITF President said, "Collaborating further with the ATP and WTA, our goal is to ensure the professional pathway from juniors to professional tennis is fit for purpose. It is vital that players have

the opportunity to play and progress and nations can afford to host events in their countries at both professional and transitional levels. These additional reforms to the pathway will further strengthen the new structure introduced in 2019, that in turn will create a true professional group of players, increase playing opportunities at all levels of the game, and help widen the number of nations hosting professional tournaments so that tennis can remain a truly global sport.”

Chris Kermode, ATP Executive Chairman and President, said: “We are pleased to have reached this agreement with the ITF which we believe will lead to significant enhancements to the player pathway and the way in which the ITF World Tennis Tour links to the ATP Challenger Tour. Structural reform has been necessary as we look to increase opportunities and achieve a balanced calendar for the sport. We will continue to closely monitor the latest changes to ensure that they are working as designed for the players, and for the benefit of the sport as a whole.”

In summary:

- Allocation of ATP and WTA ranking points across the ITF World Tennis Tour will provide one ranking system for men’s and women’s professional tennis and a smoother transition for players who will move up the system due to their achievements on court
- There will be three reserved places in ITF \$15,000 tournaments for ITF top 100-ranked juniors; no reserved places will be offered at any other level
- Doubles acceptance at \$15,000 tournaments is amended, to be based on a player’s singles or doubles ranking, whichever is higher, with no requirement to have been accepted into the Singles competition, and therefore opening up opportunities to more players

Subject to consultation with National Associations and key stakeholders, a new more affordable level of development tournament is currently under review for introduction below the ITF World Tennis Tour, between \$15,000 tournaments and the ITF Junior Circuit, to ensure players from as many countries as possible have the opportunity to join the player pathway. These tournaments will offer ITF ranking points and enable all players, including those from college tennis and other pathways, to progress to professional tournaments based on results.

The ITF World Tennis Tour is a long-term project to secure the future of professional tennis. The ITF, ATP and the WTA have worked closely to deliver a comparable model for both men and women and will continue to monitor and adjust to ensure the optimal structure is provided. The ITF Board has approved these measures following consultation with the ATP and WTA, Player Representatives, and acknowledging feedback from ITF National Associations, tournaments, coaches and players.

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**About ITF**

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) is the world governing body of tennis. Founded in 1913, its purpose is to ensure the long-term growth and sustainability of the sport, delivering tennis for future generations in association with its 210 member nations. The ITF organises over 1,500 weeks of men’s, women’s and junior tournaments on the ITF World Tennis Tour, and also manages the ITF junior team competitions, ITF Beach Tennis Tour, UNIQLLO Wheelchair Tennis Tour and the ITF Seniors Circuit. The ITF is the owner and rightsholder of the Davis Cup, the World Cup of Tennis and Fed Cup by BNP Paribas, and manages the Olympic Tennis Event on behalf of the IOC. The ITF manages the Tennis Anti-Doping Programme on behalf of the sport and is a partner in the Tennis Integrity Unit. Visit [www.itftennis.com](http://www.itftennis.com)

**About ATP**

The ATP is the governing body of the men's professional tennis circuits - the ATP Tour, the ATP Challenger Tour and the ATP Champions Tour. With 63 tournaments in 30 countries, the 2019 ATP Tour showcases the finest male athletes competing in the world's most exciting venues. From Australia to Europe and the Americas to Asia, the stars of the 2019 ATP Tour will battle for prestigious titles and ATP Rankings points at ATP Masters 1000, 500 and 250 events, as well as Grand Slams (non-ATP events). At the end of the season only the world's top 8 qualified singles players and doubles teams will qualify to compete for the last title of the season at the Nitto ATP Finals. Held at The O2 in London, the event will officially crown the 2019 ATP World No. 1. For more information, please visit [www.ATPTour.com](http://www.ATPTour.com).

#### **About WTA**

Founded in 1973 by Billie Jean King on the principle of equal opportunity in sports for women, the WTA is the global leader of women's professional sport with more than 1,800 players representing 85 nations competing for a record \$164 million in prize money. In 2018, the WTA was watched by a record breaking global audience of 600 million. The 2019 WTA competitive season includes 55 events and four Grand Slams in 29 countries, culminating with the WTA Finals Shenzhen, offering an unprecedented \$14 million total prize purse and honoring the season's top singles and doubles players. Further information on the WTA can be found at [www.wtatennis.com](http://www.wtatennis.com).