

WTA TOUR RANKING SYSTEM

XIII. WTA TOUR RANKING SYSTEM

A. GENERAL

1. Description

The worldwide computer ranking for women's Professional Tennis (the "WTA Tour Rankings") reflect a player's performance in tournament play and determine player acceptances and seeding for all Tournaments. The WTA Tour Rankings are computed and published weekly by the WTA from its US Headquarters office in St. Petersburg, Florida, USA.

2. Eligibility

a. Number of Tournaments

Players must earn ranking points in at least three (3) valid Tournaments to appear on the WTA Tour Rankings.

b. Age Requirements

i. Players under the age of 14

Players under the age of 14 cannot obtain a WTA Tour Ranking. If a player under the age of 14 plays singles or doubles in a Tournament, that Tournament and the points acquired during play will not be counted for ranking purposes for that player.

ii. Players aged 14 through 17

If a player plays singles or doubles in a Tournament that exceeds the number permitted to be played under the Age Eligibility Rule (see Section XIV), that Tournament and the points acquired during play will not be counted for ranking purposes for that player.

3. Processing of Rankings

WTA Tour Tournaments plus ITF \$100,000, \$75,000 and \$50,000 events (as long as the ITF events are completed by 11:59 p.m. US Eastern time on the Sunday of that week) are processed on a weekly basis.

ITF \$10,000 through \$25,000 events are processed a minimum of one

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(1) week following the completion of the tournament.

Points stay valid for 52 weeks from the week in which a Tournament is included in the WTA Tour Rankings totals.

4. Tournament Results Comprised in Rankings

a. All Players

The ranking system is a 52-week, cumulative system in which the number of tournament results comprising a player's WTA Tour Ranking is capped at 16 Tournaments for singles and 11 Tournaments for doubles.

The results used to determine a player's WTA Tour Ranking shall be those yielding the highest ranking points during a rolling, 52-week period, and must include a player's ranking points from the Grand Slams, Premier Mandatory Tournaments and the Sony Ericsson Championships plus the best two (2) Premier 5 Tournament results for Top 10 Players.

b. Top 10 Players

For players transitioning in and out of being a Top 10 Player, the following rules shall apply:

i. New Top 10 Player

As a new Top 10 Player participates in Premier 5 Tournaments, the results from such Tournaments will be included in her ranking as her best two (2) Premier 5 Tournaments and replace her best results from other Tournaments. Once two (2) Premier 5 Tournaments are included in a Top 10 Player's ranking formula, she can substitute any of her Premier 5 Tournament results with better Premier 5 Tournament results during the remainder of the season. Once a Top 10 Player has two (2) Premier 5 Tournaments in her ranking, additional Premier 5 Tournament results can count towards her ranking as long as such results are better than the lowest of her best results from other Tournaments.

ii. Existing Top 10 Player

An existing Top 10 Player's Premier 5 Tournament results from the previous season will anniversary out and such results can

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be replaced with better Premier 5 Tournament results from the current season.

iii. Former Top 10 Player

A former Top 10 Player's ranking formula will be gradually adjusted and additional best results from other Tournaments can be used to count towards the players' ranking once the player's Premier 5 Commitment Tournaments (whether counted toward her ranking or not) begin to drop off. The player's ranking formula will be completely adjusted after her 2nd Premier 5 Tournament from the previous year drops off.

5. Number of Tournament Ranking Points Awarded

The table on the following page details the number of ranking points awarded to players by round, including Qualifying, and by Tournament for both singles and doubles play.

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SINGLES AND DOUBLES RANKING POINTS BY ROUND

---- Description ----	W	F	SF	QF	R16	R32	R64	R128	QLFR	Q3	Q2	Q1
Grand Slam (Singles)	2000	1400	900	500	280	160	100	5	60	50	40	2
Grand Slam (Doubles)	2000	1400	900	500	280	160	5	-	48	-	-	-
Premier Mandatory (96S)	1000	700	450	250	140	80	50	5	30	-	20	1
Premier Mandatory (64S)	1000	700	450	250	140	80	5	-	30	-	20	1
Premier Mandatory (28/32 D)	1000	700	450	250	140	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Premier 5 (56 S)	800	550	350	200	110	60	1	-	30	-	20	1
Premier 5 (28 D)	800	550	350	200	110	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Premier (56S)	470	320	200	120	60	40	1	-	12	-	8	1
Premier (32S)	470	320	200	120	60	1	-	-	20	12	8	1
Premier (16D)	470	320	200	120	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
International (56S)	280	200	130	70	30	15	1	-	10	-	6	1
International (32S)	280	200	130	70	30	1	-	-	16	10	6	1
---- Description ----	W	F	SF	QF	R16	R32	R64	R128	QLFR	Q3	Q2	Q1
International (16D)	280	200	130	70	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ITF \$100,000 + H (32)	150	110	80	40	20	1	-	-	6	4	1	-
ITF \$100,000 + H (16)	150	110	80	40	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ITF \$100,000 (32)	140	100	70	36	18	1	-	-	6	4	1	-
ITF \$100,000 (16)	140	100	70	36	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ITF \$75,000 + H (32)	130	90	58	32	16	1	-	-	6	4	1	-
ITF \$75,000 + H (16)	130	90	58	32	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ITF \$75,000 (32)	110	78	50	30	14	1	-	-	6	4	1	-
ITF \$75,000 (16)	110	78	50	30	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ITF \$50,000 + H (32)	90	64	40	24	12	1	-	-	6	4	1	-
ITF \$50,000 + H (16)	90	64	40	24	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ITF \$50,000 (32)	70	50	32	18	10	1	-	-	6	4	1	-
ITF \$50,000 (16)	70	50	32	18	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ITF \$25,000 (32)	50	34	24	14	8	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
ITF \$25,000 (16)	50	34	24	14	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ITF \$10,000 (32)	12	8	6	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ITF \$10,000 (16)	12	8	6	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

+H indicates that Hospitality is provided.

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6. Explanatory Notes

a. Automatic Main Draw Entry Tournaments

i. Definition

All players who qualify by ranking for acceptance into the Main Draw of the following Tournaments will be entered automatically:

- (a) Premier Mandatory Tournaments;
- (b) Grand Slam events; and
- (c) Sony Ericsson Championships.

See Section IX.B for the automatic entry rules for the International Tournament of Champions.

ii. Ranking Point Treatment

- (a) The ranking points earned by any player who qualifies for acceptance in the Main Draw of the above Tournaments must count on a player's ranking as one (1) of her best 16 Tournament results.

Any player who is originally accepted into the Main Draw of the automatic entry Tournaments listed in sub-Section 6.a.i. above, or becomes a direct acceptance and subsequently withdraws and therefore fails to play the Tournament, will automatically receive zero (0) points for the Tournament, and it will count on that player's ranking as one (1) of her best 16 Tournament results.

- (b) Any Top 10 Player who fails to play in a Premier 5 or Premier \$700 Commitment Tournament will automatically receive zero (0) points for the Tournament and it will count on that player's ranking as one (1) of her best 16 Tournament results.
- (c) Any Marquee Player who fails to play in a Premier \$700 Commitment Tournament will automatically receive zero (0) points for the Tournament and it will count on that play-

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er's ranking as one (1) of her best 16 Tournament results.

- (d) A Top 10 Player's ranking must include her two (2) best results from Premier 5 Tournaments played during the year plus any zero (0) points under sub-Section (b) above.

- b. Ranking Points for 1st Round Losses at Grand Slams

Players receive five (5) ranking points for a 1st round loss in Grand Slam singles and doubles Main Draws and two (2) points for a 1st round loss in Grand Slam singles Qualifying.

- c. ITF Events

For the purpose of awarding ranking points, in all ITF tournaments with prize money of \$50,000 or greater, the round of 32 will be considered to be the 1st round of Qualifying, and all rules will apply as if that were the 1st round of play. In these ITF tournaments, the WTA will award ranking points in Qualifying starting in the round of 32, and play in any prior round will not be considered as having taken place for ranking purposes.

B. GENERAL RULES

1. Ranking Order

Players are ranked on the basis of their total points.

2. Byes/Defaults/Withdrawals

- a. Byes

The following rules will apply to the cases outlined below:

- i. If a player or team receives one (1) or more consecutive byes and loses her/their 1st match played, 1st round losers' points will be awarded, and the player or team shall receive prize money for the round reached.
- ii. If a player or team receives one (1) or more consecutive byes and withdraws from her/their 1st match, no ranking points shall be awarded, the Tournament will not count on her/their record and no prize money shall be paid out.

- b. Defaults

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The following rules will apply to the cases outlined below:

- i. If a player or team receives a walkover in the 1st round, and there is no Alternate or Lucky Loser to take the spot, or if a player or team receives a walkover in a subsequent round without having yet played a match, the player or team will receive ranking points from the round preceding their elimination.
 - ii. A player or team who receives a walkover in any round except the 1st round after having played and won a match shall be awarded ranking points for the walkover from their opponent. For any disciplinary default occurring in a Tournament after the match begins, the advancing player or team will be awarded ranking points over her opponent or team.
- c. Withdrawals

The following rules will apply to the cases outlined below:

- i. Players or teams who withdraw from a Tournament before playing their 1st match will not have the Tournament count on their record, with the exception of Automatic Main Draw Entry Tournaments and Commitment Tournaments for Top 10 and Marquee Players.
- ii. If a player qualifies but is unable to play the Main Draw for any reason, she will receive last round Qualifying prize money and Qualifier points.
- iii. If a doubles team withdraws in any round after the 1st round, their ranking points will be calculated per the round they withdrew less than 50% of the difference between that round and the previous round. In addition, the doubles player causing the withdrawal will forfeit the other 50% of her ranking points; however, if she does not play in a tennis event the following week, she may apply to the WTA for reinstatement of the other 50% forfeited.

3. Wild Cards

Player or teams who receive Wild Cards are awarded the same ranking points as any other player.

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4. Tournament Cancellation or Early Termination

a. Tournament Cancellation Without Play Occurring

If the singles or doubles event of a Tournament is cancelled due to poor weather, and there has been no play, 1st round prize money will be paid out to the players.

b. Tournament Cancellation After Play Has Begun

If play has commenced and has been terminated before the Tournament is concluded, players will be paid loser's prize money for the individual round reached. Additionally, if the 1st round has been completed, all players/teams will receive their ranking points earned through the last completed round only, and the Tournament will count as a Tournament played.

c. Tournament Cancellation Without Completion of Finals

If a Tournament is officially terminated and the finals have not been completed, the finalists each will receive finalist's prize money and ranking points. The difference between the winner and finalist prize money will revert back to the Tournament.

5. Tie-breaking Procedures

When two (2) or more players have the same number of ranking points, the tie for the ranking position will be decided according to the following priorities:

- a. The player with the most combined total points from Grand Slams, Premier Mandatory Tournaments, Premier 5 Tournaments and the Sony Ericsson Championships;
- b. The player with the most total points from all WTA Tour Tournaments, including WTA Tour Championships;
- c. The player with the fewest number of Tournaments in a 52-week period (including any Mandatory Tournaments, if the player qualified for acceptance); and
- d. The highest number of points from one (1) single Tournament, then if needed, the second highest and so on.

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If the results of all of these tie-breaks are the same, the rank for such players will be considered to be the same or tied for that ranking position. Last Name followed by First Name will list the players who are tied in the WTA Tour Ranking Alphabetically. If both the First and Last Names are the same, the players will be listed according to whichever one is encountered first during the ranking process.

6. Singles

- a. Players are awarded ranking points for the highest round they reach.
- b. In Tournaments where prize money is \$25,000 or greater:
 - i. Qualifiers earn Main Draw ranking points based on the highest round reached in the Main Draw plus the ranking points specified in the Qualifier (QLFR) column on the ranking points table on page 196.
 - ii. Qualifiers who lose in the 1st round of the Main Draw are awarded only the ranking points specified in the Qualifier (QLFR) column on the aforementioned table.
 - iii. Lucky Losers earn Main Draw ranking points based on the highest round reached in the Main Draw, unless they lose in the 1st round of the Main Draw in which case they receive only the ranking points earned in Qualifying.
- c. In Tournaments where prize money is less than \$25,000:
 - i. No Qualifying ranking points are awarded to Qualifiers or Lucky Losers.
 - ii. Qualifiers who lose in the 1st round of the Main Draw are awarded only the points specified in the Qualifier (QLFR) column on the ranking points table on page 196. However, Qualifiers earn Main Draw ranking points based on the highest round reached in the Main Draw plus the ranking points specified in the Qualifier (QLFR) column on the aforementioned table.
 - iii. Lucky Losers earn only Main Draw ranking points based on the highest round reached in the Main Draw.
- d. Entries and seeding are determined by highest rank. In the event

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of a tie, the 1st tie-break procedure is the highest ranking from the previous week. The 2nd tie-break procedure is the player with the fewest number of Tournaments played over the previous 52-week period (including any Mandatory Tournaments, if the player qualified for acceptance).

7. Doubles

- a. Players are awarded ranking points for the highest round they reach.
- b. Entries and seeding are determined by highest combined rank. For entries, unranked players will be assigned a rank equal to one (1) plus the rank of the lowest player on the latest rankings. Teams who receive Wild Cards are awarded the same ranking points as any other team.
- c. In the event of a rankings tie, the 1st tie-break procedure is the team with the highest combined total points. The 2nd tie-break procedure is the team with the highest combined ranking from the previous week. The 3rd tie-break procedure is the team with the fewest combined number of Tournaments played over the previous 52-week period.
- d. Lucky Losers who lose in the Main Draw are awarded Main Draw ranking points only.
- e. See the Grand Slam Rulebook for Grand Slam entry and doubles qualifying procedures.

8. Clarification of Ranking Points Rules and Procedures

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C. WTA TOUR SPECIAL RANKING RULE

1. Eligibility

In order to be eligible for a WTA Tour Special Ranking in either singles or doubles, a player:

- a. Must have been out of competition a minimum of six (6) months and a maximum of two (2) years; and
- b. Must have the following ranking at the time she stopped playing:
 - i. In the Top 300 in singles; or
 - ii. In the Top 200 in doubles.

2. Application Procedure and Timing

- a. Request due to Injury/Illness

All injury/illness Special Ranking applicants must complete a Special Ranking Application Form and submit to the WTA i) within six (6) months after their last professional tournament played before being out of competition; and ii) no less than 10 business days before she plans to enter an event with her Special Ranking for the first time.

The signed Special Ranking Application Form must be submitted to Tour Operations, for the approval of a Special Ranking status along with the following documents, all of which shall be written in English:

- i. Public release statement; and
- ii. Medical documentation including:
 - (a) The diagnosis of condition;
 - (b) A copy of clinical visit;
 - (c) Physicians notes/documentation; and
 - (d) All relevant laboratory tests and applicable surgical reports.

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If a player is requesting a Special Ranking due to more than one (1) injury, each injury must be documented.

b. Request due to Pregnancy

Maternity and injury/illness Special Ranking requests will be governed by the same rules. However, in cases of absences due to maternity leave, for a player to be eligible for a Special Ranking, such player must be ready to play her first tournament within 12 months of the birth of her child.

3. Medical Documentation Handling and Requests for Subsequent Medical Status Reports

Subsequent medical status reports may be requested by the WTA, and if a player fails to comply promptly with such requests, the WTA may revoke her Special Ranking status. All medical documentation will be turned over to the SS&M Department to be kept in the player's confidential medical file.

4. Usage Criteria and Guidelines

a. Definition

A player's Special Ranking will be the ranking she earned immediately after the points of the last Tournament she played has been added to the WTA Tour Rankings. (See Processing of Rankings – page 193).

b. Number of Tournaments and Timing

i. Number of Tournaments

A player will be granted eight (8) Tournaments in which to use her Special Ranking.

ii. Timing

A player has one (1) year from the date she returns to competition to use the Special Ranking Tournaments granted by the WTA. The latest a player may use her singles and/or doubles Special Ranking is at a Tournament scheduled the same calendar week in which the Special Ranking expires.

“Return to Competition” is defined as a player playing any

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event (singles or doubles) where ranking points are awarded and using her actual ranking, her Special Ranking or a Wild Card to gain entry into that Tournament. Playing in any tennis event, even without ranking points being awarded, will count as a player's Return to Competition if such event takes place during the player's first six (6) months out of competition and will thus render the player ineligible for a Special Ranking.

Doubles and Singles Return to Competition dates shall be treated as the same date using the event that is played first (either singles or doubles).

c. Procedures

i. Mandatory Out-of-competition Period

The six-month mandatory out-of-competition period is calculated using:

- (a) The last Tournament a player played, whether in singles or in doubles.

The date for calculations will be either:

- (i) The last day of that Tournament; or
 - (ii) The Monday following the last match played, if it is during a multiple-week tournament.
- (b) The first Tournament a player plays upon her return, whether she uses her Special Ranking or actual ranking, or receives a Wild Card. (See Player Responsibilities – page 207).

The earliest a player may return to competition is in a match scheduled during the same calendar week in which the six-month period expires.

ii. Tournament Entry and Acceptance

All requests for use of a Special Ranking in WTA Tour Tournaments or ITF Women's Circuit events must be made through Tour Operations by the respective WTA Tour entry deadline or at least one (1) week prior to the entry deadline of an ITF Women's Circuit event. No requests after the entry

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deadlines will be considered.

(a) WTA Tour Tournaments

A player may use her Special Ranking and actual ranking interchangeably; however, once a player designates which ranking she is using to enter a Tournament, she may not change her designation after the entry deadline. It should be noted that in instances where multiple players with the same ranking enter the same Tournament, for acceptance purposes, a player using the actual ranking shall supersede a player using her Special Ranking.

(b) Grand Slams

A player may enter a maximum of one (1) Grand Slam using her Special Ranking as part of her eight (8) Special Ranking Tournaments.

Mixed Doubles at a Grand Slam will count towards a player's doubles allotment under the Special Ranking Rule. If an eligible player uses her Doubles Special Ranking to enter a Doubles Main Draw and/or Qualifying and the Mixed Doubles at a Grand Slam, it will count as one (1) Doubles Grand Slam Special Ranking.

(c) WTA Tour Championships

A Special Ranking may not be used to gain entry into either the Sony Ericsson Championships or the International Tournament of Champions.

(d) Olympics

A player may use her Special Ranking for acceptance into the Olympic Tennis Event, and if she uses her Special Ranking for this purpose, her participation in the Olympic Tennis Event will count as one (1) of her eight (8) Special Ranking Tournaments.

d. Automatic Entry into Premier Mandatory Tournament

A player will not be automatically entered into a Premier Mandatory Tournament with her Special Ranking. If a player wishes to enter a Premier Mandatory Tournament with her Special Ranking, she

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must notify Tour Operations in writing before the entry deadline. A player may use her Special Ranking to enter a maximum of two (2) Premier Mandatory Tournaments.

e. Tournament Withdrawal Prior to Playing a Match

If a player has been accepted into an event using her Special Ranking but withdraws from the Tournament before she plays her first match in that event, it will not count as a Special Ranking Tournament. A player will, however, be responsible for any fines assessed for Late Withdrawals or No-Shows.

f. Wild Cards

If a player has been accepted into the Main Draw of a Tournament using her Special Ranking, she may not accept a Wild Card into the same event.

However, a player accepted into the Qualifying of a Tournament using her Special Ranking may accept a Wild Card into the Main Draw up until 4:00 p.m. tournament local time the day of the Qualifying Sign-In.

g. Seeding

A player may not be seeded using her Special Ranking; however, a player may be seeded using her actual ranking even if she has been accepted into the Tournament using her Special Ranking.

h. Lucky Loser Status

A player's Special Ranking will not be used to determine her Lucky Loser position or status. Only a player's actual ranking will be used to determine the Lucky Loser order.

i. Placement on Top 10 List

A player's Special Ranking will not be used for the purpose of placement on the Top 10 List.

j. Player Responsibilities

i. Upon Return to Play

Upon her return, the player is obligated to report to the WTA

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the first Tournament she actually plays, whether she is accepted into an ITF or WTA Tour Tournament using her Special Ranking, actual ranking or a Wild Card.

ii. Tracking Tournament Usage

It will be the Player's responsibility to track the number of tournaments in which she uses her Special Ranking. If she exceeds the limits set forth in this Section, a player will forfeit any ranking points earned at WTA Tour Tournaments and Grand Slams in which a Special Ranking was used.

k. Abuse of Special Ranking Privilege

If Special Ranking privileges are abused, the player's Special Ranking will be revoked automatically.

5. WTA Option to Make Mid-Year Amendments

The WTA reserves the right to review and amend this rule during the year, if changes are in the best interest of the players and the Tour.

D. RETIRING FROM THE WTA TOUR

If a player has decided to retire, she must submit a written request to the WTA in order to have her name removed from the WTA Tour Rankings.