



# ITTF TABLE TENNIS WORLD RANKING REGULATIONS

## FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions



### **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 at sanctioned events, generally have a validity of one year and a maximum of eight (8) results are counted for the ranking.

Therefore, players must have participated 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 can young players or players in development progress into the professional level and participate in WTT events where entries are selected by ranking?**

The WTT Series and Feeder Series events structure is designed to offer an entry level (WTT Feeder) for players to gain ranking points and naturally progress to the upper tiers (WTT Contender Series), ultimately reaching WTT Grand Smash and WTT Champions events, with the top players qualifying into the WTT Finals.

WTT Events are complemented by ITTF World Title events, Continental and Regional Championships, and Multi-Sport events.

For Under-19 players, the WTT Youth Series offer the chance to obtain their first ranking points, awarded at all the U19 events.

To ensure all players have opportunities to progress within the rankings, there are several rules in place:

- Events restrict the number of players from the same Member Association.
- The WTT Contender and Feeder Series have a Play-Down Restriction that limits the number of top ranked players.
- Host wildcards and WTT Nominations allow local and rising players to compete in higher tier events and prove themselves.

### **3. Why are first round points proportionally lower than the rest of rounds?**

Ranking points are awarded to reward the players performance and effort to achieve wins at events. For this reason, players who lose in the first round only receive a reduced number of points which allows them to be in the rankings, while the ones winning make a more significant progress.

Players starting in the Qualifying stage at WTT Events 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. The effort and extra matches played and won are rewarded in the rankings, compared to players starting in the Main Draw, allowing movement in the rankings between the two groups of players.



#### 4. How are points awarded in case of WTT events with Qualifying played in Groups?

When the Qualifying Stage of WTT Events is played in groups, points are awarded for the final position in the group for the players not progressing to the Main Draw. Depending on the number of players, there could be a Qualifying Elimination Round after the Groups.

Players progressing to the Main Draw are awarded points for the round reached, plus the Qualifying points obtained as a reward for completing the Qualifying stage.

#### 5. How are points awarded at team competitions?

Points are awarded to the teams based on their final position, and then distributed between the members (players and pairs) 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: 300
- 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 300 points → 84 points
  - Female player #1: 7 games out of 50 = 14% of 300 points → 42 points
  - Female player #2: 5 games out of 50 = 10% of 300 points → 30 points
  - Male player #1: 12 games out of 50 = 24% of 300 points → 72 points
  - Women's Doubles pair #1: 6 games out of 50 = 12% of 300 points → 36 points
  - Men's Doubles pair #1: 6 games out of 50 = 12% of 300 points → 36 points

The singles 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.



**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?**

Events are included in the rankings published on Monday if ending on Sunday local time. All events expire on the same week of the next year in which they were included, except for Continental events that might be extended for six (6) months in case the corresponding Continent would not have two such events counting for the ranking.

No events are valid edition to edition.

**7. How do entry cancellations work in terms of penalties at WTT Grand Smash and WTT Champions events?**

WTT Grand Smash events offer a free cancellation window for players qualified by ranking and the first players in the Wait List. Any cancellation for unjustified reasons afterwards would result in a ranking penalty for Main Draw players, while players in the Qualifying Draw would accumulate it together with rest of events for the maximum of two cancellations in any twelve (12) month window.

WTT Champions events offer a free cancellation window, however a maximum of two (2) events may be cancelled per calendar year, after which unjustified cancellations would result in a ranking penalty.

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

The best-8 results counting for the ranking of players each week can only include one event in which the entry or qualification is only allowed to a certain set of associations, usually related to geographical reasons (Continental and Regional events) or any other cultural or historical reasons such as in the Commonwealth Games.