

2019 Competitive Pathway



Independent Review Panel (IRP)

The Independent Review Panel was set up by the governing bodies of tennis to review all aspects of the sport's anti-corruption protocols, structures and resources. The IRP found:

- Integrity issues and vulnerabilities at lower levels of professional tennis
- **Of 14,000** professionals, only **600** break even
- Gambling on tennis is a **\$5 BILLION** per year industry

Establishment of Transition Tour as pipeline to Pros

- As a result of the findings of the Independent Review Panel, a new professional structure was recommended.
- The rationale for the new professional structure for the ITF, ATP and WTA is to create an improved professional pathway that can be navigated by players who are able to compete, win and earn a living in professional tennis.
- Beginning in 2019, \$25K tournaments will be the lowest level of tournament to award ATP/WTA ranking points (ATP points only awarded at SF and F rounds at \$25K events).
- \$15K events will become ITF Transition Tour tournaments with their own ITF entry points system. In 2020, ATP points will only be awarded at \$50K and higher events.
- The new professional pathway creates a structure for talented Juniors from the Junior Circuit through to the Top 100.
- There will be up to 5 places reserved in the main draw of ITF Transition Tour events for the Top 100 ITF Juniors.
- Order of priority for Direct Acceptances into ITF Pro Circuit and ITF Transition Tour tournaments:
 - ATP/WTA Ranking
 - ITF Entry Point standing
 - Top 500 National Ranking
 - Unranked players
- The \$15K and \$25K events will be scheduled around key Junior competitions as to not conflict with those critical dates and allow play in both events.
- Wildcard linkages from Junior events (e.g. Easter Bowl, National Clay Courts, National Hard Courts, etc.) to ITF Transition Tour and professional events to be reviewed and most likely expanded.

Tournament Format

- **All tournaments below ATP and WTA main tour level to be 7 days in duration**
 - ITF Transition Tour (men/women); \$25k (men/women); \$60k, \$80k; \$100k (women), ATP Challengers
- **All ITF tournaments to run from Monday to Sunday, including qualifying.**
- **All ITF tournaments to have a 32 Main Draw and 24 Qualifying Draw. ATP Challengers to have a 48 Main Draw and a 4 Qualifying**
- **All ITF tournaments (men and women) match format in qualifying to be best of 3 sets, with 2 tie-break sets and a match tie-break. Ad-scoring remains.**
- **No changes to match format in Main Draw (best of 3 tie-break sets)**

Ranking Conversions

- **December 31, 2018**
 - Official conversion of ATP and WTA rankings; official introduction of ITF World Ranking
 - 2018 performance gets converted into what it would look like under the 2019 points structure
 - ATP ranking – Best 18 tournaments; WTA ranking – Best 16
 - ITF World Ranking – Best 14 (men and women)
- **Men**
 - Performance at ATP Tour, ATP Challengers and later rounds of \$25,000 tournaments retained as ATP points (Best 18 tournaments)
 - Performance at \$15,000, \$25,000 and qualifying rounds in ATP Challengers converted into ITF World Ranking points (Best 14 tournaments)
- **Women**
 - Performance at \$25,000 level and above retained as WTA ranking points (Best 16 tournaments).
 - Performance at \$15,000 level converted into ITF World Ranking points (Best 14 tournaments)
- **Tournament Entry**
 - 2018 tournaments, 2018 entry process, 2018 points.
 - 2019 tournaments, 2019 entry process, 2019 points
 - Shadow rankings will be used for acceptance into tournaments in the first 3 weeks of the 2019 season (the entry deadline will fall in 2018)

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