

Monday 8 September 2025

Dear President / CEO / General Secretary,

The ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors (“WTTJ”) has realised exceptional growth and development during the past 10 years, thanks to the fantastic support of National Associations, Tournament Organisers, Players and the wider tour community. During 2025, the WTTJ is set to exceed 1,000 tournaments for the first time, with J30 and J60 tournaments accounting for approximately 75% of the calendar.

In February 2025, we released the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan for the WTTJ and ITF Junior Team Competitions, which sets out the ITF’s vision for the future development of the activities. Today, I am pleased to announce details of two (2) key initiatives detailed within the plan relating to Draw and Scoring Format innovations, and the extended application of the ITF World Tennis Number as part of the Tour.

New Round Robin to Elimination Draw Format

From 1 January 2026, a new Round Robin to Elimination draw format shall be introduced to J30 and J60 level tournaments, which shall complement the existing elimination draw format at these events. All other tournament grades from J100 level and higher shall exclusively use the elimination draw format.

Some of the key benefits of the draw format include:

- **Improved value for money for players.** It is recognised that the current elimination format means that 50% of players will lose their first match and leave the tournament. The round robin format supports player commitment to the many back-to-back tournaments on the calendar where players eliminated in early round may have to wait for 4-5 days without any further competition until the next tournament.
- **Improved player development** where players may benefit from more international competition experience. It is generally understood that players aged 13-16 on the international pathway should compete in 50-70 high-quality matches over a calendar year to be competitive on the pathway, which may be achieved in fewer tournaments through this draw format.
- **Reduced travel** and more time at home to help players achieve an improved balance with important aspects of their life such as academics, training, rest and recovery.
- Increased possibility of **Player Support Team members (e.g. coaches) attendance** at tournaments.
- Ability for players to compete in more matches and **improve their ITF Ranking and/or ITF WTN.**

2026 Format Implementation for J30 and J60 Tournaments

In respect of the timing of this communication, and 2026 calendar planning within nations, the following guidelines shall be implemented:

- Existing WTTJ tournaments are **strongly encouraged** to use the Round Robin to Elimination Draw format for Boys and Girls singles events taking place between 1 January and 30 June 2026. The ITF encourage National Associations and Tournament Organisers to aim for 50% of J30 and J60 tournaments in this period to use the Round Robin to Elimination draw format.
- New ‘stand-alone’ tournaments joining the calendar in 2026 will be required to use the Round Robin to Elimination format, i.e. tournaments not forming part of a two-week (or more) tournament swing.
- National Associations and Tournament Organisers are **required** to use the Round Robin to Elimination Draw format for Boys and Girls singles events for at least 50% of their J30 and J60 level tournaments that take place between 1 July and 30 December 2026.

Where tournaments form part of a back-to-back swing of events, it is recommended that the first tournament uses the Round Robin to Elimination Draw Format, whilst the second week uses the Elimination Draw Format (24 player qualifying, 48 player main draw encouraged).

National Associations are therefore asked to only submit applications to the Tournament Management System (“TMS”) for J30 and J60 tournaments between January–June 2026 at this time. When submitting, an email must be sent to juniors@itftennis.com advising if the tournament will be played using the elimination draw format or round robin to elimination format. The ITF will issue a further communication by November 2025 for instructions on completing the TMS application for tournaments from July onwards.

New Round Robin to Elimination Draw Format

Full technical details of the format will be shared in the 2026 Regulations which will be issued in November 2025, with further communications to be issued to National Associations, Tournament Organisers, Supervisors and Players in advance of the new format’s implementation.

The following list provides a summary of the Round Robin to Elimination draw format that will be applied to J30 and J60 level WTTJ tournaments from 1 January 2026:

- Total of **seven (7) days** to support back-to-back swings, and domestic / international calendars.
- **1 day qualifying draw** (elimination format) with 8 players qualifying for main draw. As a minimum, qualifying shall be a 16 player draw size. For venues with 5-7 match courts, qualifying can be extended to 24>8, whilst venues with more than 7 match courts can complete a 32>8 qualifying event played in 1 day. Players losing in the final qualifying round may be eligible for a LL spot in the round robin stage. Qualifying matches to be played as the best of 2 sets with a 10-point match tie-break in final set.
- **32 Player Round Robin Main Draw** played on days 2, 3, 4.
The round robin group stage will consist of eight (8) groups of four (4) players.
8 seeded players who shall be placed in each group.
Scoring format will be the Best of two sets, with a 10-point match tie-break in final set, in consideration of tournament scheduling and extra match volume for players and the tournament.
- **8 Player Singles Elimination Draw** played on days 5, 6 7.
The 1st placed player in each Round Robin group will compete in the Quarter Finals (elimination draw). Singles Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Final will be played on days 5, 6, 7, respectively.
Scoring format for this stage shall be the best of three tie-break sets.
- **16 Pair Elimination Doubles**
The doubles draw shall take place in the final three (3) days of the event alongside the final elimination rounds. Scoring format shall be the best of two sets with a 10-point match tie-break played in final set.
- **Ranking points awarded at Round Robin to Elimination Draws**
J30 and J60 - Points will be awarded to players who finish in 2nd and 3rd place in the Round Robin group stage provided the player earns at least one (1) win. No points to be awarded 4th place.

Ranking Points for Quarter Finals, Semi Finals, Runner-Up and Winner will remain the same as current levels at each grade, as per Regulation 31 of the 2025 ITF WTT Juniors Regulations.
Ranking points in doubles events will remain unchanged.

- **Entry Fee** maximums will not increase for players competing at tournaments using the Round-Robin to Elimination Draw Format in 2026. Whilst recognising that the Round Robin to Elimination format will increase organiser costs (e.g. additional balls and court time), these are considered reasonable and balanced alongside the benefits provided to the Tour and the Players.
- Tournaments using the Round Robin to Elimination are expected to have **5 or more match courts**. By exception, tournaments may request to use only 4 match courts but must demonstrate sufficient court time to complete 32 matches in one (1) day.

ITF World Tennis Number as part of the Acceptance Criteria

Since May 2022, the ITF World Tennis Number (“WTN”) has been used as a secondary measure for acceptance at WTTJ tournaments.

From 1 January 2026, the application of the WTN will be extended to provide a more objective and accurate acceptance process. A player must have a WTN Confidence Level of 50% or higher for the WTN to be applied as part of the acceptance process.

This further use of WTN will better assist with identifying the strongest players and delivering more accurate acceptance lists. Whilst ITF Junior Ranking shall remain the predominant measure, the ITF World Tennis Number recognises results from National and Regional events which in turn ensures that players with stronger WTN’s achieved through competing in such events are fairly rewarded for their efforts.

1. WTN Direct Acceptances to J30 and J60 Qualifying and Main Draw

The majority of Direct Acceptances to be determined by ITF Junior Ranking, which shall remain the predominant measure of a player’s level when competing on the WTTJ.

From 1 January 2026, and as detailed in the tables below, a proportion of direct acceptances into J30 and J60 Main Draw Singles and Qualifying Singles will be granted to players based on their WTN. J100 and higher-level tournaments will continue to use the existing singles acceptance method.

Singles Qualifying Acceptances					
Draw Size	16	24	32	48	64
Wild Cards	2	4	6	7	8
Direct Acceptance (WTN)	2	4	6	7	8
Direct Acceptance (ITF Junior Rank)	12	16	20	34	48

Singles Main Draw Acceptances					
Draw Size	16	24	32	48	64
Wild Cards	2	2	4	6	8
Special Exempts	0-1	0-1	0-2	0-2	0-2
16&U WTN Regional Reserved (see below)	0-1	0-1	0-2	0-2	0-2
Qualifiers	2	2	4	6	8
Direct Acceptance (WTN)	2	2	4	6	8
Direct Acceptance (ITF Junior Rank)	8-10	16-18	16-20	26-30	36-40

2. Evolution of 16&U Regional Reserved Programme

The existing 16&U Regional Reserved Programme will be evolved to include all regions, with WTN to be used as the measure for acceptance. Up to 2025, the Junior Regional Reserved Programme was only available to players from Europe and South America with a 16U Regional Ranking.

From 1 January 2026, the programme will be renamed the “16&U WTN Regional Reserved Programme” which will provide a consistent and fair approach for players across all regions.

At entry deadline, an automated process will occur which will provide reserved places in main draws of tournaments for 16&U players from the same region as the tournament, as follows:

- **J30, J60 & J100** - Two (2) WTN feed-up places to be awarded in each tournament Main Draw, to be filled by two (2) 16&U players from the region where the event is being played, who have the best ITF WTN (50% confidence level or better), and are not already accepted into the Main Draw.
- **J200** - Two (2) WTN feed-up places to be awarded in each tournament Main Draw, but with a minimum WTN required to earn the main draw position based on WTN to ensure satisfactory playing level ahead of ITF Ranked players.
- **J300** - One (1) WTN feed-up place to be awarded in each tournament Main Draw, but with a minimum WTN level required to earn the main draw position based on WTN.

The following table outlines the number of WTN Feed-Up places available at each Grade. The number of Junior Ranking Direct Acceptances will reduce accordingly.

WTTJ tournament grade	Number of 16U WTN Regional Reserved places	Minimum WTN required at Entry Deadline
J500	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
J300	1 place	15.99 (Boys) / 17.99 (Girls)*
J200	2 places	17.99 (Boys) / 19.99 (Girls)*
J100	2 places	N/A
J60	2 places	N/A
J30	2 places	N/A

**Players must achieve the minimum WTN at the time of entry deadline to be considered for a 16&U WTN Regional Reserved place*

J30 Example List

Consider the changes outlined above, the following shows an example acceptance list at a J30 tournament which offers a 32-player qualifying draw, and 32 player elimination main draw.

Main Draw (32 players)

1. The best 16 players based on ITF Junior ranking shall be accepted into the Singles Main Draw
2. **Followed by the best 4 players based on WTN (not already accepted) who shall be accepted into the Singles Main Draw**
3. 2 vacancies for 16&U WTN Regional Reserved. If unused, the ITF Junior Ranking will be used.
4. 2 vacancies for Special Exempts. If unused, the ITF Junior Ranking will be used.
5. 4 vacancies for Qualifiers
6. 4 vacancies for Wild Cards

Qualifying (32 players)

1. At entry deadline, the next best 20 players based on ITF Junior ranking shall be accepted into the Qualifying Acceptance ("QA") List
2. **Followed by the next best 6 players based on WTN who shall be accepted into the Qualifying List**
3. 6 vacancies left open for Wild Cards

Remaining players will be added to an alternate list which is ordered by ITF Junior Ranking, followed by WTN, followed by Location – as per the current Regulations.

The visual tables show main draw acceptance list examples outline the draw composition for:

- 1) Main Draws of 32 – Elimination
- 2) Round-Robin to Elimination

1) Elimination Main Draw of 32

Position	MD 32
1-16	ITF Jr Ranking DA
17	WTN DA
18	WTN DA
19	WTN DA
20	WTN DA
21	16U WTN Regional Reserved
22	16U WTN Regional Reserved
23	Special Exempt
24	Special Exempt
25	Qualifier
26	Qualifier
27	Qualifier
28	Qualifier
29	Wild Card
30	Wild Card
31	Wild Card
32	Wild Card

2) Round Robin to Elimination Main Draw of 32

Position	MD32 Round Robin
1-12	ITF Jr Ranking DA
13	WTN DA
14	WTN DA
15	WTN DA
16	WTN DA
17	16U WTN Regional Reserved
18	16U WTN Regional Reserved
19	Special Exempt
20	Special Exempt
21	Qualifier
22	Qualifier
23	Qualifier
24	Qualifier
25	Qualifier
26	Qualifier
27	Qualifier
28	Qualifier
29	Wild Card
30	Wild Card
31	Wild Card
32	Wild Card

Removal of National Ranking from Acceptance Process

Due to the extended use and application of WTN, the existing National Ranking procedure will no longer apply to the acceptance process for WTTJ tournaments from 1 January 2026 onwards. Therefore, National Associations are no longer required to share National Ranking lists with the Juniors department.

Our team is readily available to assist if you have any questions – please direct queries via email to juniors@itftennis.com. We look forward to working with you.

Kind regards,



Matt Byford
Executive Director, Juniors, Masters and Beach Tennis
ITF Tours and Player Pathway
International Tennis Federation