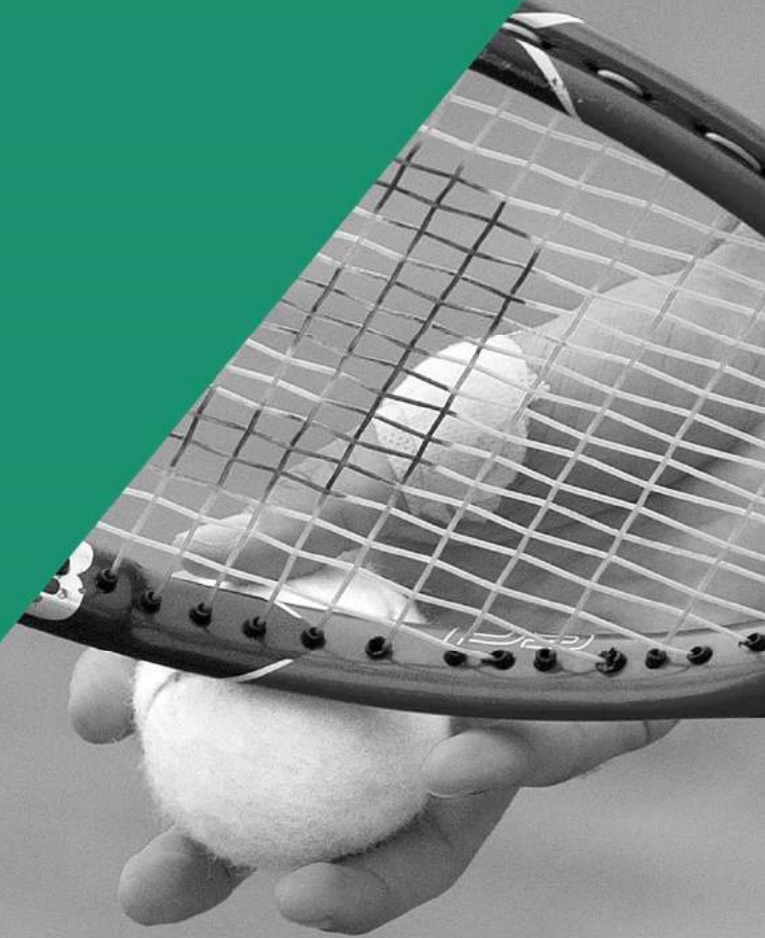


ITF SENIORS CIRCUIT 2020 Changes

29 July 2019



Introduction



Following the release of the 2019-2021 ITF Seniors Strategic Development Plan in January 2019, the ITF Seniors Department wish to communicate key changes to the ITF Seniors Circuit effective from 1 January 2020, as well as provide initial information regarding structure changes coming in to effect on 1 January 2021.

All changes outlined in this document consider the ITF's mission to make Seniors Tennis the leading sport in terms of participation for those aged 35 and above. During the process of finalising this document, the ITF has consulted with the ITF Seniors Committee, ITF Seniors Player Advisory Panel, ITF Seniors Tournament Director & Referee Panel and other selected stakeholders.

Whilst the intention of this document is to provide as much information as possible on upcoming changes, the 2020 ITF Seniors Regulations - which will be released in December 2019 - shall take precedent and will include all final changes for 2020.

2021 Tournament Structure

Effective from 1 January 2021

The following ITF Seniors Tournament Structure shall come in to effect from 1 January 2021. This structure was first communicated in the 2019-2021 ITF Seniors Strategic Plan released in January 2019.

2021 Tournament Structure Effective from 1 January 2021



The refined, simplified structure shall include 6 grades only (11 in 2018). Whilst national closed events and Regional Championships will still take place, all tournaments will be graded within this structure. Team Events shall be further considered from 2021. Team events (e.g. Nordic Team Championships) shall be given a suitable grade by the ITF within this structure.

Prize money is not offered at all ITF Seniors Tournaments. Instead, ranking points are the consistent measure in place for players and tournaments. A numeric figure shall be included within the grade name from 2021.



Creation of a new tier of elite tier tournaments in 2021 with proportionate ranking points on offer to support elite players on the circuit with appropriate, high quality competition.

Reduced number of grades for existing tournaments to recognise consistent, high quality delivery, and similarities in player strength amongst tournaments.

A drive to create many new Entry level tournaments to better attract and retain new tournaments and players to the ITF Seniors Circuit.

2021 Grading Process & Timeline



Key Information & Changes for 2021

ITF Seniors tournaments from 2020 will be assigned a grade for the 2021 circuit, based on the four (4) factors outlined on Page 12 of this document.

- Grading outcomes for tournaments taking place between January-June 2021 will be confirmed no later than 30 August 2020.
- Grading outcomes for tournaments taking place between July-December 2021 will be confirmed no later than 31 January 2021.
- A limited number of tournaments may apply for an upgrade during 2021 for 2022 with support of their National Association. All delivery standards outlined in the 2021 ITF Seniors Regulations must be met in order to apply for an upgrade. The ITF shall then assess upgrades for 2022 using the 4 factors outlined. Upgrade requests must be made by the stated deadline without exception.
- Tournaments may be considered for a lower grade if any of the grading factors outlined are sub-standard compared to other tournaments within current grade, and the grade below.
- The 2021 ITF Seniors Regulations shall be available in December 2020. At this time, the ITF Seniors Regulations shall take precedence over this document for the purpose of detailing delivery requirements at each grade for all 2021 tournaments.





ITF Seniors Circuit 2020 Changes

Effective from 1 January 2020

Tournament Naming



From 1 January 2020, tournament naming shall follow a consistent format throughout the circuit on both the ITF website and within IPIN. The following are the aims of doing this:

- Clarify that each tournament is an ITF Seniors event.
- Improve the consistency of tournament naming to make it easier for current and potential players to understand the level and location of each tournament.
- Ensure the grade of each tournament is displayed.
- Ensure that the city and nation is displayed.
- Still provide opportunity for tournaments to add personalisation such as the edition of the event and/or sponsor details.

The 2020 Tournament Naming shall follow this guideline:

ITF Seniors <Grade> <City, Nation> <Event Name/Edition/Sponsor>

Naming Examples:

ITF Seniors Grade 4 – Auckland, New Zealand – Women’s 45+ Doubles Cup 2020

ITF Seniors Grade 3 – Vancouver, Canada – BC Senior Provincial Championships 2020

ITF Seniors Grade 2 – Athens, Greece– Acropolis Cup 2020

ITF Seniors Grade 1 – Fort Lauderdale, USA – The Tully Cup – Les Grandes Dames 2020

ITF Seniors Grade A – Lima, Peru – Torneo Seniors Terrazas, Ciudad Miraflores 2020

ITF Young Seniors World Championships 2020 – Umag, Croatia

In addition to the Edition/Sponsor section, cities and venues that host multiple events shall be separated on the tournament calendar by date and grade.

Tournament Calendar

TOURNAMENT SEARCH
Quick find by Month Advanced search

2018 2019 2020 **2019** 2018 2017 2016

FEB MAR APR **MAY** JUN JUL AUG

TOURNAMENTS LIST 01 MAY 2019 - 31 MAY 2019 (60 TOURNAMENTS)

Name	Nation	Date
IV Torneo ITF Seniors Ciudad de Salinas Coca American Express - Banco Guayaquil	ECU	29 Apr - 04 May 2019
3rd Berlin ITF Seniors Open	GER	29 Apr - 04 May 2019
USTA National Men's 55 Indoor Championships	USA	29 Apr - 05 May 2019
10th ITF Seniors de Brasilia	BRA	29 Apr - 04 May 2019
República Closed 2019 (Closed)	ARG	29 Apr - 04 May 2019
Rhodes Open	GRE	30 Apr - 04 May 2019
11th International Senior Championships of Plovdiv	ITA	30 Apr - 05 May 2019
Ljublj Open 2019	MNE	01 May - 04 May 2019
ITF KRUSEVAC 2019	SRB	02 May - 05 May 2019
ITF Senior Dunlop Summer Cup 2019	SVK	04 May - 06 May 2019
USTA National Men's 50 Indoor Championships	USA	04 May - 08 May 2019
ITF Cyprus Seniors Cup G2 2019	CYP	05 May - 11 May 2019
Macedonia ITF Seniors Championships 2019	GRE	05 May - 12 May 2019
Copa Club de Golf Lomas (Closed)	CHI	06 May - 10 May 2019
Fortvillage ITF Senior Trophy	ITA	06 May - 12 May 2019
Arcachon ITF Seniors Plus	FRA	06 May - 12 May 2019
ITF Senior 'Carmen Perea' David Lloyd (Aravaca) Madrid	ESP	07 May - 11 May 2019
IX Bel-Air Seniors ITF 'Dosta del Sol'	ESP	08 May - 12 May 2019
Grodno Open	BLR	08 May - 12 May 2019
Leicestershire Tennis Club Clay Tournament 2019	GBR	08 May - 12 May 2019

ITF SENIORS RANKING POINTS



- Rankings changes came in to effect on 1 July 2019. Details can be seen on <https://www.itftennis.com/seniors/rankings/rankings-explained.aspx>
- The changes in July 2019 have been made with consideration of the 2021 structure changes. With a new structure coming in to effect in January 2021, there will be a need for an updated ranking points table at this time. Changes will be kept to a minimum.
- New for 2020 - 1 ranking point shall be awarded to all players who play and lose their first match in singles or doubles at any grade. This will result in more ranked players and recognise participation for all players in the circuit.

Singles Consolation Events

- New for 2020 - ITF Seniors Ranking Points will be awarded for successful players in consolation events in all grades. Ranking Point tables for Consolation Events shall be published in December 2019.
- Abbreviated scoring is expected to be used by tournaments in consolation events, for example 2 short sets and a match tie-break or 2 tie-break sets and a match tie-break.
- All tournaments in 2020 shall be asked to provide singles consolation events to provide players with the opportunity to play a minimum of 2 matches. It will not be expected for tournaments to run consolation in all age group events. Instead, tournaments will be asked to run consolation events for a minimum of 1 in every 3 singles events that take place. In exceptional cases, tournaments may gain approval from the ITF not to run consolation events. e.g. at indoor venues with very limited court space.
- Consolation may take place in doubles events although not expected.



ITF Seniors Grade 4 Revisions for 2020



ITF Grade 4 tournaments are intended to provide for the majority of global tennis players who compete in clubs and tennis venues and may wish to enjoy competitive singles and/or doubles tournament play. The following revisions are proposed for ITF Grade 4 tournaments from January 2020 to provide a more appropriate entry tournament for players and organisers:

- New Sanction Fee model for tournaments at ITF Grade 4 level from January 2020. Smaller sanction fees will be in place for those tournaments who run a very small number of events (see p20). The intention is to help attract more nations and venues to be able to deliver ITF Seniors Tournaments and become part of the circuit.
- Option for tournaments to offer a small number of events that may be Singles, Doubles or Mixed Doubles only.
- Doubles only events at Grade 4 level are strongly encouraged from January 2020.
- No requirement to use best of 3 tie-break sets at this grade. Flexible Scoring & Draw Formats may be used in all events to provide a suitable tournament experience for players based on entry numbers, court availability and number of days of competition. Any alternative scoring format permitted within Appendix V of the ITF Rules of Tennis may be used by a tournament for singles or doubles provided it is communicated on the Fact Sheet in advance of entry.
- Possible for players to play 2 singles match a day if an alternative scoring used, e.g. 2 short sets and a match tie-break to reduce the need for players to return on multiple days.
- *Example Tournament: Men's 35 Singles event only. 16 player draw with consolation. Played on a Saturday, Sunday and Monday only. All matches played as 'short sets' with a final set 10 point match tie-break.*
- Whilst an ITF White Badge Referee must be present, there shall be no officiating requirements beyond this unless a large number of courts are used. Tournaments may take place in 2-3 days, e.g. from Friday to Sunday.



Additional Format Changes for 2020



Grade 2 & Grade 3 Tournaments

- Singles shall be played as Best of 3 tie-break sets or two tie-break sets and a match tie-break at the discretion of the tournament committee. This decision should be based on court availability. Doubles events may use an abbreviated scoring format from Appendix V of the ITF Rules of Tennis.
- Tournaments will be required to submit planned draw sizes and scoring format to be used on the official tournament Fact Sheet in IPIN prior to the entry deadline.
- A scoring formats chart shall be made available at www.ITFTennis.com/Seniors by September 2019 alongside the maximum number of matches permitted per day based on tournament grade and scoring format in use.
- In addition to the Referee, there must be a minimum of 1 off-court umpire for every 8 match courts. Chair Umpires not required for Finals, although may be in place.

Regional Championships, Grade A & Grade 1 Tournaments

- Main Draw Singles must be played as the Best of 3 tie-break sets (no change from 2019)
- ITF will analyse prize money/hospitality money at higher level tournaments during 2019 and consider with players the impact this should have on the grading process from 2021 onwards.

All Tournaments & Grades

- The ITF are reviewing Entry Fees during 2019 to ensure a more fair, consistent process is in place for players. Guidance information is likely to be provided to tournaments for 2020. The ITF are considering the introduction of maximum entry fees for the 2021 ITF Seniors circuit.



2020 ITF Seniors Tournament Grading Process

Tournament Grading is managed by the ITF and decided upon by the ITF Seniors Committee. The following pages outline the criteria that will be used by the ITF to determine the grade of a tournament.

ITF Seniors Grading Process



The following four (4) factors will be used by the ITF from September 2019 onwards to determine future re-grading of tournaments:

- 1. ITF Tournament Evaluation Score** – Score measured internally by ITF based on draw sizes and strength of player field. The value of ITF ranking points of players at a tournament will be used as the primary measure. The ITF tournament evaluation score shall be the primary measure for determining grading.
- 2. Delivery Standards** – Tournaments must meet delivery requirements for each grade based on the published criteria as set out in the ITF Seniors Regulations. The ITF Player Tournament Feedback Survey and ITF Referee Report Form from the previous year will be used to evidence this. Tournaments with excellent delivery standards in comparison with other tournaments of the same grade may be considered for upgrade.
- 3. Players' Tournament Feedback Survey** – Started in January 2019, all players are asked to complete Tournament Feedback on their overall satisfaction at all ITF Seniors tournaments. This survey informs the ITF of the most important factors for players, and how satisfied players are with each of these areas at each tournament they play. The score shall be used to assist the ITF with upgrades and downgrades each year.
- 4. Global & Regional Balance** – The ITF Seniors Department is striving to achieve an improved balance to the circuit throughout the 2019-2021 period and onwards. The grading process will be used as a key tool to improve this. This includes global, regional and national considerations when gradings are awarded, while maintaining a pyramid shape structure throughout grades.

1. ITF Tournament Evaluation Score



The ITF Evaluation Score shall be a figure calculated internally by the ITF Seniors Department based on the combined ranking points of events at each ITF Seniors Tournament based on those who played a match in each draw:

- The ITF Evaluation score is an analysis of draw sizes and rankings of players within those draws. Tournaments with large draw sizes and with considerable volumes of highly ranked players will score favourably.
- An average shall be calculated from the previous two years the tournament took place. For example, the grading process for 2021 shall factor in an average from 2019 and 2020.
- The ITF Tournament Evaluation score will be the primary tool used by the ITF Seniors Department to determine grading. Tournaments with a high evaluation score may be considered for upgrade. Conversely, tournaments with a lower score in comparison with other tournaments on the circuit, and within the nation/region, may be considered for a lower grade.
- The ITF Evaluation Score shall be the primary factor with respect to grading, linked to the additional three factors outlined on the next pages.



2. Tournament Delivery Standards



In addition to the Tournament Evaluation score, the ITF will review Tournament Delivery Standards to help identify which grade is most suitable.

The following information will be gathered and analysed by the ITF during the grading process to understand current Tournament Delivery standards:

1. Post Event – Player Tournament Feedback Survey
2. Post Event - Referee Report
3. Post Event - Tournament Director Report

An ITF Seniors circuit-wide survey was sent to all players in September 2018. A total of 1,352 responses were submitted with following areas identified as the most important factors for players at ITF Seniors tournaments:

1. Pre-Event Organization, Communication & Information
2. Value for Money (including match experience, gifts, social event, prizes)
3. Draw & Scoring Format
4. Tournament Scheduling
5. Standard of Courts & Facilities
6. Efficient Tournament Desk & On-Site Communications



3. Players' Tournament Feedback Survey



New for 2019, all players who compete in an ITF Seniors Tournament are sent a Tournament Feedback Survey by email the week after the event. The results of the tournament feedback survey will assist the Grading Process.

Following the understanding of players on what is most important to them, some of the key questions asked include:

1. Overall Tournament Experience
2. Officiating – i.e. Scheduling, Referee, Off-Court Officials
3. Communications pre-event, during event and on-site Tournament Desk
4. Venue Facilities, Court Quality, Viewing of Match Courts, Tournament Atmosphere
5. Food, Drink, Catering and Event Functions
6. Welcome Pack, Prizes, Value for Money

All questions are rated by players from 1-7, with 7 being the best score. As of July 2019, over 4,700 unique responses have been submitted for 2019 tournaments. The overall tournament experience average score is 5.7 out of 7.0 across the entire circuit (81%). This score demonstrates the very high quality delivery at the significant majority of tournaments and provides a benchmark for the ITF Seniors Department.

Sharing Player Feedback Results with Tournament Directors

The ITF share the Feedback Results with Tournament Directors showing:

1. Overall Player Satisfaction Score for the tournament
 2. Comparison against average score within your tournament grade
 3. Comparison against average score across the entire ITF Seniors Circuit
- Tournaments that take place between January 2019-June 2019 received feedback results by email on 10 July 2019. This allowed the ITF time to compile data for all tournaments from January-June so that Tournament Directors could compare against multiple tournaments of the same grade and across the circuit.
 - All tournaments that take place after June 2019 shall receive feedback no later than 6 months after their event. Tournaments in July-September 2019 shall receive feedback by email in November 2019. Tournaments between October-December 2019 will receive by February 2020.

4. Regional Balance for the Circuit

National and Regional considerations will be a factor in the tournament grading process.

Currently there are some significant regional imbalances to the tournament structure which in turn impacts on player participation in each region.

During 2018, there were a total of 438 tournaments:

- 7 Tournaments in Africa (2%)
- 14 Tournaments in Oceania (3%)
- 32 Tournaments in Asia (7%)
- 325 Tournaments in Europe (74%)
- 26 Tournaments in North & Central America (6%)
- 34 Tournaments in South America (8%)



As part of the 2019-2021 ITF Seniors Strategic Plan, the ITF are working with focus regions during this period to improve the global balance. North America and Asia are a particular focus of the ITF during this period.

The ITF shall consider the current national and regional balance within the circuit when grading tournaments for 2020. For example, a minimum of one (1) 'elite' shall be sanctioned in each region from 2021 to help provide an improved global balance to the circuit at the elite level of the structure.

Within ITF regional boundaries, considerations shall be made to ensure an improved sub-regional balance. For example between Central Asia and East Asia, or between Western Europe and Eastern Europe.

Likewise, it is recognised that tournament numbers are larger in some regions compared to others, particularly Europe (325 tournaments). Where this is the case, regions such as Europe will be allocated higher numbers of events at each grade to recognize the strength and depth of tournaments within the region. Distances between tournament locations taking place in the same week will be considered in an effort to ensure a sensible geographical spread of opportunities.

ADDITIONAL CHANGES

New IPIN 2 System Developments

Revised IPIN Fees

Revised Tournament Sanction Fees



NEW 'IPIN 2' FROM MID 2019



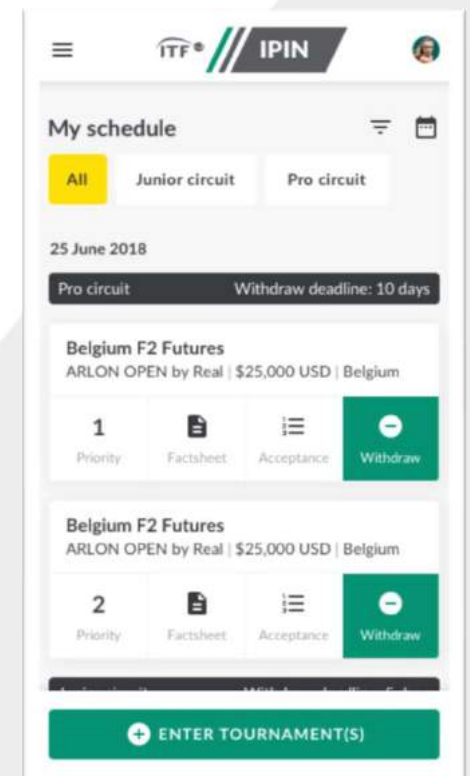
IPIN will see major developments in mid-2019 that shall be fully embedded ahead of the ITF Seniors 2020 circuit.

The new 'IPIN 2' system will be in place no later than September 2019 for all ITF Seniors tournaments that take place from this date onwards.

IPIN 2 modernises the ITF's IPIN platform making it easier for ITF Seniors players to use to enter tournaments, withdraw, plan their calendar, see their ranking and more. IPIN 2 improved functionality includes:

- Site is fully responsive – works on desktop, tables and mobiles
- Registration is simplified and user friendly
- One place for players to view their entire schedule
- Enter / withdrawal process simplified
- Full site navigation is now more intuitive
- Cleaner presentation with most relevant information displayed

During 2020, the ITF will be exploring ways in which tournament entry fees and/or IPIN payments can be linked to the entry process within the new IPIN system so that tournaments can collect fees online at point of entry. It is intended that this shall be in place for the 2021 circuit.



IPIN Registration & IPIN Fees



All players in 2019 must pay a \$25.00 (USD) annual fee. If a player pays an IPIN fee any time in 2019, it will be valid for the entirety of 2019 only.

All players who compete in an ITF Seniors Tournament must have an IPIN to enter tournaments and receive ranking points.

New for 2020 - No upfront payment shall be required from any player who registers for an ITF Seniors IPIN.

Instead, players will be charged an ITF / IPIN Service Fee per tournament in addition to the tournament entry fee. The ITF / IPIN Service Fee shall be collected by each tournament alongside the Entry Fee. The fee shall be USD \$8.00 per tournament per player throughout 2020 which must be clearly outlined at the entry stage of each tournament alongside the tournament entry fee.

2019 Example

Annual IPIN Fee = \$25.00 (USD)

Tournament 1 Entry Fee = \$50.00

Tournament 2 Entry Fee = \$60.00

Total combined for player = \$135.00

2020 Example

Annual IPIN = No upfront registration fee

Tournament 1 Entry Fee \$50 + IPIN Service Fee \$8.00 = \$58.00

Tournament 2 Entry Fee \$60 + IPIN Service Fee \$8.00 = \$68.00

Total combined for player = \$126.00

This example demonstrates savings for players who play a low number of tournaments (2). This is a strategic decision to encourage participation for the many who currently do not compete in ITF Seniors Tournaments, and 75% of current players who compete in 2 or less tournaments a year.

Those playing 4+ tournaments a year will pay more in comparison to 2019. However, these players are accessing the ITF systems and benefitting from ITF services far more regularly. The most challenging area is to attract new players to the circuit. This model enables the ITF greater opportunities to register more players with the ITF Seniors Circuit and increase participation in more nations for more people. A 'cap' option may be considered in the future dependent on a longer term project for the ITF to provide an online payment gateway for all tournament entries.

- Tournaments are required to collect the IPIN Service Fee alongside the tournament entry fee. Both amounts must be collected at the same time and should be collected before the tournament begins. Online Payment options are encouraged to reduce administration time.
- Tournaments collecting entry fees in Euros are permitted to collect EUR 7.00€ instead of USD \$8.00. The IPIN Fee can be collected in a different currency decided by the tournament outside of USD or EUR. Where this is requested, the ITF Seniors Department shall confirm a currency exchange rate with the tournament prior to the Fact Sheet being published on the ITF website.
- Tournaments will be required to make payment to the ITF for the IPIN fee (e.g. EUR 7.00€) multiplied by the total number of players who played a match in the tournament. This amount, plus the Tournament Sanction Fee, shall be invoiced by the ITF within 6 weeks of the tournament end date. Tournaments who can evidence taxes incurred and/or online payment fees involved in the collection of the IPIN fee specifically will be able to make a reduced payment.

ITF Seniors Sanction Fees for Tournaments



ITF Seniors Circuit sanction fees have remained fixed for a number of years with no changes made to sanction fee costs since 2010. However, there shall be small increases to the Sanction Fees from January 2020. The following sanction fees will be applied to ITF Seniors Tournaments that take place from 1 January 2020.

The sanction fee (in USD \$) amount differs based on tournament grade:

Fixed Payment Per Grade

Grade RC1	= \$950
Grade A	= \$850
Grade 1	= \$750
Grade 2	= \$500
Grade 3	= \$375
Grade 4	= \$250*

* New model for ITF Grade 4 tournaments from 2020 who have less than 100 players compete at their tournament. The amount of \$250 is applied only if the tournament has 100 or more players in the tournament and/or runs 5+ age & gender events. E.g. W35, W45, M35, M40 and M45 (Singles and/or Doubles) = 5 age & gender events.

Tournaments with less than 100 total players and who stage 4 or less age & gender events shall pay a sanction fee of only \$50 per age & gender they stage. For example, a Grade 4 tournament staging Women's 55 & Men's 55 events only that has 40 players shall pay a \$100.00 (USD) sanction fee to the ITF.



ITF SENIORS TENNIS

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