

GUIDELINES FOR WORLD RACKETS DOUBLES

CHAMPIONSHIP CHALLENGES

Agreed by the Tennis and Rackets Association (T&RA) and the North American Racquets Association (NARA) on 29th November 2007

1. The role of the Governing Bodies (ie the T&RA Rackets World Championship Committee and NARA) is to decide whether the World Champions are the best pair in the world. If there is any real doubt then the World Champions shall be required to defend their title.
2. A pair shall be eligible to submit a challenge if they have won one or more of the following qualifying championships during either of the two seasons immediately preceding the season in which they wish to contest the World Championship.

UK Open Doubles

US Open Doubles

UK Amateur Doubles

US Amateur Doubles

Canadian Amateur Doubles

3. (a) Any eligible pair may submit a challenge in writing to the T&RA Rackets World Championship Committee, or to NARA, no later than the end of the season immediately preceding the season in which they wish to contest the World Championship. Each season shall be deemed to end on 15th April or one week after the end of the last qualifying championship, whichever shall be the later. Any such written challenge shall set out all facts and matters which the pair consider to be relevant in support of their challenge and no further representations shall normally be accepted or considered by the Governing Bodies.
 - (b) No challenge shall normally be accepted for any season immediately following one in which the World Champions have successfully contested or defended the World Championship. However, if in the opinion of both Governing Bodies, the outcome of that challenge match was materially affected by the injury or illness of a player, or by any other circumstance beyond the control of either of the players or of the Governing Bodies, and in any case where the challenge match could not be completed or replayed later in the same season under the Articles governing that challenge match or otherwise, then the Governing Bodies may at their complete discretion decide that challenges may be submitted by eligible pairs for the following season. Any such decision shall be taken before the end of the season and shall, if practicable, be communicated to all eligible pairs. In these circumstances the Governing Bodies shall have the power to extend the time limit for the submission of challenges.
4. As soon as practicable after the end of each season, each challenge properly submitted by any eligible pair shall be considered by each of the Governing Bodies.

- (a) Each of the Governing Bodies shall normally comprise seven members.
 - (b) Each of the Governing Bodies shall be entitled to determine its own procedure for considering any challenge from an eligible pair and deciding whether it should be accepted.
 - (c) If both of the Governing Bodies come to the same decision as to whether a challenge should be accepted or refused, that joint decision shall be treated as final.
 - (d) If however the Governing Bodies are unable to reach a joint decision then each member of each Governing Body shall cast one vote as to whether the challenge in question should be accepted or refused, and those votes shall be pooled to produce a final decision. A tied vote shall result in the challenge being refused.
 - (e) No appeal will lie from any decision of the Governing Bodies as to whether a challenge should or should not be accepted or from any other decision taken in the exercise of their powers in accordance with these Guidelines.
5. In deciding whether a challenge submitted by an eligible pair should be accepted, the Governing Bodies:-
- (a) Shall take into account the results of the World Champions and the challengers in qualifying championships in both of the two previous seasons, including in particular the number of wins of qualifying championships, the quality of the entry in those championships and the result of any match between the challengers and the World Champions in qualifying championships, provided that greater weight shall be given to their results in the more recent of the two seasons in question; and
 - (b) Shall consider whether the World Champions played in an acceptable number of qualifying championships in both of the two previous seasons. If, in a season when the World Championship was not contested, the World Champions did not play in either the UK Open Doubles or the US Open Doubles, then this will be a material factor in the deliberations of the Governing Bodies in deciding whether a challenge should be accepted; and
 - (c) Shall consider the UK Open Doubles as the most important competition on which to judge the claims of challenging pairs.
6. If the Governing Bodies decide that a challenge should be accepted, the World Champions shall be required to defend their title during the immediate following season. Both the World Champions and the challengers shall be informed by the T&RA Rackets World Championship Committee or NARA, as appropriate, and the Governing Bodies, in consultation with the World Champions and the challengers, will decide as soon as possible on the dates and venues of the challenge. Whenever practical, one leg of the challenge will be played in England and the other in North America.

7. If two challenges are accepted a one match eliminator shall be played between the challengers at least three weeks prior to the World Championship on a neutral court (unless otherwise agreed). If the pairs are based in different jurisdictions a toss of a coin will give one pair the choice of a neutral court (unless otherwise agreed). In the unlikely event of three challenges being accepted the eliminator matches will be arranged under conditions agreed by the Governing Bodies.

8. If the Governing Bodies should receive notice from the World Champions that they have elected not to defend their title, then the Governing Bodies shall, in accordance with these Guidelines, consider any challenges properly submitted by any eligible pairs at the end of the season in which that notice was received. The Governing Bodies shall accept the challenges of those pairs whom they consider to be the most worthy challengers. Thereafter the provisions of these Guidelines governing eliminator matches and challenge matches shall be followed.