

## GUIDELINES FOR WORLD RACKETS SINGLES

### CHAMPIONSHIP CHALLENGES

Agreed by the **Tennis and Rackets Association (T&RA)** and the **North American Racquets Association (NARA)** on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2006

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

UK Open Singles  
UK Amateur Singles  
UK Professional Singles  
UK Invitation Singles

US Open Singles  
US Amateur Singles  
Canadian Amateur Singles

3. (a) Any eligible player may submit a challenge in writing to the T&RA Rackets World Championship Committee, or (in the case of a player normally based in North America) to NARA, no later than the end of the season immediately preceding the season in which he wishes to contest the World Championship. Each season shall be deemed to end on 15<sup>th</sup> 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 player considers to be relevant in support of his 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 Champion has 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 players 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 players. 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 player 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 player 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 player should be accepted, the Governing Bodies:-
  - (a) Shall take into account the results of the World Champion and the challenger 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 challenger and the World Champion 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 Champion played in an acceptable number of qualifying championships in both of the two previous seasons. In particular, the following will be material factors in the deliberations of the Governing Bodies in deciding whether a challenge should be accepted:-
    - (i) If, in a season when the World Championship was not contested, the World Champion did not play in three or more qualifying championships (including either the UK Open Singles or the US Open Singles).
    - (ii) If, in the event that neither of the two seasons under consideration was one in which the World Championship was contested, the World Champion did not play in the UK Open Singles Championship on at least one occasion, and the US Open

Singles Championship on at least one occasion within those two seasons.

6. If the Governing Bodies decide that a challenge should be accepted, the World Champion shall be required to defend his title during the immediate following season. Both the World Champion and the challenger shall be informed by the T&RA Rackets World Championship Committee or NARA, as appropriate, and the Governing Bodies, in consultation with the World Champion and the challenger, 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 an eliminator match over two legs shall be played between the challengers, and the dates and venues for that match shall be decided by the Governing Bodies in consultation with the challengers. 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 Champion that he has elected not to defend his title, then the Governing Bodies shall, in accordance with these Guidelines, consider any challenges properly submitted by any eligible players at the end of the season in which that notice was received. The Governing Bodies shall accept the challenges of those players whom they consider to be the most worthy challengers. Thereafter the provisions of these Guidelines governing eliminator matches and challenge matches shall be followed.

**Amended November 2006**