

Rackets World Championships

Procedures for Doubles

OVERSIGHT

These Procedures are put in place by the Rackets World Championship Committee (RWCC) and are effective from the start of the 2021/22 season. The RWCC is responsible for the implementation of these Procedures and the oversight of the process of qualifying for World Championship Eliminator and Challenge Matches and the scheduling and playing of such matches.

DOUBLES (Effective 2021/22 season onwards)

1. The World Championship challenge points system has been developed for the purposes of determining those pairs which shall have a right to a Challenge for the Doubles World Championship under the World Championship Procedures. Under these Procedures, doubles pairs shall earn points toward a Challenge as a pair, and not individually when playing with another partner.
2. There shall be two qualifying tournaments (QTs) each season; the British Open Doubles and US Open Doubles.
3. The Qualifying Period (QP) for each World Championship challenge shall comprise the two seasons prior to the relevant Challenge Match and consist of four QTs. For example, the QP for the Challenge Match to be held between 1st November and 15th December 2023 shall comprise the 2021/22 and 2022/23 seasons.
4. Three points shall be awarded to the winners of each QT; one point shall be awarded to the finalists of each QT.
5. The current World Champions shall be required to defend their title in a Challenge Match UNLESS they have won three out of the four US/British Open Championships held during the QP AND do not wish to defend. If the reigning World Champions have won the requisite events to stave off a defence, then RWCC shall communicate with them in writing immediately after the end of the relevant QP to establish whether or not they wish to accept a Challenge. The reigning World Champions shall respond in writing within five days and, in the absence of a response, it shall be deemed that the reigning World Champions do not wish to accept a challenge.
6. If the reigning World Champions are required to defend, the RWCC shall communicate with them in writing immediately after the end of the relevant QP to establish whether or not they intend to defend. The reigning World Champions shall respond in writing within three days and, in the absence of a response, it shall be deemed that the reigning World Champions do not intend to defend.
7. If, under the provisions of paragraphs 5 and 6 above, there is to be a Challenge Match, the pair with the highest number of qualifying points which has won at least one of the QTs during the Qualifying Period shall qualify for the Challenge Match against the World Champions. For the sake of clarity, there shall be no Challenge Match contested by a pair which has not won at least one of the Qualifying Tournaments during the QP.
8. If the reigning World Champions decide to vacate the World Championship, the next highest ranked pairs shall qualify for the Challenge Match. However, if one pair (other than the World Champions) has won all four of the QTs in the QP, they shall be designated the World Champions and there shall be no Challenge Match.
9. If the two highest ranked pairs (other than the current World Champions) have the same number of qualifying points, the pair that qualifies for the Challenge Match shall be determined as follows:

- a. The pair that has won more QTs in the QP shall be entitled to play in a Challenge Match.
 - b. If the pairs have won the same number of QTs in the QP, the pair which has scored the greater number of World Championship Challenge Points in the last 12 months shall be deemed to be the higher ranked pair (other than the current World Champions) and shall be entitled to play in the Challenge Match, subject to the requisite described herein that any Challenger have won at least one QT during the QP.
 - c. If both of the two highest placed pairs in the World Championship Challenge Points standings (other than the current World Champions) have won the same number of points and the same number of QTs in the QP, those two pairs will play an Eliminator Match to have the right to play the current World Champions in the Challenge Match.
10. If a pair is entitled to participate in an Eliminator Match but chooses not to, then the other pair entitled to participate in that Eliminator Match shall become entitled to play in the Challenge Match.
 11. The RWCC shall announce as soon as possible after the end of each QP what Eliminator Match and Challenge Match shall take place.
 12. If an Eliminator Match is to take place, it shall be scheduled between 15th March and 15th May immediately following the last QT of the relevant QP.
 13. If a Challenge Match is to take place, it shall be scheduled between the 1st November and 15th December following the Eliminator Match.
 14. The players involved in the Eliminator Match or that Challenge Match shall be required to enter into an agreement with the RWCC that shall govern the detailed rules of each respective match (the "Articles"). The Articles shall be entered into at least 14 days before the date of the Eliminator Match or Challenge Match, as the case may be.
 15. Both legs of the challenges shall be held at the same venue, alternating between UK and North America. The first legs shall be played on the Wednesday, with the second leg to take place on the Saturday of the same week. The hosting National Association shall decide on the venue for the match.
 16. As a general rule, the venue of the Eliminator Match shall be played on the continent where the pairs are located. The hosting national governing body shall consider the neutrality of the venues they select for the Eliminator Match. However, if one pair involved in an Eliminator Match is based in North America and the other is based in UK, or a pair has one player from North America and one from the UK, the Eliminator Match shall be played in either North America or UK at the election of the higher ranked pair (in terms of World Championship Challenge Points) involved in the match, without regard to the "neutrality" of the venue.
 17. The following provisions shall be applied for the purposes of seeding QTs and determining that part of the weighting to be attributed to a QT which is dependent upon the participation of players ranked in the top 20 in the Individual Doubles World Rankings. This system will use the results from the QTs, the Manchester Gold Racquet, and the Western Open, to calculate the individual ranking points of each elite player:
 - a. The Individual Doubles World Rankings system has been developed to be used for the purposes of seeding QTs and determining that the weighting to be attributed to a QT, which is dependent upon the participation of the top 20 world ranked players. This system will use results in QTs over a rolling 36-month period.
 - b. The current World Champions shall be seeded 1 in every QT they enter as a pair for the first 12 months following the Challenge Match of which they were the winning pair. Thereafter QT seedings shall be determined in accordance with the Individual Doubles World Rankings.

- c. Points shall not be awarded to the participants in Challenge or Eliminator Matches either for the purposes of the World Ranking system or to determine any rights to a future Challenge.
18. If a player is injured after the signing of the Challenge Match or Eliminator Match Articles, the Challenge Match or Eliminator Match shall not re-arranged, and the non-injured pair shall be deemed the winner. If players in both pairs are injured, then the World Champions shall retain their title. If the World Champions are not playing in the Challenge Match, the title shall become vacant.
 19. If a player is injured before their pair signs the Challenge Match articles, then the Challenge Match can be postponed by up to two months provided that the injured player produces a doctor's note confirming the nature of his injury and estimated recovery time. The RWCC, in its sole discretion, shall have the right to have an independent doctor examine the fitness of the player before it endorses a postponement of the Challenge Match. Each pair shall be entitled to one postponement period provided they comply with the process set out in this paragraph.
 20. If a player is injured before their pair signs the Eliminator Match articles, the pair with the non-injured player shall be deemed the winner. If players in both pairs are injured, the higher ranked pair shall be deemed the winner subject to the RWCC being satisfied that such pair shall be fit to play in the Challenge Match.
 21. The RWCC reserves the right to amend these procedures if, in the RWCC's sole discretion, there are exceptional circumstances (including new COVID restrictions) that prevent the procedures operating properly in enabling the best doubles pairs to qualify for the Challenge Match.

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