

Rackets World Championships

Procedures for Singles

OVERSIGHT

These Procedures are put in place by the Rackets World Championship Committee (RWCC) and are effective from the start of the 2024/25 season.

RWCC's Mandate and Objectives

The RWCC is a joint committee of the Tennis & Rackets Association and the North American Rackets Association. The RWCC is responsible for overseeing the rules and process of qualifying for a World Championship and the scheduling and playing of Eliminator and Challenge Matches. The RWCC's mission is to ensure that the process recognises the best active player in the world as the World Champion, while preserving the integrity and respecting the history of the World Championship.

SINGLES (Effective 2024/25 season onwards)

Qualifying for the World Championship

1. The World Championship challenge points system has been developed for the purposes of determining those players who shall have the opportunity to challenge for the Singles World Championship under these World Championship Procedures.
2. There shall be two qualifying tournaments each season; the British Open Singles and US Open Singles (each a "QT").
3. The Qualifying Period ("QP") for each World Championship challenge shall be comprised of 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 2026 shall comprise the 2024/25 and 2025/26 seasons.
4. Three points shall be awarded to the winner of each QT; one point shall be awarded to the losing finalist of each QT.

Determination of whether there is an Eliminator or Challenge Match at the conclusion of a QP

5. The World Champion shall be required to defend their World Championship at the conclusion of each QP subject to paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 below.
6. In the QP immediately after a Challenge Match, if no player other than the World Champion has won a QT, there shall be no Challenge Match and the World Champion shall not defend their World Championship.
7. In the QP immediately after a Challenge Match, if the World Champion has won at least three QTs in the relevant QP, they shall have the option *not to defend* unless they did not defend their World Championship at the end of the preceding QP (so a World Champion is required to defend their title at least every four years). If the World Champion has won fewer than three QTs during the QP, then they shall be required to defend following the conclusion of the QP.

8. At the conclusion of a QP, the RWCC shall communicate in writing with the World Champion to establish, as appropriate, whether or not they wish to accept a challenge. The World Champion shall respond in writing within seven days, and, in the absence of a response, it shall be deemed that the World Champion does not wish to accept a challenge.

Identity of Challenger(s)

9. If, under the provisions of paragraphs 7 and 8 above, there is to be a Challenge Match, the player with the highest number of qualifying points shall qualify for the Challenge Match against the World Champion.
10. If the World Champion decides to vacate or is unable to play in the World Championship, there shall be a Challenge Match between the next two highest ranked players. If there are more than two players with the same number of points (for example, where one player has 3 points (and therefore qualifies for the Challenge Match) and two players have 1 point each), the provisions of paragraphs 11 and 12 below shall apply in determining who qualifies for the Challenge Match (for the purposes of paragraphs 11 and 12 the players with the same points shall be “Qualified Challengers”).
11. If there is to be a Challenge Match, and the two highest ranked players (other than the World Champion) have the same number of qualifying points (each a “Qualified Challenger” and together the “Qualified Challengers”), the Qualified Challenger(s) who shall be entitled to play in the Challenge Match shall be determined as follows:
 - a. The Qualified Challenger(s) who has/have won more QTs in the QP shall be entitled to play in the Challenge Match.
 - b. If (a) above does not determine the Qualified Challenger(s) who shall be entitled to play in the Challenge Match, the Qualified Challengers will play an Eliminator Match to have the right to play in the Challenge Match.
 - c. If there are more than two Qualified Challengers with the same number of QT victories, as well as total points earned during the QP, then the RWCC shall, in its sole discretion, determine the two Qualified Challengers who shall play the Eliminator Match to identify the Challenger for the World Championship.
12. If a Qualified Challenger is entitled to participate in an Eliminator Match but chooses not to, then the other Qualified Challenger entitled to participate in that Eliminator Match shall become entitled to play in the Challenge Match.
13. The RWCC shall announce as soon as possible after the end of each QP whether an Eliminator Match and/or Challenge Match shall take place.

Arrangements of an Eliminator and/or Challenge Match

14. 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.
15. If a Challenge Match is to take place, it shall be scheduled between the 1st November and 15th December following the Eliminator Match.

16. If the players in an Eliminator Match are based on the same continent, the venue of the Eliminator Match shall be on the continent where the players are based. However, if one player involved in an Eliminator Match is based in North America and the other is based in UK, the Eliminator Match shall be played in either North America or the UK at the election of the higher ranked player (in terms of World Championship Challenge Points) involved in the match. If the players have the same number of points, the player who has won points most recently (e.g. the final QT) shall determine whether the match is played in North America or the UK.
17. Both Legs of every Eliminator Match shall be played in either North America or UK (the same continent). The two Legs shall be played between the Wednesday and the Sunday of the same week.
18. One of the two Legs of every Challenge Match shall be played in North America and the other shall be played in UK. The two Legs shall be a week apart. The first leg will alternate between the North America and the UK. The first leg of the next singles challenge in November 2026 shall take place in the UK. The location of first legs thereafter shall alternate between the UK and North America.
19. The governing bodies shall determine the venues of the Challenge Match.
20. The players involved in the Eliminator Match or 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.
21. Eliminators and Challenge Matches shall be played over two best-of-seven game legs. The player winning the Eliminator or Challenge Match is the player who wins the most games. In the case of a Challenge Match, if the points are equal after the two Legs, the Reigning World Champion shall retain the World Championship. In the case of the Eliminator, if the points are equal after the two Legs, a deciding set to 5 shall be played.

Injury

22. If a player is injured after the signing of the **Challenge Match** or **Eliminator Match** Articles, the Challenge Match or Eliminator Match shall not be re-organized, and the non-injured player shall be deemed the winner. If both players are injured, then the World Champion shall retain his title. If the World Champion is not playing in the Challenge Match, the title shall become vacant.
23. If a player is injured before he signs the **Challenge Match articles**, then the Challenge Match may be postponed, at the RWCC's sole discretion, taking into consideration all reasonable circumstances. 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. If any postponement is determined to be warranted by the RWCC, each player shall be limited to one postponement period for the relevant QP.
24. If a player is injured before he signs the **Eliminator Match articles**, the non-injured player shall be deemed the winner. If both players are injured, the higher ranked player shall be deemed the winner subject to the RWCC being satisfied that such player shall be fit to play in the Challenge Match.

Exceptional Circumstances

25. The RWCC reserves the right to amend or modify these procedures if, in the RWCC's sole discretion, there are exceptional circumstances that prevent the procedures operating properly in accordance with its objectives.