

# Rackets World Championships

## Procedures for Singles

### OVERSIGHT

These Procedures are put in place by the Rackets World Championship Committee (RWCC). RWCC is also 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.

### SINGLES - *Effective for 2021/22 season onwards*

1. The World Championship Challenge Points system shall be used for the purposes of determining who shall have a right to a Challenge under the World Championship Procedures. The World Championship Challenge Points system (i) attributes a weighting to each Qualifying Tournament (QT) based on its Tournament Rating AND the quality of the draw and (ii) allocates points to players based on their participation and results in the following Singles QTs:
  - a. British Open (Tier 1 in every season)
  - b. US Open (Tier 1 in every season)
  - c. Western Open (Tier 2 in every season)
  - d. Manchester Gold Racquet (Tier 2 in every other season continuing in 2021/22)
  - e. UK Invitation (Tier 2 in every other season continuing in 2022/23)
2. There are a maximum of four QTs in which any player (Professional or Amateur) may participate in each calendar year of a Qualifying Period (QP). The points accumulated by a player in their top four point accruing tournaments per QP count towards the qualifying rankings. A maximum of three tournaments can count in any one season. If a player plays in all the tournaments in a QP, the four tournaments that they accumulate the most points will count. Conversely, if a player only plays in four tournaments, all the points they accumulate count, subject to the proviso that only three tournaments may count in one season.
3. The QP for each World Championship Challenge shall comprise the two seasons prior to the relevant Challenge Match. For example, the QP for the Challenge Match to be held between 1<sup>st</sup> November and 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019 shall comprise the 2017/18 and 2018/19 seasons. Results in QTs during the QP shall be taken into account for the purposes of establishing the World Championship Challenge Points position of each player.
4. The weighting of points allocated for results in the QTs which take place in the second 12 months of the QP shall be the same as that for the QTs which take place in the first 12 months of the QP.
5. An Eliminator (if necessary) and a Challenge Match will take place AUTOMATICALLY every two years, EXCEPT where the current World Champion has won three out of the four US Opens and British Opens AND one Tier 2 QT in either North America or UK during the QP AND does not wish to defend. In the event that the reigning World Champion has won the requisite events to stave off a defence, then RWCC shall communicate with him in writing immediately after the end of the relevant QP to establish whether or not he wishes to accept a Challenge and defend. The reigning World Champion shall respond in writing within three days and, in the absence of a response, it shall be deemed that the reigning World Champion does not wish to accept a challenge and defend. If the current World Champion wins the requisite events and elects not to defend, he MUST defend at the next time of asking even if he again wins the requisite events. In other words, there shall never be more than four years between Challenge Matches.
6. In the event that the reigning World Champion has not done enough to stave off a defence, then RWCC shall communicate with him in writing immediately after the end of the relevant QP to establish whether or not he

intends to defend. The reigning World Champion shall respond in writing within three days and, in the absence of a response, it shall be deemed that the reigning World Champion does not intend to defend.

7. If, under the provisions of paragraphs 5 and 6 above, there is to be a Challenge Match, then the question of whether or not an Eliminator should first take place will be determined as follows:
  - a. If there is a tie in the number of World Championship Challenge Points won by the second- and third-ranked players (other than the current World Champion), then the player who has scored the greater number of World Championship Challenge Points in the last 12 months shall be deemed to be the second-ranked player (other than the current World Champion).
  - b. If only one of the two highest placed players in the World Championship Challenge Points standings (other than the current World Champion) has won two or more Tier 1 or 2 QTs in the QP, there shall be a Challenge Match but no Eliminator, with the Challenger being that one of the two highest placed players in the World Championship Challenge Points standings (other than the current World Champion) who has won two or more Tier 1 or 2 QTs in the QP.
  - c. If both of the two highest placed players in the World Championship Challenge Points standings (other than the current World Champion) have won two or more Tier 1 or 2 QTs in the QP, those two players will play an Eliminator to have the right to play the current World Champion in the Challenge Match.
  - d. If neither of the two highest placed players in the World Championship Challenge Points standings (other than the current World Champion) have won two or more Tier 1 or 2 QTs in the QP, then there shall be no Eliminator or Challenge Match even if the current World Champion would wish to accept a challenge and defend.
8. If the reigning World Champion decides to vacate the World Championship and not to defend, the highest ranked player in the World Championship Race Points standings other than the reigning World Champion shall qualify automatically for the Challenge Match. The next two highest ranked players other than the reigning World Champion shall play in an Eliminator for the right to participate in the Challenge Match providing that the lower ranked of those two players has won at least one Tier 1 or Tier 2 QT. If the lower ranked of those two players has not won a Tier 1 or Tier 2 QT, then the higher ranked of those two players shall qualify directly for the Challenge Match.
9. If a player is entitled to participate in an Eliminator but chooses not to, then the other player entitled to participate in that Eliminator shall become entitled to play the player already qualified to participate in the Challenge Match.
10. RWCC shall announce as soon as possible after the end of each QP what Eliminator and Challenge Matches shall take place.
11. If an Eliminator is to take place, it shall be scheduled between 15<sup>th</sup> March and 15<sup>th</sup> May immediately following the last QT of the relevant QP.
12. If a Challenge Match is to take place, it shall be scheduled between the 1<sup>st</sup> November and 15<sup>th</sup> December following the Eliminator.
13. 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. If the games are level after two Legs the player with the most points wins the Match. In the case of a Challenge Match, if the games and the points are equal after the two Legs, the Reigning World Champion shall retain the World Championship. The second leg of a Challenge Match shall be completed as a best-of-seven match, notwithstanding that the outcome of the World Championship has already been determined. In the case of the Eliminator, if the games and the points are equal after the two Legs, the higher ranked player shall be deemed the winner of the Eliminator.

14. 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.
15. Both Legs of every Eliminator Match shall be played in either North America or UK. The two Legs shall be played between the Wednesday and the Sunday of the same week.
16. The venues and order of the Legs in Challenge Matches shall be determined in accordance with the following procedures:
  - a. If both players involved in a Challenge Match are based in North America, NARA shall ensure that the venue they select for the North American Leg is accepted by both players as "neutral";
  - b. If both players involved in a Challenge Match are based in UK, T&RA shall ensure that the venue they select for the UK Leg is accepted by both players as "neutral";
  - c. If neither player involved in a Challenge Match is based in North America, NARA should select a venue of their choosing;
  - d. If one player involved in a Challenge Match is based in North America and the other is based in UK, NARA shall select the venue chosen by the North American-based player as his "home court" and T&RA shall select the venue chosen by the UK-based player as his "home court"; and
  - e. The first leg will alternate between the US and UK. The next singles challenge in November 2022 shall take place in the US and the first leg of the 2024 match will take place in the UK. The first legs shall alternate thereafter.
17. The venues and order of the Legs in Eliminator Matches shall be determined in accordance with the following procedures:
  - a. If both players involved in an Eliminator Match are based in North America, the Eliminator Match shall be played in North America and NARA shall ensure that the venues they select for the two Legs are either both accepted by both players as "neutral" or they shall select the "home court" of one player for one of the Legs and the "home court" of the other player for the other Leg;
  - b. If both players involved in an Eliminator Match are based in UK, the Eliminator Match shall be played in UK and T&RA shall ensure that the venues they select for the two Legs are either both accepted by both players as "neutral" or they shall select the "home court" of one player for one of the Legs and the "home court" of the other player for the other Leg;
  - c. 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 UK at the election of the higher ranked player (in terms of World Championship Challenge Points) involved in the match. In the event that the Eliminator Match is to be played in North America, NARA may select the "home court" of the North American-based player as venue for one of the Legs but not both. Likewise, in the event that the Eliminator Match is to be played in UK, T&RA may select the "home court" of the UK-based player as venue for one of the Legs but not both; and
  - d. The higher ranked player (in terms of World Championship Challenge Points) involved in an Eliminator Match shall have the right to elect which of the selected venues shall be used for the 1<sup>st</sup> Leg match.
18. The venues selected for Challenge and Eliminator Matches must be on the list of "approved courts" as produced by T&RA/NARA from time to time.
19. 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 12 in the world rankings:
  - a. The Elite World Singles Rankings system has been developed to be used 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 12 in the world rankings. This system will use results in QTs over

a rolling 24 month period. The detailed mechanics of, and the current standings of players in, the system are set out in the Appendix attached to these Procedures.

- b. The Current World Champion shall automatically be seeded 1 in every QT he enters for the first 12 months following the Challenge Match of which he was the winner. Thereafter and running up to the next Challenge Match, QT seedings shall be determined in accordance with the Elite World Singles Rankings system.
- c. Until such time as RWCC is satisfied by the integrity and reliability (in terms of depth of data) of the Elite World Singles Rankings system, the world rankings as per the Neptune World Ranking System operated by T&RA shall be used for the purposes of seeding QTs where not all of the seeded positions are filled by players ranked in the Top 12 of the Elite World Singles Rankings.
- d. For the avoidance of doubt, points shall not be awarded to the participants in World Championship Challenge Matches or Eliminators, either for the purposes of the Elite World Singles Rankings or for the purposes of the World Championship Challenge Points system to be used for the purposes of determining who shall have a right to a Challenge under the World Championship Procedures.

20. If a player is injured after the signing of the Challenge Match or Eliminator Match articles (3 weeks before the first leg of the Challenge Match or Eliminator Match), the Challenge Match or Eliminator Match shall not re-arranged, and the non-injured player shall be deemed the winner. If both players are injured, then the World Champion shall retain their title. If the World Champion is not playing in the Challenge Match, the title shall become vacant.

21. If a player is injured before they sign the Challenge Match articles, then the Challenge Match can be postponed by up to 2 months provided that the injured player produces a doctor's note confirming the nature of his injury and estimating the 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 player shall be entitled to one postponement period provided they comply with the process set out in this paragraph.

22. If a player is injured before they sign 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.

*Original 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015*

*Amended 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017*

*Amended 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017*

*Amended 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019*

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