

MAIN RULE CHANGES / UPDATES for 2016 (UNDERLINED)

I. MISSION STATEMENT FOR WHEELCHAIR TENNIS (P1)

The ITF is the international governing body for tennis, including wheelchair tennis. In partnership with its National Associations it aims to provide, promote and develop opportunities for men, women and children with physical disabilities to participate in recreational and competitive wheelchair tennis at all levels from novice to the professional player.

The ITF aims to work together with National Tennis Federations to provide opportunities for all involved in wheelchair tennis and to encourage integration and inclusion with non-disabled tennis whenever possible.

II. HISTORY (P2)

Over the past four decades, wheelchair tennis has been one of the fastest growing and most exciting international sports for the disabled. Originated in 1976 by American Brad Parks, the game has developed from a recreational activity to a professional sport. In response to its remarkable global growth, the International Wheelchair Tennis Federation (IWTF) was created in 1988 to govern, promote and develop the sport worldwide. There were originally eight founding member nations and it is estimated that wheelchair tennis is played in more than a hundred countries in all continents.

On 1st January 1998, the IWTF was fully integrated into the ITF, making it the first disabled sport to achieve such a union at an international level. In order to maintain links with former IWTF member nations, which include National Disability Organisations, National Wheelchair Tennis Associations and National Tennis Associations, the International Wheelchair Tennis Association (IWTA) was formed. The IWTA acted as an advisory body to the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee, representing the views of players and administrators. At the end of 2012, the IWTA was dissolved and an advisory panel established. In 2016 wheelchair tennis will celebrate its 40th Anniversary.

V. THE COMPETITIVE WHEELCHAIR TENNIS PLAYER (P7)

e) A player can change division, without a change in his/her medical condition a maximum of twice in his/her career. In addition, a player wanting to return to the quad division should undertake a classification at his/her own expense. The outcome of this classification is binding.

VI. CATEGORIES OF EVENTS - OTHER EVENTS (P8)

6a) BNP Paribas World Team Cup

The BNP Paribas World Team Cup is the official wheelchair tennis Team Event of the ITF. The BNP Paribas World Team Cup World Group event is played once a year, for men, women, quads and juniors. There are four BNP Paribas World Team Cup qualification events played prior to the main event in which men and women compete to qualify for the main event. In order to participate, a country must be a member of the ITF.

XI. CONDUCT OF EVENTS

24. ELIGIBILITY (P24)

Open Competition / No Discrimination

UNIQLO Wheelchair Tennis Tour Tournaments are open to all wheelchair tennis players based on merit and without discrimination subject only to the conditions herein set forth.

25. JUNIOR ELIGIBILITY (P24)

Only boys and girls born on or after 1st January 1998 are eligible to compete in ITF Wheelchair Tennis Junior Events in 2016.

31. INTERNATIONAL SPONSORSHIP (P26)

For the avoidance of doubt no sponsorship will be permitted either as part of the Commercial Rights or as Circuit Sponsor Rights to any entity in respect of tobacco products, hard liquor products, political activity or other category deemed to be detrimental to the sport of tennis, as reasonably determined by ITF in consultation with the applicable National Associations. Sponsorship by betting companies, as part of the above rights, must comply fully with the provisions of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Programme (see Article V of the Code of Conduct).

34. ENTRIES

a) IPIN: International Player Identification Number (P27)

All players entering UNIQLO Wheelchair Tennis Tour tournaments, BNP Paribas World Team Cup and Paralympic Games agree, as a condition of their entry to have an active Wheelchair Tennis International Player Identification Number (IPIN). Failure by a player to have registered and paid for a valid Wheelchair Tennis IPIN Membership will result in the rejection of that player's entry. The International Player Identification Number (IPIN) service is available from www.itftennis.com/ipin.

36. SIGN-IN (P31)

b) Doubles

All doubles teams must sign in in-person with the Referee by 12 pm (12:00 hours) on the day singles matches start, regardless of whether they have declared their wish to play doubles on their entry forms. One member of a doubles team may sign in for the team. Any team that has not signed in in-person as required by this rule, will not be included in the draw.

37. CONDITIONS OF PLAY

h) Time Limit Repairs, Broken Equipment, Strapping of Racket (quad players) (P33)

Any quad player may be allotted extra time during a changeover in order to reposition or adjust the racket in the hand, without being penalised, but only if prior agreement has been made with the Umpire or Referee in the absence of an Umpire prior to the match. The quad player must make every effort to keep any extra time to a reasonable minimum, so as not to disrupt or interfere with the normal progression of the match.

41. WILD CARDS (SINGLES AND DOUBLES) (P47)

N.B. At events with no set draw size, the number of Wild Cards will be 2.

46. ITF WHEELCHAIR TENNIS RANKING SYSTEM (P54)

The ITF Wheelchair Tennis Junior Ranking is composed of 25% of points from the eligible adult ranking points (see section 47. ITF Wheelchair Tennis Ranking System) and all junior ranking points. For juniors, a ranking is obtained after having competed in one event.

Ranking Points

A. MAIN DRAW (Singles and Doubles) (P55)

MEN

Grade	Draw	WR	RU	SF	QF	12/16	24/32	64/QR
SS	<u>64/56</u>	750	525	336	186	103	55	2
	32	650	456	292	162	90*	2	1
	24	485	340	218	121	67*	2	1

**SINGLES & DOUBLES MASTERS (P58)
MEN**

Event	Draw	WR	RU	3 RD	4 TH	<u>3RD IN RR GROUP</u>	<u>4TH IN RR GROUP</u>
Singles Masters	8	800	500	400	350	<u>200</u>	<u>100</u>
Doubles Masters	8	800	500	400	350	<u>200</u>	<u>100</u>

WOMEN

Event	Draw	WR	RU	3 RD	4 TH	<u>3RD IN RR GROUP</u>	<u>4TH IN RR GROUP</u>
Singles Masters	8	800	500	400	350	<u>200</u>	<u>100</u>
Doubles Masters	6	800	500	375	275	<u>200</u>	<u>100</u>

XII. WHEELCHAIR TENNIS MASTERS (SINGLES, DOUBLES AND JUNIOR)

50. PENALTIES

e) Decisions and Appeals (P66)

The ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee shall make all decisions and interpretations concerning the Regulations. Decisions taken by the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee will be provided in writing and shall be final and binding on all parties. Any appeal shall be in writing and shall be received by the Company not later than one month after the decision has been received by the appellant.

XIII. BNP PARIBAS WORLD TEAM CUP RULES

53. COMPETITION

d) Entry (P69)

2016 will be the last year with the above format. From 2017 onwards, there will be only one Men's World Group made up of 16 teams as follows:

- Nations placed 1-10 in Men's World Group in 2016 will gain direct entry for 2017.
- Four (4) nations will receive entry through winning the regional qualification events. In the event of there being only three (3) qualification zones, the remaining position will be given to one of the other qualification zones.
- The remaining two (2) positions will be awarded as Wild Cards; one (1) to the Host Nation and one (1) to the winner of the MWG2 division from the 2016 BNP Paribas World Team Cup. In the event of the Host Nation already having direct entry to the event, this Wild Card will be awarded to a nation at the discretion of the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee.
- Nations placed 11 & 12 in MWG in 2016 as well as all MWG2 Nations placed 2-12 will be relegated and be required to qualify the following year.

57. TEAMS

f) Qualification of a Player to Represent a Country (P75)

Any Appeal against a final decision handed down by a National Tennis Association shall be lodged with the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee within 21 days of notification of the decision in question. Recourse may only be made to the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee after all other internal channels of appeal to a National Tennis Association have been exhausted. The decision of the Committee will be provided in writing and shall be final and binding. The ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee in its absolute discretion may set aside the determination of a National Tennis Association that a player is of “Good Standing”.

58. DRAWS AND SEEDING

b) Seeding (P78)

Quads

In the eight (8) team Main Draw, two (2) may be seeded and positioned as follows:

- Number 1 shall be placed in pool A; number 2 shall be placed in pool B.

By draw will be decided if seeds 3 and 4 will go in pool A or B. The same procedure will be repeated for seeds 5 and 6, and seeds 7 and 8.

In the case of a seven (7) (or less) round robin draw, two (2) may be seeded and positioned as follows:

- Number 1 shall be placed in pool A; number 2 shall be placed in pool B.

By draw will be decided if seeds 3 and 4 will go in pool A or B. The same procedure will be repeated for teams ranked 5 and 6. By draw will be decided in which pool seed 7 will be placed.

Juniors

In the eight (8) team Main Draw, two (2) may be seeded and positioned as follows:

- Number 1 shall be placed in pool A; number 2 shall be placed in pool B.

By draw will be decided if seeds 3 and 4 will go in pool A or B. The same procedure will be repeated for teams ranked 5 and 6, and teams ranked 7 and 8.

The remaining teams shall be drawn in pairs based on the established order.

59. WORLD TEAM CUP POINTS

Men, Women & Quads(P79)

World Team Cup Points will be awarded at the BNP Paribas World Team Cup (and the respective regional qualification events). The points will be awarded to players beating players within the ranking brackets as follows:

Ranking		Points received:
Singles	Doubles	
1	2-3	75
2-5	4-10	51
6-10	11-20	24
11-20	21-40	12
21-30	41-60	9
31-50	61-100	6
51-100	101-200	3
101-200	201-400	2
201+	401+	1

Note: World Team Cup Points for doubles are based on the combined ranking of the doubles pair.

62. PENALTIES

d) Default in Payment (P83)

Any default in payment in respect of their team's participation in a previous Competition, shall render that Member Nation liable to have its entry refused for any future Competitions until such payment has been made in full. The ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee will be the final arbiters in any dispute, and shall decide any appeals.

XIV. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

68. PLAYER ENTRY OFFENCES

g) Appeals (P87)

Any player convicted of a violation of a Player Entry Offence may, after paying all fines, appeal to the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee, for review of the determination of guilt and penalty therefore. The decision of the Committee will be provided in writing and shall be final and binding. Such Notice of Appeal shall be in writing and filed by 5.00 p.m. G.M.T. with the ITF within ten (10) days of receipt of the official notification.

69. PLAYER ON-SITE OFFENCES

c) Dress and Equipment (P91)

ii. Identifications on Clothing and Equipment

No identification shall be permitted on player's clothing that promotes/displays tobacco products, hard liquor products, political activity or other category deemed to be detrimental to the sport of tennis.

w) Appeals (P98)

Any player convicted of a violation of a Player On-Site Offence at an ITF sanctioned wheelchair tennis event may, after paying all fines, appeal to the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee for review of the determination of guilt and penalty therefore. The decision of the Committee will be provided in writing and shall be final and binding. Such Notice of Appeal shall be in writing and filed within ten (10) days of receipt of the official notification.

70. PLAYER MAJOR OFFENCES

e) Discretionary Review (P101)

Any player found to have committed a Player Major Offence may, after paying all fines as above provided, petition the Committee for discretionary review of the determination and penalty of the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Manager. The petition shall be in writing and must be filed with the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Manager within thirty (30) days after notice of the violation is mailed to the player. The ITF Wheelchair Tennis Manager shall thereafter promptly forward said petition to the Committee. Said petition shall state in detail the basis for such appeal. Within thirty (30) days thereafter the Committee shall designate a time and place for the hearing of such appeal and shall so notify the player and the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Manager. At such hearing the player and the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Manager shall present to the Committee the relevant evidence on the matter. The Committee may affirm, reverse, or modify the decision of the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Manager on appeal. The decision of the Committee will be provided in writing and shall be final and binding.

APPENDIX A – PROTESTS AND APPEALS

II. NUMBER OF PROTESTS (P106)

The classification status of a player can only be protested once by any party.