

# INVACARE WORLD TEAM CUP

## RULES 2009



## 1. COMPETITION

### a) Title

The Competition, the International Tennis Federation World Team Cup Team Championship for men and women, shall be called the “World Team Cup”.

### b) Ownership

The Competition shall be owned by and under the direction and control of the International Tennis Federation, herein after referred to as the “Federation”.

### c) Nations Eligible

The Competition shall be open only to Member Nations of both the ITF and the IWTA.

### d) Format

#### **Main Draw**

The Main Draw for men and women shall be played on a knock-out principle, with a play off system to determine the ranking of all teams, at preferably one venue during one week.

The Men’s Draw will be comprised of two World Groups. World Group 1 (WG1) will consist of the top 12 nations from the previous year and the winners of the relegation matches between nations 13 & 14 of WG1 versus nations 4 & 3 of World Group 2 (WG2) respectively, plus the winner and runner up of WG2. WG2 will be made up of the losers of the above relegation matches, nations 15 & 16 of WG1 and nations 5-8 of World Group 2 from the previous year.

The eventual winner and runner up of WG2 will be promoted to WG1 for the following year. Teams 15 and 16 of WG1 will be relegated to WG2 for the following year. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> placed teams of WG2 will compete in a play-off tie against teams 14 and 13 of WG1 respectively. The winner of these ties will compete in WG1 the following year and the losers will compete in WG2.

For the Quad Draw, the draw shall be played in a Round Robin format. The teams finishing in the top 2 positions of each pool will face each other in a cross-over semi final. The winners will face each other in a final and the losing semi finalists will play-off for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place. Teams finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in each pool will play-off for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> position and the teams finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in each

pool will play-off for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> position. The ITF reserves the right to change the format depending on the number of entries.

The Main Draw for juniors shall be played in a Round Robin format. The teams finishing at the top of each pool will face each other in a final. The teams placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in each pool will play-off for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place. Teams finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in each pool will play-off for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> position and the teams finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in each pool will play-off for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> position. The ITF reserves the right to change the format depending on the number of entries.

**e) Rules to be Observed**

The Competition shall take place in accordance with the Rules of Tennis, the Rules of Wheelchair Tennis, the World Team Cup contract (including Appendix A, B and C) and the Wheelchair Tennis Handbook.

In submitting any entry, a Nation automatically undertakes to abide by and fulfill all their obligations under the above Rules and Regulations. Any Nation failing to honour this undertaking shall be subject to penalties given in Section 8, "Penalties" and the Code of Conduct in the Wheelchair Tennis Handbook.

**2. ENTRIES**

**Entries and Entry Fees**

Entries from Member Nations are to be sent to the ITF. Payment of the Entry Fee must accompany the second entry form to guarantee the nation's acceptance within the competition. The exact closing date for entries will be advised by the ITF to all members well in advance for this purpose and all competing Nations shall receive the Final List of Entries following this date. A Wild Card will be offered to the Host Nation if they do not qualify through direct entry for the Men's, Women's and Quad event. Member Nations who submit late entries may be subject to a fine.

**3. PRIZE MONEY**

If the Host Nation wishes to offer prize money, the prize money will go to the Member Nation of the country and not to the individual players.

**4. TEAMS**

**a) Composition of Teams**

Each team must consist of a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of four (4), which shall include a playing Captain; or

alternatively, a team of a minimum of four (4) and maximum of five (5), which shall include a non-playing Captain, unless approved in advance by the ITF.

**b) Team Captain**

Each team's nominated playing or non-playing Captain who may sit on court during the team's matches must satisfy the requirements of Regulation 4(f).

**c) Nomination of Players, Reserves and Captains**

Nominations of individual players and captains to each team must be received by the Federation at least six (6) weeks prior to the Competition. Such nominations shall be made in accordance with Regulation 4(a).

**d) Change of Nominations**

A Member Nation may change its nominations up to two (2) weeks prior to the Draw for the Competition by notification in writing to the Federation. Nominations may only be changed after this deadline for reasons of illness, injury or bereavement when reserve players may be substituted by notification in writing to the Federation or to the Referee should such change occur after the Draw has been made, but before the commencement of play.

- Team member withdrawals may be made without penalty up to 2 weeks prior to the competition. Within 2 weeks of the competition any withdrawals may only be made for reasons of illness, injury or bereavement. In the event of illness or injury a medical certificate must be received within fourteen (14) days after the date of withdrawal of a team member for medical reasons from the Competition. Withdrawals for any other reason or without a medical certificate within two weeks of the competition will be subject to a fine of US\$100 per team member.
- Team member replacements may be made without penalty up to 2 weeks prior to the competition. Within 2 weeks of the competition any replacements may only be made for reasons of illness, injury or bereavement. In the event of illness or injury a medical certificate must be received within fourteen (14) days after the date of replacement for medical reasons of a team member from the Competition. Replacements for any other reason or without a medical certificate within two weeks of the competition will be subject to a fine of US\$50 per team member.

e) **Order of Merit**

The Referee shall decide each team's Order of Merit based upon the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Singles Ranking used for the Draw and shall provide all competing Nations with a copy of the final team nominations list placed in Order of Merit at the Captains' meeting. Thereafter no change may be made to the Order of Merit. In the case of any players with no such rankings, either in singles or doubles or without a tentative ranking on the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Ranking, the Referee shall take into account player's national rankings and current results as provided by the Member Nation concerned in determining the Order of Merit. The latest available ranking will be used.

Captains may appeal to the Referee to consider any special circumstances that may affect the credibility of the Order of Merit. The Referee shall have the discretion to alter a clear mistake providing this is done prior to the Draw.

f) **Qualification of a Player to Represent a Country**

i. Any tennis player who is in good standing with his Member Nation in accordance with the ITF Rules shall be qualified to represent that country if he is a national of that country, has a current valid passport of that country and has lived in that country for twenty-four (24) consecutive months at some time, and has not represented any other country during the period of thirty-six (36) months immediately preceding the event. If a player is qualified under this sub-section above to represent more than one country and the Member Nation of one of those countries wishes to nominate him to represent it, that Member Nation shall submit an application to the ITF, with a copy to any other Member Nation concerned. Such application must be received by the ITF at least six months prior to the event for which the player wishes to be nominated.

For the purposes of this ruling "good standing" in connection with a player shall be defined as follows:

One whom:

- Is not under a suspension imposed by his Member Nation, or by the ITF, or through the imposition of a suspension under a Code of Conduct accepted and approved by the ITF.
- Is accepted by his Member Nation as being under its jurisdiction while competing in events for which his Member Nation has nominated him.

- Makes himself available for selection of Official Team Championships and accepts the jurisdiction of his Member Nation while competing in events for which they have nominated him.
- Respects the spirit of fair play and non-violence at all times.
- Accepts the Conditions of Entry of the events he enters, including the conditions of any Code of Conduct adopted for those events.
- Agrees to undergo any medical controls, which are in operation at any event which he or she enters.

The ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee will give a ruling having taken into account all relevant matters.

- ii. A player who has represented, or has been eligible to represent a country and such a country is divided into two or more countries, shall immediately be eligible to represent any one of those countries. A player who has represented, or has been eligible to represent a country and such country is absorbed in whole or in part by another country, shall immediately be eligible to represent such other country.
- iii. A player shall be deemed to have represented a country if he shall have been nominated and shall have accepted the nomination to play in the Paralympic Games Tennis Event or in any other ITF International Team Competition recognised by the ITF.
- iv. A Member Nation may appeal to the Board of Directors to nominate a player who is not eligible under the above Rules and the Board of Directors may agree the application if the full circumstances warrant an exception being made. Such application must be received by the ITF at least six months prior to the event for which the player wishes to be nominated.
- v. The Board of Directors and/or the Organising Committee of the event, have the right to ask a Member Nation to produce evidence to show how a player is qualified to represent that country.

**Note:** A player who represented a country under the Rules of the Federation (as defined in the Articles of Association) in force in 1994 or prior thereto, shall continue to be eligible to represent that country even if he is no longer qualified to do so under the amended terms of this Rule.

**g) Classification and General Eligibility**

Wheelchair Tennis Eligibility

In order to be eligible to play wheelchair tennis, players must meet certain criteria, as set out in Rule IV, 2.

Medical and Fitness Control

All players entering ITF Draws at ITF sanctioned wheelchair tennis events, including the Wheelchair Tennis Tour, the World Team Cup and the Paralympic Games agree, as a condition of entry, to the Tennis Anti-Doping Programme and Fitness Control.

Wheelchair Tennis is a physically demanding sport and it is the player's responsibility to ensure that he is physically and medically fit to participate in any ITF sanctioned wheelchair tennis event, including the Wheelchair Tennis Tour, the World Team Cup and the Paralympic Games.

In case there is any doubt, the Referee may request a medical certificate confirming that the player is medically and physically fit to compete.

Quad Classification

Only Quad Players with E Status are allowed to compete in the World Team Cup. Players who have been protested shall be entitled to continue playing pending the decision of the Wheelchair Tennis Medical Commission on the protest.

**h) Captains' Meeting**

A Captains' Meeting shall be held on the day prior to the commencement of the Competition. All Captains must sign in at the Captains' Meeting in order for their teams to be included in the draw.

**i) Waiver of Claims**

Member Nations entering the Competition agree, as a condition of entry, that no claims may be brought against the Federation or the Host Nation with respect to cancellation, any injuries, however caused, or any losses incurred, if any, while travelling to and from, or participating in the Competition.

## 5. DRAWS AND SEEDING

### a) Entry

A maximum of thirty-two (32) men's teams in two World Groups, sixteen (16) women's teams, eight (8) quad teams and eight (8) junior's teams shall compete in the Main Draw of the Competition.

The entry criteria for competing countries for 2007 will be as follows:-

#### **Men**

- The top twenty-four (24) Nations from the previous year's World Team Cup will receive direct entry. World Group 1 (WG1) will consist of the top 12 nations from the previous year and the winners of the relegation matches between nations 13 & 14 of WG1 versus nations 4 & 3 of World Group 2 (WG2) respectively, plus the winner and runner up of WG2. WG2 will be made up of the losers of the above relegation matches, nations 15 & 16 of WG1 and nations 5-8 of World Group 2 from the previous year. Any withdrawals from direct entries into WG1 or WG2 will be replaced by countries at the discretion of the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee.
- A further eight (8) Nations will receive entry to WG2 through a Wild Card 2 per world region plus 2 extra (to be allocated at the discretion of the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee).

#### **Women**

- The top thirteen (13) Nations of the previous year's World Team Cup will receive direct entry.
- Three (3) Nations will receive entry through a Wild Card (to be allocated at the discretion of the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee).

#### **Quads**

- The top six (6) Nations from the previous year's World Team Cup will receive direct entry.
- A further two (2) Nations will receive entry through a Wild Card (to be allocated at the discretion of the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee).

#### **Juniors under 18**

- The top four (4) Nations from the previous year's World Team Cup will receive direct entry.

- A further four (4) Nations will receive entry through a Wild Card (to be allocated at the discretion of the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee).

**b) The Draw**

The Draw shall be made one (1) day before the commencement of the Competition. Once the Draw has been made, there can be no change, unless a player from a seeded team withdraws prior to the commencement of the Competition and this adversely affects the seeding, in which case, the Referee may request the Committee to adjust the seeding or to make the Draw again.

**c) Seeding**

**Main Draw**

Seeded Nations shall be selected by the Referee based on the latest available ITF Wheelchair Tennis Ranking of the two (2) most highly ranked singles players in each team. In the event of the combined rankings being equal, the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Manager, the Referee and the Tournament Director shall decide. The ITF Junior ranking will be one of the most important factors in the seeding of the Junior event and it will be approved by the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee.

**Men**

In the sixteen (16) team draws, eight (8) may be seeded in WG1 and WG2 and positioned as follows:

- Number 1 shall be placed on line 1; number 2 on line 16.
- Numbers 3 and 4 shall be drawn by lot. The first drawn shall be placed on line 5; the second drawn on line 12.
- Numbers 5 and 6 shall be drawn by lot. The first drawn shall be placed on line 8; the second drawn on line 9.
- Numbers 7 and 8 shall be drawn by lot. The first drawn shall be placed on line 4; the second drawn on line 13.

**Women**

In the sixteen (16) team draw, eight (8) may be seeded and positioned as follows:

- Number 1 shall be placed on line 1; number 2 on line 16.
- Numbers 3 and 4 shall be drawn by lot. The first drawn shall be placed on line 5; the second drawn on line 12.
- Numbers 5 and 6 shall be drawn by lot. The first drawn shall be placed on line 8; the second drawn on line 9.
- Numbers 7 and 8 shall be drawn by lot. The first drawn shall be placed on line 4; the second drawn on line 13.

### **Quads**

In the case of an eight (8) team knock-out draw, four (4) may be seeded and positioned as follows:

- Number 1 shall be placed on line 1; number 2 shall be placed on line 8.
- Numbers 3 and 4 shall be drawn by lot. The first drawn shall be placed on line 3; the second drawn on line 6.

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 1; number 2 shall be placed in pool 2.

By draw will be decided if seeds 3 and 4 will go in pool 1 or 2. The same procedure will be repeated for seeds 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 1; number 2 shall be placed in pool 2.

By draw will be decided if seeds 3 and 4 will go in pool 1 or 2. The same procedure will be repeated for seeds 5 and 6, and seeds 7 and 8.

#### **d) Byes**

If there are any byes they shall be given to those Nations competing in the preliminary round of the competition.

## **6. CONDUCT OF THE COMPETITION**

### **a) Composition of Matches**

Each match shall consist of two (2) singles and one (1) doubles and shall be played on the same court except as provided in Regulation 6(d).

### **b) Order of Play**

The order of play shall be as follows:

Number 2 v Number 2

Number 1 v Number 1

Followed by the doubles match

When a result has been obtained after the singles matches the doubles match shall still be played to obtain the full score except in the case of exceptional circumstances when the ITF

Wheelchair Tennis Manager, the Tournament Director and the Referee, may waive this requirement by unanimous vote. The format of the doubles match shall be a deciding 10-point match tie-break. This tie-break replaces the deciding third set.

In 2009, on a one year trial basis, there will be Match tiebreak for all doubles matches in the Junior and Men WG2 division.

- c) Interval between Singles and Doubles**  
The interval between singles matches shall be decided by the Referee. There shall be an interval of thirty (30) minutes between the singles and doubles matches unless otherwise decided by the Referee. For Quad matches there shall be an interval of forty-five (45) minutes between the singles and doubles matches.
- d) Relocation of Doubles Match**  
The Referee has the discretion to transfer a doubles match to another court.
- e) Notification of Singles Players**  
The Referee shall decide the time by which the Captains shall notify the names of the two (2) singles players.
- f) Notification of Doubles Players**  
Any two (2) members of the team may play any of the doubles matches and the Captain must give their names to the Referee at least twenty (20) minutes before the doubles match starts.
- g) Substitutions**  
In the event that the player is unable to play the match due to illness, injury or bereavement following notification of the name to the Referee, a substitution may be made by the Captain from the final nominated team providing that the player's case is legitimate and the Referee authorises such a substitution. In all cases, the Referee's decision to grant or not to grant substitution shall be final.

A player who does not start their singles match (having been nominated), or who starts their singles match but has to retire due to medical condition, may be allowed to play in the doubles match of the same tie at the discretion of the Referee and the Medical Doctor.
- h) Entitlement to Rest**  
If a player is called upon to play more than one (1) round in one (1) day, the Referee shall decide the entitlement to rest.

**i) Eligibility to Sit on Court**

The Captain of a team, or other member of the team deputising for the Captain, may sit on the court.

**j) Medical Conditions Rule**

The Medical Conditions Rule shall apply (see Appendix C of the Wheelchair Tennis Handbook).

**k) Eligibility to Play**

Only players present at the event and signed in at the Captains' Meeting by their Captains are eligible to play. No medically unfit player will be allowed to be part of the team. If there is any doubt, the Referee may request a medical certificate confirming that the player is medically and physically fit to compete.

**l) Tie-Break Scoring System**

The ITF tie-break scoring system shall operate in all sets when the score reaches six (6) games all.

**m) Method of determining places in the Round Robin**

Each tie will consist of three matches, two singles and one doubles.

The Nation which wins the majority of the matches in the Tie shall be declared the winner, and shall be awarded one point.

- If two Nations score an equal number of points, the head-to-head result between these Nations shall decide the winner
- If three or more Nations score an equal number of points the following procedure shall be used:
  - The number of matches won shall decide the winner
  - If matches won are equal, the percentage of sets won of sets played against all teams in the pool shall decide the winner
  - If percentage of sets won are equal, the percentage of games won of the games played against all teams in the pool shall decide the winner.

When three or more Nations are tied head-to-head results are never used to determine the positions in the Group.

If any match is stopped and not completed for reasons of injury, etc., the full score shall be recorded. Example: Player A leads over Player B by 6-1, 2-0 when player B is injured and unable to continue. Player A's victory shall be recorded as 6-1, 6-0.

If a match is a walk-over the score shall be recorded as 6-0, 6-0.

**n) Court Officials**

There must be a Chair Umpire for every match.

**o) Captains, Player Representatives and Player Relatives**

No captain, representative or relative of a player may at any time, particularly during a tournament or an event into which the player's entry has been accepted, conduct himself in a manner that will reflect unfavorably on the ITF, its tournaments, any player, official or the game of tennis.

Abusive conduct, including conduct directed toward any player, tournament on-court official or spectator, shall be considered a violation of this Rule.

Violations will result in (i) denial of privileges or exclusion of such person from any or all ITF sanctioned wheelchair tennis tournaments; or (ii) such other sanctions as the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee may decide to impose.

**7. CONDITIONS OF PLAY**

Please see Section 15, "Conditions of Play", with the exception of 15 d, f and n of the Wheelchair Tennis Handbook.

**8. PENALTIES**

**a) Team Changes, Withdrawals and No Shows**

**i.** Teams whose entries have been accepted shall not be able to withdraw without risk of penalty.

**ii.** Team withdrawals after the first entry deadline are subject to penalty in the following order determined by the date of the withdrawal:

- A withdrawal within 2 weeks of the competition will be subject to a fine of US\$500 and possible suspension for the following year's event.
- A withdrawal after team nomination (second entry deadline) and over two weeks prior to the competition will be subject to a fine of US\$250 and possible suspension for the following year's event.
- A withdrawal after the first entry deadline and before team nomination (second entry deadline) will be subject to a fine of US\$100.

- iii. In the event that any country does not attend and sign in at the Captains' Meeting prior to the Tournament and have not completed an exempt form for attendance, they risk being taken out of the draw and/or receiving a fine.
- iv. In the event of any 'no-show' by a team, the penalty shall be the forfeit of all entry fees and possible suspension for the following year's event.
- v. A 'no show' by a team and/or player for the draw, official dinner and prize ceremonies, will be treated as 'unsportsmanlike conduct' and will be dealt with under Section VIII 'Code of Conduct' of the Wheelchair Tennis Handbook.
- vi. The ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee shall make all decisions and interpretations concerning the Regulations. Any appeal against the decision or interpretation of the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee shall be referred to the Board of Directors whose decision 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 Protestor. The Board of Directors shall conduct any appeal in whatever manner they deem to be appropriate.
- vii. In the event a team does not complete the competition, the penalty shall be \$1000.

**b) Code of Conduct**

Each team member of each nation that enters and/or participates in the competition shall be bound by and shall comply with the provisions of the Code of Conduct set out in Section VIII of the Wheelchair Tennis Handbook.

**c) Welfare Policy**

Any player that enters and/or participates in the competition, and any Player Support Team Members of any players that enters and/or participates in the competition shall be bound by and shall comply with the provisions of the Welfare Policy set out in Appendix D of the Wheelchair Tennis Handbook.

**d) Default in Payment**

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 Board of Directors shall be the final arbiters in any dispute, and shall decide any appeals.

**d) Failure to Abide by the Regulations**

Any competing Nation who fails to conform to the Regulations may be immediately disqualified and/or shall be liable to have their entry refused for future Competitions until assurances of compliance with the Regulations are given, and subject to any further penalties set out in these Regulations. For offences which do not justify disqualification, the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee may decide that a fine be imposed.

## **9. ARBITRATION**

### **Settlement of On-Site Disputes**

The Referee shall decide any on-site disputes or interpretation in accordance with the Rules of Tennis. He shall also be the final arbiter for penalties imposed under the Code of Conduct unless the Code provides for an appeal to the Federation for that offence.

## **10. ENFORCEMENT OF THE REGULATIONS**

The above Regulations shall be binding on all Nations eligible to compete. The ITF Board of Directors may supersede these Regulations in extraordinary circumstances and may delegate this responsibility to the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Manager, Referee and Tournament Director on site.