

WTA RANKING SYSTEM

VIII. WTA RANKING SYSTEM

A. GENERAL

1. Description

The worldwide computer rankings for women's Professional Tennis ("WTA Rankings") reflect a player's participation and performance in Tournament play and determine player acceptances and seeding for all Tournaments. The WTA Rankings are computed and published weekly by the WTA from its Florida Office.

All Rules in this Section VIII are subject to the Rules in Section VI regarding the WTA Finals.

2. Eligibility

a. Age Requirements

i. Players under the age of 14

Players under the age of 14 cannot obtain a WTA Ranking. If a player under the age of 14 plays singles or doubles in a Tournament, that Tournament and the points acquired during play will not be counted for ranking purposes for that player.

ii. Players aged 14 through 17

If a player plays singles or doubles in a Tournament that exceeds the number permitted to be played under the Age Eligibility Rule (see Section X.A), that Tournament and the points acquired during play will not be counted for ranking purposes for that player.

b. Number of Tournaments

Players must earn (i) ranking points in at least three (3) valid Tournaments, or (ii) a minimum of ten (10) singles ranking points or ten (10) doubles ranking points in one (1) or more valid Tournaments, in order to appear on the WTA Rankings.

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3. Processing of Rankings

- a. WTA 1000 Mandatory, WTA 500, WTA 250, and WTA 125 Tournaments

WTA 1000 Mandatory, WTA 500, WTA 250, and WTA 125 Tournaments are processed on a weekly basis, except that rankings are not processed during two (2)-week events.

- b. WTA Finals

Year-End Rankings are processed immediately after the WTA Finals.

- c. ITF W100, W80, W60, and W40 Events

If an ITF W100, W80, W60, or W40 event is completed by 11:59 p.m. U.S. Eastern time on the Sunday of that week or 11:59 p.m. U.S. Eastern time on the Saturday preceding a Grand Slam event, such Tournament is processed in the current week's rankings.

If the Singles Final only of an ITF W100, W80, W60, or W40 event is not completed by Sunday 11:59 p.m. U.S. Eastern time or Saturday 11:59 p.m. U.S. Eastern time preceding a Grand Slam event, the current week's rankings will include the event results through the semifinals, plus each of the singles finalists will receive finalist points in the current week's rankings. The winner's points will be adjusted in the next rankings.

- d. ITF W25 and W15 Events

ITF W25 and W15 events are processed a minimum of one (1) week following the completion of the tournament.

- e. Points stay valid for 52 weeks from the week in which a Tournament is included in the WTA Rankings totals, except that ranking points a player earns from a WTA Finals drop off upon the Monday after the final WTA Tournament occurring before the start of the following year's WTA Finals.

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4. Tournament Results Comprised in Rankings

a. Singles

i. Tournaments

Subject to the Long-Term Injury Rule and Special Ranking Rule, a player's WTA Singles Ranking is determined by calculating her total ranking points, including any applicable zero (0) ranking point results pursuant to Section II.A, from eighteen (18) Tournament results during a rolling, 52-week period, which must include:

- four (4) Grand Slams;
- six (6) WTA 1000 Mandatory combined/virtually combined Tournaments;
- one (1) WTA 1000 Mandatory Tournament (WTA only);
- best seven (7) results from all WTA 1000 Mandatory, WTA 500, WTA 250, and WTA 125 Tournaments and ITF W15+ events; and
- if she played the WTA Finals, the player's results will be added to her total points as a bonus Tournament.

For each Grand Slam or WTA 1000 Mandatory Tournament that a player is not required to count on her ranking as described below, the number of results from all other Tournaments that count on her ranking is increased by one (1).

(a) Grand Slams and WTA Finals

If a player is accepted into the Main Draw of a Grand Slam or the WTA Finals as a direct acceptance (or would have been a direct acceptance but for a period of ineligibility), as a Qualifier, as a Special Exempt, as a Lucky Loser, or by Special Ranking, her ranking point result (including zero (0) ranking point results) for that Tournament must count on her ranking and remain on her ranking for 52 weeks regardless of whether she participates in that Tournament; provided, however, that if a player enters using her Special Ranking and withdraws before the start of Qualifying, she will not receive a zero (0) ranking point result for that Tournament.

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If a player is accepted into the Main Draw of a Grand Slam by Wild Card, her ranking point result for that Tournament must count on her ranking only if she participates in that Tournament.

(b) WTA 1000 Mandatory Tournaments

Any zero (0) ranking point results received from a WTA 1000 Mandatory Commitment Tournament must count on a player's ranking and remain on her ranking for 52 weeks unless and until she is meeting her WTA 1000 Mandatory Commitment Tournament requirements for that Tour Year.

(c) WTA 500 Tournaments

Any zero (0) ranking point results received from a WTA 500 Commitment Tournament must count on a player's ranking but are replaced once the player has results from a WTA 500 Tournament the following Tour Year.

ii. Long-Term Injury

(a) Definition

A Long-Term Injury is an absence from play in any form of women's professional tennis, including WTA Tournaments, Grand Slams, Billie Jean King Cup, Women's ITF World Tennis Tour events, and any Exhibition/Non-WTA Event ("Professional Tennis") due to a Medical Condition (as defined in Section IV.A.7.a) for at least eight (8) consecutive weeks within the calendar year, counting from the player's last Tournament played.

(b) Qualification

In order to qualify for a Long-Term Injury, if requested a player must submit a WTA Medical Information Form to WTA Operations, which must be written in English, and completed by an accredited physician, indicating the nature of the Medical Condition and verifying that the player is unable to play for at least eight (8) consecutive weeks.

(c) Application of Zero Ranking Point Results

If a player qualifies for a Long-Term Injury,

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- (i) she must count on her ranking all applicable zero (0) ranking point results received from Grand Slams and the WTA Finals;
- (ii) she is not required to count on her ranking any zero (0) ranking point results received from WTA 1000 Mandatory Tournaments that occurred during her Long-Term Injury; and
- (iii) such player's WTA 500 Commitment Tournament requirement is:
 - reduced to a maximum of four (4) WTA 500 Commitment Tournaments if her Long-Term Injury is at least eight (8) consecutive weeks but less than sixteen (16) consecutive weeks within the calendar year;
 - reduced to a maximum of two (2) WTA 500 Commitment Tournaments if her Long-Term Injury is at least sixteen (16) consecutive weeks but less than twenty-six (26) consecutive weeks within the calendar year; and
 - reduced to zero (0) WTA 500 Commitment Tournaments if her Long-Term Injury is at least twenty-six (26) consecutive weeks within the calendar year;

provided, however, that if the player does not participate in Professional Tennis after the US Open of a calendar year (Week 36) because of her Long-Term Injury and subsequently participates in Professional Tennis (including Exhibition/Non-WTA Events) before the second Monday after the completion of the WTA Finals of that calendar year (Week 46), then all zero (0) ranking point results she received after the US Open of that calendar year must count on her ranking.

Note: all zero (0) ranking point results will be applied to a player's ranking per the Rules until the player's absence from play reaches eight (8) consecutive weeks and she meets the qualification requirements in sub-Section (b) above, then the zero (0) ranking point results will be replaced or removed as applicable.

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iii. Lifted Provisional Suspensions

If a player receives a zero (0) ranking point result while provisionally suspended under the Integrity Rules and subsequently the provisional suspension is lifted, then

- (a) she must count on her ranking all applicable zero (0) ranking point results received from Grand Slams; and
- (b) she is not required to count on her ranking any zero (0) ranking point results received from WTA 1000 Mandatory or WTA 500 Tournaments that occurred during her provisional suspension.

b. Doubles

A player's WTA Doubles Ranking is determined by calculating her total points from her best twelve (12) Tournament results during a rolling, 52-week period.

5. Number of Tournament Ranking Points Awarded

The following table details the number of ranking points awarded to players by round, including Qualifying, and by Tournament for both singles and doubles play. See Section VI and Appendix K for ranking points awarded at the WTA Finals and United Cup respectively.

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2024 WTA RANKING POINT CHART SINGLES AND DOUBLES RANKING POINTS BY ROUND												
---- Description ----	W	F	SF	QF	R16	R32	R64	R128	QLFR	Q3	Q2	Q1
Grand Slam (128 Singles)	2000	1300	780	430	240	130	70	10	40	30	20	2
Grand Slam (64 Doubles)	2000	1300	780	430	240	130	10	-	-	-	-	-
WTA 1000 (96M, 48Q) (Singles)	1000	650	390	215	120	65	35	10	30	-	20	2
WTA 1000 (56M, 32Q) (Singles)	1000	650	390	215	120	65	10	-	30	-	20	2
WTA 1000 (32/28D) (Doubles)	1000	650	390	215	120	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
WTA 500 (48M, 24Q) (Singles)	500	325	195	108	60	32	1	-	25	-	13	1
WTA 500 (30/28M, 24/16Q) (Singles)	500	325	195	108	60	1	-	-	25	-	13	1
WTA 500 (24D) (Doubles)	500	325	195	108	60	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
WTA 500 (16D) (Doubles)	500	325	195	108	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WTA 250 (32M, 24/16Q) (Singles)	250	163	98	54	30	1	-	-	18	-	12	1
WTA 250 (16D) (Doubles)	250	163	98	54	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WTA 125 (32M, 16Q) (Singles)	125	81	49	27	15	1	-	-	6	-	4	1
WTA 125 (32M, 8Q) (Singles)	125	81	49	27	15	1	-	-	6	-	-	1
WTA 125 (16D) (Doubles)	125	81	49	27	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WTA 125 (8D) (Doubles)	125	81	49	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ITF WTT EVENTS												
W100 (32M, 32Q) (Singles)	100	65	39	21	12	1	-	-	5	-	3	-
W100 (48M, 32/24Q) (Singles)	100	65	39	21	12	7	1	-	5	-	3	-
W100 (16D) (Doubles)	100	65	39	21	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W75 (32M, 32Q) (Singles)	75	49	29	16	9	1	-	-	3	-	2	-
W75 (48M, 32/24Q) (Singles)	75	49	29	16	9	5	1	-	3	-	2	-
W75 (16D) (Doubles)	75	49	29	16	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W50 (32M, 32Q) (Singles)	50	33	20	11	6	1	-	-	2	-	1	-
W50 (48M, 32/24Q) (Singles)	50	33	20	11	6	3	1	-	2	-	1	-
W50 (16D) (Doubles)	50	33	20	11	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W35 (32M, 64/48/32/24Q) (Singles)	35	23	14	8	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
W35 (48M, 32/24Q) (Singles)	35	23	14	8	4	2	1	-	1	-	-	-
W35 (16D) (Doubles)	35	23	14	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W15 (32M, 64/48/32/24Q) (Singles)	15	10	6	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W15 (16D) (Doubles)	15	10	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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B. RULES AND PROCEDURES

1. Ranking Order

Players are ranked on the basis of their total ranking points in accordance with Section VIII.A.

2. Ranking Points Generally

- a. Players are awarded ranking points for the highest round they reach.
- b. Players who receive Wild Cards receive the same ranking points as any other player.
- c. Qualifiers earn Main Draw ranking points based on the highest round reached in the Main Draw plus the ranking points specified in the Qualifier (QLFR) column on the ranking points table in Section VIII.A.5, except that:
 - i. Qualifiers who have not played a match in the Qualifying Draw and advance to the Main Draw will receive only Main Draw points.
 - ii. Qualifiers who lose in the first round of the Main Draw will receive only Qualifier points.
- d. Lucky Losers earn Main Draw ranking points based on the highest round reached in the Main Draw plus the ranking points earned in Qualifying, unless they lose in the first round of the Main Draw, in which case they receive only the ranking points earned in Qualifying.

3. Withdrawals, Byes, Walkovers, and Defaults

- a. Withdrawals
 - i. Singles
 - (a) If a player withdraws or is withdrawn automatically from a Tournament before playing her first match, she will not receive ranking points unless it is a Grand Slam or a Commitment Tournament, in which case she will receive zero (0) points and the Tournament will count on her ranking.
 - (b) If a player withdraws from a Tournament after the start of her first match, she will receive ranking points for reaching

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the round in which she withdrew, except that a Qualifier who withdraws in the first round of the Main Draw will receive only Qualifier points.

- ii. Doubles
 - (a) If a team withdraws from a Tournament before playing their first match, they will not receive ranking points.
 - (b) If a doubles team withdraws from a Tournament after the start of their first match, they will receive ranking points as follows:
 - (i) the non-withdrawing partner will receive ranking points per the round her partner withdrew; and
 - (ii) the partner causing the withdrawal will receive ranking points from the previous round, unless one of the following apply, in which case the withdrawing partner will receive ranking points per the round she withdrew:
 - the player withdraws/retires from a singles match which was scheduled during the same Tournament;
 - the player is declared unfit to play singles or doubles at the same Tournament;
 - the player also withdraws from playing singles in a Tournament to be held the following week at the time she withdraws from doubles; or
 - the player does not play singles in a tennis event the following week.
 - (iii) The team will receive points per the round they withdrew towards their Final Race Standings.
- b. Byes
 - i. If a player or team receives one (1) or more consecutive byes and loses her/their first match played, the player or team will receive first round losers' points.
 - ii. If a player or team receives one (1) or more consecutive byes and defaults or withdraws from her/their first match, the player or team will not receive ranking points unless it is a WTA

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1000 Mandatory Tournament, Grand Slam, or Commitment Tournament, in which case she will receive zero (0) points and the Tournament will count on her ranking.

c. Walkovers

- i. If a player or team receives a walkover in the first round, and there is no Alternate or Lucky Loser to take the spot, the player or team will receive ranking points from the round preceding her/their elimination.
- ii. If a player or team receives a walkover in a subsequent round without having yet played a match, the player or team will receive ranking points from the round preceding her/their elimination.
- iii. If a player or team receives a walkover in any round except the first round after having played and won a match, the player or team will receive ranking points for the round reached.

d. Defaults

For any disciplinary default occurring in a Tournament after the match begins,

- i. The advancing player or team will receive ranking points for the round reached; and
- ii. The defaulting player or team will lose all ranking points earned for that event at that Tournament, except that if one member of a doubles team did not cause the default, she will receive ranking points from the previous round.

4. Tournament Cancellation or Early Termination

a. Tournament Cancellation Without Play Occurring

If the singles or doubles event of a Tournament is cancelled, and there has been no play, players will not receive any ranking points.

b. Tournament Cancellation After Play Has Begun

If play has commenced and is terminated before the first round is completed, players will not receive any ranking points. However, if the first round has been completed, all players will receive ranking points earned through the last completed round.

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c. Tournament Cancellation Without Completion of Finals

If a Tournament is officially terminated before the finals have been completed, each finalist will receive finalist's ranking points.

5. Tie-breaking Procedures

a. Singles

When two (2) or more players have the same number of ranking points, the tie for the ranking position will be decided according to the following priorities:

- i. The player with the most combined total points from Grand Slams, WTA 1000 Mandatory Tournaments, and the WTA Finals;
- ii. The player with the most total points from all WTA Tournaments (including the WTA Finals) and Grand Slams;
- iii. The player with the fewest number of Tournaments in a 52-week period (counting any Tournaments for which she received a zero (0) ranking point result); and
- iv. The highest number of points from one (1) Tournament, then if needed, the second highest and so on.

b. Doubles

When two (2) or more players have the same number of ranking points, the tie for the ranking position will be decided according to the following priorities:

- i. If two (2) of the players have the same ranking points and they earned their best eleven (11) doubles results in the previous 52-week period as a team, then the players will be tied for the same ranking position based on those best eleven (11) doubles results in that 52-week period;
- ii. The player with the most total points from all WTA and Grand Slam Tournaments, including the WTA Finals;
- iii. The player with the fewest number of Tournaments in a 52-week period; and

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- iv. The highest number of points from one (1) Tournament, then if needed, the second highest and so on.

If the results of all tie-breaks under a or b are the same, the rank for such players will be considered tied for that ranking position. The WTA Rankings will list the tied players alphabetically, last name followed by first name. If both the first and last names are the same, the players will be listed according to whichever player is encountered first during the ranking process.

6. Clarification of Ranking Points Rules and Procedures

For further information contact:

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C. WTA SPECIAL RANKING RULE

1. Definitions

Unless the context otherwise requires, the following capitalized terms in this Section VIII.C have the following meanings:

- a. "Additional Seed" means a player in the Main Draw who does not play another seeded player in the first-round of that draw.
- b. "Medical Condition" means a medical illness or a musculoskeletal injury that warrants medical evaluation or medical treatment.
- c. "Out of Competition" means:
 - i. not participating in any Tennis Event other than an Exhibition/ Non-WTA Event for which a player was granted a waiver pursuant to sub-Section 6 below; and
 - ii. not competing in any other organized sport.
- d. "Out-of-Competition Period" means a period during which a player is Out of Competition because of a Medical Condition, Pregnancy, or Parental Start for a minimum of twenty-six (26) weeks, which for a particular player is calculated using the last day of the last Tennis Event that she played or at which she received prize money, whichever is later, and the date of her Return to Competition.

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A player may not count any period of suspension or period of ineligibility for violation of the Rules, TADP, or TACP toward her Out-of-Competition Period.

- e. "Parental Start" means adoption, surrogacy, or becoming the legal guardian of a person under the age of eighteen (18).
- f. "Pregnancy" means the medically-diagnosed condition of being pregnant.
- g. "Return to Competition" means the earlier of:
 - i. playing or competing in
 - (a) any Tennis Event other than an Exhibition/Non-WTA Event for which a player was granted a waiver pursuant to sub-Section 6 below; or
 - (b) any other organized sport; or
 - ii. acceptance into a Tournament using a Special Ranking and subsequently using a Prize Money Withdrawal; or
 - iii. for a Special Ranking for a Parental Start, the date that is 52 weeks after the beginning of a player's original Out-of-Competition Period; or
 - iv. the date that is 104 weeks after:
 - (a) for a Special Ranking for a Medical Condition, the beginning of a player's original Out-of-Competition Period; or
 - (b) for a Special Ranking for Pregnancy, the end of the Pregnancy.
- h. "Special Ranking" means a player's ranking as of the WTA Rankings published immediately after:
 - i. the points of the last Tournament she played before her Out-of-Competition Period began have been added to the WTA Rankings (see Section VIII.A.3 – Processing of Rankings); or
 - ii. the last Tennis Event she played or at which she received prize money, whichever is later, before her Out-of-Competition Period began.

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- i. "Special Ranking Application" has the meaning that Section VIII.C.3.a assigns to that term.
- j. "Special Ranking Period" has the meaning that Section VIII.C.5.b.ii assigns to that term.
- k. "Tennis Event" means any WTA Tournament, Grand Slam, ITF (including World Tennis Tour and Billie Jean King Cup) event, Olympic or Olympic Qualification event, or Exhibition/Non-WTA Event, regardless of whether ranking points are awarded.

Unless the context otherwise requires, all other capitalized terms in this Section VIII.C have the meanings that these Rules assign to those terms.

2. Eligibility

To be eligible for a Special Ranking in either singles or doubles, a player must:

- a. have an Out-of-Competition Period;
- b. have a WTA Ranking of 1-750 in singles or doubles immediately after the points of the last Tournament she played have been added to the WTA Rankings (see Section VIII.A.3 – Processing of Rankings);
- c. submit documentation of a Medical Condition, Parental Start, or Pregnancy in accordance with this Section VIII.C.

For clarity, unless granted a waiver to participate in an Exhibition/Non-WTA Event pursuant to sub-Section 6 below, if a player participates in a Tennis Event or competes in any other organized sport within twenty-six (26) weeks of the purported start of her Out-of-Competition Period, she is not eligible for a Special Ranking.

3. Application Procedure and Timing

a. Application

To apply for a Special Ranking, a player must submit the following documentation ("Special Ranking Application") in English to WTA Operations for approval:

- i. a completed and signed Special Ranking application form;
- ii. a public release statement;

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- iii. if applicable, medical documentation, including:
 - (a) the diagnosis of the Medical Condition or Pregnancy;
 - (b) a copy of clinical visit documentation;
 - (c) physician's notes/documentation; and
 - (d) all relevant laboratory tests and applicable surgical reports;
and
- iv. if applicable, evidence (e.g., legal documentation) demonstrating the Parental Start.

WTA in its sole discretion reserves the right to require a player to submit additional documentation to verify the Medical Condition, Parental Start, or Pregnancy. If a player is applying for a Special Ranking for more than one (1) Medical Condition or for a combination of a Medical Condition(s) and a Parental Start or Pregnancy, she must submit documentation for each Medical Condition and Parental Start or Pregnancy.

b. Timing

Each player applying for a Special Ranking must submit her Special Ranking Application:

- i. within twenty-six (26) weeks after the start of her Out-of-Competition Period; and
- ii. at least thirty (30) calendar days before the entry deadline for the first Tournament that she wants to enter using her Special Ranking.

4. Requests for Subsequent Status Reports and Documentation Handling

WTA may request subsequent medical and legal (as applicable) status reports written in English, and if a player fails to comply promptly with such requests, the WTA may revoke her Special Ranking. WTA will keep all medical and legal documentation confidential.

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5. Usage Criteria and Guidelines

a. Number of Tournaments

A player whose Out-of-Competition Period is at least twenty-six weeks but less than thirty-nine (39) weeks may use her Special Ranking in up to eight (8) Tournaments (singles or doubles, as applicable). A player whose Out-of-Competition Period is at least thirty-nine (39) weeks but less than fifty-two (52) weeks may use her Special Ranking in up to ten (10) Tournaments (singles or doubles, as applicable). A player whose Out-of-Competition Period is fifty-two (52) weeks or longer may use her Special Ranking in twelve (12) Tournaments (singles or doubles, as applicable).

A player may use her Special Ranking to participate in a maximum of five (5) WTA 1000 Mandatory Tournaments and two (2) Grand Slams as part of her maximum Tournaments to use her Special Ranking, and she may use her Special Ranking to participate in each WTA 1000 Mandatory Tournament and Grand Slam only one (1) time per Special Ranking.

b. Timing

- i. The earliest a player's Return to Competition may occur is in a match scheduled during the same calendar week in which her Out-of-Competition Period reaches twenty-six (26) weeks.
- ii. A player has fifty-two (52) weeks from the date of her Return to Competition to use her Special Ranking ("Special Ranking Period").
- iii. The latest a player may use her Special Ranking is at a Tournament scheduled the same calendar week in which her Special Ranking expires.
- iv. If a player has both singles and doubles Special Rankings, her Return to Competition for both Special Rankings begins at the same time.

c. Procedures

i. Special Ranking Freeze Petition

(a) Subsequent Medical Condition

If any player's Return to Competition occurs and before

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her Special Ranking expires she subsequently is Out of Competition for a minimum of thirteen (13) weeks because of a Medical Condition, she may request to “freeze” her Special Ranking Period by completing and submitting another Special Ranking Application; provided, however, that regardless of any “freeze,” a player’s Special Ranking expires no later than the date that is 156 weeks after:

- (i) for a Special Ranking originally for a Medical Condition or Parental Start, the beginning of a player’s original Out-of-Competition Period; and
- (ii) for a Special Ranking originally for Pregnancy, the end of the Pregnancy.

(b) Subsequent Pregnancy or Parental Start

If before a player’s Special Ranking expires (but regardless of whether her Return to Competition has occurred) she subsequently is Out of Competition for Pregnancy or a Parental Start, she may complete and submit another Special Ranking Application to request either:

- (i) to “freeze” her Special Ranking Period for her current Special Ranking until the date that is 104 weeks after the end of her Pregnancy or 52 weeks after the beginning of her Out-of-Competition Period for a Parental Start; or
- (ii) a new Special Ranking.

(c) Restrictions

- (i) A player may not “freeze” her Special Ranking during any period of suspension for violation of the Rules, TADP, or TACP.
- (ii) A player may “freeze” her Special Ranking Period a maximum of two (2) times per Special Ranking. Upon a player’s second and third Return to Competition, she will have the same number of Tournaments and the same time remaining in her Special Ranking Period and the same number of Tournaments remaining in which to use her eligibility as an Additional Seed as she had when the “freeze” went into effect.

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ii. Tournament Entry and Acceptance

A player must submit all requests to use her Special Ranking to enter WTA Tournaments, Grand Slams, or Women's ITF World Tennis Tour events to WTA Operations by the applicable WTA or Grand Slam entry deadline or by the Monday prior to the applicable ITF entry deadline. The WTA will not accept requests submitted after entry deadlines.

A player may use her Special Ranking and actual WTA Ranking interchangeably for singles entry and Doubles Advance Entry, but she may not change the ranking she uses to enter a Tournament after that Tournament's entry deadline; provided, however, that if a player enters a WTA Tournament, a Grand Slam, or Women's ITF World Tennis Tour event with her Special Ranking and she would have been accepted into that Tournament using her actual WTA Ranking as of the completion of the first round of Qualifying (or if no Qualifying, then as of the completion of the first round of Main Draw), then her Special Ranking entry will not count towards her maximum Tournaments to use her Special Ranking. If multiple players with the same WTA Ranking enter the same Tournament, the player using her actual WTA Ranking will be accepted before the player using her Special Ranking.

(a) All WTA Tournaments

If a player has both a singles and doubles Special Ranking and she uses her singles Special Ranking for on-site entry into the doubles competition of a WTA Tournament, it will not count toward her maximum allowed singles entries at Tournaments using her singles Special Ranking (but will count toward her maximum allowed doubles entries at Tournaments using a Special Ranking). If a player uses her singles Special Ranking to enter singles (Main Draw or Qualifying) and doubles at the same WTA Tournament, such entries count as one (1) of her maximum allowed singles entries and as one (1) of her maximum allowed doubles entries at Tournaments under the Special Ranking Rule. If a player only has a singles Special Ranking and she uses it for on-site entry into the doubles competition of a WTA Tournament, it will count toward both her maximum allowed singles entries and her maximum allowed doubles entries at Tournaments using her singles Special Ranking.

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(b) WTA 1000 Mandatory Tournaments

If a player enters and is accepted into the singles Main Draw of a WTA 1000 Mandatory Tournament using her Special Ranking and she subsequently withdraws after the applicable withdrawal deadline in Section VIII.C.5.e below, she will receive zero (0) ranking points for the Tournament, which must count as one (1) of her best sixteen (16) Tournament results in calculating her WTA Ranking.

If a player has a Special Ranking, her Return to Competition has not yet occurred, and her actual WTA Ranking automatically enters her into a 2-week WTA 1000 Mandatory Tournament, then:

- (i) her Return to Competition may occur at a WTA 125 Tournament or Women's ITF World Tennis Tour event during the second week of that WTA 1000 Mandatory Tournament; and
- (ii) she will not be subject to any Late Withdrawal fines or any prohibition against withdrawing from one Tournament to play another (see Section IV.A) for her failure to play that WTA 1000 Mandatory Tournament, except that she will receive zero (0) ranking points for the Tournament, which must count as one (1) of her best sixteen (16) Tournament results in calculating her WTA Ranking.

(c) WTA Finals

A player may not qualify for the WTA Finals using a Special Ranking.

(d) Grand Slams

A player may use her singles Special Ranking to enter doubles and/or mixed doubles at a Grand Slam, which will not count toward her two (2) allowed singles entries at Grand Slams using her singles Special Ranking (but will count toward her two (2) allowed doubles entries at Grand Slams using a Special Ranking).

If a player uses her singles or doubles Special Ranking to enter only mixed doubles at a Grand Slam, such entry counts as one (1) of her two (2) allowed doubles entries at Grand Slams under the Special Ranking Rule. If a player uses her

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singles or doubles Special Ranking to enter doubles and mixed doubles at the same Grand Slam, such entries count as one (1) of her two (2) allowed doubles entries at Grand Slams under the Special Ranking Rule.

If a player enters the singles Main Draw of a Grand Slam using her Special Ranking and she subsequently withdraws after the applicable withdrawal deadline in Section VIII.C.5.e below, she will receive zero (0) ranking points for the Grand Slam, which must count as one (1) of her best sixteen (16) Tournament results in calculating her WTA Ranking.

(e) Olympics

A player may use her Special Ranking for acceptance into the Olympic tennis event, which will count as one (1) of her maximum Tournaments to use her Special Ranking.

d. Automatic Entry into WTA 1000 Mandatory Tournament

WTA does not automatically enter a player into a WTA 1000 Mandatory Tournament using her Special Ranking. To enter a WTA 1000 Mandatory Tournament using her Special Ranking, a player must notify WTA Operations in writing before the applicable entry deadline.

e. Tournament Withdrawal

If a player is accepted into a Tournament using her Special Ranking but withdraws from singles or doubles by any method other than a Prize Money Withdrawal, then the Tournament will not count as one (1) of her maximum Tournaments to use her Special Ranking, but she is subject to all withdrawal requirements, any applicable Late Withdrawal or No-Show fines, and any resulting zero (0) ranking point results on her WTA Rankings.

f. Wild Cards

If a player is accepted into a Tournament using her Special Ranking, she may accept a Wild Card into such Tournament before 4:00 p.m. tournament local time on the day of the Qualifying Sign-In.

g. Seeding

A player's Special Ranking may qualify her as an Additional Seed at any WTA Tournament according to this Section; provided, however,

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that regardless of any “freeze,” a player’s eligibility as an Additional Seed expires no later than the date that is: (i) for a Special Ranking originally for a Medical Condition, 156 weeks after the beginning of a player’s original Out-of-Competition Period; (ii) for a Special Ranking originally for Pregnancy, 156 weeks after the end of the Pregnancy; and (iii) for a Special Ranking originally for a Parental Start, 104 weeks after the beginning of a player’s original Out-of-Competition Period.

i. Singles

Upon a player’s Return to Competition, if she is accepted into the singles Main Draw of a WTA Tournament, her singles Special Ranking is 1-100, and her Special Ranking would qualify her for seeding in the draw (regardless of whether she was accepted using her Special Ranking), then she will be an Additional Seed in the draw, subject to the procedures below and in Section V.A.6.c.ii:

- (a) A player is eligible as an Additional Seed only at the first eight (8) WTA Tournaments after her Return to Competition;
- (b) Only singles Main Draws of 28, 30, 32, 56, 60, and 64 may contain Additional Seeds; singles Main Draws of 48 and 96 cannot contain Additional Seeds; and
- (c) If an Additional Seed withdraws after the draw is made, then the next player eligible to move into the draw (i.e., Qualifier, Lucky Loser, or Alternate as applicable) takes the open position.

ii. Doubles

Upon a player’s Return to Competition, if her team is accepted into the doubles Main Draw of a WTA Tournament, her doubles Special Ranking is 1-50, and her doubles Special Ranking combined with her partner’s doubles ranking would qualify her team for seeding in the draw (regardless of whether she was accepted using her doubles Special Ranking), then her team will be an Additional Seed in the draw, subject to the procedures below and in Section V.A.6.c.ii:

- (a) A player’s team is eligible as an Additional Seed only at the first eight (8) WTA Tournaments after her Return to Competition;

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- (b) Only doubles draws of 16, 28, and 32 may contain Additional Seeds; doubles draws of 8 cannot contain Additional Seeds; and
- (c) If an Additional Seed withdraws after the draw is made, then the next team eligible to move into the draw takes the open position.

iii. Tournament Withdrawal

If a player is eligible as an Additional Seed but withdraws from singles or doubles by any method other than a Prize Money Withdrawal, then the Tournament will not count as one (1) of the eight (8) Tournaments at which she can be an Additional Seed.

h. Lucky Loser Status

A player's actual WTA Ranking, not her Special Ranking, determines her Lucky Loser position or status.

i. Top 10 Players

Special Rankings will not be used to determine Top 10 Players.

j. Player Responsibilities

i. Upon Return to Competition

Upon her Return to Competition, a player must report to the WTA the first Tennis Event in which she participates.

ii. Tracking Tournament Usage

Each player is responsible for tracking the Tournaments in which she uses her Special Ranking. If a player exceeds the maximums in this Section VIII.C, she will forfeit any ranking points she earned at all WTA Tournaments, Grand Slams, and Women's ITF World Tennis Tour events in which she used her Special Ranking that exceed those maximums.

k. Missed Tournament Ranking Point Replacement

A player who during her Out-of-Competition Period misses any Tournament(s) that must count as one (1) of her best eighteen (18)

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Tournament results in calculating her WTA Ranking may replace any zero (0) ranking point results for such Tournament(s) with the results she obtains at Tournaments after her Return to Competition only after she has eighteen (18) Tournaments comprising her WTA Singles Ranking.

I. Abuse of Special Ranking

If at any time WTA determines in its sole discretion that a player has abused or is abusing her Special Ranking status, WTA has the authority to (i) revoke the player's Special Ranking; (ii) revoke any ranking points the player earned from the abuse of her Special Ranking status; and (iii) penalize the player under Section XVII.D.13.b. A player is entitled to appeal any penalty issued under this Section VIII.C.5.I in accordance with Section XVII.D.13.c and Section XVII.G, as applicable.

6. Exhibition/Non-WTA Event Waiver

Any Player subject to this Special Ranking Rule may apply to the WTA for a waiver to participate in one (1) Exhibition/Non-WTA Event (as defined in Section XVII.E) that will not restart her Out-of-Competition Period or start her Return to Competition, which application the WTA may grant in its sole and absolute discretion. A player must submit a waiver request, applicable medical documentation, and medical clearance from her doctor. All materials are requested thirty (30) days in advance but must be received by the WTA no later than one (1) day prior to the Exhibition/Non-WTA Event.

The WTA may consider such waiver requests according to the individual circumstances presented. In considering whether to grant a waiver, the WTA may take into account, among other factors, (i) the current length of a player's Out-of-Competition Period, (ii) the timing of the Exhibition/Non-WTA Event in comparison to the player's planned Return to Competition, and (iii) the format of the Exhibition/Non-WTA Event, the number of days over which it is scheduled, and the number of matches the player is likely to play. As a general rule, waivers may be granted more freely in cases of bona fide charity events, bona fide team competitions, events with Pro-Am formats, and events with non-traditional tennis scoring.

Players ranked 1-50 are also subject to Section XVII.E – Exhibition/Non-WTA Event Rule.