

WORLD CUP REGULATIONS 2021

Note: 2020 Regional Cups will be part of the qualification system for the 2021 World Cup. Regulations for these Regional Cups shall be communicated separately.

1. The Competition

a. Title

The Competition, an international mixed team competition, shall be called the “ITF Beach Tennis World Cup” (“World Cup”).

b. Ownership

The World Cup shall be owned by and under the direction and control of the ITF.

c. Nations Eligible

The World Cup shall be open only to Member National Associations of the ITF.

d. The Final

The leading sixteen (16) Nations shall participate in the Final based on the following regional distribution of places:

Africa:	2
Asia	2
Oceania:	1
Europe:	6
North/Central America & Caribbean:	2
South America:	2
Wild Cards:	1

Results achieved at the Regional Cup(s) in the previous year, where held, will determine the teams qualified, subject to entry, for the Final. If Regional Cup(s) are not staged, entered teams will be selected based on merit (i.e. the combined ranking of the nominated male and female players).

Replacement System

Where one or more regional place(s) is not taken up, or where a Nation withdraws from the Final, any unfilled place(s) shall be offered to (in the following order):

- (a) The highest placed nation(s) in their Regional Cup not already qualified (i.e. final standing of the Regional Cup(s));
- (b) The highest placed nation(s) from that region based on merit (i.e. the combined ranking of the nominated two (2) best males and two (2) best female players);
- (c) The highest placed nation(s) from any region based on merit (i.e. the combined ranking of the nominated two (2) best males and two (2) best female players);

The Committee reserves the right to adjust the draw size for the Final and to adjust the regional distribution of places accordingly.

e. Format

The format of play shall be knockout and/or round-robin, as determined by the Committee, with placement ties arranged to rank all teams in the Final from one (1) to sixteen (16).

f. Entry Fee

The Entry Fee as well as conditions of payment, including payment deadline and conditions of refund, shall be published in the Fact Sheet and/or Entry Form. Failure to meet the conditions of payment may result in a nation's entry to the World Cup being rejected.

Any Nation that fails to pay all, or part of [the Entry Fee] for its team's participation in a previous edition of the World Cup shall not be entitled to participate in any future edition of the World Cup until such payment is made in full.

g. Rankings

ITF Beach Tennis World Ranking points will be awarded to players based on their team's final standing for that year.

To receive Ranking points, a player must have played a minimum of one (1) doubles match (decisive or non-decisive).

See Appendix B "Tournament categories and ranking points" of the ITF Beach Tennis World Tour Regulations for available points.

h. Approval/cancellation

The ITF reserves the right to refuse approval of or cancel any previously sanctioned World Cup for reasons of health, safety, security or any other potential threat to any persons attending the World Cup or to the successful running of the World Cup, without any liability on behalf of the Applicant, National Association, Tournament/Host Organiser or the ITF (for the avoidance of doubt, the ITF, the Applicant, National Association and/or the Tournament/Host Organiser will not be liable to any Players or any other persons or entities for any costs that they might have incurred in relation to such cancelled World Cups, including, without limitation, any transport and/or accommodation costs). This decision will be made on behalf of the ITF by the Beach Tennis Committee and may be appealed to the Independent Tribunal.

2. Composition of Teams

Each team shall consist of a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of three (3) male players and a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of three (3) female players. Each nation may nominate an additional non-playing Captain or may nominate a playing member of their team as Captain.

3. Entry and Nomination of Teams

Entry and Nomination of players, and the Captain, must be received by the ITF no later than ten (10) weeks before the scheduled first day of play of the World Cup.

4. Change of Nomination

Two (2) of the nominated players may be changed up to one (1) hour before the Draw. For the avoidance of doubt, adding (rather than replacing) a nominated Player (e.g. adding a third player when only two were nominated previously) before the Nomination deadline constitutes a change of nomination. The nomination of a non-playing Captain may be changed up to one (1) hour before the Draw.

Any changes to team nominations must be notified by the Nation to the Referee, and the Referee will notify the Captain(s) of the other Nation(s) participating in the Tie/Event.

The ITF shall take such changes into account when determining the final seedings.

5. Passports

The Captain shall present passports of all team members, and shall present photo identification, including date of birth, for himself/herself, to the Referee prior to the start of the Captains' Meeting. Failure to present passports by the time determined by the Referee may render a team liable to disqualification.

6. The Captain

a. Expectations

The Captain shall be allowed to sit on court beside the chair of his/her team, but he/she may not move away from that area and in particular may not cross net to the opposite side of the court. Apart from his/her team, he/she may talk to the Chair Umpire and, in the case of an appeal on a question of tennis law, to the Referee. He/she may not talk to any Line Umpires. If the Captain is unable to fulfil his/her duties on court he/she may be replaced by a Captain officially nominated by the National Association concerned and at the National Association's cost.

b. Disciplinary

The Referee shall have the following power and discretion in relation to the Captain:

- (i) he/she may give a formal warning and, after two warnings, may remove him/her from his/her duties for the match in course and/or for any and all of the remaining matches of that World Cup, in which case the Captain may only be replaced by a member of the nominated team. The Referee may remove the Captain without a formal warning for a single incident of misconduct, if in his/her discretion, it is warranted; and/or
- (ii) remove the Captain's accreditation, order his/her removal from the site, and/or order continued denial of access for a specified period of time or for the remainder of the competition. However, prior to removal of accreditation, removal from the site and/or denial of access to the site, the Referee must use his/her best efforts to obtain the approval of the ITF Executive Director.

In addition to removal, the Captain may be subject to the applicable provisions and penalties under the Code of Conduct.

The Captain must be a minimum of 24 years of age prior to the end of the calendar year in which the World Cup is played.

7. Eligibility

Team members, including the Captain, must meet the requirements set out in Appendix A 'The Players' of the ITF Beach Tennis World Tour Regulations.

8. Withdrawals and Disqualifications

8.1. Any team that:

- (a) withdraws its entry less than twenty-eight (28) days prior to the scheduled first day of play; or fails to play all its matches, including consolation or placement ties; or

(b) is disqualified for an offence committed under the Beach Tennis Code of Conduct or Welfare Policy during a Regional Cup or the Final

will be referred to the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel for disciplinary action in accordance with Regulation 8 below.

8.2. Withdrawals shall be replaced in accordance with the replacement system at Regulation 1(d) above.

8.3. If a team that otherwise would have qualified for the Final is disqualified for an offence committed in a Regional Cup then that team shall be replaced in the Final in accordance with the replacement system at Regulation 1(d).

8. Failure to abide by the Regulations

Where a matter is referred to the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel under these Regulations, the Panel may impose one or more of the following sanctions:

- (a) a caution, reprimand and/or warning as to future conduct;
- (b) a fine payable by a specified date;
- (c) disqualification/expulsion from the World Cup and/or any specific matches, and/or stages in the World Cup, with all resulting consequences;
- (d) disqualification from the next edition of the World Cup, with all resulting consequences;
- (e) such other sanction(s) as the Panel deems appropriate.

9. Conduct of the Competition

a. Composition of Tie

Each tie shall consist of three (3) doubles and shall be played consecutively on the same court, except as provided in Regulation 9.c.

b. Order of Matches

The order of matches in each tie shall be Women's Doubles followed by Men's Doubles followed by Mixed Doubles. The Men's Doubles match may be played first if both Captains are in agreement, and they notify the Referee in person a minimum of sixty (60) minutes before the tie is scheduled to start.

The matches shall be played as soon as possible after the earlier rubber / tie with maximum time of 15 minutes between matches.

When a result has been obtained following the Women's and Men's Doubles matches, the Mixed Doubles will still be played to obtain the full score except in exceptional circumstances.

c. Relocation of Doubles Match

The Referee has the discretion to transfer a doubles match to another court.

b. Notification of Doubles Players

The Referee shall receive from the Captains, not later than sixty (60) minutes before the scheduled start of play each day, the names of the Women's, Men's and Mixed Doubles

pairings. The Mixed Doubles pairing may be altered by the Captain after the completion of the second doubles match by formal application to the Referee, to be submitted no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the end of the second doubles match. In all cases the Referee's decision to allow or not allow an altered Mixed Doubles pairing is final.

e. Substitutions

If a player is unable to play his/her match due to health or injury or bereavement following notification of his/her name to the Referee, a substitution may be made by the Captain from the final nominated team providing the official doctor/trainer is in agreement that the player's case is legitimate and the Referee authorizes such a substitution. In all cases the Referee's decision to allow or not allow a substitution is final.

f. Match Format

Each match in the Main Draw will be the best of three sets: two tie-break sets with a match tie-break (10 points) in the third set should the score reach one set all, unless otherwise approved by the ITF.

Non-decisive Mixed Doubles matches, (main draw and play-off) if played, shall be best of three short sets (as set out in Appendix VI in the ITF Rules of Beach Tennis).

g. Seeding

The number of seeded nations shall be in accordance with the ITF Beach Tennis World Tour Regulations.

Seeding shall be determined by the combined ranking of the nominated two (2) best male and two (2) best female players in each team using the latest available Rankings at the time of the draw.

h. Team Identification

All players in a team must wear predominantly the same colour during all matches.

i. Wild Card

The selection of the Wild Card(s) will be determined by the ITF Beach Tennis Committee which will consider applications from host nations (not directly qualified from regional cups), nations with highly ranked players and those new to / investing heavily in Beach Tennis and whose inclusion will be beneficial to the global spread of Beach Tennis.