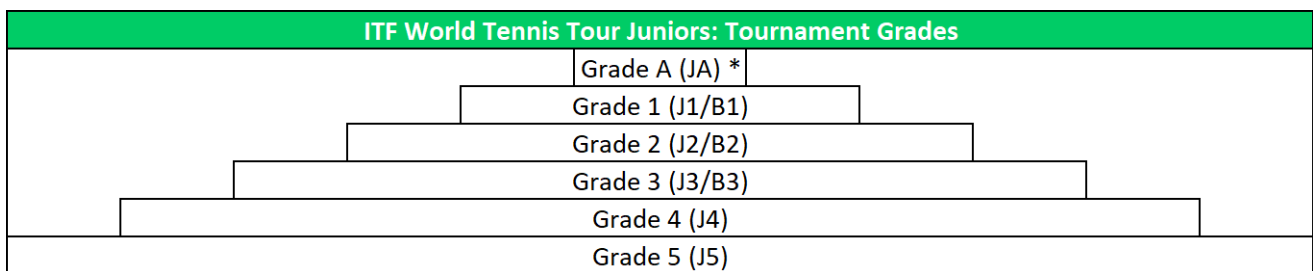


## ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors Grading Criteria

The purpose of this document is to set out the tournament grading structure to be applied to all ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors tournaments taking place from January 2022 and will impact on tournament grading for 2023. Advanced notice is being provided to National Associations and Tournament Organisers to allow for the criteria to be understood in advance of each tournament taking place.

### Background & Context

In general, all ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors (WTTJ) tournaments retain the same week in the Calendar from one year to the next unless a week change is requested by the National Association and approved by the ITF. Each tournament is allocated a grade which recognises the strength and delivery standards of the tournament, and which corresponds to the value of ranking points on offer to participants. The ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors consists of the following grades:



\*Includes Junior Grand Slams, Youth Olympics and WTT Junior Finals which each offer a higher value of ranking points than a Grade A (JA) tour event.

Tournament numbers have increased considerably in recent years, from 397 in 2015, to 642 in 2019. This includes a significant increase of Grade 5 (J5) tournaments since 2015. This grading criteria aims to provide a robust, fair, and balanced calendar of tournaments on a national, regional, and global level.

### Grading Criteria

The ITF Juniors Committee are responsible for the allocation of grades at all ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors tournaments. The following grading principles apply to all tournaments:

#### Tournaments per Grade

- The tournament structure follows a pyramid approach. I.e., each nation and region should have more tournaments of a lower grade to support the player pathway and junior rankings.
- Nations are permitted to host up to 5 tournaments at Grade 5 (J5). Nations may apply to host more J5 tournaments which will be subject to an ITF review based on existing tournaments on the calendar in that tournament week, and the player base/population in the host nation.
- Save for exceptional circumstances, only one Grade 1 or better tournament per week in a region.
- Save for exceptional circumstances, a maximum of one (1) tournament per nation at Grade 1 (J1).
- Save for exceptional circumstances, a maximum of two (2) Grade 2 or better tournaments shall be able to take place in the same week and region, with a reasonable distance between venues.

### New Tournaments

- New tournaments start at Grade 5 (J5).
- A nation may apply for a new tournament to begin at Grade 4 (J4) or Grade 3 (J3) provided the nation and venue has suitable travel accessibility, has experience hosting ITF WTTJ events, and where the grade is deemed by the ITF to be beneficial to achieve a more optimal, balanced calendar for the nation and region. Nations applying for new tournaments at J4 or J3 will be subject to an assessment of the grading measures outlined in this document.

### Existing Tournament Upgrades

The Juniors department will proactively contact a National Association if an upgrade is applicable. This will be based on an assessment of the measures outlined below.

### Existing Tournament Downgrades

Tournaments must meet minimum standards of player strength and tournament delivery relative to other tournaments within their grade and region. Grade A, Grade 1, Grade 2 will be compared globally.

A tournament may be considered for downgrade if it scores amongst the lowest 10% in their grade and region based on the draw strength measures, and tournament delivery measures. The ITF will communicate with National Associations directly where a downgrade is appropriate.

### Grading Review Timeline

Tournament grading will be reviewed by the ITF on three occasions each year:

- January to April 2023 tournament grades will be reviewed in June 2022.
- May to August 2023 tournament grades will be reviewed in November 2022.
- September to December 2023 tournament grades will be reviewed in February 2023.

In exceptional cases, the ITF may consider introducing new J3-J5 tournaments or upgrade existing J2-J5 tournaments taking place in 2022.

### **Stage 1: Calendar Assessment**

The ITF shall firstly consider the existing WTTJ calendar. This shall include an assessment of the following:

- 1. Calendar Position** – The established tournament week and its position in the regional calendar. Consecutive tournaments of the same grade in the same location (venue and/or nation and/or sub region) will be considered favourably for the benefit of players.
- 2. National, Regional, and Global Pyramid** – The national, regional, and global pyramid will be considered for tournament upgrades or downgrades. As a principle, there should be more tournaments of a lower grade at a national, regional, and global level.

### **Stage 2: Assessment Measures**

The following measures shall be reviewed to assess the draw strength of tournaments and the quality of tournament organisation & delivery.

The measures aim to provide an objective comparison amongst other tournaments by grade and region (global for JA, J1, J2) to indicate whether a tournament is suitable for upgrade and/or downgrade.

### Draw Strength (Primary Measures)

1. **ITF Junior Ranking**– A calculation of the ranking points amongst those who competed in the main draw of the tournament. The ranking of players at the time of the event shall be used. This measure shall be based on a main draw size of 32 players. Only the highest ranked 32 players will be reviewed where the main draw size consists of 48 or 64 players.
2. **ITF World Tennis Number (WTN)** – The WTN’s of Main Draw participants at the time of the event shall be reviewed and compared. This will include an average WTN of main draw participants.

Existing Grade 2 (J2/B2) or better tournaments will be compared on a regional and global level, where they should be amongst the top 10% amongst tournaments within their current grade. Exceptions may apply for existing Grade 2 tournaments located in regions who are underrepresented. Existing Grade 3 to Grade 5 tournaments will be compared amongst tournaments within their own region (e.g., within Asia).

### Tournament Organisation & Delivery (Secondary Measures)

Secondary measures will be reviewed in respect of the standard of organisation and delivery. A tournament must score favourably in each of these areas relative to other comparable tournaments:

1. **Player Feedback Survey** - Following each ITF WTT Junior tournament, players are asked to provide feedback on their tournament experience. The results of this survey shall be used to understand the level of player satisfaction regarding the tournament delivery standards.
2. **Administrative & Technical Responsibilities** - National Associations & Tournament Directors must complete all pre-tournament and post-tournament duties accurately and on-time. This includes all administration duties, as well as adherence to the regulations and organisational requirements.

The Tournament Supervisor report must be completed on time and will be reviewed by the Juniors department to support the assessment. This supervisor report confirms whether the minimum delivery standards were met, and if the tournament ‘over delivered’ in any area.

Please contact [juniors@itftennis.com](mailto:juniors@itftennis.com) if you have any questions.