
TOUR REQUIREMENT SPECIFICATION

(valid from 2007, for Challengers from July 2006)

Requirements, recommendations and other conditions for Super World Tour and World Tour Events on the IFR Racketlon World Tour, as well as Challenger Tournaments

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A) Introduction

This document contains requirements, recommendations and some other conditions for tour events on the IFR Racketlon World Tour, starting 2007. In return for the commitment to comply with the requirements in this document selected tournament directors are offered Tour Status, meaning the tournament gives World Ranking points, which in practice means the opportunity to attract an international field of entries and the possibility of marketing the event over www.racketlon.com. The ability of tour events to comply with these requirements will be monitored and will influence the chances of an event to enjoy continued tour status.

B) IFR Tournaments Structure

Starting with 2007 the IFR World Tour is given a new structure. In addition IFR Challenger tournaments will be offered and award world ranking points.

- 4 Super World Tour Tournaments including World Champs
- 8 World Tour Tournaments
- A number of Challenger Tournaments

Applications for all tournaments can be made to the Tour Coordinator Michael Dickert michi.dickert@racketlon.com via the application form, after having read and complying with this requirement specification list. The doubles and mixed world champs shall be held within a World Tour or Super World Tour Event. The application deadline for the Super World Tour and World Tour tournaments is 3 months before the new year on the 30th September, so that the tour for the following year can be launched 2 months before the beginning of the new year, latest the 31st October. The application deadline for all Challenger events is 100 days before the Challenger is actually held, so that the tournament can be announced latest 3 months before being held.

The proposal for the IFR World Tour and all Challenger tournaments is made by the Tour Coordinator and sanctioned by the Council. Each country can only hold a maximum of 2 tournaments a year. Either one Super World Tour or World Tour plus one Challenger or two Challenger tournaments.

C) Tournament Requirements and Recommendations

1) Prize Money – Entry Fees

Requirements

- a) Super World Tour: minimum 2000€ prize money, max. 50€ entry fee, pull out and no show means suspension
- b) World Tour: minimum 700€ prize money, max. 50€ entry fee pull out and no show means suspension
- c) Challenger: minimum 0€, max. 40€ entry fee

For all tournaments more Prize Money than the minimum is always allowed, thus a Challenger may also offer Prize Money. Entry fees are restricted to maximum 50€ for Super World Tour and World Tour events and must include one welcome present (e.g. t-shirt) and one food voucher at the players dinner. Challengers may charge a maximum of 40€ which must include at least either a food voucher or a welcome present.

All players who pull out of a Super World Tour or World Tour tournament after the entry deadline or don't show up are entitled to pay the full entry fee (if they have not already done so) no matter what the reason for pulling out or not showing up. The tournament organisers are asked to send a list of such players who did not pay to the IFR Tour Coordinator Michael Dickert, who will put them on a suspension list. These players are suspended for all further Super World Tour or World Tour tournaments until they have paid their outstanding entry fees.

2) World Ranking Quality Factor

Requirements

- a) Super World Tour: World Ranking Points x 1,5 (World Champs x 2)
- b) World Tour: World Ranking Points x 1
- c) Challenger: Word Ranking Points x 0,5

The quality factor for the Super World Tour events is doubled and for the World Champs even increased. The Challenger Events are worth half of the normal World Tour. The quality factor counts for all classes in all tournaments.

3) Internet – Tournament Information

Requirements

- a) Super World Tour: 6 months, hotel recommendations
- b) World Tour: 6 months, hotel recommendations
- c) Challenger: 3 months, hotel recommendations

GEST (Guaranteed Earliest Start Time) and GLET (Guaranteed Latest End Time) for the tournament must be published on www.racketlon.com or an own tournament homepage some months before tournament start, in order to facilitate the booking of flights in advance. In addition all further tournament related information must be available over the internet in the given time. At least two accommodation recommendations (high budget and low budget) must be given on the internet with CLEAR description how far the hotels are from the site and how they can be reached.

4) Tour Status Fee

Requirements

- a) Super World Tour: 3€ per Player
- b) World Tour: 2€ per Player
- c) Challenger: 1€ per Player

Each Super World Tour, World Tour and Challenger event is required to pay a fee per player that takes part in the tournament. This money covers basic costs of the webpage, administration and so on. The fee shall be paid to the IRF **bank account** within one week after the event.

5) Classes

Requirements

- a) Super World Tour: Men A – Elite, Men B – Advanced, Men C – Amateur, Women A – Elite, Women B – Amateur, Veterans (45+), Veterans (55+), Boys u16, Boys u21, Girls u21, Men's Doubles, Mixed Doubles
- b) World Tour: Men A – Elite, Men C – Amateur, Women A – Elite, Veterans (45+), Boys u21
- c) Challenger: Men A – Elite, Women A -Elite

For all Classes it is a requirement to use the official naming of the IFR otherwise no world ranking points can be awarded. All classes in the requirement list must be on the application form. Classes can only and must be played with a minimum of four participants in order to count for the world rankings. If less than 4 players enter for a class, classes can be put together. The requirements for World Tour and Challenger events is just the minimum, if they want to play other classes played in the Super World Tour events they may of course. If a tournament wants to play new and other classes than given above, it must write a request to the Tour Coordinator and this can be sanctioned by the Council.

The age classes shall be named and defined in accordance with the following conventions: Boys or Girls u21 is open to all players that turn 21 during the calendar year and younger (i.e. it is enough for the condition

"<21" to be fulfilled *at some point during the year*). The same counts for Veterans 45+, which is open to all players that turn 45 during the season calendar year, and older (i.e. it is enough for the condition ">45" to be fulfilled *at some point during year*).

The following age classes will be recorded for ranking purposes u16, u21, 45+, 55+

6) Format

Requirements

- a) Super World Tour: Full Format
- b) World Tour: Full Format
- c) Challenger: Full Format

The Racketlon format (defined by the three principles described in the introduction to the IFR rules) is a requirement on tour events.

- The game must include the following four sports: table tennis, squash, badminton and tennis
- The game must be built on the concept of a Racketlon match involving the same two individuals (pairs in doubles) playing each other in all four sports - with equivalent sets to 21 points being played in each sport.
- Each rally must count. The player (pair) who wins most rallies is the winner of the Racketlon match.

If the IRF has launched an official test period for a new rule Challenger tournaments are recommended to test the new rule.

7) Equipment and Facilities

Requirements

- a) Super World Tour: 3- star orange table tennis balls, feather cocks all classes, double dot yellow squash balls, ITF-approved tennis balls, 3 match courts per sport (world champs 4 match courts per sport), 1 practice court per sport, Shuttle airport and hotels
- b) World Tour: 3 – star orange table tennis balls, feather cocks all classes, one practice court per sport, ITF-approved tennis balls, 2 match courts per sport, 1 practice court per sport, Shuttle hotels
- c) Challenger: 3 – star table tennis balls, feather cocks in elite classes, double dot yellow squash balls, ITF-approved tennis balls, 2 match courts per sport

7.1) Table Tennis balls

Orange table tennis balls are a requirement on Super World Tour and World Tour events and must have 3 stars - unless there is a good reason to avoid it (e.g. orange walls). Balls for Challenger events must also have 3 stars but can be white.

7.2) Badminton shuttles

It is a requirement on Super World Tour and World Tour events that feather shuttle cocks are used in all classes for Badminton. Challengers must use feather cocks only in the Elite Classes. For elite classes the feather cocks must be at least B-quality, for all other classes C-quality is sufficient.

7.3) Squash Balls

Double yellow dot squash balls are a requirement in all classes for all tournaments.

7.4) Tennis Balls

ITF-approved tennis balls are a requirement in all classes for all tournaments.

7.5) Protective Glasses

It is a recommendation (as stated in the IFR rules) that organisers require protective glasses to be worn in squash, for all classes except elite.

7.6) Courts

A minimum of 3 courts in each sport must be available in order to start 3 matches parallel every 15 min for all Super World Tour Events, 4 match courts for World Champs. For World Tour events 2 match courts in each sport must be available, for Challengers 2 match courts. If there are any problems with this availability, organisers can ask the Tour Coordinator for exceptions. In case of Summer events with tennis played outdoors at least two tennis courts must be available indoor in case of rain for all events. The light must be reasonable on all courts, the nets must be on original height in table tennis, badminton and tennis and held by weights in badminton. Single Posts must be used on the tennis courts for all single matches. The space around the table tennis tables must be reasonable, the matches cant take place in a small low ceiling room.

7.7) Practice Courts

It is a requirement that organisers provide at least one extra practice courts per sport for Super World Tour Events and one extra practice court for each sport for World Tour Events at least two hours before tournament start and also during the tournament!

7.8) Shuttle Service

Super World Tour Events must offer shuttle service at least for the Elite players from the major airports to the sports centre and the tournament

hotels. World Tour Events must offer shuttles for the Elite players at least twice a day from and to the tournament hotels. Challengers must not provide shuttle services.

8) DRAWS - SEEDING

Requirements

- a) Super World Tour: 2 match guarantee, separate nationalities 1st round, Elite draws monrad and done central, max. 1/8 wildcards, 1/4 seeded, draws online 1 week
- b) World Tour: 2 match guarantee, separate nationalities 1st round, Elite draws monrad and done central, max. 1/8 wildcards, 1/4 seeded, draws online one week
- c) Challenger: 2 match guarantee, separate nationalities 1st round

8.1) Minimum 2 matches

It is a requirement on tour events to guarantee at least two matches for all players, but it is recommended to guarantee three matches for players travelling from abroad.

8.2) Nationalities in the Draw

The nationality of the players must be clearly indicated in the draw, with the three lettered acronym according to the official country abbreviations in sport. When the draws are made no players of the same country shall meet in the first round except players from the home country.

8.3) Elite Draws – Cut Off

All Super World Tour and World Tour Elite draws women and men with prize money or any other draws like doubles or veterans if they offer prize money shall be done central by an independent person, our vice-president Georgious Georgidous in Greece. There will be a monrad draw sheet for 8, 16, 24, 32 and 48 Elite players which must be used for the Elite draws on the Super World and World Tour guaranteeing each player three matches with the chance to achieve world ranking points in all of them. The Tour-Coordinator together with the tournament director decides for each tournament which draw is used, depending on the entries, but all places must be taken up.

8.4) Wildcards

Only the best players according to the world ranking can enter the elite competitions of the Super World Tour and the World Tour. A maximum of 1/8th of the total number of players in the draw can be offered a wild card, meaning they can enter the elite draw although having a lower or no world ranking at all. Half of the wildcards are offered by the tournament director, the other half by the International Racketlon Federation. If there

is an odd number of wildcards the tournament director has the only or extra wildcard.

8.5) Seedings

The seedings for the elite competitions must be done strictly according to the world rankings. A maximum of $\frac{1}{4}$ of the players in the used elite draw sheet should be seeded. I.e. 16 players, 4 seeded; 32 players, 8 seeded. In placing of the seeded players should be done in the quarterfinals seeded 1 to 4 play seeded 5 to 8. In the semifinals 1 plays 3 or 4 and 2 plays the other.

9.5) Other Draws

In all other draws without prize money it is up to the organiser to play group play, monrad or knock out system with a plate competition. It is a recommendation to use the world ranking as a basis for seedings and to classify the players in the classes, there is also no limitation for wildcards. Tournament organisers are reminded to try to restrict too strong players playing in lower classes, so that the so called hobby players don't lose interest in Racketlon.

9.6) Draws online

All draws for Super World Tour and World Tour events must be online at least one week before the first day of the tournament on an own tournament homepage or www.racketlon.com

10) Results Reporting

Requirements

- a) Super World Tour: media officer, e-mail draws last day of the tournament and results breaking news, one report one week before tournament and one report one day after, draws and results displayed in sports centre, evaluation sheet one week
- b) World Tour: media officer, e-mail draws last day of tournament and results breaking news, one report one week before tournament and one report one day after, draws and results displayed in sports centre, evaluation sheet 1 week
- c) Challenger: one report one week before tournament, e-mail draws and report three days after tournament draws and results displayed in the sports centre, evaluation sheet 1 week

10.1) Media Officer

It is a requirement for Super World Tour and World Tour organisers to appoint a media officer for the tournament who is responsible for all

points below. He makes sure that the results are recorded for ranking purposes and delivered to the compiler of the rankings and the IRF homepage officer on the last day of the tournament per e-mail as pdf- and excel-files.

The draws must contain:

- Full names. First and Last names of all participants.
- Nationality clearly identified, 3 lettered sports acronym
- The exact score of the match
- Players in the draw that did not show up (walk-overs) must be clearly marked.
- Players who did not show up and were not replaced must be left in the draw so that walk-overs are visible, since walk-over victories give as many ranking points as a victory through actual play).
- Since quarter finals, semi finals and finals give bonus ranking points these matches need to be clearly identified.

10.2) Results Breaking News

It is an additional requirement for all Super World Tour and World Tour events that results - as of the quarter finals - in all "Top" classes (i.e. Men's Elite, Ladies' Elite, Junior, Veteran) are reported, on the last day of the event before 18:00 on the Breaking News function on Racketlon.com according to a specified format (see [format requirements](#)). In addition a short paragraph of 5 sentences shall make clear who won the elite classes with prize money. (The main purpose of this requirement is to make it easy for local media responsables to report the result to national/local newspapers by means of copy-paste into simple e-mails.

10.3) Results and reports on the internet

It is a requirement for all Super World Tour and World Tour Events that all results, including detailed scores in each set, are posted on the internet within one day of the event on www.racketlon.com or the official tournament homepage. In addition the media officer is responsible to deliver one short report on the tournament latest one week before the first day of play and one short report latest one day after the last day of play to the homepage officer of the IFR.

10.4) Draws and results displayed in sports centre

All draws must be displayed in the sports centre either on paper or on electronic monitors. The results should be updated permanently so that spectators can follow the tournament.

10.5) Evaluation Sheet

The tournament directors are responsible to fill out and send the tournament evaluation sheet (which was issued to them before the tournament) to the tour Coordinator within one week.

11) Referees

Requirements

- a) Super World Tour: Head Referee, Referees for all Elite matches
- b) World Tour: Head Referee, Referees for all Elite matches from quarterfinals
- c) Challenger: Head Referee

All tournaments must appoint a Head Referee of the tournament, who takes all final decisions according to the IFR – International Racketlon Federation Rulebook. In cases which are not provided for in the Rulebook head referee takes final decisions on his own responsibility according to ideas and ethnics of Racketlon. On the Super World Tour all Elite matches or other matches in draws with prize money must be refereed in all four sports. On World Tour events all Elite matches or other matches in draws with prize money must be refereed from quarterfinals.

For all other draws and Challenger tournaments referees must be provided if any of the players ask for one. These referees can be any of the players taking part in the tournament, because by entering an international Racketlon tournament all players agree to referee in at least one of the four sports.

12) National team and doubles competitions

Requirements

- a) Super World Tour: Full national team Format see below
- b) World Tour: Full national team Format see below
- c) Challenger: Friendly tournament or match can have any other format

1) National teams

If a National team event is held at any of the Super World Tour or World Tour events tournament following requirements must be followed, as valid for the world champs:

- Fixed order for the matches in the team event: M1 - L M2 - M3
- The World Ranking should be applied strictly as regards who should play in each of the matches (M1 - M2 - M3). This means e.g. that the player in M2 must not be ranked higher than the player in M1 etc.
- Players with no world ranking must be ranked at the end
- Teams that have one player or players with no world ranking shouldn't be seeded even though they would have been seeded due to the ranking of the other team members.
- Seedings at team competitions should compile out of the sum of the singles rankings of the best 3 male players and the best female player on the squad for the competition.

- A national team must consist of a minimum of 4 players, 3 male and one female. The team cannot play their match if only one of these players is missing. This would result in a walk over. The squad for national team competitions can be up to 5 men and 2 women. The actual players can be changed after each match.

2) Doubles

From 2007 all Doubles and Mixed Doubles played on Super World Tour and World Tour Events must be played according to the official doubles Racketlon rules, see rulebook in principle following the rules of the individual sports. If Challengers offer Doubles or Mixed Doubles and they want them to be counted for the World Ranking same rules apply. Most important for Squash:

The player with the highest World (singles) Ranking in the pair will play as the No1 player against the other pairs No1 up to 11 points first then the No2 players take over to finish the set etc. In Mixed Doubles the women play each other first and then men take over to finish the set.

13) World Tour Race Trophies

It is a requirement on the last tournament of the World Tour Race to provide trophies for the players who finished among the top 3 in the World Tour Race both men and women and organise a prize ceremony. The IRF will pay for the trophies within reasonable limit. The organiser must send a cost calculation to the IFR head office in advance.

14) Commitment Statement

It is a requirement on the Tournament Director of each tour event to commit in writing (e-mail) to the requirements given in this document by means of a sentence like the following:

"As the main responsible Tournament Director I hereby commit to organising OPEN from the 2007 in line with all requirements listed in the attached Requirement Specification.

(This "electronic signature" procedure replaces the signing of a paper contract.)

In case certain requirements can not be met and the tournament director knows this before hand he can ask for an exception, which can again be sanctioned by the Tour Coordinator. In case some requirements are not met without before hand notice, the Council can speak out a warning, fine the tournament, lower the level of a tournament i.e. from World Tour to Challenger status or even cancel the tournament for the next or one of the further years.