



# **FIR - RACKETLON WORLD TOUR TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS**

Version 2, valid from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008

(Original version 1, was valid from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 2007)

This document includes requirements, recommendations and other conditions for Super World Tour and World Tour tournaments on the FIR Racketlon World Tour as well as international Challenger events awarding World Ranking points.

FIR-World Tour Officer Michael Dickert

FIR-President Marcel Weigl

updated 01-09-2007

## **A) Introduction**

This document contains requirements, recommendations and some other conditions for tour events on the FIR Racketlon World Tour and Challenger events, 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 the official website of FIR [www.racketlon.net](http://www.racketlon.net). The ability of tour events to comply with these requirements will be monitored by FIR Supervisors and will influence the chances of an event to enjoy continued World Tour or Challenger status.

All FIR Racketlon Tournaments must be played according to the valid "Rules of Racketlon" as can be found on [www.racketlon.net](http://www.racketlon.net). These must be posted in the sportscentre, with the most important rules highlighted.

## **B) FIR Tournaments Structure and Applications**

### **1) Tournaments Structure**

World Ranking Quality Factor and Points

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

The quality factor for the Super World Tour is more than the World Tour by factor 1.5 and the World Champs ranking points is worth double of a normal World Tour event. The Challenger Events are worth half of the normal World Tour. The quality factor counts for all classes in all tournaments. The exact points table can be seen on [www.racketlon.net](http://www.racketlon.net) Starting with 2007 the FIR World Tour was given a new structure. In addition FIR Challenger tournaments are offered and award world ranking points. The doubles and mixed World Champs shall be separated from singles and the national team event and held within a World Tour or Super World Tour Event from 2007 onwards:

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

## **2) Tournaments Application**

### Requirements

- a) Super World Tour: Application only through national federation, application deadline 30<sup>th</sup> September
- b) World Tour: Application only through national federation, application deadline 30<sup>th</sup> September
- c) Challenger: Application by through national federation if exist  
Otherwise by tournament organiser  
Application deadline 100 days before tournament

Applications for all tournaments can be made to the World Tour Officer Michael Dickert [michael.dickert@inode.at](mailto:michael.dickert@inode.at) via the application form available on [www.racketlon.net](http://www.racketlon.net), after having read and complying with this Tournament Requirements document. From 2008 on, applications for Super World Tour and World Tour events can only be made by legally registered national federations and such tournaments can only be held by countries with existing national federations. Challengers can be held and applied for by tournament organisers of new Racketlon countries without national federations yet. Each country can only hold a maximum of 2 world ranking tournaments a year. Either one Super World Tour or World Tour plus one Challenger or two Challenger tournaments.

The application deadline for the Super World Tour and World Tour tournaments is 3 months before the new year on the 30<sup>th</sup> September, so that the tour for the following year can be launched 2 months before the beginning of the new year, latest the 31<sup>st</sup> 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 FIR World Tour is made by the World Tour Officer and sanctioned by the Council. The decision about Challenger Tournaments is taken by the World Tour Officer only, but all members of the Council shall be informed by e-mail one week before a Challenger is announced in order to be able to give any extra information if available.

## **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 FIR World Tour Officer Michael Dickert, who will put them on a suspension list. These players to be seen on [www.racketlon.net](http://www.racketlon.net) are suspended for all further Super World Tour, World Tour and Challenger tournaments until they have paid their outstanding entry fees either by bank transfer to the FIR account or at registration before their start at the next tournament. Tournaments may require prepayment over the internet and may in cases of Non-payment charge extra for players who pay in cash on site.

### **2) 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 the tournament homepage 6 months before tournament start (3 months for Challengers), in order to facilitate the booking of flights in advance. Exception goes for tournaments at the beginning of the year, because World Tour is not announced until 1<sup>st</sup> October year before. 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.

### 3) 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. The fee shall be paid to the FIR bank account within one week after the event. The tournament director must at the same time download the payment specification from [www.racketlon.net](http://www.racketlon.net) fill it out and mail it to Treasurer Lennart Eklundh [lennart@enskederackethall.se](mailto:lennart@enskederackethall.se)

EU-payments: Swiftadress: Swedssess, Ibannr: SE8380000832799030810973

Non EU-payments: Swiftadress: Swedssess, Account nr. 832799030810973

Bankadress: Swedbank, Arstaangsvagen 21C 3tr., 100 73 STOCKHOLM

If banks charge excessive bank charges check that the receiving bank takes the costs. The FIR host bank charges maximum 1 euro for any such transaction and the individual sender bank's shouldn't charge anything".

### 4) 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 u13, Boys u16, Boys u21, Girls, Men's Doubles, Mixed Doubles
- b) World Tour: Men A – Elite, Men C – Amateur, Women A – Elite, Veterans (45+), Mens Juniors u21
- c) Challenger: Men A – Elite, Women A –Elite

In accordance with AGFIS Women is chosen instead of Ladies.

For all Classes it is a requirement to use the official naming of the FIR 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 tournament organisers want to have additional 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 can do so even with less than 4 participants, but this will not award world ranking points. Players can not play two classes in one category. E.g. Men A und Men B.

The age classes shall be named and defined in accordance with the following conventions: Mens or Womens Juniors 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*). And Veterans 55+ likewise.

From 2008 all classes listed above will be recorded for ranking purposes.

## 5) Equipment and Facilities

### Requirements

- a) Super World Tour: 3-star orange table tennis balls, feather shuttle 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 table tennis balls, feather shuttle shuttle cocks all classes, one practice court per sport, ITF-approved tennis balls, 2 match courts per sport, 1 practice court per sport, Shuttle to hotels
- c) Challenger: 3-star table tennis balls, feather shuttle cocks in elite classes, double dot yellow squash balls, ITF-approved tennis balls, 2 match courts per sport

### 5.1) Table Tennis balls

Orange or white table tennis balls are a requirement on Super World Tour, World Tour and Challenger events and must have 3 stars. The tournament can decide which colour of balls to use, but these must not have a similar colour as the background walls or banners. In case a player is wearing the same colour t-shirt as the ball he can be asked to change the t-shirt or the tournament can provide a different colour ball.

### 5.2) Badminton shuttles

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

### 5.3) Squash Balls

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

#### 5.4) Tennis Balls

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

#### 5.5) Protective Glasses

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

#### 5.6) 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 World Tour Officer for exceptions. In case of summer events with tennis played outdoors at least 2 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 can't take place in a small low ceiling room.

#### 5.7) Practice Courts

It is a requirement that organisers provide at least one extra practice court per sport for Super World Tour and World Tour Events at least two hours before tournament start and also during the tournament. Elite players must have the possibility to warm up with Table Tennis at least 15 minutes before the start of their match.

#### 5.8) 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.

## 6) DRAWS - SEEDING

### Requirements

- a) Super World Tour: 2 match guarantee, separate nationalities 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> round

#### 6.1) Minimum 2 matches

It is a requirement for all world ranking events to guarantee at least two matches for all players in each draw e.g. singles and doubles or Men and Veterans, but it is recommended to guarantee three matches for players travelling from abroad.

#### 6.2) 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 Olympic 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.

#### 6.3) Elite Draws – Centrally by FIR

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 and automatically by FIR with the FIR Result Reporter system introduced 2008. There will be a monrad draw sheet for 8, 16, 24 and a maximum of 32 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.

#### 6.4) Elite Draws – Cut Off

For all world ranking events including Challengers the World Tour Officer with the Tournament Director will choose the most appropriate size draw for the elite categories depending on the number and quality of entries, but all places must be taken up. In turn in all World Tour events the players ranked in the top 7/8th's of the entries in the tournament MUST play in Class A. E.g. If a 32 draw is used in Class A, the top 28 ranked players in the tournament MUST play Class A. Thus players with a world ranking position above this Cut-Off must enter Class A and cannot on their own wish play Class B. The remaining 4 players can then be chosen as per the wildcard system which is designated below in point 6.5. This does not count for Challenger events where the tournament directors can act more autonomously.

#### 6.5) Elite Draws - 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 1/8<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### 6.6) Elite Draws - Seedings

The seedings for the elite competitions of all world ranking events including Challengers must be done strictly according to the world rankings. A total of ¼ of the players in the used elite draw sheet should be seeded. I.e. 16 players, 4 seeded; 32 players, 8 seeded.

The 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.

#### 6.7) Elite Draws - Withdrawals

In all world ranking events including Challengers: If players in the Elite draws withdraw after the draws are done, the tournament director should do his best to replace these players by Alternate players. In case a seeded player withdraws, the first none seeded player according to world ranking moves to the free position and the alternate player is moved to the first none seeded players original position.

#### 6.8) 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 but no requirement 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 leisure players don't lose interest in Racketlon. At the end of all tournaments all players must have a clear end position in the draws, these can also be the same as another players position.

#### 6.9) 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.net](http://www.racketlon.net).

## 7) Media - Results Reporting

### Requirements

- a) Super World Tour: media officer, Result Reporter, Internet, Live-scoring, one report one week before tournament and one report one day after, draws and results displayed in sports centre, evaluation sheet 1 week, media cooperations TV and printmedia
- b) World Tour: media officer, Result Reporter, Internet, one report one week before tournament and one report one day after, draws and results displayed in sports centre, evaluation sheet one week



c) Challenger: one report one week before tournament, e-mail draws and report one day after tournament draws and results displayed in the sports centre, evaluation sheet one week

#### 7.1) 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 and the use of the Result Reporter. At Challenger events the tournament director can be the Media Officer and makes sure that the results are delivered to the compiler of the rankings and the FIR homepage officer on the last day of the tournament per e-mail as pdf- and excel-files if the Result Reporter is not used. In such cases the draws must contain: Full names: First and Last names of all participants; Nationality clearly identified with 3 lettered sports acronym; The exact score of the match; Players who did not show up and were not replaced must be left in the draw so that walk-overs are visible. The no-show players must not be awarded an end position though.

#### 7.2) Results Reporter - Internet

From 2008 it will be a requirement for all Super World Tour and World Tour events to use the FIR Result Reporter developed by Procensor. Internet must therefore be available for the Media Officer at all Super World Tour and World Tour events. Results should be permanently updated, but must be completed and online and available on [www.racketlon.net](http://www.racketlon.net) latest 1 hour after the tournament is over on the same day. In addition a short paragraph of 5 sentences shall be sent per e-mail to FIR Headoffice [info@racketlon.at](mailto:info@racketlon.at) to make clear who won the elite classes with prize money. Challengers may use their own system of draws, but must make sure that the results are sent to Ranking Officer [phil.reid@racketlon.com](mailto:phil.reid@racketlon.com) and the same 5 sentence paragraph is delivered to FIR headoffice [info@racketlon.at](mailto:info@racketlon.at) within one day after the end of the tournament.

#### 7.3) Live Scoring

It is a requirement for the Super World Tour Events to use the Online live-scoring system together with the Results Reporter involving for extra laptops and screens at each centre court of each sport. It is a recommendation for any other World Tour events or Challengers to use the system too if possible.

#### 7.4) Reports on the internet

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 FIR [info@racketlon.at](mailto:info@racketlon.at) These requirements are in the interest of the tournament to help with the promotion.

#### 7.5) Draws, results and rules 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. The "Rules of Racketlon" must be displayed in the sports centre with the most important ones highlighted.

#### 7.6) Evaluation Sheet

The Media Officer is responsible to fill out and send the tournament evaluation sheet (which was issued to them before the tournament) to the World Tour Officer [michael.dickert@inode.at](mailto:michael.dickert@inode.at) within one week per e-mail

#### 7.7) Media Cooperations

Super World Tour events are required to sign media cooperations with national TV and printmedia in order to promote the event. World Tour events should aim for the similar or at least regional and local printmedia.

## 8) 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, Referees for all Elite matches from semifinals

All tournaments must appoint a Head Referee of the tournament, who takes all final decisions according to the FIR– Federation International de Racketlon 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. In doubt he can consult the FIR Supervisor, present at all tournaments. On the Super World Tour all Elite matches in the main draw 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. Challenger tournaments are required to provide referees for Elite matches from semifinals. If no Head Referees are appointed at challengers, the tournament director automatically acts as head referee. 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.

## **9) Other Requirements**

### Requirements

- a) Super World Tour: Prize Giving Ceremony, Massage, Flags, Stringing Service, FIR Logo, 20 Volunteers
- b) World Tour: Prize Giving Ceremony, FIR Logo, 10 Volunteers
- c) Challenger: Prize Giving Ceremony, FIR Logo, 5 Volunteers

#### **9.1) World Tour Race Trophies**

It is a requirement on the last tournament of the World Tour Race to provide trophies (FIR will pay costs after cost calculation is received by tournament) for the players who finished among the top 3 in the World Tour Race veterans, men and women and organise a prize ceremony.

#### **9.2) Prize Giving Ceremony**

All FIR Super World Tour and World Tour Tournaments are required to hold an official prize giving ceremony where at least the top 3 players or double pairs in all classes are awarded with medals or trophies. At Challengers other prizes can also be awarded.

#### **9.3) Massage, Physiotherapist, Doctor**

At Super World Tournaments a massage should be possible on site, a doctor and a physiotherapist on standby in cases of injury (players have to pay themselves). At World Tour Events a doctor, Physiotherapist and a masseur should at least be on standby.

#### **9.4) Flags and National Anthems**

At World Championships prize giving ceremonies the national anthems should be played for the winners of the main draw classes. Super World Tour Events should hang the flags of all participating nations in the sports centre. World Tour events are recommended to do the same.

#### **9.5) Stringing Service**

At Super World Tour and World Tour Events a stringing service should be on site or at least on standby (players have to pay themselves).

#### **9.6) FIR Logo**

All Super World Tour and World Tour Events are obliged to use the FIR Logo on all printed tournament material and on the respective tournament webpages. A World Tour Banner must be prominently placed at the tournament.

### 9.7) Volunteer and Team Recommendations

A team of 20 or more is a recommendation for World Tour Events. If tournament organisers and volunteers can wear the same colour t-shirt, this would help players know who to ask for help. Structurally the FIR would also like to make the following recommendations for positions on tournament committees, this list also covers the main tasks in organising an event. Compulsary for World Tour events:

Tournament Director  
Head Referee plus other Referees  
Media Officer

#### Recommendations:

Tournament Co/Vice Director  
Results Secretary  
Sports Centre Liaison Officer  
Marketing Officer  
Webpage Officer  
Result Reporter Officer  
Rankings Officer  
6 Desk Helpers  
2 to 3 Court Co-Ordinators in each sport to take turns  
Referees from domestic sporting federations – TT, BAD, SQ, TE  
Equipment Officer  
Sponsorship Officer  
Finance Director - Payments Officer / Financial Advisor / Debt Collector /  
FIR Suspension List Officer / Budget Officer

## **10) Commitment Statement**

By sending the application form to FIR for any FIR world ranking events, tournament directors automatically confirm the requirements given in this document. The application form is a CLEAR and FINAL COMMITMENT STATEMENT.

In case certain requirements can not be met and the tournament director knows this before hand he can ask for exceptions, which can again be sanctioned by the World Tour Officer. 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 future years.

From 2008 if a Challenger tournament is cancelled a fine of 200€ is to be paid to FIR and the organisers may not participate in any FIR events until this fine is paid. In the unlikely case a World Tour or Super World Tour is cancelled the Council will speak out a fine depending on the number of players who booked their flights to this tournament already. The national federation of this country is also liable to be charged in such a case.