

World Real Tennis Doubles Championship
Tournament Rules

1. The Championship shall be called the World Real Tennis Doubles Championship.
2. The Championship shall be open to the best four pairs applying to enter.
3. The Rules under which the Championship is played are determined by the International World Championship Committee (IWCC).
4. The Championship is held biennially. The Host country shall rotate in the order Australia, France, USA, UK, or as determined from time to time by the IWCC.
5. The National Association of the Host Country will be the Governing Association for each Championship and, subject to these rules, is to be responsible for all aspects of that Championship.
6. The Venue for the Championship shall be determined by the Governing Association based on criteria set out by the IWCC in Appendix II.
7. The choice of venue and dates when the Championship will be played shall be communicated to each of the other National Associations and to the International Real Tennis Professionals Association (IRTPA) not less than 18 months before the scheduled start of the Championship. The World Doubles Championship cannot replace the National Open Doubles Championship of that host country.
8. The Host Club shall appoint a Championship Committee. Its membership and duties are set out in Appendix III.
9. The best four pairs entering by the closing date shall be selected by the Championship Committee using the following criteria:
 - Pairs shall be selected based on their combined world doubles ranking points. Each player's points will be displayed on the IRTPA Website at noon of the host country on the day following the closing date for entries. The default Handicaps will be the Doubles Handicaps displayed.
 - In the absence of the pairs not having ranking points, the combined Handicap for each pair shall be calculated using the Doubles Handicap Calculator authorised by the International Handicap Sub-Committee.
 - In cases of equality, the pair that most recently attained their ranking points will be selected
10. The Championship shall be played under the "Laws of Tennis" applicable in the Host country.
11. The current Champion pair will be the number one seeded pair, regardless of their ranking points. In the absence of the Champion pair, seeds 1 and 2 will be allocated according to their ranking points, and seeds 3 and 4 will be drawn by lot.

12. Each Championship match shall be played level on a knockout basis. All matches shall be the best of nine 6 game sets played over two days, with four sets on the first day and up to five sets on the second day.

13. The schedule of play shall be:
 - Day 1 Semi Finals (sets 1-4)
 - Day 2 Semi Finals (sets 5-9)
 - Day 3 Rest Day – Optional** 3rd place play off or Club events
 - Day 4 Challenge Match (Sets 1-4)
 - Day 5 Challenge Match (Sets 5-9)

14. If a pair is unable to play a match though injury or illness before the start of their first match, the next best pair available shall be invited to compete.

15. Each pair shall be allocated a minimum of two hours' practice time on the Championship Court during the two days immediately preceding commencement of the Championship and each pair in the final shall be allocated up to two hours practice time during the rest day

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- A 3rd place play off is at the discretion of the host club
- It must be advertised on the entry form for the Championship if it is to be held
- It must have additional prizemoney, also to be advertised on the entry
- The play off participants total prizemoney must be less than the losing finalist

APPENDIX I

GUIDELINES FOR THE GOVERNING ASSOCIATION

The Governing Association is responsible for the overall control of each Championship in accordance with the Championship Rules. It shall:

- a) Ratify the membership of the Championship Committee;
- b) Distribute the country's rules of tennis
- c) Be the final arbiter on any disputes prior to the start of the tournament

And where necessary:

- d) Assist the Championship Committee in the execution of its responsibilities
- e) Advise the Championship Committee regarding prospective markers and referees;

APPENDIX II

THE SELECTION PROCESS

The following criteria will be used by the Governing Association as a *guideline* in selecting the Championship venue:

- The Level of Prize Money Guaranteed;
- The Infrastructure of the Club and its experience of hosting major tournaments.
- The Best Interests of Real Tennis;
- Provision for practice;
- The ability to arrange suitable accommodation for the players;

The Best Interests of Real Tennis

- The number of major tournaments held in recent years at, or in the vicinity of, the Host Club;
- The likely impact on the sport and on the Championship of promotion and publicity,
- The host club must provide quality streaming of the event

Court Conditions

A court must be considered by the Governing Association to be of Championship standard. Criteria will include lighting levels and the height of roof/ceiling.

Logistics

- The quantity and quality of seating in the dedans, side galleries and other viewing areas.
- Car parking.
- Public Transport.

Accommodation for the players

Provide reasonable accommodation for the competitors, which is comfortable and close to the court. This is to be arranged by the Host Club in conjunction with the Championship Committee.

APPENDIX III

GUIDELINES FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

The Host Club shall appoint a Championship Committee within 1 month of being awarded the Championship. The membership of this Committee must include at least one representative of the Governing Association and one representative of the IWCC.

The Championship Committee will be responsible for the preliminary arrangements and overall management of the World Doubles Championship. These duties will include:

- a) Arranging sponsorship as appropriate. Guidance can be sought from the IWCC representative
- b) Entry Forms – they should be dispatched not less than four months before the event to all Associations and the IRTPA. Entry Forms should specify, the closing date for entries, any entry fee for Amateurs, the date of the draw and the Guaranteed Prize Fund.
- c) The Draw - after analyzing the entries and selecting the best four pairs, the committee will conduct the Draw and dispatch it to the IRTPA for distribution.
- d) Ensuring that no alteration to the court or its playing characteristics occurs after the acceptance of a bid without the agreement of the Governing Association.
- e) Ensuring that the court is made available for the requisite match and practice times, as specified by the Governing Association.
- f) Providing a stock of legal balls for the Championship comprising of 120 balls, which shall be divided into one set of 60 balls for practice and the semifinal matches, and one set of 60 balls for the Championship practice day and match.
- g) Appointing a qualified marker for each match and a qualified referee for the Final. Referees for other matches may be appointed at the request of any player or of the marker.
- h) Adjudicating on injuries outside of match play
- i) Adjudicating on discipline outside of match play
- j) Arranging practice times:
 - (i) Each pair shall be permitted a minimum of two contiguous hours of court time during the two days preceding the start of the Championship.
 - (ii) Unless otherwise agreed, the players shall draw for the order in which they practice.

Players may book practice time in excess of the prescribed practice allowance at their own expense and using normal Club balls (i.e. balls other than those to be used for the prescribed practice or match play).

- k) Arranging billets and/or other accommodation for the competitors. This accommodation should be comfortable and close to the court.
- l) Ensuring there is appropriate seating for the referee, and up to two guests per playing pair.
- m) Arranging a Press Day and media coverage of the event.
- n) Arranging any advertising in accord with the bid document and producing and distributing a Championship Program
- o) Provide a report to the IWCC regarding the event

APPENDIX IV

DISTRIBUTION OF THE PRIZE FUND

The Guaranteed Prize Fund shall be forwarded to the IRTPA for distribution no later than seven days before the start of the Championship. The IRTPA shall provide a spreadsheet of the distribution to the IWCC. The Guaranteed Prize Fund is to be distributed to the players only. Any other payments such as referee or markers' payments are to be made separately by the host club.

APPENDIX V

PLAYERS' OBLIGATIONS

- a) To submit to the Championship Committee in advance for approval, any contractual obligations the player has or would like to enter with third parties in order to avoid conflicts with the Event Sponsors;
- b) To comply with any reasonable request to wear the clothing on court provided by the Host Club, or its Sponsors;
- c) To comply with any reasonable request to sign medical forms for reasons of event insurance;
- d) To comply with any reasonable request to promote the event;
- e) To be available for a 'Press Day' according to rule (m) in Appendix III;
- f) To advise the Championship Committee of the take-up of tickets set aside for the players by the prescribed dates;
- g) Winners and finalists are expected to attend the Championship Dinner (at the host club's cost)