

SEPTEMBER 2024 - ENHANCEMENT TO THE ITF WORLD TENNIS NUMBER ALGORITHM CALCULATION

KEY CHANGES TO THE WTN ALGORITHM CALCULATION

1. As with any algorithm, it is important to ensure its accuracy and having closely monitored the data from junior players and their changes over time, it's become increasingly apparent that some players are being initialized too high. By adjusting where players begin their journey on the WTN scale, they will now see a greater improvement to their rating as their level improves.
2. We are enabling player ratings to transition to their 'true' skill level faster from the initial rating given to them. This will mean that when a player is given an initial rating that is too low or too high, they will update to a more accurate rating much faster from their first few matches.
3. Every match you play counts towards your rating but it's important that the rating change reflects the difference in ability. As such, we have listened to feedback and studied the data. Players will now experience smaller changes to their WTN in matches when losing to a superior player. However, players will still see a sharp increase to their rating should they beat a player with a substantially better rating.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: I am a Junior Player (18 and under) what is the effect on my current ITF World Tennis Number ?

Most junior players will experience a decrease in their rating as a result of the changes. This is because addressing some junior players being currently initialized too strongly brings the cohort down. The player ratings are now more of an accurate reflection of age, with a general incremental increase in initial rating expected from aged 10 upwards.

Q: I am an Adult Player (18-40 years old) what is the effect on my current ITF World Tennis Number?

The majority of adult players should expect only minor changes to their World Tennis Number. Players playing many matches against Junior players will likely shift closer to 40.

Q: I am a player (40 years old +) what is the effect on my current ITF World Tennis Number?

Masters players will mostly see relatively smaller changes to their numbers in either direction of the scale relating to how their match results are weighted. Some will experience larger differences than others due to the profile of opponents they have played.

Q: Does this affect Doubles ITF World Tennis Numbers?

Yes, the same principles apply.

Q: Why is the ITF making these changes?

The effect of the modifications will be to position players on the scale to ensure that player populations all over the world are best aligned. The improved accuracy will also provide greater confidence for players when self-selecting any opponents to play.

Q: When will the changes take place?

The scheduled rating run on the Wednesday 11th September will use the improved calculation which will be backdated to include all the results in the system.

Q: Does this mean my previous WTN was wrong?

Your ITF World Tennis Numbers previously was accurate within your cohort of players and will remain so with the changes. What will primarily change is your number relative to players outside your network. The ITF World Tennis Number is designed to accurately reflect the ability of all players, and these changes will ensure players can always find a competitive match regardless of factors such as age. The changes improve the accuracy of the ITF World Tennis Number.

Q: Why is my number now worse?

Your latest number will now be more aligned to the age group you are competing within. Please refer to questions 1, 2 or 3 for the specific impact in relation to age groups.

Q: I've entered a tournament after Wednesday 11thth September, how will this affect my entry?

ITF Tournaments closing on the week of the 11th September will not be affected as tournament acceptance lists will be based on lists prior to the change. ITF Tournaments from Tuesday 17th September will create acceptance lists based on the new numbers. This will impact tournaments from the week of Monday 7th October onwards.

Q: Will these algorithm changes become a frequent occurrence?

As we continue to receive data, the algorithm calculation will benefit from being enhanced to ensure we consistently deliver the fairest ratings possible for players. We will, however, always inform players of any major changes. It is anticipated that changes will only be made annually as previously stated.