

RANKING FOR ACCEPTANCE

From 1st April 2014 acceptance into Grade 1 and 2 junior competitions will be based on players' current age group rankings and not players' ratings.

This change follows feedback from players, parents, coaches and officials who would like rankings to be the primary measure for acceptance due to the following reasons:

- The ranking system is more dynamic than the rating system as it changes every week
- It follows the rationale of the professional tennis circuits where acceptance is based on your ranking points
- It will encourage players to compete in tournaments and measure their progress according to ranking position rather than the accumulation of ratings matches
- It will ensure the best players are accepted into National level competitions rather than those who have increased their ratings by competing predominantly in matchplays
- It will encourage players to compete in two competition age groups especially when they are due to move up an age group
- It is anticipated that it will reduce the number of late withdrawals which occur when players who have met the ratings increase criteria consequently stop competing

The impact of ranking for acceptance will be monitored during the trial period of the summer 2014 competition season and, if positive, the new criteria will be continued and potentially extended to other grades of competitions.



Ranking for Acceptance FAQs

1. Why introduce this change?

Ranking for acceptance is being introduced for the following reasons:

- it should make acceptance more dynamic and fair as ranking lists are updated weekly
- many players, parents, coaches and tournament organisers have said they are in favour of rankings taking priority over ratings
- it follows the rationale of the professional tennis circuits where acceptance is based on players' ranking positions
- it's not considered fair for low ranked but high rated players to take acceptance precedence where elevated ratings derive from playing in matchplays
- players will be encouraged to get through rounds in tournament draws and measure their progress according to ranking position rather than the accumulation of ratings wins
- it should ensure the best players are accepted into national level competitions
- players will be encouraged to compete in two competition age groups especially when they are about to move up an age group
- it should reduce the number of late withdrawals; currently players may stop competing when they think they have met the ratings increase criteria

2. When is ranking for acceptance going to start?

The new criteria will apply to tournaments taking place on or after 1st April 2014. Please bear in mind that acceptance for the first competitions of the summer 2014 season will take place in early March so the new acceptance criteria will apply from this time.

3. Which tournaments does the new rule affect?

All junior age group individual grade 1 and grade 2 tournaments.

4. Why are the new acceptance criteria only being used for the top two levels of competitions?

Because this is a significant change which is going to be trialled before it is considered for other grades of competition. Also, in the lowest grades of competitions, players may not be competing regularly enough to have meaningful rankings so ratings more accurately reflect their level.

5. Why is ranking for acceptance only being used for junior competitions?

Because adults generally compete less than juniors and have fewer opportunities to acquire ranking points; therefore ratings more accurately represent adults' and seniors' current form.



6. Will seeding also be based on rankings?

Yes, both acceptance and seeding will use rankings.

7. Will there be sufficient opportunities for me to acquire ranking points?

Yes, the competition structure is based on detailed analysis of the player base in each area of the country to try and ensure that supply meets demand at all levels.

8. Will international ranking still be used for acceptance into grade 1 and 2 tournaments?

Yes, ATP, WTA, junior ITF and TE rankings will still be used so that the best players are accepted into the highest levels of domestic competitions.

9. Junior players' ratings cannot decrease but what happens if someone is ill or injured and his/her ranking drops?

Players' rankings may fluctuate however, since rankings are based on the 6 best results recorded over a rolling 52 week period, the best players should be able to maintain their positions despite periods of inactivity. Wild cards may be available for any player unable to compete due to illness or injury where this has had a considerable impact on his/her ranking position.

10. Does the change affect acceptance for 9U and 10U events?

No, acceptances for players into 9U and 10U national level events will still be based on rating followed by recent form.

