



# **Players and Draws Regulations**

**2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019**

## Version History<sup>1</sup>

<b>Version</b>	<b>Changes</b>	<b>Status</b>
2.2.2019	New version for FIR, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland	Current

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<sup>1</sup> Non-cosmetic changes only

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The FIR Players Draws Regulations defines the conditions under which international Racketlon players may compete in tournaments of FIR international Racketlon events. These regulations are intended for Racketlon players and supplement the FIR Tournament Regulations, which is oriented towards the Tournament Directors.

The following are classed as Elite: Men A – Elite, Women A - Elite, Men A – Elite Doubles, Women A – Elite Doubles, Mixed A – Elite Doubles. Elite draws shall be considered Olympic draws for the respective tournaments. More strict rules apply to Olympic Draws.

## **2. REGISTRATION & FEES**

### **2.1. Registration on Tournament Software**

In order to be able to compete in a FIR international Racketlon event, all international Racketlon players must register on [fir.tournamentsoftware.com](http://fir.tournamentsoftware.com). FIR manages this register.

### **2.2. Annual Player's Licence Fee**

FIR requires a mandatory annual Player's Licence. This Licence empowers the player to participate in all FIR international Racketlon events, as well as all other events hosted by FIR requiring a Licence, during that year.

The annual Player's Licence Fee is determined by the Council for each year. Each player has to pay the Licence Fee via [fir.tournamentsoftware.com](http://fir.tournamentsoftware.com) before entering his first annual tournament.

### **2.3. Players country must be FIR member**

The country of domicile or nationality of each player competing in a FIR event must be a member of FIR.

### **2.4. Insurance**

Players and tournament organisers are responsible for their own insurances. FIR declines all liability.

### **2.5. Summary**

- 1) Mandatory registration on [fir.tournamentsoftware.com](http://fir.tournamentsoftware.com);
- 2) Licence Fee per player and annual payment ;
- 3) Player's country of domicile or nationality is a FIR member
- 4) Players and tournaments to organise all their own insurances

## **3. GENERAL RULES FOR THE DRAWS**

### **3.1. Definitions: Tournament, category, class, event, draw**

A tournament is made up of multiple "categories", such as Womens Singles, Mixed Doubles, Mens Seniors.

A "category" is made up of multiple similar "classes"<sup>2</sup> banded either by player strength (e.g. the Mens Open Singles category can be made up of Men A, Men B and Men C classes), or by age (e.g. the Mens Seniors category can be made up of +40, +45 and +50 Singles classes).

Once the order of play has been determined for a class, it is known as a "draw".

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<sup>2</sup> known as "events" in TournamentSoftware

### **3.2. Tournament Registration and Entry Deadline**

The entry deadline for all draws of all FIR international Racketlon events is Monday 11:59 a.m. local time of the week before the first day of the tournament. For World Championships and Continental Championships, it is seven days earlier. The FIR World Tour Officer can approve bringing this date forward for one or more individual classes if the class is full to capacity. The FIR WTO can approve extending the entry deadline and must publish this on [www.racketlon.net](http://www.racketlon.net) for it to be valid.

Players register for FIR international Racketlon events online via Tournament Software up until the registration entry deadline. If a draw is not full on reaching the regular entry deadline, the FIR WTO can decide to accept further entries via email until publishing the draw. In case a draw is already complete, or after the draw has already been published, players shall be placed on a waiting list, so they qualify for being entered into the tournament in case of withdrawals or no-shows. The Tournament Director must enter players on the waiting list into Tournament Planner "Reserve List".

As an incentive to encourage earlier player registrations, Tournament Directors may charge an additional EUR10 per players whose initial registration is later than 28 days before the regular entry deadline e.g. if the regular entry deadline is Monday 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:59, then the Tournament Director may apply a surcharge to any player registering after Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:59. Players' change of registration (e.g. additional classes) or withdrawal during this period is not subject to this surcharge.

### **3.3. Size, Format, Seeding & Wildcards**

#### Draw-Size

The official sizes of all FIR draws are: 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 96 and 128. Partial draws of 12, 24 and 48 are also allowed.

The FIR World Tour Officer decides, after consultation with the Tournament Director and FIR Delegate, on the size of all draws, depending on the number of total entries and the quality of the Elite players entered and with the objective of maintaining consistent playing levels across all tournaments. In extreme cases when needed to achieve this, non-standard draw sizes can be chosen (e.g. a 6-draw in round robin format). All draws in e.g. Men B, Men C, shall be filled up according to these draw sizes. Only in the last draw of a class e.g. Men D, can places be left open for byes.

#### Format

The format of the draws is normally a monrad system with three match rounds guaranteed per singles class and two per doubles class, with the chance to achieve world ranking points in all of them. In exceptional cases round robin group play can be decided upon. Round robin groups are required for a singles 4-draw to guarantee each player three singles rounds.

The FIR world rankings on the day of the entry deadline must be used for the classification of the players in the different classes.

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 player's position.

#### Seeding

The seeding for the draws of all world ranking events, including Challengers, must be done according to the appropriate FIR world rankings on the day of the entry deadline.

A total of ¼ of the draw-size should be seeded e.g. 16-draw with 12 players has 4 seeds. A 4-draw has 2 seeds.

The placing of the seeded players should be done as follows: Round of last 16 seeded 1 to 8 play seeded 9 to 16, in the quarterfinals seeded 1 to 4 play seeded 5 to 8. In the semi-finals 1 plays 3 or 4 and 2 plays the other way round. In 12, 24 or 48 draws the seeded players must have the byes in the first round. Seeding is automatic in Tournament Software.

In case two seeded players or a pair in doubles have the same FIR world ranking position, lots are drawn which player or which pair is drawn to which position in the draw. Same rule counts if two players or a pair have the

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same FIR world ranking position and only one of them can take the last seeding position. Lots are drawn and the other player or pair is not seeded.

#### Wildcards

There is no limitation for wildcards except for Elite draws (see section 4). 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.

### **3.4. Withdrawals, No-shows and Forfeit of Matches**

If a player withdraws after the entry deadline but before the draws are done, the best player according to FIR world rankings from the class below must be pulled up to fill the gap before the draw is done. This process is repeated until all draws are full but the lowest class. Alternatively, the Tournament Director may, with approval of the FIR Delegate, take a player directly from the waiting list.

If a player withdraws after the draws have been done, but before the draws have been published, the best player of the class below **MUST** be pulled up to fill the draw, but must be placed on the position where the withdrawal has been made without knowing this position, and marked as an **ALTERNATE** player. In case a seeded player withdraws, all other lower seeds need to be moved up accordingly and the best non-seeded player moves to the last seeded position. The Alternate player is then moved to the best non-seeded player's original position. Again, a player may be taken instead directly from the waiting list.

If a player withdraws after the draws have been done and the draws have been published but before the first match of the draw has been played it is **NOT** permitted to replace any withdrawals with any players who are already in another draw of the same Open category e.g. a player in Men B cannot be moved to Men A, in order not to destroy any other draw. **ALTERNATE** players can now only be players on the waiting list. The player with the highest world ranking on the waiting list is then placed in the draw without knowing on which position he shall be placed. If no player is found the position stays free and the opponent receives a bye to move to the next round. In case a seeded player withdraws and only **IF** an **ALTERNATE** player is found, the best non-seeded player moves to the position of the seeded player who has withdrawn, and the **ALTERNATE** player will then take that player's position. The **ALTERNATE** player does not take the position of the seeded player who withdrew.

As long as the first round of the respective draw has not been completed, any **ALTERNATE** player can be placed on the position of a player who has withdrawn, directly on site, no matter if it was a non-seeded or seeded player.

If a player forfeits a match because of injury he also has to forfeit all further matches in all classes scheduled for that same day. His forfeited matches will all be marked as "retired" in Tournament Software. He may, however, continue to play again in all classes of the tournament, from the following day.

If a player forfeits a match because of a non-injury (e.g. clash with a private appointment) he must also forfeit all further matches in that class. He must also forfeit all further matches in all other classes scheduled for that same day. His matches will all be marked as "walkover" in Tournament Software. He may, however, continue to play in any class, other than the one he initially forfeited, from the following day.

The same logic applies to a player forfeiting a doubles match, except that his/her partner may continue to play unhindered in a different class.

If a match in a Round Robin is forfeited, then all other matches for that player/pair must also be marked as forfeited, even if already played.

The Ranking Regulations may be adapted to differentiate between different forms of forfeiting matches.

### **3.5. Nationalities in the Draw**

When the draws are made no players of the same country shall meet in the first round of a non-Elite draw, except players from the hosting country, if more than half of the participants are from the hosting country. In doubles, provided that all four players are from the same country, the same principle applies.

This counts for all non-Elite draws. The only exceptions are if an alternate player comes in after the draws have been made instead of another player, then the country of the opponent is not taken into account.

### **3.6. Minimum Number of Entries is 3**

The normal minimum number of entries is four, as with four players or doubles pairs, three matches (group play) can be guaranteed. Events with only three registrations are possible if all players agree.

All classes in the tournament invitation (according to the tournament specification) with at least three registered players or doubles pairs, and three players or doubles pairs taking part, must be played and are awarded world ranking points.

### **3.7. Different classes in the same general category**

Players cannot play two classes in one Open category (e.g. Men A and Men B), but can play two classes in an age-banded category (e.g. +45 singles and +55 singles).

### **3.8. Women in Men's classes**

Women can also start in a Men's class, but they must at least register for, and play in (unless it is cancelled) one Women's Singles class too. Similarly, 2 women can enter for Mixed Doubles.

### **3.9. Number of Classes per player**

All age-banded players must be allowed to play two singles classes per tournament, e.g. Seniors +50 and +55, or Juniors u21 and Men B, All players must be allowed to play two doubles classes per tournament e.g. Men A Elite Doubles and Mixed A Elite Doubles, or +45 Doubles and Men B Doubles. Which ones these are, can be defined by the Tournament Director according to the time schedule. For Elite player it must be possible to play in at least two Olympic draws. It shall not be possible for a player to enter more than two doubles classes, or more than two singles classes in total, at any tournament.

### **3.10. Age Classes**

Age classes with an age limit are open to all players that are younger/older than or turn the respective age during the calendar year, i.e. it is enough for the condition to be fulfilled *at some point during the year*. E.g. Seniors +45 is open to all players that are older than, or will turn, 45 during the calendar year and Girls u16 is open to all female players that are younger than, or will turn, 16 during the calendar year.

### **3.11. Winner in Group-Play draws**

All group matches will always be played to completion i.e. even if a match is already decided before tennis, the tennis match will still be played to 21 (or until one player has a two point advantage, after a score of 20-20). If a draw is played in group play format, the winner of the group shall be the player with the most victories. If several players have the same number of victories, the direct encounter shall be decisive. If the direct encounters are equal (e.g. three players have each two victories), the points difference shall be decisive among all the players with the equal number of victories. If there is still more than one player with the same point difference, a toss shall be decisive. The tournament director is responsible for such a toss.

### **3.12. Entry Fees**

All players are obliged to pay the entry fee for any tournament if they don't withdraw before the entry deadline no matter what the reason for withdrawing or not showing up. It is solely the tournament director's decision if they chose not to collect any missing fees from late withdrawals or no show players in all draws except Olympic draws. The tournament directors than send a list to FIR of players not having paid in the Olympic draws, who are banned to play any future events until the money has been transferred to FIR. If players can't provide proof that they were not able to take part in the tournament due to sickness, injury or other very good reasons, they need to pay an additional fee of 100€ per tournament for not showing up.

Tournament Directors may charge an additional EUR10 per players whose initial registration is later than 28 days before close of registration (see 3.2 above)



### **3.13. Referees**

It is expected to have referees for the main draw of all Olympic Draws (not loser pools) which are all supposed to take place on the centre courts. It is up to the tournament organisation to decide if they want to or can provide referees for any other classes. In case of dispute during a match players can ask the Head Referee to provide a referee to finish the match. 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.

### **3.14. Head Referee**

Each FIR event has to nominate a Head Referee who has knowledge of all FIR rules and regulations. This Head Referee takes all final decisions concerning the games, scoring and so forth according to the FIR Racketlon Rulebook, in consultation with the FIR Delegate, as necessary. In cases which are not provided for in the Rules and Regulations of FIR, the head referee may take a final decision on his own responsibility according to ideas and ethics of Racketlon and after consultation of the FIR Delegate. He is also the only person who needs to be called if a player wants to take a 5-minute injury time-out according to FIR rules. The Head Referee can take a doctor or physio with him on the court and ask for consultation, but he makes the final decision.

Unlike other sports FIR is very concerned of the health of all players, thus also cramps, breathlessness or sickness such as vomiting can be reasons for a 5-minute injury time-out if the Head Referee decides.

### **3.15. Tournament Director**

Each FIR event has to nominate a Tournament Director who is responsible for all organisational matters such as scheduling the matches. The Tournament Director can, due to severe reasons, such as cancelled flights, postpone any matches to later on the same day if he feels the tournament schedule is not in danger without the agreement of the opponents. He can also postpone important matches such as all medal matches due to severe reasons to the next day if the day is still within the tournament and after consultation of the FIR Delegate but without agreement of the opponents.

### **3.16. FIR-Delegate**

Each FIR World Ranking event has a FIR-delegate, and optionally a trainee Delegate Assistant, on site. They are entitled to all final decisions concerning the tournament and stand above the TD and the Head Referee.

### **3.17. Summary**

- 1) Tournament registration and entry deadline
- 2) Size, format, seeding, wildcards
- 3) Withdrawals, no-shows and forfeit of matches
- 4) No players from same countries can meet first round
- 5) Minimum of four entries in each draw. 3 with agreement of all players
- 6) Players cannot play two classes of same Open category e.g. Men A and B
- 7) Women can also enter for Men classes, if they play Women classes too
- 8) Tournament director decides how many classes per player
- 9) For age classes age must be fulfilled at any time in the current year
- 10) Group play matches to complete tennis to the end
- 11) Entry Fees must be paid if withdrawal after entry deadline or no show
- 12) In principle referees only in Olympic draws on centre courts
- 13) Head Referee
- 14) Tournament Director
- 15) FIR Delegate
- 16)

## **4. SPECIAL RULES FOR OLYMPIC DRAWS**

### **4.1. Qualification for Olympic draws**

Qualification for the Olympic draws is only possible over the world ranking plus a number of wildcards, in order that not any player can just enter Olympic draws (see 3.1 above). Similarly, if a player has sufficient ranking points to force their entry into an Olympic Draw, yet feels she/he is clearly too weak for the Elite class, the player can implicitly request from FIR “Special Exemption” status by registering for the B-class. On FIR approval, only FIR may place them in the lower draw. The limit on the number of Special Exemptions awarded is the same as for wild cards.

### **4.2. Entries to Olympic draws**

International players are asked to stay realistic when they enter for tournaments. If players with too low rankings enter Elite Classes they will be moved to the lower class, and players with too high rankings in the lower class will be moved to the higher class in order to have clean cut-offs in Men A and Women A Elite Classes, especially in singles.

### **4.3. Formats for Olympic draws**

There will be a maximum of 64 Elite players for the Olympic draws of all World Tour events.

### **4.4. Tournament Director does Olympic draws**

The Tournament Director must organise that all Olympic monrad draws are made live using social media, such as Facebook, to ensure a fair and unbiased process. The draws are sorted in advance by the TD after consultation with the FIR Tour Officer.

### **4.5. Cut-Off for Olympic draws**

For all FIR Ranking events, the players ranked, according to the valid FIR world rankings on the day of the entry deadline, in the top 7/8<sup>th</sup> of the Elite draw of an Open category MUST always play in the Elite class, unless they have been awarded Special Exemption status by FIR (see 4.1 above). The FIR world ranking of the last player in this top 7/8<sup>th</sup> of the main draw is called the Cut-Off. e.g. if a 32 draw is used in Elite the top 28 ranked players in the main draw MUST play Elite and cannot on their own wish play Class B (without Special Exemption status). In this example, the 28<sup>th</sup> player is the Cut-Off, while the remaining four players can then be chosen by the wildcard system as per point 4.6. The Cut-Off position can be increased if not all wildcards are issued (see 4.6).

In all doubles draws the FIR world ranking position is determined by adding the up the two world doubles ranking positions (not points) of the two players making a pair.

The above mentioned regulations do in principle count for Challenger events, but the tournament directors of Challengers can act more autonomously issuing more wild cards and should be in contact with FIR.

### **4.6. Wildcards for Olympic draws**

A maximum of 1/8<sup>th</sup> of the draw-size can be assigned as wildcard, meaning players can enter the Elite draw despite having a lower ranking than the Cut-Off or no world ranking at all e.g. for an 16-draw MA there can be only a maximum of 2 wild cards, irrespective of whether there are only 12 players taking part, or whether 24 players initially registered. Half of the wildcards are offered by the tournament director, the other half by FIR. If there is an odd number of wildcards the tournament director has the only or extra wildcard, except for Olympic Draws of World Championships, where FIR shall have the only or extra wildcard. FIR can offer the tournament its wildcards and vice versa.

There is no restriction on the number of wildcards in Challenger events.

By registering for an Olympic draw, players are implicitly applying for a wildcard, should this be necessary. Players may additionally contact FIR and the Tournament Director stating their justification for Olympic status. If there are no applications or the TD and/or FIR see no need to issue any or the full number of wildcards they must not do so and can instead raise the Cut-Off to the next players according to the FIR world rankings.

#### **4.7. Seeding for Olympic draws**

The seeding for the Olympic draws of all FIR World Ranking events (including Challengers) must be done strictly according to the world rankings. A total of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the draw-size in the Olympic draws should be seeded. E.g. 16-draw with 12 players has 4 seeds. A 4-draw has 2 seeds.

The placing of the seeded players should be done as follows: Round of last 16 seeded 1 to 8 play seeded 9 to 16, in the quarterfinals seeded 1 to 4 play seeded 5 to 8. In the semi-finals 1 plays 3 or 4 and 2 plays the other way round. In 12, 24 or 48 draws the seeded players must have the byes in the first round. Seeding is automatic in Tournament Software.

In case two seeded players or a pair in doubles have the same FIR world ranking position, lots are drawn which player or which pair is drawn to which position in the draw. Same rule counts if two players or a pair have the same FIR world ranking position and only one of them can take the last seeding position. Lots are drawn and the other player or pair is not seeded.

#### **4.8. Withdrawals in Olympic single draws**

Players withdrawing in the Olympic draws are governed by the same ruling as in section 3 above, except that in all cases, the next best player without Special Exemption status MUST be used where possible, whether this is a player in the “B” class, or on the waiting list.

If players in Olympic draws withdraw after the entry deadline or don't show up for whatever reason, they must still pay the full entry fee for all draws they entered. In addition a fine of 100€ per tournament is to be paid if no sufficient proof of sickness, injury or other substantial reasons can be provided to FIR. Until they have paid these fees to FIR players are banned on [fir.tournamentsoftware.com](http://fir.tournamentsoftware.com) to enter any other tournaments.

#### **4.9. Withdrawals in Olympic double draws**

In case a pair or one player in doubles withdraws it can be replaced by any other pair or one single player until the first round of the tournament is complete.

In case one single player of a seeded doubles pair withdraws, he can be replaced by any other player not in the draw yet and the pair stays seeded no matter what FIR world ranking the ALTERNATE player has.

In case two players of two different pairs withdraw and the remaining players want to form a new pair, this is also possible. If one original pair was seeded and the other pair not, the new pair goes to the seeded position. If both were seeded, the new pair goes to the better seeded position. If both pairs were unseeded, lots are drawn.

#### **4.10. Referees in Olympic draws**

On the Super World Tour and International World Tour all Olympic matches in the main draw must be played on Centre Courts and refereed in all four sports. Challenger tournaments are required to provide referees for Olympic matches from semi-finals. Players can at any time ask the Head Referee to appoint a referee also for the first rounds. These referees can by all means be players.

#### **4.11. World Rankings**

The FIR world rankings valid on the day of the entry deadline are used for cut-offs and seedings and are valid for the respective tournament.

#### **4.12. Publishing Olympic draws**

All draws are published together with the time schedule and a story on [fir.tournamentsoftware.com](http://fir.tournamentsoftware.com) and [www.racketlon.net](http://www.racketlon.net) on the Monday of the week of the first day of the tournament. Once the draw and schedule has been published, it is not possible to change any start-times of first round matches without mutual consent of all players or other very severe reasons. Only the TD and FIR Delegate together can make such a decision.

#### **4.13. Walk overs in Olympic draws**

The waiting rule for all matches in Olympic draws is 15 minutes. If opponents are not ready to play 15 minutes after their scheduled time the match is walk over unless the Tournament Director can provide an ALTERNATE player, or officially postpones the match due to severe reasons.

#### **4.14. Players Clothing**

In order to further promote the professionalism of Racketlon, Olympic players are encouraged to wear clothing bearing their nationality and/or name. Olympic doubles players are obliged to wear shirts of the same colour as their partner for all main-draw matches at tournaments of status IWT, SWT, CC or WC. It is recommended for all other Olympic matches.

All players can be obliged not to wear a similar colour shirt to the table tennis ball by the referee, Tournament Director or FIR Delegate, or the tournament can provide a different colour ball if available.

Failure to comply with this rule after being requested to do so can be punished by the referee with a conduct warning for the first occurrence at a tournament. A subsequent infringement can be punished with disqualification from that draw. This decision is taken by the FIR Delegate after consulting with the Tournament Director. Non-compliance is not carried over from one tournament to the next.

#### **4.15. Summary Olympic draws**

- 1) Qualification - Olympic classes according to world rankings
- 2) Entries can be moved to other classes
- 3) Olympic format is monrad with 8, 12, 16, 24, 32, 48 or 64 players. Round robin groups as an exception
- 4) All Olympic draws done centrally by FIR
- 5) Cut-Off for Olympic draws done by FIR
- 6) Wildcards for Olympic draws given by tournament director and FIR
- 7) Seeding for Olympic draws according to the world rankings
- 8) Alternate players from waiting list can also replace withdrawals in Olympic draws
- 9) Entry Fees are due upon late withdrawal
- 10) Referees for Olympic draws in all main draw matches
- 11) Entry deadline Monday of the week before tournament start
- 12) FIR world rankings on the day of the entry deadline valid
- 13) Publishing all draws and time schedule on Monday of the week the tournament starts
- 14) Walk over in Olympic draws after 15 minutes waiting time
- 15) Olympic players encouraged to wear clothing bearing their nationality/name. Olympic doubles pairs must wear shirts of same colour

## **5. NATIONALITIES**

### **5.1. Racketlon Nationality**

All players starting at an international Racketlon tournament are starting for the country of their nationality as they enter it on [fir.tournamentsoftware.com](http://fir.tournamentsoftware.com). To play for a country, players must have a valid passport or citizenship from this country, or having been an official resident of a country for a minimum of five straight years. All players with two or more passports may chose for which country to play Racketlon and can change their Racketlon nationality by giving notice to FIR Head Office and providing evidence. If players change citizenship and get a passport from only one other country they automatically also change their Racketlon nationality. The team "Great Britain" shall be represented by players of England, Scotland, Wales, N. Ireland, Channel Isles or the Isle of Man.

## **5.2. Nationality change for national team**

In case players have played official FIR national team competition for their country and they change nationality they can start for the national team of their new country after a waiting period of one year. Such a change is only possible once in a life time.

## **5.3. Summary**

- 1) Passport and citizenship give Racketlon nationality
- 2) Nationality change for National Team selection possible once per life time
- 3) Scotland has own national team, Team-Great Britain comprises all other UK nations

## **6. FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **6.1. Coming into Force**

The Players Regulations were passed by the FIR Founding Assembly on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019 in Vienna and shall be valid immediately.

### **6.2. Amendments and Modifications**

The Players Regulations can only be amended and modified by the FIR Council.

FIR – Federation of International Racketlon

Duncan Stahl	Hans van Daele
President	Rules Officer