



# **Tournament Regulations**

**1<sup>st</sup> January 2020**

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

Version	Changes	Status
2.2.2019	New version for FIR, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland	Archived
13.9.2019	Additions relating to World Tour approval and tournament management: 2, 2.1 – addition of World Tour Committee 2.2.1 – tournament commitment statement 3.5 – reduced number of hotels, Delegate approval for changes in tournament information 3.13.6 – timing of MA and WA finals 3.15.3 – tournament cancellation 3.15.4 – FIR Delegate to approve draws and playing schedule, and are final decision-takers B – National Team Competition format	Archived
17.11.2019	1. - Player Licence Fee creation/renewal increased from EUR 15 to EUR 25 if needed to be done manually 3.10.1 – Tournament Director to collect increased licence fee for players who do not purchase their licence online B2 – allow u13 & u16 juniors national teams to have different players in doubles, as for singles	Archived
1.1.2020	3.4.1 – max entry fee for juniors & second singles class 3.4.2, 3.6, 3.15.4 – tournaments to pay TSF also for Delegates and Council Members, to simplify the burdensome administration 3.9.3 – introduction of “online entry fast-close”, to allow the TD to close online registration early if insufficient court to accept more players; also clarify the “last-minute” registration surcharge to use only regular entry deadline, not the fast-close 3.7.1 – introduce +40 mixed doubles 3.8.5 – squash goggles mandatory for junior classes 3.12 - minimum of one line judge for Elite finals/semifinals	Current

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

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Table of Contents

<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>A. FIR TOURNAMENTS.....</b>	<b>4</b>
1. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND POINTS.....	4
2. TOURNAMENT APPLICATIONS .....	5
2.1. World Tour Committee.....	5
2.2. General Provisions .....	5
2.3. Application Procedure, Commitment Statement and Deadlines .....	5
3. TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	6
3.1. Definitions: Tournament, category, class, event, draw.....	6
3.2. Prize Money, Trophies.....	6
3.3. Marketing Fees.....	7
3.4. Entry Fees.....	7
3.5. Internet – Tournament Information .....	8
3.6. Tournament Status Fee .....	9
3.7. Classes .....	9
3.8. Equipment and Facilities.....	11
3.9. Draws and Seeding.....	12
3.10. Tournament Software.....	13
3.11. Media - Reporting Results.....	14
3.12. Referees and Line Judges .....	15
3.13. Other Requirements .....	15
3.14. Tournament and FIR Sponsors .....	17
3.15. Fines .....	20
3.16. Insurance .....	21
<b>B. FIR NATIONAL TEAM COMPETITIONS (WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS) .....</b>	<b>22</b>
1. THE TEAM .....	22
1.1. Designation of Team members.....	22
1.2. Line-up commitment .....	23
1.3. Reserves Deployment.....	23
1.4. Seeding of the National Teams.....	23
1.5. FIR makes draws at Team Captains Meeting .....	24
2. ORDER OF PLAY.....	24
3. SCORING AND GUMMIARM RULE .....	24
<b>C. FIR CHAMPIONS LEAGUE .....</b>	<b>26</b>
1. LEAGUE FORMAT.....	26
1.1. Application to play.....	26
1.2. Squads .....	26
1.3. Teams .....	26
1.4. Line-up commitment .....	26
1.5. Order of Play .....	26
2. SCORING AND GUMMIARM RULE .....	27
<b>D. FINAL PROVISIONS.....</b>	<b>28</b>
1. COMING INTO FORCE .....	28
2. AMENDMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS.....	28

## INTRODUCTION

The FIR Tournament Regulations govern all FIR international Racketlon events and define the conditions under which Tournament Directors may apply for and plan their tournaments. Execution of the tournament will also require the Players Draws Regulations,

In return for the commitment to comply with the requirements in this document, tournaments are offered World Ranking status. The ability of tournaments to comply with these requirements will be monitored by FIR Delegates and will influence the tournament's World Tour status in the coming years.

All FIR international Racketlon tournaments must be played according to the valid "Rules of Racketlon" as can be found on [www.racketlon.net](http://www.racketlon.net). A FIR Delegate and optionally a trainee FIR Co-Delegate from the annually published FIR Delegate list will be nominated by FIR to monitor and assist each FIR event.

## A. FIR TOURNAMENTS

### 1. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND POINTS

The following tournaments are organised by FIR:

- a) FIR Racketlon World Championships (WC)
  - World Championships Singles (WCS)
  - World Championships Doubles (WCD)
  - World Championships National Teams (WCNT)
- b) FIR Racketlon Super World Tour tournaments (SWT), maximum 4 tournaments per year
- c) FIR Racketlon International World Tour tournaments (IWT), no maximum number
- d) FIR Challenger tournaments (CHA), no maximum number
- e) FIR Champions League

"FIR World Tour events" (WC, SWT and IWT events) comprise the World Tour and count for the World Tour Race. The following categories<sup>2</sup> shall be considered:

- Mens Open Singles
- Womens Open Singles
- Mens Seniors
- Womens Seniors

World Ranking points are awarded at all "FIR Ranking Events" (all FIR tournaments except for Champions League and National Team events). The Council defines the ranking points matrix. The exact table can be found on <http://www.racketlon.net/content/fir-ranking-regulations>.

All FIR tournaments are to be held without any national ranking tournaments running at the same time at the same venue. All players must have a valid FIR annual licence and be registered on Tournament Software. The cost of the annual licence is defined by the FIR Council. Players who do not purchase the licence themselves online<sup>3</sup> must pay an additional administration fee of EUR 10.

Everyone must in principle have the possibility to participate in FIR tournaments, qualification tournaments are not permitted. Only short exhibitions to promote Racketlon are allowed.

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<sup>2</sup> See 3.1 for definition of category

<sup>3</sup> EUR 15 per 1.1.2020

## 2. TOURNAMENT APPLICATIONS

### 2.1. World Tour Committee

The FIR World Tour Committee shall be appointed by the FIR President and approved by the FIR Council. The Committee shall be chaired by the World Tour Officer and made up of a minimum of 3 people. For the purposes of impartiality, no member of the World Tour Committee shall be either an existing Tournament Director or existing President of their National Federation or Association. If an existing member of the World Tour Committee subsequently becomes a Tournament Director or President of their national federation or association, then they will be replaced.

The FIR World Tour Committee shall assess all World Tour, Challenger and Champions League applications and put forward their recommendation to the FIR Council for final approval.

When considering the World Tour, Challenger and Champions League tournament applications the FIR World Tour Committee shall assess a variety of factors to determine whether a tournament should be included on the World Tour and what status (CHA, IWT, SWT or WC) it should be granted. These factors will include, but are not limited to:

- the general performance of the tournament in the previous year(s), based on the delegate report and results and data of the Player Survey.
- the details and plans presented by the Tournament Director within their tournament application.
- What previous tournaments the Tournament Director has organised and what tournaments have been staged at the proposed sports centre.

### 2.2. General Provisions

Applications for all tournaments must be made by the Tournament Director to the FIR World Tour Officer and approved by the host nation. The host nation of the tournament must be a FIR member country, which has paid its annual country membership fee and has no outstanding debt with FIR. By applying to host a FIR tournament, the applicant confirms that he has read the Tournament Regulations and fully accepts and complies with them. The host nation can apply for a maximum of two FIR World Tour tournaments and an unlimited number of Challengers per year. In exceptional cases (e.g. in the case of very large countries, or when also holding a World Championships), the host nation can request an additional World Tour tournament.

The proposal for the FIR World Tour is made by the FIR World Tour Committee and approved by the FIR Council. The decision about Challenger tournaments is also taken by the FIR World Tour Committee alone. Each Tournament Director can apply for as many Challenger tournaments as it wants to hold, but only two Challengers per country per year are guaranteed by FIR.

FIR will actively promote “seniors’ showcase” tournaments (WC, SWT’s and selected IWT’s), where +65 and +70 classes are expected to attract a larger number of players than usual. Applications for IWT’s shall separately request “seniors’ showcase” status, to be approved by FIR.

### 2.3. Application Procedure, Commitment Statement and Deadlines

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| a) World Championships:      | Application only through national federation, application deadline shall be defined by FIR;                      |
| c) Super World Tour:         | Application by Tournament Director, application deadline <b>30<sup>th</sup> June</b> ;                           |
| d) International World Tour: | Application by Tournament Director, application deadline <b>30<sup>th</sup> June</b> ;                           |
| e) Challenger:               | Application by Tournament Director, application deadline is <b>four (4) months</b> before the tournament starts. |

#### 2.3.1. *Tournament commitment statement and contract*

By filling out the application form to FIR for any FIR event, Tournament Directors automatically confirm the requirements given in this document and accept that the highest person taking all final decisions in both the

preparations before the tournament as well as all issues or decisions that may arise during a tournament at a FIR event is the FIR Delegate. The application form is a CLEAR and FINAL COMMITMENT STATEMENT.

### 2.3.2. *Exceptions of Requirements possible*

In case certain requirements cannot be met and the Tournament Director knows this beforehand he can ask FIR for exceptions. The important part again is a beforehand notice together with the tournament application to the FIR World Tour Officer. In case some requirements are not met without advance notice, the Council can issue a warning, fine the tournament (especially if FIR Sponsor Rights are not fulfilled), lower the level of a tournament i.e. from IWT to Challenger status or even cancel the tournament for the next or one of the future years.

## 3. TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 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>4</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”.

### 3.2. Prize Money, Trophies

Prize money is optional and not compulsory for all tournaments. Tournament directors may still choose to distribute prize money (with no minimum amount) to those in the Olympic and (at World Championships) Seniors Draws whilst following these criteria:

Prize money may only be given to the top 1/3 of the players (rounded to the nearest whole number) of any category e.g. for a full SWT 8-draw, only 3 players may receive prize money. If this ruling allocates prize money to more positions than is actually awarded, then the “missing” prize money foreseen for the lower positions is redistributed to increase the prize money awarded to the top 1/3 winning positions for that category.

Olympic draws are defined as Men A – Elite, Women A - Elite, Men A – Elite Doubles, Women A – Elite Doubles, Mixed A – Elite Doubles. For all tournaments more prize money is always allowed, thus a Challenger may also offer prize money.

Any extra prize money can always be added to any of the classes or distributed in other categories if approved by the FIR Delegate. Notice must be given to FIR and published on [www.racketlon.net](http://www.racketlon.net) latest one week before tournament start.

No prize money is allowed in any of the Junior Classes.

If any of the draws are not played due to too few entries or the draw is not filled (e.g. SWT Women only 2 participants), the prize money must be distributed to other classes, so that the total prize money is always fully paid. The FIR Delegate approves any prize money redistribution.

All prize money must be paid only in cash to the winners at the official prize giving ceremony. The FIR Delegate can approve, as an exception, paying prize money in cash to winners before the ceremony. If prize money is not paid by the Tournament Director, because of the absence of players it is to be paid to FIR and used for developing countries.

a) World Championships: **Singles** (prize money at Tournament Director’s discretion, split as below):

<b><u>Men:</u></b>	50%	(1 <sup>st</sup> : 40%, 2 <sup>nd</sup> : 25%, 3 <sup>rd</sup> : 15%, 4 <sup>th</sup> : 10%, 5th-8th: 2.5% each);
<b><u>Women:</u></b>	30%	(1 <sup>st</sup> : 40%, 2 <sup>nd</sup> : 25%, 3 <sup>rd</sup> : 15%, 4 <sup>th</sup> : 10%, 5th-8th: 2.5% each);
<b><u>Seniors</u></b> +40:	20%	(1 <sup>st</sup> : 50%, 2 <sup>nd</sup> : 30%, 3 <sup>rd</sup> : 20%)

<sup>4</sup> known as “events” in TournamentSoftware

**Doubles** (prize money at Tournament Director's discretion, split as below):

**Men's Doubles:** 50% (1<sup>st</sup>: 50%, 2<sup>nd</sup>: 30%, 3<sup>rd</sup>: 20%);

**Women's Doubles:** 30% (1<sup>st</sup>: 50%, 2<sup>nd</sup>: 30%, 3<sup>rd</sup>: 20%);

**Mixed Doubles:** 20% (1<sup>st</sup>: 50%, 2<sup>nd</sup>: 30%, 3<sup>rd</sup>: 20%).

**Teams** (prize money at Tournament Director's discretion, split as below):

**Teams:** (1<sup>st</sup>: 50%, 2<sup>nd</sup>: 30%, 3<sup>rd</sup>: 20%);

c) Champions League: No prize money

d) Super World Tour: Prize money at Tournament Director's discretion, split as below:

**Men's Singles:** 40% (1st: 40%, 2nd: 25%, 3rd: 15%, 4th: 10%, 5th-8th: 2.5% each);

**Women Singles:** 25% (1st: 40%, 2nd: 25%, 3rd: 15%, 4th: 10%, 5th-8th: 2.5% each);

**Men's Doubles:** 15% (1st: 50%, 2nd: 30%, 3rd: 20%);

**Women's Doubles:** 10% (1st: 50%, 2nd: 30%, 3rd: 20%);

**Mixed Doubles:** 10% (1st: 50%, 2nd: 30%, 3rd: 20%);

e) International World Tour: Prize money at Tournament Director's discretion, split as below:

**Men's Singles:** 60% (1<sup>st</sup>: 45%, 2<sup>nd</sup>: 30%, 3<sup>rd</sup>: 15%, 4<sup>th</sup>: 10%);

**Women's Singles:** 40% (1<sup>st</sup>: 50%, 2<sup>nd</sup>: 30%, 3<sup>rd</sup>: 20%)

f) Challenger: No minimum prize money.

### 3.3. Marketing Fees

Tournament directors of all IWT, SWT and WC tournaments will contribute into a central FIR Marketing Fund. This amount will be as a percentage of the total sum of all player's entry fees including the FIR reimbursement for Council Members:

5% of entry fee income for IWT's

10% of entry fee income for SWT's, WC's (singles, doubles and teams)

### 3.4. Entry Fees

#### 3.4.1. Entry Fees Restriction

The entry fee for FIR World Ranking events in singles is restricted to a maximum of:

- 70 € for WCS
- 60 € for SWT
- 55 € for IWT
- 45 € for Challengers
- 40 € for u21/u18, 30 € for u16/u13

The entry fee for an additional Singles class shall be reduced by at least 15 €.

The entry fees for +65 and +70 classes shall be reduced by 10 €.

The entry fee per player for FIR World Ranking events in doubles is restricted to a maximum of:

- 35 € for WCD classes (20 € for juniors)
- 20 € for SWT and IWT classes

- 15 € for Challenger classes

The entry fee per team for FIR team events is restricted to a maximum of:

- 200 € for WCNT classes in the Championship division
- 200 € for WCNT classes in all other divisions (Division 1, Division 2 etc.)
- 200 € for WCNT Seniors classes (+45 and +40)
- 160 € for WCNT Seniors classes (+55)
- 80 € for WCNT Seniors classes (+65)
- 105€ for WCNT Juniors classes (u21)
- 70€ for WCNT Juniors classes (u13 and u16)
- 150€ for Champions League events

The entry fee must include a proper meal at the players' dinner worth around 10 €.

Tournaments may require prepayment over the internet until the day of the regular entry deadline.

The entry fees must be given on the website when the tournament is published on [fir.tournamentsoftware.com](http://fir.tournamentsoftware.com).

#### 3.4.2. *No Entry Fees for Council Members*

As a thank you for their commitment and time contribution, all Council Members don't have to pay any entry fees at all FIR World Ranking events<sup>5</sup>. As a financial compensation, a fixed reimbursement for each playing Council member is refunded to the tournament (regardless of whether the Council member plays just one or multiple classes). The size of the reimbursement<sup>6</sup> is decided by the FIR Council. The reimbursement is subtracted from the Tournament Status Fees due.

#### 3.4.3. *EUR 10 Surcharge for Last-Minute Entries*

As an incentive to encourage earlier player registrations, Tournament Directors may charge an additional 10 € for 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. Tournament Directors should preferably include this information when publishing their tournament. If applied, the surcharge must be charged to all players without bias.

### 3.5. **Internet – Tournament Information**

The Tournament Directors must ensure that tournament information as well as hotel recommendations are available on the internet.

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| a) World Championships:      | 6 months prior to the tournament incl. 2 hotel recommendations; |
| b) Super World Tour:         | 6 months prior to the tournament incl. 1 hotel recommendation;  |
| c) International World Tour: | 3 months prior to the tournament incl. 1 hotel recommendation;  |
| d) Challenger:               | 3 months prior to the tournament incl. 1 hotel recommendation.  |

Further the Guaranteed Earliest Start Time (GEST) as well as the Guaranteed Latest End Time (GLET) together with a preliminary time schedule for the tournament must be approved by the FIR Delegate and published on the tournament homepage six resp. three months prior to the tournament, in order to facilitate the booking of flights in advance. At least three resp. two accommodation recommendations (at least one high budget and one 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.

+65 and +70 classes must be organised to be held on a maximum of two consecutive days, to enable a single overnight stay to be sufficient. The GEST & GLET for these classes shall be published together with the general ones for all other classes.

<sup>5</sup> As decided by the AGM 2007. In force as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

<sup>6</sup> EUR 50 per 1.1.2018

The types of courts and the balls/shuttlecocks to be used at the tournament must be published together with the initial online tournament details.

No subsequent changes to this tournament information shall be made or published by the Tournament Director without the full agreement of the FIR Delegate.

### 3.6. Tournament Status Fee

Each FIR event is required to pay a tournament status fee per entry which actually takes part in the tournament:

- a) World Championships: 8 € per entry Singles, 6 € per entry Doubles pair, 10 € per Entry Teams;
- b) Super World Tour: 5 € per entry Singles, 4 € per entry Doubles pair;
- c) International World Tour: 3 € per entry Singles, 2 € per entry Doubles pair;
- d) Challenger: 2 € per entry Singles, 1.50 € per entry Doubles pair;
- e) Champions League: 10 € per entry Teams.

The Tournament Director must download the payment specification form from [www.racketlon.net/content/tournament-support](http://www.racketlon.net/content/tournament-support) fill it out and mail it to the FIR-Treasurer. Payments shall be made directly to the FIR bank account. If the money does not reach FIR account latest 30 days after end of the tournament or arranged otherwise with the FIR Treasurer, a penalty of 10% of the total fees due shall be charged per month.

### 3.7. Classes

Depending on the status of each tournament, the following classes need to be offered. More are always allowed. Classes may only be dropped at the lowest level. E.g. Men A and Women A Elite always need to be held if there are sufficient entries. If there are too few entries, then first Men D needs to be dropped, then Men C etc.

All WC, SWT, IWT and CHA events may hold a one-day “First-Timers” class (with optionally a separate class for Women First Timers) on Saturday, for up to 16 local players who have not played international Racketlon before and who do not have a FIR Players Licence. No World ranking points are awarded for this class. All First-Timer players must buy a FIR Players Licence should they want to play in further FIR classes.

#### 3.7.1. Available classes

	WC Singles	WC Doubles	WC NT	SWT	IWT	CHA
Men A – Elite	x			x	x	x
Men B – Advanced	x			x	x	x
Men C – Amateur	x			x	x	x
Men D – Beginner	x					
Men E – Fresh Starters	x					
First-Timers	x			x	x	x
Women A – Elite	x			x	x	x
Women B – Amateur	x			x	x	x
Seniors +40	x			x	x	
Seniors +45	x			x	x	x
Seniors +50	x			x		
Seniors +55	x			x	x	
Seniors +60	x			x		
Seniors +65	x			x		
Seniors +70	x			x		
Women Seniors +40	x			x	x	
Women Seniors +45	x			x	x	x
Women Seniors +50	x					
Women Seniors +55	x					
Juniors u21	x			x	x	
Juniors u18	x			x		
Juniors u16	x			x		

**FIR-Tournament Regulations**  
**1<sup>st</sup> January 2020**

Juniors u13	x			x		
Girls u21	x			x		
Girls u18	x					
Girls u16	x					
Girls u13	x					
Men A – Elite Doubles		x		x	x	x
Men B/C – Amateur Doubles		x		x	x	x
Men D/E – Beginner Doubles		x		x		
Women A - Elite Doubles		x		x	x	x
Women B – Amateur Doubles		x		x	x	
Mixed A – Elite Doubles		x		x		x
Mixed B – Amateur Doubles		x		x		
Seniors (+40) Doubles		x				
Seniors (+45) Doubles		x		x	x	
Seniors (+55) Doubles		x				
Seniors (+60) Doubles		x				
Seniors (+65) Doubles		x				
Women Seniors (+40) Doubles		x				
Women Seniors (+45) Doubles		x		x	x	
Seniors Mixed (+40) Doubles		x		x		
Seniors Mixed (+45) Doubles		x		x		
Seniors Mixed (+55) Doubles		x				
Juniors (u21) Doubles		x				
Juniors (u18) Doubles		x				
Juniors (u16) Doubles		x				
Juniors (u13) Doubles		x				
Girls (u21) Doubles		x				
Girls (u18) Doubles		x				
Girls (u16) Doubles		x				
Juniors Mixed (u21) Doubles		x				
Juniors Mixed (u18) Doubles		x				
National Teams Elite			x			
National Teams Amateur			x			
National Teams Seniors (+40)			x			
National Teams Seniors (+45)			x			
National Teams Seniors (+55)			x			
National Teams Seniors (+65)			x			
National Teams Juniors (u21)			x			
National Teams Juniors (u18)			x			
National Teams Juniors (u16)			x			
National Teams Juniors (u13)			x			

**3.7.2. Minimum 3 players/pairs per class**

For all classes it is a requirement to use the official naming of the FIR otherwise World Ranking points may not be awarded. All classes in the requirement list must be on the application form. Classes MUST be played with a minimum of four participants registered and three players taking part. Classes require at least three participating players in order to count for the World Rankings. Classes with only three registrations can be played if all players agree. If less than 4 players enter for a class, classes can also be grouped together. The requirements for World Ranking events are just the minimum, if tournament organisers want to have additional classes played, 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.

**3.7.3. Two classes possible**

Players cannot play two classes in one Open category (e.g. Men A and Men B. 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,

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Women can also enter Men's singles or doubles, but must at least also play one Woman's Singles class if held. Similarly, 2 women can enter for Mixed Doubles. 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. 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.

### **3.8. Equipment and Facilities**

All balls used for Olympic draws have to be on the FIR Approved Balls List, which is published each year on [www.racketlon.net/content/tournament-support](http://www.racketlon.net/content/tournament-support).

#### *3.8.1. Table Tennis balls*

Non-celluloid (plastic) table tennis balls are a requirement for all FIR events according to the FIR Approved Balls list and must have 3 stars. The tournament can decide which colour of balls to use, if this option is available, but these must not have a similar colour as the background walls or banners. In case a player is wearing a similar colour T-Shirt as the ball he can be obliged by the referee, Tournament Director or FIR Delegate to change the T-Shirt, or the tournament can provide a different colour ball if available.

#### *3.8.2. Badminton shuttles*

It is a requirement at all FIR events, that feather shuttles are used in all classes for Badminton. For all draws the feather shuttles must be on the FIR Approved Balls list.

#### *3.8.3. Squash Balls*

Double yellow dot squash balls are a requirement in all classes for all FIR events according to the FIR Approved Balls list.

#### *3.8.4. Tennis Balls*

ITF-approved tennis balls are required in all classes for all FIR events, according to FIR Approved Balls list.

#### *3.8.5. Protective Glasses*

Protective glasses must be worn in squash for all Juniors classes.

#### *3.8.6. Courts*

A minimum of three match courts in each sport must be available in order to start three matches parallel (two every 15 min, one every 20 min) for all SWT and WCNT events. At WC a minimum of six match courts at the same venue is required. For IWT events two match courts in each sport must be available, but three are strongly recommended and for Challengers two match courts must be available.

Elite classes main draw matches should be played on centre courts (one in each sport including referees) at all WC, SWT and IWT events with starting times at least every 20 minutes to make sure that the time rules for breaks between the sets can be kept to. Three minutes to move to the court for the next set and three minutes warm up before each set. For WC events, approved referees are required.

If there are any problems with this availability, organisers can ask FIR for exceptions. In case of summer events with tennis played outdoors at least two tennis courts must be available indoor in case of rain for all events at least offsite. The light must be reasonable on all courts, 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 according to ITTF regulations<sup>7</sup> for Elite classes. For all other classes, the space must be reasonable; the matches can't take place in a small low ceiling room. Badminton Elite matches should be played on floors with only badminton lines marked; if the hall has multiple-coloured lines for different sports, then badminton mats must be used for Center Court matches in WC, SWT and IWT events.

The net height for Table Tennis, Badminton and Tennis is according their respective official regulations, i.e. for table tennis the net must have a height of 15.24 cm (6 inch), the badminton net must have a height of 1.524 m (5

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<sup>7</sup> 14m long by 7m wide by 5m high

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ft) in the centre and one of 1.55 m (5 ft 1 inch) on the edges and for tennis the net must have a height of 0.914 m (3 ft) in the centre and a height of 1.067 m (3.5 ft) on the edges.

### 3.8.7. *Practice Courts*

It is a requirement that organisers provide two practice courts in each sport for WC and SWT events at least from 5 p.m. the evening before the tournament starts.

On match days at all WC, SWT and IWT events the same number of practice courts as match courts must be available from two hours before tournament start. During the tournament the only compulsory warm up court is a table tennis table where Elite players must have the possibility to warm up 15 min before their match start.

At Challengers no practice courts are compulsory, but Elite players must have the possibility to warm up with Table Tennis at least 15 minutes before the start of their match, which is compulsory for all tournaments.

### 3.8.8. *Shuttle Service*

WC and SWT events must offer shuttle service at least for the Elite players from the major airports to the sports centre or the tournament hotel or cover the costs for public transport.

IWT events are recommended to offer shuttles for the Elite players at least twice a day from and to the tournament hotels.

### 3.8.9. *Scoreboard*

Scoreboards are to be used on all centre courts at all times, even if no live scoring on monitors is used.

## 3.9. **Draws and Seeding**

### 3.9.1. *Minimum 3 matches*

It is a requirement for all World Ranking events to guarantee at least three scheduled matches for all players in each Singles draw, unless the draw is too small to allow this, and two matches in each Doubles draw. If the draw has byes then the minimum rounds must be increased to ensure this. Tournament Directors should strive to organise four matches for players wherever possible. Walkovers and withdrawals will be considered as matches regarding this guarantee. If necessary, round robin groups can be held to achieve this – e.g. An 8-draw monrad with only 6 players should be changed to two groups of 3 players, with a 1 vs 1, 2 vs 2 and 3 vs 3 playoff.

### 3.9.2. *Size of draws*

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 Delegate decides on the size of all draws, 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), notwithstanding 3.8.1 above. All other draws in e.g. Men B, Men C shall be filled up to a number according to these draw sizes. Only in the last draw of a class e.g. Men D, places can be left open for byes.

### 3.9.3. *Regular Entry Deadline and Online Entry Fast-Close*

The regular entry deadline for SWT, IWT and CHA events is Monday 11:59 a.m. local time of the week before tournament start. WC events close seven days earlier. The FIR Delegate can approve bringing this date forward for one or more individual classes if the class is full to capacity. The FIR Delegate can approve extending the regular entry deadline and must publish this on [www.racketlon.net](http://www.racketlon.net) for it to be valid.

If a draw is not full on reaching the regular entry deadline, the FIR Delegate 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”.

On reaching the regular entry deadline, the Tournament Planner TP-file is to be transferred by the Tournament Director to the FIR Delegate. The FIR Delegate will determine the draw sizes in all classes at latest by Thursday 11:59 after receiving the TP-file. During this time, players on the waiting list can be included in draws that are not full. The FIR Delegate will organise the making of the Olympic draws and will then return the TP-file to the

Tournament Director. Once draws are made and published, no further players other than ALT players can be added to replace players withdrawing from the tournament.

The relevant world ranking for the tournament is the one valid at the date of the regular entry deadline and is used 1) for the classification of the players in the different classes and 2) for the seeding.

The Tournament Director can, with the FIR Delegate's approval, invoke an "Online Entry Fast-Close" if the number of players or entries needs to be restricted due to limited court availability. The online entry is then opened at a predetermined time and closed when the maximum number of players or entries has been reached. Details of any Online Entry Fast-Close needs to be published well in advance to give all players an equal chance of entering. Players wanting to enter, or change their existing entry, after the online entry fast-close must do so via email to the Tournament Director, who can put them on the waiting list.

#### *3.9.4. Seedings*

The seeding for the draws of all world ranking tournaments including Challengers must be done according to the world rankings. A total of 1/4 of the official draw-size should be seeded e.g. 16-draw with 12 players, 4 are seeded. A 4-draw has 2 seeds

#### *3.9.5. Wildcards*

For all FIR Ranking events, the players ranked, according to the valid FIR world rankings on the day of the regular 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 (e.g. Mens A or Womens A), unless they have been awarded Special Exemption status by FIR.

A maximum of 1/8<sup>th</sup> of the total number of players in Olympic draws can be offered a wildcard, meaning they can enter the Elite draw although having a lower ranking than the Cut-Off or no world ranking at all. 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 the FIR shall have the only or extra wildcard. FIR can offer the tournament its wildcards and vice versa.

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 Tournament Director 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.

There are no limits on wildcards for non-Olympic draws, nor for Challenger events.

#### *3.9.6. Publishing of Draws*

The Tournament Director must organise that all Olympic draws are made by individually selecting the names of the players or pairs "out of a hat" live using FIR's social media channels, such as Facebook, to ensure a fair and unbiased process. In exceptional circumstances, the FIR Delegate may authorise the draws to be made using only Tournament Planner, though this must still be done live using FIR's social media channel.

All draws for FIR international Racketlon events must be published online together with the time schedules by latest Monday of the week of the first day of the tournament on [fir.tournamentsoftware.com](http://fir.tournamentsoftware.com). After the time schedule has been published, no first-round match times may be changed without the players' consent.

### **3.10. Tournament Software**

#### *3.10.1. Obligation to use Tournament Software*

All FIR events are obliged to use Tournament Software for draws, entries and results reporting. It is the responsibility of the Tournament Director that all participants have registered their players profile on Tournament Software, otherwise their results cannot be processed for the World Rankings.

If Tournament Directors enter any players themselves who have not paid their annual licence fee via Tournament Software, they are responsible to collect the player licence fees and the additional administration fees of 10 € per licence on site and transfer to FIR.

### 3.10.2. *Costs of Tournament Software, Collection of Annual Licence Fees*

The costs per country for a licence of Tournament Software, to run all FI Racketlon tournaments in that country is around 100 €<sup>8</sup> per year and needs to be paid to FIR together with the annual country membership fee

### 3.10.3. *Matters concerning Tournament Software*

The FIR Tournament Software Officer and the FIR Delegate are in charge of communicating with the tournament organisers and players for all matters concerning Tournament Software.

## 3.11. **Media - Reporting Results**

### 3.11.1. *Requirements overview*

- a) World Championships: Media officer, Tournament Software, Internet, Live-scoring, one report one week before tournament and one report one day after, draws and results displayed in sports centre, National TV coverage, Internet TV coverage, national print media cooperation.
- b) Super World Tour: Media officer, Tournament Software, Internet, Live-scoring, one report one week before tournament and one report one day after, draws and results displayed in sports centre, National or local TV coverage, Internet TV coverage, national print media cooperation.
- c) International World Tour: Media officer, Tournament Software, Internet, one report one week before tournament and one report one day after, draws and results displayed in sports centre, Internet TV coverage, local print media cooperation.
- d) Challenger: Tournaments Software, Internet, one report one week before tournament, e-mail draws and report one day after tournament draws and results displayed in the sports centre.

### 3.11.2. *Media Officer*

It is a requirement for FIR World Ranking event organisers to appoint a Media Officer for the tournament who is responsible for all points below.

### 3.11.3. *Tournament Software - Internet*

FIR Tournament Software is required for all FIR events. Internet must therefore be available for the Media Officer at all tournaments. Results should be permanently updated at least every 15 minutes. They must be completed and online and available on [fir.tournamentsoftware.com](http://fir.tournamentsoftware.com) immediately 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 Head Office [office@racketlon.net](mailto:office@racketlon.net) to make clear who won the Olympic classes with prize money.

### 3.11.4. *Live Scoring*

All WC and SWT events must use the online live-scoring system of Tournament Software for the Olympic draws involving four extra laptops and screens at each centre court of each sport as soon as the application is available for Racketlon and approved by FIR.

It is a recommendation for any other World Tour event to use the system too if possible.

### 3.11.5. *Reports and pictures on the internet*

The media officer is responsible to deliver one short report plus one picture of the tournament latest one week before the first day of play once the draws are published. When matches have finished on each day of the

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<sup>8</sup> EUR 75 for 2018

tournament the media officer must produce a general text of what has happened on the day especially in Olympic draws to publish on [www.racketlon.net](http://www.racketlon.net) daily. At the end of the tournament a long report about all draws is to be written and published including pictures on [www.racketlon.net](http://www.racketlon.net). These requirements are in the interest of the tournament to help with the promotion.

#### *3.11.6. Draws, results and rules displayed in sports centre*

All draws must be displayed in the sports centre either on paper or on 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.

#### *3.11.7. TV and Internet Coverage*

WC events must guarantee some kind of live and none-live TV coverage on national TV as well as Internet TV livestream coverage. SWT events must guarantee local or national TV coverage in addition to Internet coverage. IWT and Challengers should do their best to make at least Internet coverage possible. All TV or Internet spots on DVDs must be given personally to the FIR president or sent per post to the FIR Head Office.

#### *3.11.8. Print Media*

WC and SWT events are required to sign a media cooperation with national print media in order to promote the event. World Tour events should aim for regional and local print media. All print media articles must be given personally to the FIR president or scanned and sent per email to [office@racketlon.net](mailto:office@racketlon.net) or sent per post to FIR Head Office.

### **3.12. Referees and Line Judges**

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.

On all World Tour events, at least one official referee in each sport with a national referee education must be on site to be able to referee all Olympic Draws matches played in the Olympic draws. This counts for all main draw matches from the first round, except for the losers’ pool.

For all other draws and for Challenger events referees must be provided if any of the players ask for one. Challenger events are required to provide referees for Elite matches from semi-finals on. 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.

There shall be a minimum of one line-judge for badminton and tennis, positioned to call the shuttle/ball in or out on the far tramline for all:

- Elite singles finals
- Elite singles semi-finals of SWT and WC events
- Elite doubles finals of WC events

### **3.13. Other Requirements**

#### *3.13.1. World Tour Race Trophies*

It is a requirement on the last World Tour Race events of the year to provide trophies for the players who finished among the top 3 in the Seniors, Men A - Elite and Women A - Elite and to organise a prize giving ceremony. The trophies are paid by FIR and should not cost more than 300 €.

### 3.13.2. *Prize Giving Ceremony*

At all FIR events it is required to hold an official prize giving ceremony at the end of the tournament where at least the top 3 players, double pairs or teams in all classes are awarded with medals or trophies. If specific draws are finished on an earlier day, then an additional prize giving ceremony on this day is recommended. The FIR Delegate can approve, as an exception, awarding medals or trophies to players before the ceremony.

This prize giving ceremonies should take place on a podium.

### 3.13.3. *Massage, Physiotherapist, Medical Service, Doctor*

At WC and SWT events a massage should be possible on site, and medical service or a doctor and a physiotherapist (permanently, for WC events) on standby in cases of injury (players have to pay themselves). The tournament organiser should provide medical assistance according with national regulations.

At IWT and at Challenger events a doctor, physiotherapist and a masseur should at least be on standby.

### 3.13.4. *World Tour Banner, Flags and National Anthems*

At WC and SWT event prize giving ceremonies the national anthems should be played for the winners of all Olympic classes. National anthems can be played for the winners of other classes at the discretion of the Tournament Director. At WCNT events, the national anthem of each participating nation should be played at least once, either at the opening ceremony or before each team's first match.

All flags of the participating nations should be put up in the sports centre at all WC, SWT and IWT events together with the FIR World Tour banner. FIR will organise delivery of the banner before the start of the tournament. FIR has a set of 50 flags to rent out.

### 3.13.5. *Stringing Service*

At WC and SWT events a stringing service at the player's own cost should be on site. At IWT and Challenger events such service should at least be on standby.

### 3.13.6. *Time Schedules*

To avoid problems with the time schedule it is strongly recommended that all Doubles matches except finals should start and be played on Friday. Women and men Elite singles finals should never take place at the same time and should be a minimum of 90 mins apart from each other - only in exceptional cases and with the full agreement of the FIR Delegate can this be changed.

It is a requirement to allow at least 15 minutes between the start of the matches on all side courts and at least 20 minutes on the centre courts for Elite matches. 15 minutes rest is allowed for all players in all draws no matter how many they play. All Players have the right of at least 1 hour rest from the end of their match to the beginning of the next match in the same singles draw. In doubles a 15 minute break must be granted.

### 3.13.7. *Elite Time Schedules*

It is a requirement that the time schedule is built around the Elite matches. At all WC and WT events all Elite matches of the main draw must be played on so called Centre Courts (at least one court per sport, maximum 2 courts per sport) with starting times of no less than 20 minutes intervals. Some empty spaces should ensure that in the Elite main draw players never have to wait for courts and the time rule 3 minutes to move to the next court between the sets is maintained. Elite Players have the right of at least 1 hour rest from the end of their match to the beginning of the next match in the same draw. In the Olympic singles draws no more than 3 matches per full day of 12 hours or 2 matches per short day of 8 hours are allowed.

### 3.13.8. *Volunteer and Team Recommendations*

A team of at least 15 persons is required for WC and SWT events, 10 for IWT and 5 for Challengers. At WC and SWT events the official T-shirts in the same colour are compulsory for the Volunteer team. Structurally, FIR asks for the names of the positions on tournament committees beforehand; this list also covers the main tasks in organising an event.

Compulsory for all WC and SWT events:

- Tournament Director
- Head Referee
- Referees in all sports for Olympic main draws TT, BA, SQ, TE
- Media Officer

Recommended for all tournaments:

- Tournament Co/Vice Director
- Results Secretary
- Sports Centre Liaising Officer
- Marketing Officer
- Webpage Officer
- Result Reporter Officer
- Rankings Officer
- 3 Desk Helpers
- 4 Score keepers for centre courts
- 4 Court Co-ordinators, one in each sport
- Referees from domestic sporting federations – TT, BA, SQ, TE
- Equipment Officer
- Sponsorship Officer
- Finance Director - Payments Officer / Financial Advisor / Debt Collector / Budget Officer

3.13.9. *Tournament Program*

All WC events must produce a high quality tournament programme – either in digital format or in print (1000 pieces). The total costs of producing the programmes require FIR approval first and in any case shall not exceed EUR 2'000. These agreed costs will be split between FIR and the tournament 50:50.

3.13.10. *Tournament Banner*

All WC, SWT, IWT and Champions League events must produce an own big Tournament Banner (approx. 6 x 1m) as background on the main centre court and for the prize giving ceremony.

The FIR Banner World Tour or World Championships must be on one of the centre courts or outside the building of all World Tour events.

**3.14. Tournament and FIR Sponsors**

3.14.1. *General principles*

All World Tour events must comply with the new FIR General Sponsorship Guidelines. This shall not affect the individual tournament sponsors, but will mean some more obligations in regards to the FIR sponsors of WT, especially SWT and WC events. All Title, Presenting and Ball Sponsors must be named to FIR together with the tournament application, so FIR can check a conflict of interest with existing or potential FIR Sponsors. The following points are taken out of version 1 of the FIR General Sponsorship Guidelines and can be amended slightly before and during the World Tour.

The FIR General Sponsorship Guidelines are published on the official FIR website and may be amended by the FIR from time to time.

3.14.2. *FIR Logos Usage (pdf Document)*

The official FIR logos must be used on all printed material in connection with all World Tour and Challenger tournaments as well as the official tournament websites. Each tournament has its individual World Tour Tournament logo, which is created by FIR and to be used as well as the FIR Logo according to the document FIR Logos Usage

3.14.3. *Rights of Tournament Sponsors*

- Title sponsor with name in the title of tournament, e.g. XYZ Austrian Open
- Other Sponsors
- Ball Sponsor

**3.14.4. Rights World Championships Sponsors**

- Presenting Sponsor of FIR Championships, e.g. World Championships presented by XYZ
- Other Sponsors
- Ball Sponsor

**3.14.5. Tournament obligations towards FIR World Tour title Sponsor (only one) e.g. XYZ Austrian Open on the xxxx World Tour**

**Super World Tour (SWT) Events guarantee**

- Sponsor name and logo on the title page of the official webpage of all SWT events
- Sponsor name and logo on all SWT posters, flyers, and other printed materials in connection with the SWT events.
- Sponsor name and logo in the SWT event programs
- Sponsor name and logo on at least one event banner at all SWT events
- Space for a minimum of 6 sponsor Banners (max. 6x1sq) on the 4 Centre Courts and in the Sports centre at all SWT events
- Sponsor name and logo in E-mail newsletters to all players of all SWT events
- Sponsor name or logo on tournament or organisation T-Shirts or any other players gift of all SWT events
- Sponsor name or logo on the prize giving podium of all SWT events
- Sponsor name through the microphone at Opening and/or Closing Ceremony and match calls of SWT events
- National or local TV coverage of SWT events
- Sponsor name and logo on interview walls of SWT events with TV coverage
- Internet coverage of all SWT events
- Print media cooperation at all SWT events
- Sponsor name and logo on all press texts of SWT events

**International World Tour (IWT) Events guarantee**

- Sponsor name and logo on the title page of the official webpage of all IWT events
- Sponsor name and logo on all IWT posters, flyers, and other printed materials in connection with the IWT events.
- Space for a maximum of 4 sponsor Banners (max. 6x1sq) on the 4 Centre Courts and in the Sports centre at all IWT events
- Sponsor name and logo in E-mail newsletters to all players of all IWT events
- Sponsor name or logo on tournament or organisation T-Shirts or any other player's gift of all IWT events
- Sponsor name through the microphone at Closing Ceremony at IWT events
- At least one local or regional Print media cooperation
- Sponsor name and logo on all press texts of IWT events

**Further Sponsor activities on request**

- Possibility of a sales and marketing area at all World Tour tournaments
- Possibility for sponsor representative to speak at Opening or Prize Giving Ceremony of all World Tour tournaments
- Possibility to put up a Blow Up in the sports centre (if space available) or outdoors in front of the sports centre at World Tour tournaments
- Possibility to invite VIP Customers at sponsors costs to SWT events and arrange a Meet and Greet with World Class Racketlon players together with a gala dinner
- Possibility to invite 4 customers or employees to take part in World Tour tournaments without having to pay the entry fees
- Possibility of any other needs of the sponsor if ratified by FIR

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3.14.6. *Tournament obligations towards FIR Pool Sponsors (max.4)*

**Super World Tour (SWT) Events guarantee**

- Sponsor name and Logo in the SWT event programs
- Sponsor name and logo on at least one event banner at all SWT events
- Space for a maximum of 2 sponsor Banners (max. 6x1sq) in the Sports centre at all SWT events
- Sponsor name through the microphone at Opening and/or Closing Ceremony of SWT events
- National or local TV coverage of SWT events
- Sponsor name and logo on interview walls of SWT events with TV coverage
- Internet coverage of all SWT events
- Print media cooperation at all SWT events

**International World Tour (IWT) Events guarantee**

- Space for a maximum of 1 sponsor banner (max. 6x1sq) in the Sports centre at all IWT events
- Sponsor name through the microphone at Closing Ceremony at IWT events
- Internet coverage of selected IWT events
- Print media cooperation at selected IWT events

**Further Sponsor activities on request**

- Possibility of a sales and marketing area at all SWT events
- Possibility for sponsor representative to speak at Opening or Prize Giving Ceremony of all World Tour tournaments
- Possibility to invite VIP Customers at sponsors costs to SWT events and arrange a Meet and Greet with World Class Racketlon players together with a gala dinner
- Possibility to invite 2 customers or employees to take part in World Tour tournaments without having to pay the entry fees
- Possibility of any other needs of the sponsor if ratified by FIR

3.14.7. *Obligations FIR World Championships Sponsor (1 per WC)*

**Racketlon World Championships (WC) Events guarantee**

- Sponsor name and logo on the title page of the official webpage of all WC events
- Sponsor name and logo on all WC posters, flyers, and other printed materials in connection with the WC events.
- Sponsor name and logo in the WC event programs
- Sponsor name and logo on at least one event banner at all WC events
- Space for a minimum of 8 sponsor Banners (max. 6x1sq) on the 4 Centre Courts and in the Sports centre at the WC events
- Sponsor name and logo in E-mail newsletters to all players of all WC events
- Sponsor name or logo on tournament or organisation T-Shirts or any other players gift of all WC events
- Sponsor name or logo on the prize giving podium of all WC events
- Sponsor name through the microphone at Opening and/or Closing Ceremony and match calls of WC events
- TV coverage of WC events
- Sponsor name and logo on interview walls of WC events
- Internet coverage of all WC events
- Print media cooperation of all WC events
- Sponsor name and logo on all press texts of WC events

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### **Further Sponsor possibilities on request**

- Possibility of a sales and marketing area WC events
- Possibility for sponsor representative to speak at Opening or Prize Giving Ceremony at WC events
- Possibility to put up a Blow Up in the sports centre (if space available) or outdoors in front of the sports centre at WC events
- Possibility to invite VIP Customers at sponsors costs to WC events and arrange a Meet and Greet with World Class Racketlon players together with a gala dinner
- Possibility to invite 2 customers or employees to take part in WC events without having to pay the entry fees
- Possibility of any other needs of the sponsor if ratified by FIR

#### *3.14.8. Liability of FIR Sponsor Rights*

The Tournament Directors of all World Tour and WC events are responsible towards FIR that the Rights of FIR Sponsors are fulfilled as stated in these FIR General Sponsorship Guidelines. FIR and the FIR Delegate will assist and monitor all World Tour and WC events in regards to fulfil the FIR Sponsors rights in the best possible way.

### **3.15. Fines**

#### *3.15.1. Withdrawals and no-show*

In case a Player withdraws after the regular entry deadline from an Olympic draw, a fine of 100€ in addition to the normal entry fee must be paid for each tournament the player has pulled out of and if he has given notice to the tournament. This is unless he can provide evidence that he by no fault could not participate (e.g. with medical proof or cancelled/postponed flight etc.). In case a Player does not show up at an Olympic draw without any notice to the Tournament Director, a fine of 100€ in addition to the tournament entry fee must be paid regardless of the reasons for not showing up.

The Tournament Director may decide whether above rule shall apply for all other draws too.

FIR can suspend Elite players (players participating in all five Olympic draws) from any FIR events until they have paid the entry fee and possible penalty fees. All other players can only be suspended by the tournament organisers for their own next tournament. The Player Suspension List is managed by the FIR World Tour Officer. Players who have not paid their debts will be blocked from registering for any other tournaments.

#### *3.15.2. Tournament Regulations*

In case certain points of the Tournament Regulations are not fulfilled by the tournament, a fine of 50€ per point shall be paid. Fines are based on the evaluation report of the FIR-Delegate and FIR Co-Delegate.

#### *3.15.3. Tournament Changes and Cancellations*

If a FIR event is cancelled FIR may implement a fine of 1000€ which would be paid to FIR and the organisers may not participate in any FIR events until this fine is paid. If a FIR event changes its date or its place after the application deadline a fine of 500€ may be implemented plus the costs for reprinting World Tour posters and flyers (in case they have already been printed) of around 700€, may need to be paid. All decisions about whether FIR should issue a fine in relation to the cancellation, change of date or place of a FIR event, will be made by the FIR World Tour Committee. If players can prove they have paid flights, alternative shuttles should be provided to any new venue or flight costs should be reimbursed. The national federation that exists in the respective country is liable to be charged with any fines that are implemented. The FIR World Tour Committee will also take any such changes or cancellations into consideration when constructing the following year's World Tour.

#### *3.15.4. FIR-Tournament Delegate*

A FIR Tournament Delegate and optionally a trainee Co-Delegate are nominated by FIR for each FIR event as assistance for the tournament organisation. FIR Delegates are nominated by FIR and published annually. They are obliged to visit at least one FIR Delegate workshop per year. The FIR Delegate list is published annually and found on [www.racketlon.net/content/tournament-support](http://www.racketlon.net/content/tournament-support).

The Tournament Delegate and Co-Delegate should be on site the night before the tournament starts at around 17:00 and stay until one hour after the tournament ends and check the tournament regulations with the tournament organiser. A technical meeting is to be held with the tournament organiser and some of his most important team members like head referee and media officer the evening before tournament start.

The FIR Tournament Delegate and Co-Delegate are also responsible to be in contact with the tournament organiser and FIR from between 3 and 6 months before the tournament and will also approve all draws and time schedule before any publication.

The Tournament Director accepts that the FIR-Delegate and Co-Delegate are the highest officials at the tournament and take all final decisions both before and during the tournament for the best of international Racketlon.

In return for the help, the tournament organisation must offer the Delegate during the entire tournament free accommodation in a hotel single room including breakfast and one warm meal per day and no entry fee. This is valid from one day before tournament start (room and evening meal) until latest one day after tournament (room and breakfast) start if the Delegate cannot travel home the same day the tournament ends. The tournament organisation is not obliged to pay anything for the Co-Delegate, as his/her main focus is on training, not providing additional support to the tournament. The Co-Delegate is also required to pay normal tournament entry fees.

Tournament Status Fees are due for the FIR Delegate (see 3.4 above).

### **3.16. Insurance**

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

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## **B. FIR NATIONAL TEAM COMPETITIONS (WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS)**

From 1.1.2019, the Open FIR National Team Competition will be changed to 3 separate competitions:

- FIR World Cup (for the strongest 8 nations).
- FIR Nations Cup
- FIR Challenge Cup

Each country must enter their team squads online 1 month before the tournament and the FIR World Tour Committee will decide which are the 8 strongest teams (based on, but not just limited to, the FIR World Ranking of the best woman and the best 3 men players). No country 2nd teams may compete in the FIR World Cup competition.

These 8 teams will compete for the Racketlon World Cup in two groups of 4. The winners of each group will play the final for 1st/2nd place. The 2nd place teams will play for 3rd/4th, the 3rd place teams for 5th/6th and the 4th place teams for 7th/8th. This guarantees no more than 4 team matches for each team.

The remaining teams will be placed into either the 2nd tier competition: FIR Nations Cup or 3rd tier: FIR Challenge Cup, according to the strength of the teams (based on, but not limited to, the FIR World Ranking of the best woman and the best 3 men players). The format of the FIR Nations Cup and Challenge Cup competitions will be decided by the FIR Delegate based around how many teams have entered.

The seeds of each competition will be based solely around the world rankings of each team's 3 highest ranked men players and highest ranked woman player.

There is no promotion or relegation between the competitions. Each year, depending on the strength of the team squads entered, the FIR will make a decision about which teams will compete in which of the 3 Open team competitions.

Juniors and Seniors competitions will be organised into one competition per age class.

Whilst every effort will be made to place each national team in the competition they wish to compete in, the FIR will have final say as to each national team's allocation.

All disputes regarding a national team's allocation to a division shall be decided by the FIR Council.

### **1. THE TEAM**

#### **1.1. Designation of Team members**

Each FIR member country can submit national teams to the FIR National Team Competitions, as long as it has no outstanding debt to FIR.

Each Elite national team consists of a minimum of 5 players (4 men and 1 woman) and a maximum of 8 players (6 men and 2 women) and must have a team captain. The team captain can be one of the players or another non-playing person. The first team of a country is ALWAYS the Elite national team. The second and third team are amateur teams, where the same rules apply.

A Juniors (u21) national team consists of a minimum of 3 players (at least one girl) 2 boys and 1 girl and a maximum of 6 players (at least one girl).

At the Tournament Director's discretion, a Juniors (u18) national team consists of a minimum of 3 players (at least one girl) 2 boys and 1 girl and a maximum of 6 players (at least one girl).

A Juniors (u16) national team consists of a minimum of 2 players (boys or girls) and a maximum of 4 players.

A Juniors (u13) national team consists of a minimum of 2 players (boys or girls) and a maximum of 4 players.

A Seniors (+40) national team consists of a minimum of 4 men and a maximum of 6 men plus a minimum of 1 woman and a maximum of 2 women.

A Seniors (+45) national team consists of a minimum of 4 men and a maximum of 6 men plus a minimum of 1 woman and a maximum of 2 women.

A Seniors (+55) national team consists of a minimum of 4 men and a maximum of 6 men.

A Seniors (+65) national team consists of a minimum of 4 men and a maximum of 6 men.

In order to be allowed to play for their country all members of the National Squad must:

- hold a valid passport for a country (if a player holds more than one passport, then they are allowed to represent either country but is only allowed to swap the country they play for once in their lifetime)

OR

- have been a permanent resident of that country for 5 years or more where that country has been their primary home.

In all cases a player is only allowed to swap the country they play for once in their lifetime.

The team members must be designated at entry deadline of the tournament. One single man or one woman of the team may be changed until the team captains meeting on the evening before the team event starts.

It is compulsory that the team captain or at least one player of the team comes to the team captains meeting, which is organized by FIR on the evening before tournament start.

Players may be in on the squad of more than one team, but the time schedule will not be adjusted for any of such players e.g. a Player in the Juniors u21 national team or Seniors +45 national team may also play on the Elite team, but if both teams play at the same time no adjustment of the schedule will be made. This does not apply for amateur teams. Players playing in amateur teams may not be on any other squads, except to transfer to another team of the same nation to replace a player withdrawing due to injury, should that team otherwise be unable to field a full team. The player transferring to the new team may not have played any Team Event matches prior to being transferred. The rule 1.3 below, that reserves may not be deployed during a match, remains in force. The withdrawing player may not play any further Team Event matches throughout the tournament.

## 1.2. Line-up commitment

Before a team match begins each team shall commit to their line-up; i.e. to all team members who will be active in it and in what positions. Teams may choose who plays singles and doubles, regardless of the players' world rankings.

The order of the national players within the team is determined by the FIR world ranking, i.e. the player with the highest ranking plays on position one etc. and players without world ranking play at the end. In case of several players without world ranking, the team may choose their seeding. The FIR Seniors world ranking shall be used for the seeding of the senior national teams, and the FIR Juniors world rankings shall be used for junior national teams.

For the doubles line up the player named first in the pair shall start in Squash.

Each of the teams has the right to hide their line-up from their opponents until their opponents have committed to their line-up.

The team captain is responsible to pass the Line-up to the tournament organizer 20 minutes before the beginning of the match.

All national team players must be ready in their country shirts for the national anthem and a team picture 10 minutes before the very first match of each team. All subsequent games should at least be started wearing their country national shirts.

Once a match has started, the line-up is confirmed, even if it is subsequently noticed to be incorrect, and the match will be played with this line-up to completion. Following matches shall use the corrected line-up.

## 1.3. Reserves Deployment

Reserves may be deployed during a tournament but never during a team match. If a player needs to interrupt a match due to injury he may not be replaced and loses the remaining points.

## 1.4. Seeding of the National Teams

For Elite and Amateur national teams, the sum of the Elite ranking positions of the best three men and the best woman of the respective team at the close of team registrations shall determine the seeding.

For Seniors (+40) and (+45) national teams, the sum of the Seniors ranking positions of the best 3 senior men, and the best senior woman shall be decisive.

For Seniors (+55) national teams, the sum of the Seniors ranking positions of the best 3 seniors shall be decisive.

For Seniors (+65) national teams, the sum of the Seniors ranking positions of the best 2 seniors shall be decisive.

For Juniors (u21) and (u18) national teams, the sum of the Juniors ranking positions of the best two boys and the best girl shall be decisive.

For Juniors (u16) and (u13) national teams, the sum of the Juniors ranking positions for the best ranked two players shall be decisive

In last instance FIR Council decides!

The teams with the worst positioning need to play preliminary round(s) to qualify for the main draw, if needed.

### **1.5. FIR makes draws at Team Captains Meeting**

FIR makes the draws of the Championship Division at the Team Captains Meeting, the day before the tournament starts. Team seedings is based on the players who will actually be participating in the Team Event. It is the Team Captain's responsibility to de-register any players who have withdrawn after registration, or who will not be available to play in the Team Event (due to injury, other private commitments etc).

## **2. ORDER OF PLAY**

An Elite and Amateur team match consists of four individual Racketlon matches – 2 Men's Singles, 1 Women's Singles and 1 Doubles – and is played in the following order:

AM1 (best man in Team A)	vs.	BM1 (best man in Team B);
AW (woman of Team A)	vs.	BW (woman of Team B);
AMD (Doubles Team A)	vs.	BMD (Doubles Team B);
AM2 (second best man in Team A)	vs.	BM2 (second best man in Team B).

All sets in the main draw of a team competition must be played following each other. This means all players must play Table Tennis, then move on to Badminton, then to Squash and finally to Tennis. The players must be on the court immediately after the set before them is finished. The warm up time before the next set is limited to one minute. The same ruling applies to any Amateur national teams.

The Seniors (+40) and (+45) competition is played in the same manner as an Elite team match.

The Seniors (+55) and (+65) competition consists of three Racketlon matches – 2 Men's Singles and 1 Men's Doubles – and is played in the following pairs: Best Seniors, Doubles, Second Best Seniors.

The Juniors (u21) and (u18) competition consists of 3 individual Racketlon matches in singles in the order of play: boy1, girl, boy2.

The Juniors (u16) and (u13) competition consists of 2 individual Racketlon matches in singles in the order of play: player1, player2, and one doubles. The player 2 singles shall be the last match

The single coin-toss to decide who shall start serving at table tennis shall apply to the whole team.

## **3. SCORING AND GUMMIARM RULE**

In line with the fundamental principle of "each rally counts" the winner of the team match is not the team that wins most individual matches but the team that wins most points in total.

The individual matches in national team competitions are played to 11 points. FIR may approve a Tournament Director request to play to 15 or 21 points). Sides are changed when one of the player, or doubles pairs, reaches 6 (or 8 or 11) points. If the score is 10-10 (or 14-14, or 20-20) the serve switches hand for every point until the set is decided by a two point margin.

There is no Gummiarm point played in Tennis if the score is equal in one match. A Gummiarm is only played, if the score of the two teams is equal after all 4 matches. In this case, the tennis set of the last match is extended for one single point according the ordinary Gummiarm rules. This point shall determine the winner of the team match.

A team can also start and play a team match if at least two encounters can be played. The missing players encounter is then scored with 0:44 (or 0:60, or 0:84).

A woman can play instead of a man in all national team competitions if not enough men are present.

If a player gets injured during the match the achieved points are frozen and all remaining points go to his opponent.

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## **C. FIR CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

### **1. LEAGUE FORMAT**

From 1.1.2017, the Champions League is a league based format, with one or more leagues. All the teams in the same league will be selected to have similar strengths. The Champions League is played at one or more FIR World Tour tournaments in combination with the regular singles and doubles categories.

#### **1.1. Application to play**

A team may apply to FIR to participate in the Champions League, naming the team captain. FIR will name the teams selected at the beginning of the season, specifying the dates and locations where it will be held.

All players with a valid FIR player licence may register to participate. There is no guarantee they will be selected to play.

#### **1.2. Squads**

Team captains make up their squad by selecting in turn from a pool of available players. There are no restrictions (gender, nationality, age etc) for the player selection. The minimum squad size is 6 players but each team must be able to field a minimum of 3 men and 1 woman for each of their matches across both Champions League weekends.. The maximum squad size is determined by FIR. The player selection uses a “drafting” process. The exact rules of the drafting process will be developed and agreed by FIR before the start of each Champions League season.

#### **1.3. Teams**

The team captain selects teams from his squad for each individual team match, This team can be different from match to match. The team captain decides whether a player should play just one singles or one doubles match, or whether the player should play in both a singles and one doubles match. A player may not play in two doubles team matches

#### **1.4. Line-up commitment**

The order of the men players in each squad is submitted by the team captain before the start of the first Champions League weekend (and this order is then set for both Champions League weekends in the year).

This order is at the discretion of the team captain and does not have to follow world rankings.

The team captain is responsible to pass the line-up to the tournament organiser 30 minutes before the beginning of each match. The team captain is allowed one “switch” in the order of their men’s singles e.g. number 1 and number 2 can switch, or number 2 and number 3 can switch (but no.3 cannot switch with no.3).

For the Men’s and Mixed Doubles line up, the player named first in the pair shall start in squash.

#### **1.5. Order of Play**

A Champions League team match consists of 4 individual Racketlon matches – 3 Men’s Singles, 1 Women’s Singles and 2 Doubles – and is played in the following order:

AMD (Men’s Doubles Team A)	vs.	BMD (Men’s Doubles Team B);
AXD (Mixed Doubles Team A)	vs.	BXD (Mixed Doubles Team B);
AM1 (best man in Team A)	vs.	BM1 (best man in Team B);
AW (woman of Team A)	vs.	BW (woman of Team B);
AM2 (second best man in Team A)	vs.	BM2 (second best man in Team B);
AM3 (third best man in Team A)	vs.	BM3 (third best man in Team B);

All sets in the main draw of a team competition must be played following each other. This means all players must play Table Tennis, then move on to Badminton, then to Squash and finally to Tennis. The players must be on the court immediately after the set before them is finished. The warm up time before the next set is limited to one minute.

The single coin-toss to decide who shall start serving at table tennis shall apply to the whole team.

## **2. SCORING AND GUMMIARM RULE**

The Scoring and Gummiarm Rule as described in section B clause 3 (National Team) is applicable to the FIR Champions League with the following exceptions.

In case the two teams are equal after all 4 matches, a Gummiarm point is played in the last match: 3rd Men Singles.

## **D. FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **1. COMING INTO FORCE**

These Tournament Regulations were initially passed by the FIR Founding Assembly on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019 in Vienna and most recently modified by FIR Council vote on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019. The revised version shall be valid from 1.1.2020.

### **2. AMENDMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS**

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

FIR – Federation of International Racketlon

Duncan Stahl

President

Graham King

Rules Officer (ad interim)