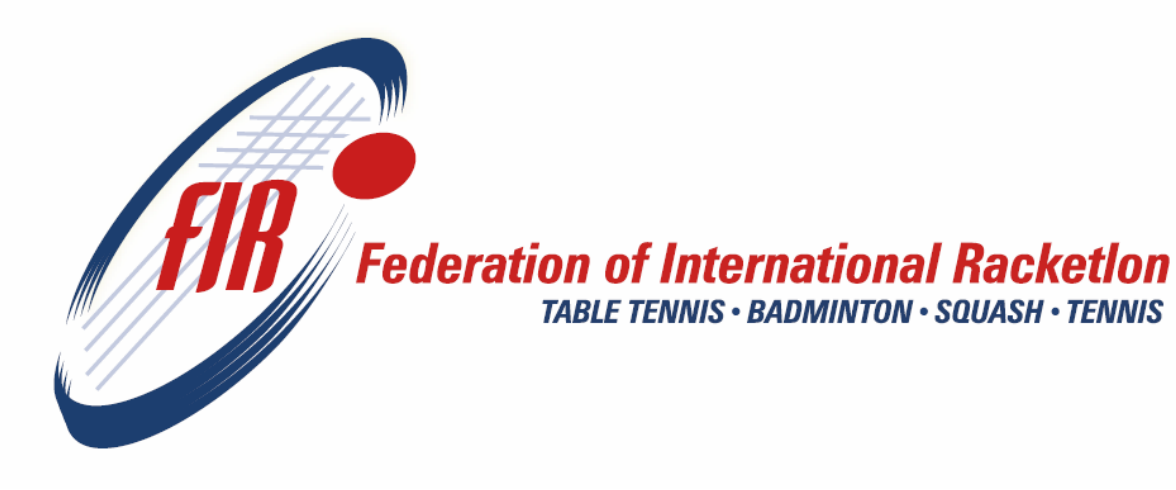

Players and Draws Regulations

1st November 2026

Version History[1]

Version	Changes	Status
01.11.2026	3.3 Seeds split evenly between draw halves, and randomised. Byes assigned from top downwards	Current
01.01.2026	3.3 Unlimited wildcards allowed 3.3, 4.7 handling of seedings if players have same number of ranking points 3.4 Player withdrawal impact on draw text removed, as covered identically in Tournament Regulations 3.6 2-player draws allowed in exceptional circumstances, but without award of ranking points 3.18 white skirt/shorts not allowed at TT, doubles pairs encouraged to wear same colour shirt, especially at WC 4 Olympic/Elite Draw special regulations removed and combined with section 3 to make one general description	Archived
01.07.2025	2.3 players whose country of nationality or domicile is not a FIR member must pay an additional fee 3.3, 4.2 Player strength to be considered before forcing players into a higher draw. Non-full draws are allowed 3.4, 3.13, 4.8 ALL players must pay their entry fees if they withdraw after registration close deadline or no-show, unless TD gives them a waiver. TD can ask FIR to block such players if they do not pay	Archived
26.07.2024	2.3 Exceptions possible if neither player country of nationality nor of residence is a FIR member	Archived
21.01.2024	3.12 Gummiarm Playoff modifications	Archived
01.01.2024	Throughout – addition of Satellite tournament category 3.4 – match forfeited if player more than 15 minutes late 3.15 – FIR Delegate to act as Head Referee	Archived
4.2.2022	3.5 – same-country rule also applies to 2nd round if both players have 1st round bye 4.7 – defending champions at WC Elite singles events to be #1 seed	Archived
12.9.2020	3.12 if even the Gummiarm Playoff results in a tie, a single gummiarm tennis point amongst the tying players shall be decisive	Archived (Rules of Racketlon update)
3.5.2020	3.4 – no forfeit of already played matches on injury/walkover in round robin groups 3.11/3.12 – introduction of Gummiarm Playoff to decide tied positions in round robin groups	Archived
1.1.2020	Use of term “regular entry deadline” throughout. Clarification of “last-minute” registration surcharge.	Archived
2.2.2019	New version for FIR, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland	Archived

[1] Non-cosmetic changes only

TABLE OF CONTENT

Contents

1. Introduction 4
2. Registration & Fees 4
2.1. Registration on Tournament Software 4
2.2. Annual Player's Licence Fee 4
2.3. Player's country must be FIR member 4
2.4. Insurance 4
2.5. Summary 4
3. General Rules for the Draws 4
3.1. Definitions: Tournament, category, class, event, draw 4
3.2. Tournament Registration, Regular Entry Deadline 5
3.3. Draws: Size, Format, Seeding & Wildcards 5
3.4. Withdrawals, No-shows and Forfeit of Matches 6
3.5. Nationalities in the Draw 6
3.6. Minimum Number of Entries is 3 6
3.7. Different classes in the same general category 6
3.8. Women in Men's classes 6
3.9. Number of Classes per player 6
3.10. Age Classes 7
3.11. Winner in Group-Play draws 7
3.12. Gummiarm Playoff 7
3.13. Entry Fees 8
3.14. Referees 8
3.15. Head Referee 8
3.16. Tournament Director 8
3.17. FIR-Delegate 8
3.18. Players Clothing 8
3.19. Summary 8
4. Nationalities 9
4.1. Racketlon Nationality 9
4.2. Nationality change for national team 9
4.3. Summary 9
5. Final Provisions 9
5.1. Coming into Force 9
5.2. Amendments and Modifications 9

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. FIR manages this register. This does not apply to Satellite tournaments, however players are encouraged to register so that their results and any ranking points can be awarded to them.

2.2. Annual Player's Licence Fee

Each player has to pay the Licence Fee via fir.tournamentsoftware.com before entering the first annual tournament, with the exception of Satellite tournaments for which the player does not require single-tournament or annual player license.

2.3. Player's 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.

For players to whom this does not apply, an additional fee of EUR 10 per player per year is due. The FIR Delegate (or the Tournament Director, for Satellite tournaments) shall encourage the players to apply for a passive FIR country membership. The Tournament Director shall inform FIR of such players, so they can administer their tournament participation.

2.4. Insurance

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

2.5. Summary

1) Mandatory registration on 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 Women's Singles, Mixed Doubles, Men's Seniors.

A "category" is made up of multiple similar "classes[2]" banded either by player strength (e.g. the Men's Open Singles category can be made up of Men A, Men B and Men C classes), or by age (e.g. the Men's 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".

[2] known as "events" in Tournament Software

3.2. Tournament Registration, Regular Entry Deadline

The regular 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 Delegate reserves the right to extend or shorten that deadline depending on entry to the event or tournament. Any changes will be advertised on www.racketlon.net. Certain tournaments, known or expected to reach capacity early will see an advertised time when entry opens, to ensure all players are aware of the entry situation.

Players register for FIR international Racketlon events online via Tournament Software up until the registration regular entry deadline. 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.

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

3.3. Draws: Size, Format, Seeding & Wildcards

Draw-Size

The Tournament Director and the FIR Delegate, will consider the number of entries and determine the best construction of draws for the event. This may involve moving players up or down within a category, such as from Men's C up to Men's D. The Tournament Director and the FIR Delegate shall consider the overall player experience before deciding to move players up a class to a higher draw.

Format

The format of the draws is normally a monrad system with the desire for 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 or a box league (with playoffs) can be decided upon for draws of sizes such as 4-6), to guarantee each player three singles rounds.

Seeding

The seeding for the draws of all world ranking events must be done according to the appropriate FIR world rankings on the day of the regular 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. In 12, 24 or 48 draws the seeded players must have the byes in the first round. In case two seeded players have the same FIR world ranking position, their seeding will be determined by either:
a) their respective placement on the FIR Race for that season, or (if this cannot separate them)
b) a drawing of lots

In case two seeded pairs in doubles have the same FIR world ranking position, lots are drawn 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.

Seeded players will always be split evenly between draw halves, such that e.g. seed #1 and #2 are in opposite halves, as are seeds #3 and #4, #5 and #6 etc. Seed pairs (such as #3 and #4) will be assigned to draw halves randomly. For draws made up of several groups, the same logic applies.

Incomplete draws will assign byes from the top downwards, i.e. first seed #1, then seed#2 etc.

Wildcards

Wildcards can be award by the FIR and the Tournament Director.

3.4. Withdrawals, No-shows and Forfeit of Matches

Up to the completion of the first round, the FIR Delegate has the choice of replace the player who has withdrawn with an alternate player from another draw or from the reserve list, in keeping with the Tournament Regulations.

If a player forfeits a match because of injury, they also have to forfeit all further matches in all classes scheduled for that same day. Their forfeited matches will all be marked as "retired" in Tournament Software. They 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) they must also forfeit all further matches in that class. They must also forfeit all further matches in all other classes scheduled for that same day. Their matches will all be marked as "walkover" in Tournament Software. They may, however, continue to play in any class, other than the one they initially forfeited, from the following day.

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

If a match in a Round Robin is forfeited, then the results of all previous matches for that player/pair will continue to stand and will not be marked as forfeited. Should this lead to a tie for a medal position with three or more players having the same number of victories, then a Gummiarm Playoff will decide the winner in accordance with 3.11 below.

Players who are 15 minutes or more late in turning up for a match without good reason will forfeit their matches and the reason given as non-injury.

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, or in their first match of the draw if both have a 1st round bye, with the exception of when more than half of the participants are from that country, or in the case of an alternate player being substituted into the draw after a withdrawal. In round robin draws players from the same country shall be kept in separate groups to the extent that is possible. In doubles, provided that all four players are from the same country, the same principle applies.

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, or in exceptional circumstances, only two[3],registrations are possible if all players agree.

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] Albeit without the award of any ranking points

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

The "early interruption rule[4]" also applies to group-play for singles and doubles, with the match being stopped once the winner has enough points for the match to be decided. 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), then a Gummiarm Playoff between all the players with an equal number of victories will be organised to decide the final positions. If the FIR Delegate decides it is not possible to organise a Gummiarm Playoff, a toss shall be decisive. The tournament director is responsible for such a toss.

For group-play team events, tennis is played out in full. The group winner is decided by the number of victories or direct encounter as for singles or doubles. Should there be three or more teams with the same number of victories, then the total relative point difference shall be decisive.

The World Tour Finals qualifying groups shall use the same logic as team-events in deciding the individual group final positions.

3.12. Gummiarm Playoff

The Gummiarm Playoff applies only to group-play when there is a tie between 3 or more players (or doubles pairs) for a medal position (see 3.11 above), where it shall be used to decide the final positions of those players. For simplicity, the term "player" is also used to refer equally to a doubles pair, unless specifically stated otherwise.

All the players who tie for a medal position play 4 (four) separate gummiarm points amongst themselves in all 4 sports in the regular order (first table tennis, then badminton, then squash, then tennis). The players' final positions will then be decided by the number of gummiarm points won in the playoff. If there is still a stalemate after the Gummiarm Playoff, then final positions will be decided by a single gummiarm point of tennis amongst the tying players. In all cases of doubt, the FIR Delegate's decision, or in their absence, the Tournament Director's, shall be final.

Lots will be drawn to determine a randomised playing order (e.g. A vs B, then A vs C, then B vs C), which shall be maintained throughout the Gummiarm Playoff across all sports.

There shall be a coin-toss or racket-spin before each sport. The winner of the toss shall first decide whether to serve or receive. The loser of the toss shall then choose which end to receive.
For doubles, each pair shall decide which of their team shall serve or receive. The doubles pair which serves first must declare first who will serve, before the receiving pair declares who will be receiving. The server-receiver sequence then proceeds as it would at deuce.

There shall be no warm-up before any of the gummiarm points.

As for regular gummiarm points, there is only one serve at tennis.

Any player withdrawing from the initial group-play shall not qualify for a Gummiarm Playoff.

To ensure no player is disadvantaged unfairly by a longer break since their last match, the Gummiarm Playoff may not be scheduled sooner than 30 minutes after completion of the final group match of the players involved. Any player not present at the start of the Gummiarm Playoff will be withdrawn and the playoff will proceed without them if there are still at least 3 players or pairs involved, otherwise the direct encounter between the two remaining players shall be decisive.

The randomised playing order and any final coin-toss to decide a Gummiarm Playoff stalemate shall be performed by the Tournament Director or FIR Delegate.

[4] Rules of Racketlon, section 3.2.3

3.13. Entry Fees

All players are obliged to pay the entry fee for any tournament if they don't withdraw before the regular 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. The tournament directors then send a list to FIR of players not having paid, who can then be banned from playing any future events until the money has been transferred to FIR or paid to the Tournament Director.

Tournament Directors may charge an additional EUR10 "last-minute" registration fee for players whose initial registration is later than 28 days before the regular entry deadline (see 3.2 above)

3.14. Referees

It is expected that Olympic draws shall have referees for the main draw (not consolation matches) for all WC and SWT events, and score-keepers at IWT events. These should 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.

3.15. Head Referee

The appointed FIR Delegate also acts as the Head Referee for that same tournament and takes all final decisions concerning the games, scoring and so forth according to the FIR Regulations In cases which are not provided for in the Rules and Regulations of FIR, the Head Referee may take a final decision on their own responsibility according to ideas and ethics of Racketlon. They are 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 them on the court and ask for consultation, but they make the final decision.

The 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.

3.16. Tournament Director

Each FIR event has a Tournament Director who is responsible for all organisational matters. The Tournament Director can, due to severe reasons, such as cancelled flights, postpone any matches to later on the same day if they feel the tournament schedule is not in danger without the agreement of the opponents. They can also postpone important matches such as 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.

3.17. FIR-Delegate

Each FIR World Ranking event has a FIR-Delegate on site, who is entitled to all final decisions concerning the tournament and stands above the TD.

3.18. Players Clothing

In order to further promote the professionalism of Racketlon, Elite players are encouraged to wear clothing bearing their nationality and/or name. Elite doubles players are strongly encouraged to wear shirts of the same colour as their partner for all World Championships events, and encouraged to do so for all other tournament categories (SAT, CHA, IWT or SWT). It is also recommended for all non-Elite doubles players at all tournaments.

Players may not wear shirt/shorts/skirt of a similar colour to the official tournament table tennis ball (white not allowed with a white ball, red, orange or yellow not allowed with an orange ball). Failure to comply after being requested to change clothing by the FIR Delegate will result in disqualification.

3.19. Summary

1) Tournament registration and regular 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, except in Elite classes
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 (singles and doubles) to stop once a result has been reached. Gummiarm Playoff to decide tied medal positions. Team matches play full tennis
11) Entry Fees must be paid if withdrawal after regular 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

4. Nationalities

4.1. 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. 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 choose 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. Players resident in Northern Ireland are eligible to represent either Great Britain or Ireland, regardless of the passport they hold, in keeping with the Good Friday Agreement.

4.2. 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 lifetime.

4.3. Summary

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

5. Final Provisions

5.1. Coming into Force

The Players and Draws Regulations were passed by the FIR Founding Assembly on 2nd February 2019 in Vienna and last amended by the Council on 30th October 2026. The new regulations shall be valid with immediate effect.

5.2. Amendments and Modifications

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

FIR – Federation of International Racketlon

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