



ITF World Tennis Number Guide

Introduction

Tennis Ireland is very proud to be one of the first nations in the world to launch the ITF World Tennis Number developed by the International Tennis Federation. The ITF World Tennis Number is a brand new, inclusive, and comprehensive rating system.

The ITF World Tennis Number will be rolled out in Ireland this year. Many other national and regional tennis associations will also begin using the ITF World Tennis Number in 2021, including Great Britain/LTA and the United States/USTA, with over 97 Nations having signed up already.



What is the ITF World Tennis Number

It is a single global tennis rating for all players, regardless of age, ability or gender – from the world's elite to a player taking part in their first competition or playing socially in their club.

The scale will see players given a rating from 40 to 1, with recreational players starting close to 40 and the professionals being close to 1.

The ITF World Tennis Number will allow players to be grouped with other well-matched opponents, providing more appropriate and enjoyable competition for the players taking part whilst also driving player development and participation.

It will support venues, coaches and officials in setting up competitions, and will allow new and exciting formats to be run for players of all standards. This will include competitions at Club, Regional, Provincial, National, and International levels.

All players across the country, and all clubs affiliated to Tennis Ireland will get the benefit of this game changing rating system for free.





For all Players

From beginners to competitive players, the ITF World Tennis Number scale is age and gender neutral – so any two players with a similar ITF World Tennis Number can have a competitive match – anywhere.

The ITF World Tennis Number will be issued to players who are 10 years or older.

New Players

New adult players who have no match results recorded, will be able to complete a Player Standard Questionnaire (PSQ).

The PSQ is a series of questions which will help understand a player's ability and will support the system to assign a more accurate Number.

New junior players will be allocated a default Number.

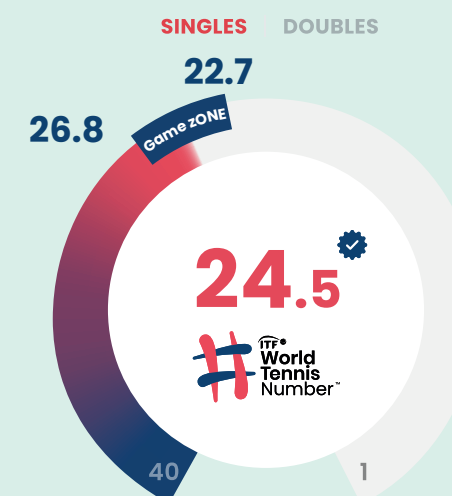
Once a junior or adult player has started to compete and has recorded some match results the ITF World Tennis Number algorithm will base future changes on this.

Scale from 1 to 40

The ITF World Tennis Number will be one scale from 40 (lowest) to 1 (highest).

All players will appear on one scale from the world's elite to a complete beginner playing their first match.

In Ireland, the ITF World Tennis Number will be displayed to two decimal places.



All match results

The ITF World Tennis Number algorithm uses up to four years of match result data to calculate a player's number.

Match results are analysed at set level, meaning the World Tennis Number algorithm takes into account each individual set as its own result.

The more results the system holds, the better the algorithm will understand a player's ability, and therefore, its "confidence" in the Number will increase.

All match results can be taken into account, from National championships down to club events and even casual matches.

Tennis Ireland has been using match results from 2018 to the present to establish initial ITF World Tennis Numbers for all players registered on the National Player Database.

Singles and Doubles

Players will receive a separate singles and doubles ITF World Tennis Number.

This will be the first doubles rating for Tennis Ireland and will be beneficial to players who predominantly compete in doubles-based competitions. It will also serve to highlight the importance of doubles at Junior Level.

Dynamic

The ITF World Tennis Number will update every week taking results up to the previous Sunday into account. It will provide a 'real time' standard that allows a player to more closely track their competition performance and progress over time.

Data will be collected for all official tournaments that are played on ti.tournamentsoftware.com and that

are correctly formatted. This will include all events across the Tennis Ireland Tour, Tennis Ireland Seniors Tour and Tennis Ireland Junior Tour. It will also include club championships.

Initially only league results included on ti.tournamentsoftware.com can be included.

Players will also have the option in the future to submit individual results through the ITF World Tennis Number platform.



Global

Results from all nations adopting the ITF World Tennis Number will be used by the algorithm to count towards a player's Number. To date nations with 65% of the world's 85 million players have signed up to be part of the ITF World Tennis Number.

The ITF World Tennis Number will also include results from international competitions such as ITF World Tennis Tour events, ATP/ WTA matches and Grand Slam tournaments.

A player will have one singles and one doubles ITF World Tennis Number which will reflect all matches they have played at home and abroad.



How to find your ITF World Tennis Number?

The ITF World Tennis Number will complement the existing player information available on ti.tournamentsoftware.com.

The ITF World Tennis Number will be displayed beside the player's name on their Player Profile.

Player Profiles will also be displayed on the ITF World Tennis Number

website for those who sign up - www.worldtennisnumber.com. Other exciting data and metrics along with details of a player's GAME zONE will be available here also.

Both options for viewing your ITF World Tennis Number will be available soon after launch, look out for more information on this across our website and social media.

GAME zONE

The Game zONE allows a player or coach to identify a range of potential opponents whose numbers are close to theirs on the scale - this supports finding evenly-matched players to compete against providing the best-possible experience on court.

A player with an ITF World Tennis Number of 30 may have a Game zONE of 27 - 33. This means the player would expect to have an even match against any other player with a Number ranging between 27 - 33.



Player selection

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Recording Results

In order for results from matches played in Ireland to count for the ITF World Tennis Number:

- Competitions must be played using League Planner and Tournament Planner and must be included on ti.tournamentsoftware.com.
- Players must be registered on the National Player Database and Tennis Ireland PIN numbers must be recorded for all players.
- Individual rubber results (not just the overall fixture result) recorded
- The ability to add results from casual/social matches will become available later in the year.
- Approved scoring format must be used.

Organising Competitions

The ITF World Tennis Number will be integrated in the tools and platforms currently used by Tennis Ireland.

■ New type of events:

Because the ITF World Tennis Number is ageless and gender-less, clubs will be able to organise new and exciting competitions and more easily cater for level-based play.

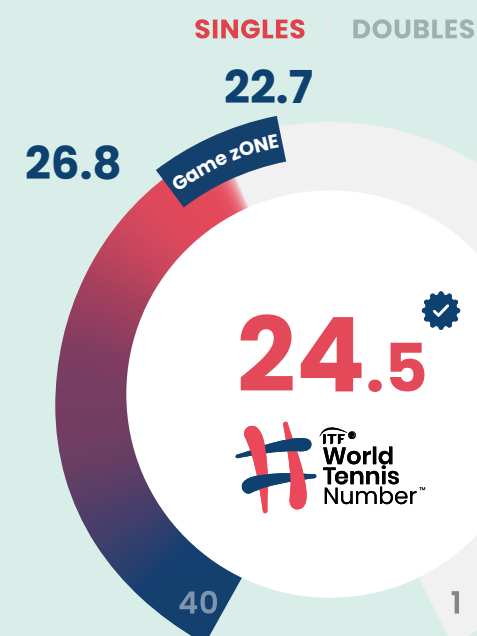
Existing tournaments may introduce new types of events driven by the ITF World Tennis Number. E.g., mixed singles events, fully genderless doubles etc.

■ Classification of players

Clubs and coaches will easily be able to group their players and create watchlists so that they can provide innovative level based competitive and social opportunities for their players using the ITF World Tennis Number Scale.



National Standard



Tennis Ireland Levels

LEVEL 1

LEVEL 2

LEVEL 3

LEVEL 4

LEVEL 5

LEVEL 6

LEVEL 7

The ITF World Tennis Number will support a national framework for level-based categorisation of events and players.

This will provide full transparency for the first time across counties and provinces and will ensure consistency for all existing classifications i.e. grades, classes, and divisions.

The current 7 Tennis Ireland Levels will be mapped onto the ITF World Tennis Number scale, this process will take some time and we aim to have it fully in place for 2022

A player therefore from Cork will easily be able to play in a competition in Dublin, or Galway or Belfast and will know immediately what event to enter based on their ITF World Tennis Number.

ITF World Tennis Number in action



Example 1

Tullow Tennis Club decides to hold a mixed singles event as part of their Club Championships.

A Female player on the National Seniors 65+ Team is drawn against a 16-year-old Boy.

Their ITF World Tennis Numbers are close together on the scale and within each others Game zONE. They are therefore evenly matched and should have a very competitive game, with both opponents having a near 50/50 chance of winning.

Example 2

Hawarden Tennis Club are hosting a Tennis Ireland Tour 1000.

In the first round of the Level 1 event – Player A has a higher ITF World Tennis Number than the opponent, Player B.

As the ITF World Tennis Number pre-match prediction is not as straight forward as win or loss, the algorithm will predict the percentage chance of certain outcomes, down to set level, and change a player's numbers in relation to that.

This means that regardless of the difference in ability between Player A and Player B if either player performs better than the algorithm predicts then their ITF World Tennis Number may go up.

Example 3

A player from Great Britain moves to Ireland and joins Westport Tennis Club.

They already have an ITF World Tennis Number from their time playing in England.

Immediately, the player will be able to find other members in the club of a similar level to play with.

The club will have an easy way of adding the player to league teams, training and into club competitions and events.

The player will be able to begin competing in Tennis Ireland Tour events at the appropriate level.





Example 4

Rating versus ranking

Player A is Ranked 13 in Level 5 of the Tennis Ireland Rankings.

Player B is Ranked 21 in Level 5.

Player B however has a higher ITF World Tennis Number than Player A.

This could be explained because

Player A has played more tournaments and perhaps has had easier draws therefore giving them a better Ranking.

Player B on the other hand may have played fewer tournaments against tougher opponents and therefore has gained less ranking point but a higher ITF World Tennis Number.

