

NOTIFICATION OF ENHANCEMENT TO THE ITF WORLD TENNIS NUMBER ALGORITHM CALCULATION

In September 2024, the ITF will be making enhancements to the ITF World Tennis Number (WTN) calculation. The ITF World Tennis Number is now powered by data from over 80 nations, with over 30 million match records from around the world.

The calculation is continuously monitored and tested by the ITF. When necessary, the ITF will responsively and transparently adjust the algorithm to ensure it remains accurate for all players. This change will take place on Wednesday 11th September 2024.

What are the changes?

This enhancement to the WTN algorithm will reposition some groups of players on the current scale of 40-1. **While your number is likely to be adjusted, movement relative to your peers in your own age groups should be similar if you play regularly.**

The changes being made are based on feedback from players, coaches and member nations, as well as using player data to inform the decision-making process.

Why are the changes being made?

1. **Improved Accuracy:** It is important to ensure the WTN is accurate. Having monitored data from junior players, it's become increasingly apparent that some players are starting with a WTN that is too high. By adjusting where junior players begin their journey on the WTN scale, they will have a more accurate rating and see greater improvement to their WTN as their level improves.
2. **Faster movement of a players' WTN:** By having a more accurate initial Number, players will have the opportunity to see faster improvement in their WTN to accurately reflect their playing level from their first matches.
3. **Every match counts:** Every match you play counts towards your WTN but it's important that the change reflects the difference in ability. Players will now experience smaller changes to their WTN in matches when losing to a player with a better number. However, players will still see a greater increase to their WTN should they beat a player with a substantially better number.

What happens next?

The ITF have tested these changes and they have seen a positive impact on the accuracy and performance of the algorithm. The change to your WTN will take place on 11 September and is likely to be reflected in your player profile towards the end of the day.

A reminder of the principles behind the ITF World Tennis Number calculation and a set of the most Frequently Asked Questions about the change are provided by the ITF and available [here](#).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why are the ITF making the changes to the WTN?

The ITF continues to monitor the World Tennis Number algorithm. The changes in September 2024 are designed to make sure the calculations for the WTN remain accurate and up to date.

Q: What will these changes mean to my ITF World Tennis Number moving forward?

These changes will mean that moving forward players will:

- Have a lower starting point on the scale
- Be given less credit for winning against a player with a significantly higher WTN than them
- See a greater rate of change in their WTN if they outperform the prediction
- See a greater rate of change if you play infrequently and your WTN is not verified
- See a smaller rate of change when your play more frequently and your WTN is verified (depicted by the blue tick next to your WTN)

Q: What might be the effect on my current ITF World Tennis Number ?

Juniors (18 and under)

Most junior players will experience a decrease in their rating because of the changes. This is addressing some junior players starting too high on the WTN scale and seeing their initial WTN decrease when they play their first matches. These changes will be applied retrospectively since the launch of the WTN and all players will decrease within their cohort. The player ratings are now more of an accurate reflection of age, with a general incremental decrease in initial rating expected from aged 10 upwards.

Adults (18-40 years old)

Most adult players should expect only minor changes to their World Tennis Number. Players playing many matches against Junior players will likely decrease 40.

Masters (40 years old +)

Masters players' will mostly see relatively smaller changes to their numbers in either direction of the scale relating to how their match results are weighted. Some will experience larger differences than others due to the profile of opponents they have played.

Players with a verified WTN will see less change than those who don't have a verified WTN (i.e. they are less frequent competitors recording fewer match results).

Q: Does this affect Doubles ITF World Tennis Numbers?

Yes, the same principles apply.

Q: When will the changes take place?

The scheduled rating run on the Wednesday 11th September will use the improved calculation which will be backdated to include all the results in the system. We anticipate these changes showing on My Game and Player Profiles on the Competitions Portal in the afternoon/evening of Wednesday 11th or morning of Thursday 12th September 2024.

Q: I've entered a tournament after Wednesday 11th September, how will this affect my entry?

Tournaments closing on or after 12th September will create acceptance lists based on the new numbers. Seeding tournaments will follow the same principle.

Q: Will these algorithm changes become a frequent occurrence?

The ITF continues to monitor the performance of the WTN algorithm. Whilst we do not foresee changes being made frequently, we do expect tweaks to be made annually based on this monitoring to ensure the algorithm remains accurate, relevant and fair for all players globally.