

LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT GUIDE FOR PLAYERS, PARENTS & COACHES FOR AN EASIER UNDERSTANDING OF THE RULES/REGULATIONS

The following Tournament Guide has been drafted to provide Players, Parents & Coaches with an easier interpretation and understanding of the various rules and regulations pertaining to Local and International Tennis, ranging from Juniors all the way through to the Professional ranks.

1. Tournament Categories:

- Local SATA Junior Tournaments: Tournaments have been allocated a guaranteed strength for 2009. Based on the strengths, the ranking points are awarded. Strength range from 1 to 8 (8 being the strongest and carrying the most points)
- Local SATA Open Tournaments: Similarly to the Junior tournaments, Open events have also been allocated a guaranteed strength for 2009 upon which ranking points are awarded

In both of the above cases, separate points tables have been implemented for u12, u14, u16, u18 and Open tournaments. Each table indicates the ranking points available based on the various tournament strengths

- Junior ITF Tournaments: Junior u18 World ranking Tournaments organized by a National Association or Private tournament organizer that fall under the auspices of the International Tennis Federation and in which players are awarded International ranking points

SATA has a conversion scale in place to be able to calculate the ITF points earned by players and to let them count as part of the SATA rankings. However, a change from 2008 whereby all the ITF points were accumulated and converted to count as one (1) tournament, now sees each tournament counting a 1 event played. This means that a players top 6 tournaments can either be 6 ITF events, 6 SATA events or a combination of the two

- CAT u14 Circuit: Continental event organized by National Associations in conjunction with the Confederation of African Tennis. Points earned count for both SATA u14 ranking and Continental rankings, but not ITF rankings as ITF only sanction u18 junior international tournaments
- ITF Professional Circuit Men & Women Events (Futures): Futures events are run under the auspices of the International Tennis Federation and are commonly known to be the entry level events for players wanting to earn their first International ranking points (ATP for men and WTA from women).
- Futures tournaments offer various levels of prize money, with the ranking points being determined based on the prize money on offer. The various categories are:
 - Men's Futures:
 - \$10,000
 - \$10,000 + Hospitality = Points same as a \$15,000 event
 - \$15,000
 - \$15,000 + Hospitality = Points same as a \$37,500 Challenger event

- Women's Futures:
 - \$10,000
 - \$25,000
 - \$50,000
 - \$100,000
 - In each of the above tournaments, if an event offers Hospitality then the tournament is awarded the next tiers ranking points

2. Age Eligibility:

- SATA Junior Tournaments: Tournaments comprise of various age groups namely; u12, u14, u16 & u18. In order to compete in an u18 event a player must be 13 years old on the first day that the tournament commences
- SATA Open Tournaments: Tournaments have an Open section. Players must be 14 years old on the first day that the tournament commences
- Junior ITF (u18) Tournaments: Players wanting to compete in any u18 ITF ranking tournament must be 13 years old on the first day that the tournament commences
- Professional Tournaments (ITF/ATP/WTA): Players competing in a Professional Tournament run under the auspices of the ITF/ATP/WTA must be 14 years old on the first day that the tournament commences

3. Membership Status:

- All SATA Tournaments: Players wanting to compete in **ANY** SATA ranking tournament **MUST** be a current member of a Tennis Club and a Tournament Member with a valid SATA number. This applies to players being awarded Wild Cards into any tournament
- Junior ITF (u18) Tournaments: Players wanting to enter any Junior ITF ranking tournament **MUST** have a current and valid Junior International Player Identity Number (IPIN). This also applies to players wanting to accept a Wild Card into the tournament (Qualifying and/or Main Draw)
- ITF Professional Circuit Events (Men & Women): Players wanting to enter any Men's or Women's ITF Professional event (Pro Circuits) **MUST** have a current and valid IPIN. Junior players will need to upgrade their status to Pro Circuit full member

4. Membership & Entry Procedures:

- All SATA Tournaments: To register as a Tournament Player visit the SATA website www.satennis.co.za and click on the Register option. The 2009 Tournament Player Fee is R180. This is an annual fee and is valid for 12 months from date of joining / renewal of registration

ONLY online entries will be accepted for **ALL** SATA Tournaments via the SATA website. Coaches/Organisers wanting to assist players that do not have regular internet access can download a bulk registration / entry document from the website and follow the instructions

The renewal of memberships over the December period seems to have presented some problems in terms of late renewals and entries being done on the day that entries close, weekends or during periods when the SATA office was closed. In order to reduce the problems the following measures have been implemented with immediate effect:

- Members with SATA numbers that have expired will be permitted to enter a tournament. Payment of entry fees and membership fees must be done by the withdrawal deadline, alternatively the entry will not be accepted
 - Memberships will not expire in December
 - Memberships will also run for a twelve (12) month period as apposed to 365 day, with members receiving one (1) month notice prior to expiry
- Junior ITF (u18) Tournaments: Players wanting to obtain an IPIN number can go to the ITF website www.itftennis.com click on IPIN and follow the registration instructions. IPIN fee payments can be made with a credit card or can be made at the next tournament that the player participates in. The IPIN membership is valid for a calendar year i.e. 1 January – 31 December irrespective of when a player registers or renews their IPIN
 - When entering an ITF tournament make sure that this is on an official ITF Junior entry form. These forms are available on the ITF website, or the tournament website. Alternatively, SATA has placed a copy of the entry form on the SATA website for ease and convenience. The entry from must be sanctioned by SATA before being able to enter, once appropriate sanction has been achieved the form is to be faxed to the tournament directly and **NOT TO THE ITF**. Junior entries are not handled by the ITF directly
 - Players may under no circumstances contact the ITF directly, before first contacting SATA to resolve a problem and intercede on their behalf
 - ITF Professional Circuit Events (Men & Women): Players wanting to obtain an IPIN number can go to the ITF website www.itftennis.com click on IPIN and follow the registration instructions. IPIN fee payments can be made with a credit card or can be made at the next tournament that the player participates in. The IPIN membership is valid for a calendar year i.e. 1 January – 31 December irrespective of when a player registers or renews their IPIN. Junior players entering Pro Circuit events need to be aware that the balance of the Junior to Open IPIN fee is payable or can be paid at the first Pro Circuits event
 - Entries for Pro Circuit events can be done either on an official ITF Men/Women entry form or via the IPIN on the website. Faxed entries need to be faxed to the ITF (fax number on the bottom of the form). Players are advised to keep a confirmation of the fax result and to attach this to the entry form for reference purposes. A copy of the entry form is available on the SATA website
- 5. Entry Deadlines:**
- All SATA Tournaments: The entry deadlines for the various tournaments are indicated on the SATA calendar. Entries close midnight, 14 days prior to the start of the tournament

- Junior ITF (u18) Tournaments: Entries close midnight, 21 days to the start of the tournament. Entry deadlines are indicated on the Junior ITF Calendar
- ITF Professional Circuit Events (Men & Women): Entry deadlines for the Pro Circuit events are as follows and are indicated on the Pro Circuits calendars:
 - Men: Entries close Thursday (14:00 GMT) 18 days prior to the start of the respective tournament
 - Women: Entries close Thursday (14:00 GMT) 18 days prior to the start of the respective tournament

Entry forms (if not using online) can be downloaded from the SATA website

6. Withdrawal Deadlines:

- All SATA Tournaments: Withdrawal deadlines for tournaments are indicated on the SATA calendar. Withdrawal deadlines are midnight, 7 days prior to the start of the tournament. Withdrawals can be done online
- Junior ITF (u18) Tournaments: Withdrawal deadlines are midnight, 14 days prior to the start of the tournament. Withdrawal forms available on the SATA website and need to be faxed to the tournament directly (same as the entry forms)
- ITF Professional Circuit Events (Men & Women): Withdrawal deadlines for the Pro Circuit events are as follows and indicated on the Pro Circuits calendars:
 - Men: Withdrawal deadline is Tuesday (14:00 GMT) 13 days prior to the Monday of the respective tournament
 - Women: Withdrawal deadline is Tuesday (14:00 GMT) 13 days prior to the Monday of the respective tournament

7. Acceptance Methods into Tournaments:

- All SATA Tournaments: Acceptances for all SATA tournaments are based on the SATA National rankings as of the entry deadline.
- Junior ITF u18 Tournaments: The general principal surrounding Junior ITF u18 events is that a player that does not have ITF points should not be permitted to enter events outside of his/her region. Region applicable to South Africa being Africa and Europe.

Acceptances into Junior ITF u18 ranking tournaments are based on:

ITF Rankings

Region

Host Country

Players from outside the region with no ITF ranking will not be accepted or placed on the Acceptance / Alternate lists

- Professional Circuits (Men / Women Futures):

Acceptance into tournaments will be based on the following for both the Men and Women:

- Method A: Players who have entered with an approved ATP singles ranking by the entry deadline.
- Method B: Players who have entered without an approved ATP singles ranking, but have a current top 500 National Ranking. These players will be separated by the ITF by lot
- Method C: On-site Alternates who have signed in for the qualifying competition and have an approved ATP singles ranking
- Method D: On-site Alternates who have signed in for the qualifying competition, but have a National ranking in the top 500

- Thereafter non ranked players will be considered

8. General Tips:

- Playing out of Age Group / Junior ITF events:

- Player is 13 years old and coach/parent want him/her to play in a Junior ITF (u18) Tournament

Participating in local events out of his/her age group is in order if the player is highly ranked and/or can compete and deal with the physical element. Players should take care not to try and play up to high in terms of jumping from u12 to u16, but, should rather consider going from u12 to u14 as a trial. Players playing out of an age group and expecting to play in the Platinum section of a higher age group should when entering, advise the entry authority of their intention to play up and apply for a Wild Card.

Player should only consider playing ITF events if he/she is already playing out of their age group and competing in at least local SATA Key Health Series Tournaments u16 or u18 in the Platinum section and regularly progressing to the quarter finals / semi finals stages. A mixture of own age group and the higher age group is in most instances the more successful model.

It is often a contentious decision as to when do players start playing Junior ITF events, but if a player is not strong enough (physically and mentally) and is not used to competing at locals events in u18 events, then this may be too early for the player to be “pushed” into uncharted waters

- Juniors competing in Open / ITF Pro Circuit Events:

- Player is 14 years old and coach/parent want him/her to play in a Pro Circuits event

Generally the same sentiments as the above point need to be considered, with the only additional point being that generally it is easier for girls to compete in Open or ITF Women’s Circuit events at the age of 14 or 15 than it is for a boy to adjust to playing in the Men’s section of such tournaments

- SATA / IPIN Registration or Renewals:

- Player tries to enter a SATA tournament and discovers that SATA Membership has expired

or that he/she needs to register as a Tournament Player. This is at 19:00 on the day that entries close.

Generally players should try to avoid entering at the last minute. Last minute entries do not allow for any possible or unforeseen technical glitches that may occur and certainly does not allow for time to register and have SATA numbers produced and validated.

If the player has a SATA number the system will allow him/her to enter and they will have until the withdrawal deadline of the tournament to finalise their renewal payment and payment of entry fee.

In the event of a player not having had a SATA number previously, it is unlikely that this player will be able to enter the tournament. It needs to be stressed that this is not a SATA responsibility as general administration services are rendered from Monday to Friday, 08:00 to 17:00 (General office hours only)

Players with no internet access can consult the tournament organizer as there is a bulk entry and registration document that tournament organizers can complete and submit to SATA

- IPIN Registration:

- Player (non ranked) arrives at tournament site to sign-in as an On-site Alternate and realizes the he/she does not have an IPIN number

Player needs to go online and obtain an IPIN number. He/she will then be permitted to sign-in by the ITF Supervisor. The player needs to pay the online registration fee to the ITF Supervisor, who in turn will complete a validation process of the player and get them registered. However, if any technical difficulties are experienced and the player cannot get an IPIN number or the IPIN number provided by the player cannot be validated (when Supervisor goes online before doing the qualifying draw at 18:00), the players entry will be cancelled and will not be accepted into the draw. This is also applicable to Wild Card nominated players.

It is not the Supervisors responsibility to contact the ITF with IPIN difficulties, this remains the responsibility of the player and IPIN numbers should be obtained before arriving on site.