



# ITF WORLD TENNIS NUMBER

The aim of this guide is to provide an outline of the ITF World Tennis Number, including its key principles and how it can be used in practice.

This guide is designed as part of a training package and should be read alongside the supplementary video content and FAQs.



# INTRODUCTION

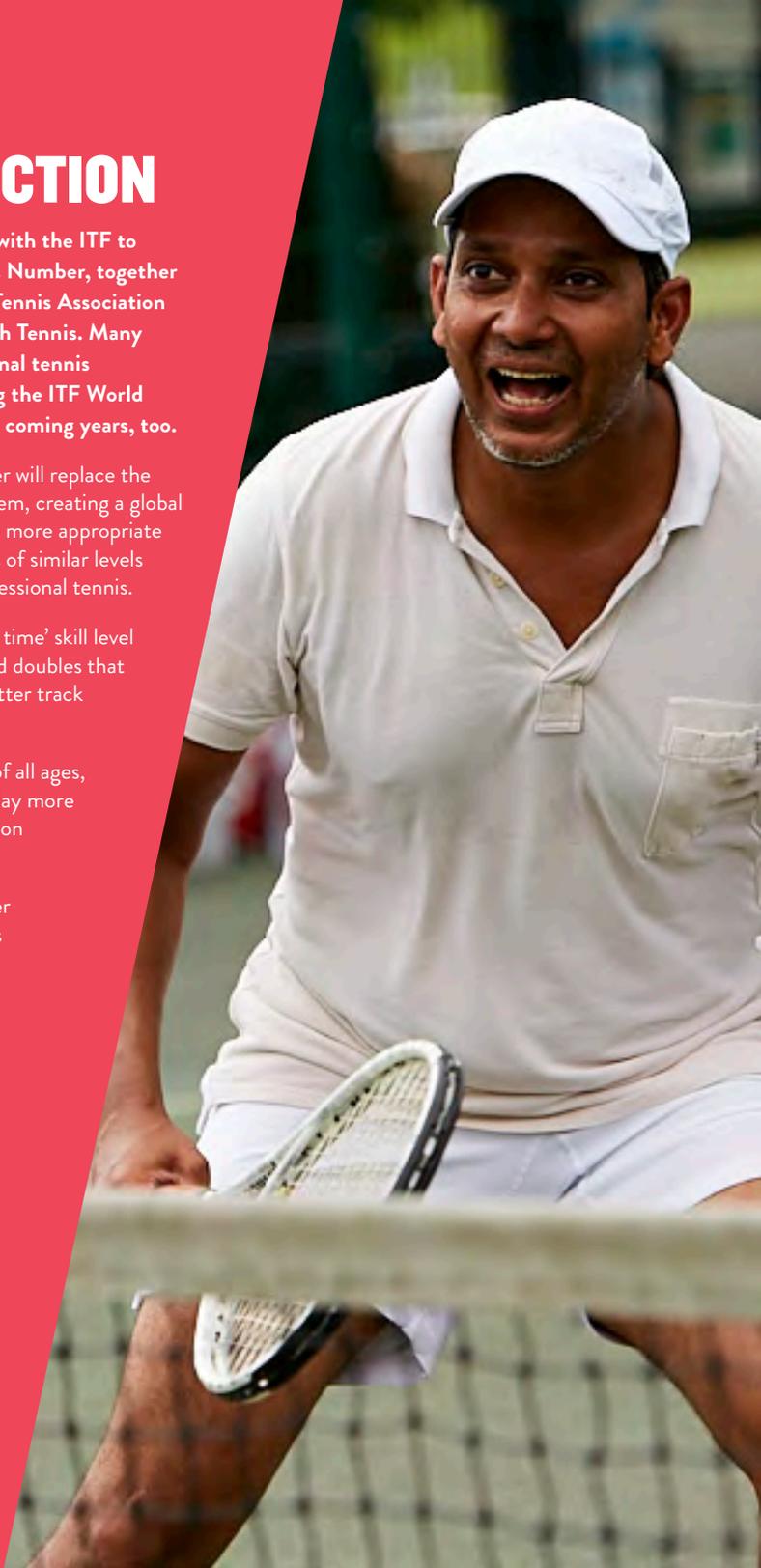
The LTA are partnering with the ITF to launch the World Tennis Number, together with the United States Tennis Association and Federation of French Tennis. Many other national and regional tennis associations will be using the ITF World Tennis Number over the coming years, too.

The World Tennis Number will replace the current LTA Ratings system, creating a global player standard to enable more appropriate matches between players of similar levels from recreational to professional tennis.

It is also an accurate 'real time' skill level rating for both singles and doubles that will support players to better track their progress.

It will encourage people of all ages, genders and abilities to play more tennis, with a clear focus on recreational players.

The World Tennis Number has a set of key principles that will provide a 'tennis language' that is easy to understand, and is not open to exploitation or manipulation.



# HOW TO GET AN ITF WORLD TENNIS NUMBER

The World Tennis Number will be available to all players who are part of the LTA's Membership Scheme and have opted in for the World Tennis Number.

Any junior player that has competed before their 10th birthday will automatically receive a World Tennis Number on January 1 on the year they are due to turn 10 years old.

## NEW PLAYERS

For new junior or adult players that are not currently LTA Members your World Tennis Number will be issued as part of the membership sign up process if you intend to compete.

New adult players will be prompted to complete a Player Standard Questionnaire to ensure they can begin with as accurate a World Tennis Number as possible. Junior players will be allocated a default Number.



# PRINCIPLES

The principles of the ITF World Tennis Number are designed to provide guidance to players as to how their Number may change, what may affect their Number and how they can use this measure to support their development and enjoyment.

## ALGORITHM

The World Tennis Number uses a sophisticated mathematical calculation that is similar to rating systems used in chess and video games.

## CALCULATIONS

The World Tennis Number algorithm uses results from 2016 onwards to calculate a player's number. When players compete, it analyses the pre-match rating of both players. The algorithm then predicts what it thinks the outcome of the match will be. Players' Numbers will change depending on the actual match score and how it compares to the prediction.

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.

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

### Example

If a match ends two sets to one, then the system will update the winning player's Number with two set 'wins' and one set 'loss'. Even if a player doesn't win the match any sets they have won will count towards their Number.

Unlike the previous LTA Rating there are no set timeframes in which to record any match results with the algorithm using up to four years' worth of match data to initialise a player's World Tennis Number.

This means that in order for a player to improve their ITF World Tennis Number they simply need to record a better match result than the algorithm has predicted.

## SCALE

The 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 the UK the World Tennis Number will be displayed to one decimal place.

The World Tennis Number scale is age and gender neutral – so any two players with a similar World Tennis Number can have a competitive match.

### Example

24 year old male (World Tennis Number 21.4) should have a competitive match against a 52 year old female (World Tennis Number 23.8).

## GAME ZONE

The Game zONE identifies a range of potential opponents for a player - this supports finding evenly-matched players to provide the best-possible experience on court.

### Example

A player with a 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.

## SINGLES AND DOUBLES

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

This will be the first doubles measure for the LTA and will be beneficial to players who predominantly compete in County and District leagues.

This will allow players to find appropriate matches based on match result data relevant to the type of event or competition they want to play in. It will also allow players of all standards and formats to track their progress.

## DYNAMIC SYSTEM

The World Tennis Number will update every Wednesday 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.

### Example

If a player has taken part in a tennis competition at a weekend their ITF World Tennis Number will be updated on the following Wednesday.

## PLAYER STANDARD QUESTIONNAIRE (PSQ)

For the majority of players who already have an LTA Rating and are regularly competing, their Number will be based on previous match data already recorded.

Adult players that are new to the game 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. Once a player has started to compete and has recorded some match results the World Tennis Number algorithm will base future changes on this.

## GLOBAL RESULTS

Results from all nations supporting the World Tennis Number will be used by the algorithm to count towards a player's Number.

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

The World Tennis Number will also include international competitions such as:

- ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors
- ITF World Tennis Tour
- ATP/WTA/Grand Slam
- ITF Seniors Circuit

Note - As new nations adopt and start to use the World Tennis Number, the Number of players may change due to new connections being made.





# PRACTICAL USES

The World Tennis Number will provide an accurate, real time measure of player standard that can be used to:

- Support players to find appropriate, competitive competition
- Support Officials, Coaches, Competition Organisers and Team Captains to deliver competitions
- Provide an objective measure of player standard and aid understanding of player ability

## *Player Grouping*

The World Tennis Number, alongside the Game zONe, provides an accurate and objective measure to easily identify which players can be grouped together in a well-matched competition.

The ability to group players quickly and with confidence dramatically reduces the time it takes to set up appropriate matches and will make competitions more enjoyable for the players taking part.

The World Tennis Number will support Individual Competition such as Box Leagues and Matchplay and the potential to sort players in social, teams and coaching groups.

## *County and District Leagues*

Having a doubles option makes the Number attractive to County & District Leagues which are almost all doubles based. This will allow players to track the progress of their doubles matches and identify other doubles players that may provide a competitive match for them.

In order for results to count for the World Tennis Number, the League must ensure:

- ✓ They are administered using League Planner or TournamentSoftware.com
- ✓ Individual rubber results (not just the overall fixture result) are recorded
- ✓ Approved scoring format is used
- ✓ LTA Membership numbers are recorded for all players







# SUMMARY

The World Tennis Number provides a global standard for players.

It is one scale for all players, regardless of age, gender, or ability from the world's elite to a player taking part in their first competition.

The World Tennis Number also includes a doubles measure – with separate Numbers for both singles and doubles.

The World Tennis Number updates each week to provide a 'real time' measure of standard that can be trusted and relied upon.

The introduction of the World Tennis Number will help all players better understand their own standard and how this relates to others. This will encourage more players of all ages, genders and abilities to play more tennis that is appropriate and enjoyable #GameOn

## *Support and Resources*

For more information on the ITF World Tennis Number please visit [www.LTA.org.uk/WorldTennisNumber](http://www.LTA.org.uk/WorldTennisNumber)

