

RULES FOR THE LADIES' WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. These Championships shall take place every two years and shall, starting in 2011, rotate round the following: Australia, France, UK and USA. They shall consist of a singles championship and a doubles championship and a plate for the first round losers of the singles. The host country's governing body may decide on whether or not a plate is held for the first round losers of the doubles.
2. The responsibility for holding the Championships transfers immediately upon completion of one event to the authorities in the country where they will next be held.
3. The host country's governing body must nominate a court and approximate date in the first six months of the calendar year preceding the year of the Championships and shall notify same to the various governing bodies.
4. These World Championships rules, along with home court rules, shall apply each time. ("Home court" rules are those which apply to the court only, for example, whether balls hit over roof beams are still in play or not.)

The Championships shall be played as knock-out tournaments; the best of three first-to-six-game sets shall be played in all matches.

Competitors shall not be required to play more than one singles match per day in the main event.

5. If competitors are required to play both a singles and a doubles match on the same day, the singles match shall be played first. There shall be a break of at least an hour between the two matches, the start of the second match being delayed if necessary to ensure an hour's break after the conclusion of the first match.
6. Players shall play at times allocated by the Tournament Committee and shall be ready to play 15 minutes before the allocated time. Players are due on court to start the knock up at the allocated time. The knock up shall be limited to five minutes. Late arrivals shall be scratched if not on court by ten minutes after the allocated time or, in the case of a match delayed for more than ten minutes, if not ready to go on court immediately the previous match has finished.
7. It is the responsibility of the organising body to decide on the availability of practice courts and to allocate these fairly between the competitors. The method for allocating and booking such courts and the cost (if any) shall be sent out to competitors, if possible, with the entry forms but certainly with the draw. If any courts become free unexpectedly during the tournament, these may be allocated for practice at the discretion of the organisers.

No player may use a court for practice in the hour immediately preceding a match in which they are playing.

8. A copy of the final draws shall be on public display at the court for at least 24 hours before the start of the tournament. This version of the draws is that to which the tournament shall be played and no change may be made to these draws once the first ball of the tournament has been struck. In the event a draw has been altered due to the withdrawal of seeds (see Rule 10.3 below) a copy of the draw(s) as sent to competitors will be displayed alongside the new draw(s) with a clear indication as to which draw is which and that the original draw has been superseded.
9. Play shall be continuous; players may only leave the court during a match with the permission of the marker.
10. Each country, with its organising committee, shall be responsible for the World Championships when they are held in that country. The committee shall be responsible for:

10.1 ENTRY FORMS

Entry forms are to:

- 10.1.1 be sent out to reach potential entrants at least 12 weeks before the start of the Championships. The closing date for entries shall be set not less than 4 weeks before the start of the Championships. The draw shall be sent to players not less than 1 week before the start of the Championships. The entry form shall state whether or not there is to be a Doubles Plate for first round losers in the Doubles tournament.
- 10.1.2 be sent to all clubs where ladies play and, in the case of the UK, all LRTA members. The method of distribution of the entry forms to be agreed with each country. Entry information should also be put on the major tennis web-sites.
- 10.1.3 state that:
 - 10.1.3.1 in the case of UK resident players, all entrants must be members of the LRTA and in the case of US resident players, all entrants must be members of the USCTA.
 - 10.1.3.2 predominantly white clothing, including shoes, is to be worn, although coloured tracksuits are permissible during knock-ups. If any logo (eg sponsor's or manufacturer's) is worn on clothing, it is to be no larger than two square inches on individual items of clothing worn during play.
- 10.1.4 show clearly the place, date and time of the draw.
- 10.1.5 state that late entrants will not be accepted. (See 10.3.3 below.)
- 10.1.6 state whether or not professionals are required to pay an entry fee.

10.2 SEEDING

For any size of draw up to 32 entrants, 8 seeds are placed in the draw in the order: 1, 8, 5, 4, 3, 6, 7, 2. The seeds should play from the first round if a full entry is attained. If there are less than 32 entries, byes should be given firstly to the seeds in descending order, then as drawn. The seeding positions should be determined by handicap as shown on the RTO (Real Tennis Online) handicap system on the date of the draw. If any manual adjustments have been made to a player's handicap, this should only be accepted if sufficient match results have been recorded since the adjustment to justify the manual change. Players' singles handicaps should be used for both singles and doubles seedings until all countries agree to the validity of doubles handicaps on RTO.

10.3 WITHDRAWALS

- 10.3.1 If any seed in the singles withdraws from the Championship before it begins, the organising committee should, **if practicable**, alter the draw in the interests of balance, by moving lower seeds up to take their place and, if there are suitable candidates for the vacated lower seed positions, new seeds should be created.
- 10.3.2 In the doubles, if one player of a pair withdraws, the pair withdraws. If a pair can then be made up of original doubles competitors forced by their partners to withdraw, this is permitted, but the new pair should be placed in the draw in the initial position of the better handicap player. Under no circumstances shall a player be allowed to withdraw from a pair and be reinstated in another pair.
- 10.3.3 If there are withdrawals and organisers need to do so to maintain a sensible draw, organisers may invite competitors to enter as late entrants. Only such invited players may enter after the tournament closing date.

10.4 USE OF TOURNAMENT INCOME

It is up to the organising country to decide how the Championships shall be funded when they are hosting them. It is their decision how any sponsorship money, entry fees, charges for entertainment or other donations are used.

For example whether funds are used for:

- reducing the entry fees for amateurs;
- providing trophies or permanent mementoes that may be kept by winners and/or runners up;
- providing subsidised entertainment for all competitors;
- paying prize money or appearance money to professionals;
- providing tournament clothing/equipment/presents to competitors;
- providing prize vouchers for amateurs
- or any other use the host country deems suitable.

It must be ensured that any gifts or vouchers for amateurs do not break Amateur Status rules which vary between the different countries.

If prize money or appearance money is to be offered, the professionals who are eligible to receive it should be given the rules for its allocation at the time the entry forms are sent out. Again, it is up to the organising country to specify what such rules should be.

11. The country holding the World Championships is responsible for entering the information recording the Championships in the World Championships Book and for the cost of engraving the silver trophies. They are also responsible for ensuring the timely and safe delivery of the World Championships Book to the next responsible Association.

The new host Association is responsible for chasing the current holders of trophies to ensure that the trophies are passed to the new hosts in a timely fashion ready to be presented following the next World Championships finals.