

ITF Wheelchair Tennis – NA Update

September 2025

Further to the communication shared in July and as we launch the 2026 tournament application process, I wanted to provide a further ITF wheelchair tennis update, particularly in relation to changes being introduced for 2026.

Wheelchair Tennis Team – update

Firstly, we are pleased to welcome Julian Lodeiro Martinez to the team as Manager of Tour Operations while Suzie Toyn is on maternity leave. Julian will work principally with Mafalda Vicente, notably to oversee and coordinate the 2026 calendar and tournament application process. We will also shortly be joined by Natasha Hood who will work alongside Mafalda, and also with Ellen de Lange to help coordinate and deliver the World Team Cup.

On the ITF's [Tournament Organisers](#) webpage you will find a Tours & Player Pathway organisation chart, including an overview of the full wheelchair tennis team, lead by:

- Jackie Nesbitt, Senior Executive Director, Tours & Player Pathway
- Cain Berry, Head, Sport Science & Pathway
- Alistair Williams, Head, Tour & Major Event Operations

2026 UNIQLO Wheelchair Tennis Tour – Major Changes

Following our July update, the ITF Board of Directors has approved structural changes to the UNIQLO Tour for 2026 and beyond. The approved changes are presented in the attached file (as presented during the webinars in July), but in summary the changes include:

- Introduction of new competition tiers that aim to support specific player profiles up and down the Wheelchair Pathway, see the diagram below:



- Introduction of new tournament grading nomenclature (naming system) through the pathway, with the new grades confirmed as follows (for ease, these are mapped below against current grade names):

Current	New [2026]	Tier
Grand Slam	Grand Slam	Premier
Super Series	WC1000	
ITF1	WC500 WC250	
ITF2	WC175	International
ITF3	WC100	
Futures	WC50 WC25	Development
National/Regional		

- Introduction of a revised ranking points table and formula, including an increase in the number of countable events for calculating the ranking, as follows (existing countable events in brackets):
 - Men: 12 (9) | Women: 12 (8) | Quad: 10 (7)
 - Please be aware that as of Jan 2026, every player’s ranking will be determined using the new countable tournaments.
 - A tool will be provided by the end of September to allow NAs, players and teams to view rankings based on new countable events – further details will be shared as required.
- Further/other changes to the Wheelchair competition regulations for 2026 are currently in discussion and will be communicated by the end of November.

2026 Tournament applications

On the basis of the changes above, the ITF is **now accepting applications for UNIQLO Tour tournaments in 2026**, which must be submitted online through TMS. Below please find the timetable for submitting applications – if NAs/Organisers have a challenge with the scheduled timetable please contact and liaise with the Wheelchair team.

NOTE: **All applications** should be made using the **NEW tournament grades**, as listed above and in the attached document.

Applications Timetable

Deadline	Tier / Tournament grade	2026 calendar period
10 Oct 2025	Premier Tier <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GS, 1000, 500, 250 International & Development Tiers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 175, 100, 50, 25 	Full year Jan-Jun
	<i>Expected publication: Week commencing 13 Oct</i>	
14 Nov 2025	International & Development Tiers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 175, 100, 50, 25 	Jul-Dec
	<i>Expected publication: From 1 Dec</i>	

Changes to Tournaments

From time to time, National Associations or Organisers may need to make changes to a tournament (for example start date, change of venue, type of ball).

In all cases, please make the change in TMS and then inform the ITF by email providing the rationale to the change. The ITF will then review. The ITF can provide additional advice based on our experience of other tournaments and can help manage any player communications.

Player Care Programme

- The ITF will shortly launch a Player Care Programme – an initiative designed to support athletes’ wellbeing both on and off the court through a variety of resources.
- These include a wellbeing tracking app, social media abuse support, travel security, financial literacy and career transition.
- Reducing social media abuse has been a particular focus in recent years. View our approach and some of our outcomes from this service [here](#).