



SENIORS TOURNAMENT SEEDING & DRAWS 2019

1. This document covers the seeding of the **SENIOR NATIONALS** and the **THIRTEEN OTHER TSA SENIORS** ranking tournaments.
2. For the CLOSED ITF NATIONALS, the TSA SENIORS rankings will be used. This will run as a **local** tournament with local rules applying. For other ITF tournaments, the ITF RANKINGS will be used.
3. The Seeding Committee of TSA Seniors will send the seeding documents to the Tournament Director after the withdrawal deadline. They will request the Tournament Director to do optional pairing of LOCAL players, recommendations of discretionary seeds (strong players with little or no ranking) before the seeding meeting.
4. All **SENIORS SINGLES, DOUBLES AND MIXED DOUBLES** matches in local ranking tournaments are standardised as follows:
 - All matches in the over 80 age groups will be the best of three tiebreaker sets with the third set a 10-point match tiebreaker.
 - Main draw matches in the men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles and women's doubles for all other age groups, including those events that combine an over 80 event with a younger age group, will be best of three tiebreaker sets.
 - Consolation Draws (after losing at least one match) will be the best of three tiebreaker sets with the third set a 10-point match tiebreaker.
 - All **MIXED DOUBLES** matches will be two tiebreaker sets and a **10-point match tiebreaker**.
 - The change-of-ends tiebreaker, (**Coman Method**), will be used for both the 10-point match tiebreaker and the 7-point set tiebreaker. Players change ends after the **first point** and then after every **four points** thereafter.
5. The draws will be done using **SportyHQ tournament software**. Players who have not paid will not be included in the draw. Players from the same province will be separated where possible in the first round.
6. There should be two types of seeding in each event: seeding according to the **rankings** and **discretionary** seeding. The ranked seeds are always given a seeding higher than the discretionary seeds. The reason why ranked seeds are given priority is to reward for both ability and loyalty. Discretionary seeds are not reflected on the draw sheets.
7. When using the rankings for seeding, only the players with **more than 160 points** in **singles** and combined points of **320 in doubles and mixed** need to be considered.
8. Two discretionary seeds are allowed in any event. If there are fewer seeds than the number of ranked seeds specified by the size of the draw, more discretionary seeds may be used to make up that number.
9. Whenever possible the head-to-head results of entries will be looked at when discretionary seeds are chosen. Discretionary seeds should not be considered as giving local players an easy draw but are there to prevent strong players meeting in the early rounds of a tournament where possible.
10. Players from higher age groups will be included in the seeding order with ranking points of their own age group ranking, reduced by the following percentages:
 - Players playing down 1 age group: 20 % deduction from their ranking points
 - Players playing down 2 age groups: 40 % deduction from their ranking points
 - Players playing down 3 age groups: 60 % deduction from their ranking points
 - Players playing down 4 age groups & more: 80 % deduction from their ranking points.
11. In men's and women's singles, **only three adjacent age groups** can be combined without referring the matter to the players. **If players have to be moved down by more than two age groups, the players must be informed and they need to decide immediately whether to withdraw or remain in the draw.**

12. In men's and women's doubles, **four adjacent age groups** can be combined without referring the matter to the players.
13. In mixed doubles, **four adjacent age groups** can be combined without referring the matter to the players.
14. In the round robins of two groups, the two top-ranked players will be separated. The remainder of the players will be seeded in order of strength at the discretion of the Seedings Committee **and then randomly drawn.**
15. For an event with 6 to 9 entries, two ranked entries should be seeded. The seeding committee to decide whether two discretionary seeds are required.
16. For an event with 10 to 17 entries, four ranked entries will be seeded. The seeding committee to decide whether two discretionary seeds are required.
17. For an event with over 17 entries, six ranked entries will be seeded. Two discretionary seeds may be chosen if there are less than 25 entries and four discretionary seeds may be chosen if there are more entries.
18. For an event of over 33 entries, 8 ranked entries will be seeded. Two discretionary seeds may be chosen.
19. If a seed withdraws from a tournament after the draws have been done but before the order of play has been published, then the next eligible player on the ranking list will take the position vacated by the seed in question. If a seed withdraws from a tournament after the order of play has been published, then it's a walkover to the opposing player.
20. Where there is a withdrawal before play commences in the round robins with two groups which causes an imbalance in the two groups, then the draw will be re-done.
21. The draws for **MEN'S SINGLES, WOMEN'S SINGLES, MEN'S DOUBLES AND WOMEN'S DOUBLES** should be so chosen that there is a match in each event every day for as many entries as possible. This may mean playing a double round in either the singles or the doubles in an age group. A joint decision on what format to be played will be made by the Tournament Director, the Referee and the Seeding Committee. The list below gives the alternatives
 - **3 entries:** Round robin (3 rounds). This size of draw is only permissible in the over 70 age groups or when deemed necessary by the Seeding Committee in the best interests of the tournament. Entries of 3 or less, wherever possible, are to be combined with an adjacent age group, preferably a lower age group as long as that doesn't result in a draw of 5 or 9. In that case, a draw of 3 will be permitted.
 - **4 entries:** One Round Robin group. (3 rounds).
 - **5 entries:** One Round Robin group (5 rounds which may necessitate a double round on one day in a four-day tournament). This may be combined with an adjacent age group, preferably a lower age group, in a four-day tournament, provided that the combined draw is 16 or less entries.
 - **6 entries:** In a four-day tournament, a Round Robin in two groups and a playoff is played (4 rounds). In a five-day tournament a Round Robin in one group (5 rounds) is played.
 - **7 to 8 entries:** Round Robin in two groups and a playoff round (4 rounds). **Where there are 7 entries the first seed is placed in the group of 3.**
 - **9 to 10 entries:** Monrad in a four-day tournament (4 rounds). In a five-day tournament there is a choice between a Round Robin in two groups and a playoff round (6 rounds) which will mean a double round on one day, or a monrad draw. **Where there are 9 entries the first seed is placed in the group of 4.**
 - **In all round robins of two groups, the number 1 and 2 seed will be in different groups, and number 3 to 8 will be randomly drawn.**
 - **All draws for events** of 11 entries and over will be Monrad draws.

22. The format for draws in **MIXED DOUBLES** will be chosen so that the final matches will be played on or before the penultimate day of the tournament if possible.
- **3 entries:** Will be combined with another age group as long that doesn't result in a draw of 5 or 9. In that case a draw of 3 will be permitted.
 - **4 entries:** One Round Robin group. (3 rounds).
 - **5 entries:** This will preferably be combined with another age group as a monrad draw, provided that the combined draw is 16 or less entries. It may also be played as a round robin (5 rounds, which may necessitate a double round on one day in a four-day tournament).
 - **6 to 8 entries:** Monrad (3 rounds)
 - **All entries in the mixed doubles** of 9 entries and over will be Monrad draws.