



FIR-Tournament Regulations

1st January 2017

Version History¹

Version	Changes	Status
1.1.2015	Graham's Initial Version	Final
25.11.2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding Continental Championships • Adding FIR World Tour Officer • (2.1) tournament application required payment of outstanding debt and general fine/penalty-handling • (Appx B) registration for WC/CC Team Event only by countries with no debt to FIR • (3.2.1) EUR 10 Welcome present scrapped. No surcharge possible for paying cash on-site • (3.5) Additional classes included (Doubles and +40) • (3.6.6) Space around TT table to ITTF standards for Elite classes. Badminton mats for Centre Court matches at WC,CC,SWT,IWT if hall has multiple coloured lines • (3.7) 3 matches guaranteed (4 for Elite) • (3.8.1) tournament in parallel to FIR tournaments allowed (e.g. local taster classes) • (Appx B) 15-points up in National Team events 	Final
1.1.2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (1) World Tour Race classes listed. Womens Seniors added to World Tour Race • (2.1, 2.2) applications by Tournament Director, approved by host (must be FIR member country) • (3.2) Tournament Status Fee for Council members reinstated as due again • (3.4) explicit bank account details removed • (3.5.1) Seniors +40 classes added, Seniors +50 added to SWT. First-Timers classes added to SWT/IWT/CHA • (3.5.2) min. 3 player (not 4) registrations to hold class • (3.7.1) Removal of 4-match guarantee for Olympics to align it to the rest of the players • (3.7.3) Deadline of WC, CC seven days earlier. allow some classes to be closed early if full. Handling of waiting list defined • (3.7.4, 3.7.5) section on seedings and wildcards taken from Players Draws regulations • (3.13.4) Tournament Director does not need to pay for Co-Delegate • (B1.4) seeding of Seniors +45 national team now also uses the best woman's ranking • (B2, C3) Coin toss to decide who starts serving at table tennis to apply to the whole team. 	Current
27.7.2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (3.1) Prize money based on total of player entry fees, 	

¹ Non-cosmetic changes only

	<p>rather than being fixed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (3.1) WTO to approve any award of additional prize money. Delegate to approve any redistribution of prize money for categories which are not played. Delegate can approve paying prize money early as an exception • (3.4) No Tournament Status Fee for FIR Delegate • (3.5.1) Addition of Womens Seniors +55 class to WC & CC • (3.6.1) Players can be obliged to change shirt if same colour as TT ball (previously only a “request”) • (3.7.3) Entry deadline extension only possible by WTO and must be accompanied by publication on racketlon.net to be valid. Handling of late entries after entry deadline clarified • (3.11.2) Player presence at prize-giving not mandatory for receiving medals or prize money • (Appendix B) open Team Event to be played in league format. Juniors & Seniors unchanged • (B1.5) Draws of National Team Event made at Team Captains Meeting • (B3) Scoring to 11 points for 2016, to 15 points from 1.1.2017 • (C1.1) Max of 1 foreign player per team allowed in Champions League, unless that player played in qualification matches 	
24.8.2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (3.1) Add back in prize money for 2016, unchanged, so 2016 tournaments know what to award 	
1.1.2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of general terms (tournament, event, category, class, World Ranking event, World Tour event) and achieve their consistent use • (3.2) Remove reference to pre-2017 prize money. Correct WC Singles from 25% to 20% of registration fees Remove prize money for Champions League Prize money calculation to exclude registrations for junior events • (3.3.1) no registration fees for Elite and Junior national teams accommodation costs covered by tournament • (3.3.2) 50% of Tournament Status Fee for doubles pairs consisting of one Council member • (3.5) EUR10 Tournament Status Fees per team (National Team Event and Champions League) • (3.6) addition of Women Seniors +40 as mandatory to IWT tournaments Separate Women First Timers class National Team Event extended to include +40 and u13 classes 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• (3.6.3) guaranteed number of classes set to 2 singles and 2 doubles. More precise handling of women playing in Mens classes• (3.7.6) standard of court requirements raised for WC & CC events approved referees required for WC, CC Elite classes• (3.7.8) Shuttle service free of charge for Elite players• (3.10.7) required amount of TV / Livestreaming coverage raised for WC & CC events• (3.11) official referees required for ALL centre court matches, irrespective of the class, for WC and CC events• (3.12.2) award of medals or trophies to players before prize-giving• (3.12.3) medical staff required on <u>permanent</u> standby for WC and CC events• (3.12.8) Volunteer and Team recommendations tightened up• (3.12.11) Doping Control mandatory for WC & CC events• (Appendic B 1.1) u13 and +40 national teams added• (Appendix C) – Champions League re-write	
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INTRODUCTION

The FIR Tournament Regulations govern all FIR international Racketlon events and define the conditions under which Tournament Directors may apply for and plan their tournaments. Execution of the tournament will also require the Players Draws Regulations,

In return for the commitment to comply with the requirements in this document, tournaments are offered World Ranking status. The ability of tournaments to comply with these requirements will be monitored by FIR Delegates and will influence the tournament's World Tour status in the coming years.

All FIR international Racketlon tournaments must be played according to the valid "Rules of Racketlon" as can be found on www.racketlon.net. A FIR Delegate and optionally a trainee FIR Co-Delegate from the annually published FIR Delegate list will be nominated by FIR to monitor and assist each FIR event.

A. FIR TOURNAMENTS

1. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND POINTS

The following tournaments are organised by the FIR:

- a) FIR Racketlon World Championships (WC)
 - World Championships Singles (WCS)
 - World Championships Doubles (WCD)
 - World Championships National Teams (WCNT)
- b) FIR Racketlon Continental Championships (CC)
 - Continental Championships Singles (CCS)
 - Continental Championships Doubles (CCD)
 - Continental Championships National Teams (CCNT)
- c) FIR Racketlon Super World Tour tournaments (SWT), maximum 4 tournaments per year
- d) FIR Racketlon International World Tour tournaments (IWT), no maximum number
- e) FIR Challenger tournaments (CHA), no maximum number
- f) FIR Champions League

World Championships and Continental Championships are held on alternating years.

"FIR World Tour events" (WC, SWT and IWT events) comprise the World Tour and count for the World Tour Race. The following categories shall be considered:

- Mens Open Singles
- Womens Open Singles
- Mens Seniors
- Womens Seniors

World Ranking points are awarded at all "FIR Ranking Events" (all FIR tournaments except for Champions League and National Team events). The Council defines the ranking points matrix. The exact table can be found on <http://www.racketlon.net/content/fir-ranking-regulations>.

All FIR tournaments are to be held without any national ranking tournaments running at the same time at the same venue. All players must have a valid FIR annual licence and be registered on Tournament Software.

Everyone must in principle have the possibility to participate in FIR tournaments, qualification tournaments are not permitted. Only short exhibitions to promote Racketlon are allowed.

2. TOURNAMENT APPLICATIONS

2.1. General Provisions

Applications for all tournaments must be made by the Tournament Director to FIR and approved by the host nation. The host nation of the tournament must be a FIR member country, which has paid its annual country

membership fee and has no outstanding debt with FIR. By applying to host a FIR tournament, the applicant confirms that he has read the Tournament Regulations and fully accepts and complies with them.

The proposal for the FIR World Tour is made by the FIR World Tour Officer and approved by the FIR Council.

The decision about Challenger tournaments is taken by FIR World Tour Officer alone. Each Tournament Director can apply for as many Challenger tournaments as it wants to hold, but only two tournaments per country per year are guaranteed by FIR.

2.2. Application Procedure, Commitment Statement and Deadlines

- a) World Championships: Application only through national federation, application deadline shall be defined by FIR;
- b) Continental Championships: Application only through national federation, application deadline shall be defined by FIR;
- c) Super World Tour: Application by Tournament Director, application deadline **30th June**;
- d) International World Tour: Application by Tournament Director, application deadline **30th June**;
- e) Challenger: Application by Tournament Director, application deadline is **four (4) months** before the tournament starts.

2.2.1. Tournament commitment statement and contract

By filling out the application form to FIR for any FIR event, Tournament Directors automatically confirm the requirements given in this document and accept that the highest person taking all final decisions at a FIR event is the FIR Delegate. The application form is a CLEAR and FINAL COMMITMENT STATEMENT.

2.2.2. Exceptions of Requirements possible

In case certain requirements cannot be met and the Tournament Director knows this beforehand he can ask FIR for exceptions. The important part again is a beforehand notice together with the tournament application to the FIR World Tour Officer. In case some requirements are not met without advance notice, the Council can issue a warning, fine the tournament (especially if FIR Sponsor Rights are not fulfilled), lower the level of a tournament i.e. from IWT to Challenger status or even cancel the tournament for the next or one of the future years.

3. TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. Definitions: Tournament, category, class, event, draw

A tournament is made up of multiple “categories”, such as Womens Singles, Mixed Doubles, Mens Seniors.

A “category” is made up of multiple similar “classes²” banded either by player strength (e.g. the Mens Open Singles category can be made up of Men A, Men B and Men C classes), or by age (e.g. the Mens Seniors category can be made up of +40, +45 and +50 Singles classes).

Once the order of play has been determined for a class, it is known as a “draw”.

3.2. Prize Money, Trophies

It is a requirement for all tournaments to distribute the defined minimum prize money for the Olympic draws.

Olympic draws are defined as Men A – Elite, Women A - Elite, Men A – Elite Doubles, Women A – Elite Doubles, Mixed A – Elite Doubles. For all tournaments more prize money than the minimum is always allowed, thus a Challenger may also offer prize money.

Any extra prize money can always be added to any of the classes or distributed in other categories if approved by the FIR WTO. Notice must be given to FIR for the website www.racketlon.net latest one week before tournament start.

No prize money is allowed by law in any of the Junior Classes.

² known as “events” in TournamentSoftware

If any of the draws are not played due to too few entries or the draw is not filled (e.g. SWT Women only 2 participants), the prize money must be distributed to other classes, so that the total prize money is always fully paid. The FIR Delegate approves any prize money redistribution.

All prize money winners have to be present at the official prize giving ceremony otherwise the prize money cannot be paid to them. The FIR Delegate can approve, as an exception, paying prize money to winners before the ceremony. If prize money is not paid by the Tournament Director, because of the absence of players it is to be paid to FIR and used for developing countries.

The total prize money will be calculated by the FIR Delegate as a percentage of the total sum of all players' entry fees, including the FIR reimbursement for Council members, at the start of the tournament. Subsequent changes (withdrawals, late entries, payment defaults etc) will not be considered when calculating the total prize money. Junior and First Timer classes will not be included in this calculation. A minimum prize money is defined by FIR, and will be used should the calculated amount be less than this.

Prize money may only be given to the top 1/3 of the players (rounded up) of any category e.g. for a full SWT 8-draw, only 3 players may receive prize money. If this ruling allocates prize money to more positions than is actually awarded, then the "missing" prize money foreseen for the lower positions is redistributed to increase the prize money awarded to the top 1/3 winning positions for that category.

a) World Championships: **Singles** (prize money 20% of entry fees due, minimum 3500 €, split as below):

Men:	50%	(1 st : 40%, 2 nd : 25%, 3 rd : 15%, 4 th : 10%, 5 th -8 th : 2.5% each);
Women:	30%	(1 st : 40%, 2 nd : 25%, 3 rd : 15%, 4 th : 10%, 5 th -8 th : 2.5% each);
Seniors (+40):	20%	(1 st : 50%, 2 nd : 30%, 3 rd : 20%)

Doubles (prize money 20% of entry fees due, minimum 2500 €, split as below):

Men's Doubles:	50%	(1 st : 50%, 2 nd : 30%, 3 rd : 20%);
Women's Doubles:	30%	(1 st : 50%, 2 nd : 30%, 3 rd : 20%);
Mixed Doubles:	20%	(1 st : 50%, 2 nd : 30%, 3 rd : 20%).

Teams (prize money 20% of entry fees due, minimum 1000 €, split as below):

Teams:		(1 st : 50%, 2 nd : 30%, 3 rd : 20%);
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b) Continental Championships:

Singles (Prize money as determined by the individual continents)

Doubles (Prize money as determined by the individual continents)

Teams (Prize money as determined by the individual continents)

c) Champions League:

No prize money

d) Super World Tour: Prize money 20% of entry fees due, minimum 3000 €, split as below:

Men's Singles:	40%	(1st: 40%, 2nd: 25%, 3rd: 15%, 4th: 10%, 5th-8th: 2.5% each);
Women Singles:	25%	(1st: 40%, 2nd: 25%, 3rd: 15%, 4th: 10%, 5th-8th: 2.5% each);
Men's Doubles:	15%	(1st: 50%, 2nd: 30%, 3rd: 20%);
Women's Doubles:	10%	(1st: 50%, 2nd: 30%, 3rd: 20%);
Mixed Doubles:	10%	(1st: 50%, 2nd: 30%, 3rd: 20%);

e) International World Tour: Prize money 10% of entry fees due, minimum 500 €, split as below:

Men's Singles:	60%	(1 st : 45%, 2 nd : 30%, 3 rd : 15%, 4 th : 10%);
Women's Singles:	40%	(1 st : 50%, 2 nd : 30%, 3 rd : 20%)

f) Challenger: No minimum prize money.

3.3. Entry Fees

3.3.1. Entry Fees Restriction

The entry fee for FIR World Ranking events in singles is restricted to a maximum of:

- 70 € for WCS and CCS
- 60 € for SWT
- 55 € for IWT
- 45 € for Challengers

The entry fee for an additional Singles class is restricted to 40 € (35 € for Challengers).

The entry fee per player for FIR World Ranking events in doubles is restricted to a maximum of:

- 35 € for WCD and CCD classes
- 20 € for SWT and IWT classes
- 15 € for Challenger classes

The entry fee must include a proper meal at the players' dinner worth around 10 €.

There is no entry fee for Elite and Junior national teams in the WCNT and CCNT. In addition the accommodation costs of these teams (number of players on team plus one reserve and one coach) for the time of the national team events (one day before event starts until last day of event) must be covered by the organiser.

Tournaments may require prepayment over the internet until the day of the entry deadline.

The entry fees must be given on the website when the tournament is published on fir.tournamentsoftware.com.

3.3.2. No Entry Fees for Council Members

As a thank you for their commitment and time contribution all Council Members don't have to pay any entry fees at all FIR World Ranking events³. Tournaments don't have to pay the player Tournament Status Fee to FIR for FIR Council members. This applies to their fee for doubles classes, even if they play with non-Council members (i.e only 50% of the fee is then required).

3.4. Internet – Tournament Information

The Tournament Directors must ensure that tournament information as well as hotel recommendations are available on the internet.

- a) World Championships: 6 months prior to the tournament incl. 3 hotel recommendations;
- b) Continental Championships: 6 months prior to the tournament incl. 3 hotel recommendations;
- c) Super World Tour: 6 months prior to the tournament incl. 3 hotel recommendations;
- d) International World Tour: 3 months prior to the tournament incl. 2 hotel recommendations;
- e) Challenger: 3 months prior to the tournament incl. 2 hotel recommendations.

Further the Guaranteed Earliest Start Time (GEST) as well as the Guaranteed Latest End Time (GLET) together with a preliminary time schedule for the tournament must be published on the tournament homepage six resp. three months prior to the tournament, in order to facilitate the booking of flights in advance. At least three resp. two accommodation recommendations (at least one high budget and one low budget) must be given on the internet with **clear** description how far the hotels are from the site and how they can be reached.

The types of courts and the balls/shuttlecocks to be used at the tournament must be published together with the initial online tournament details.

³ As decided by the AGM 2007. In force as of January 1st, 2008.

3.5. Tournament Status Fee

Each FIR event is required to pay a tournament status fee per entry which actually takes part in the tournament:

- a) World Championships: 8 € per Entry Singles, 6 € per Entry Doubles pair, 10 € per Entry Teams;
- b) Continental Championships: 8 € per Entry Singles, 6 € per Entry Doubles pair;
- c) Super World Tour: 5 € per Entry Singles, 4 € per Entry Doubles pair;
- d) International World Tour: 3 € per Entry Singles, 2 € per Entry Doubles pair;
- e) Challenger: 2 € per Entry Singles, 1.50 € per Entry Doubles pair;
- f) Champions League: 10 € per Entry Teams.

Tournament Status Fees are not due for FIR Council members (see 3.2.2 above), or for the FIR Delegate.

The Tournament Director must download the payment specification form from www.racketlon.net/content/tournament-support fill it out and mail it to the FIR-Treasurer. Payments shall be made directly to the FIR bank account. If the money does not reach FIR account latest 30 days after end of the tournament or arranged otherwise with the FIR Treasurer, a penalty of 10% of the total fees due shall be charged per month.

3.6. Classes

Depending on the status of each tournament, the following classes need to be offered. More are always allowed. Classes may only be dropped at the lowest level. E.g. Men A and Women A Elite always need to be held if there are sufficient entries. If there are too few entries, then first Men D needs to be dropped, then Men C etc.

All WC, CC, SWT, IWT and CHA events may hold a one-day “First-Timers” class (with optionally a separate class for Women First Timers) on Saturday, for up to 16 local players who have not played international Racketlon before and who do not have a FIR Players Licence. No World ranking points are awarded for this class. All First-Timer players must buy a FIR Players Licence should they want to play in further FIR classes.

3.6.1. Available classes

- a) WC/CC Singles: Men A – Elite, Men B – Advanced, Men C – Amateur, Men D – Beginner; Men E – Fresh Starters, Women A – Elite, Women B – Amateur, Seniors +40, Seniors +45, Seniors +50, Seniors +55, Seniors +60, Seniors +65, Seniors +70; Women Seniors +40, Women Seniors +45, Women Seniors +50, Women Seniors +55, Juniors u13, Juniors u16, Juniors u21; Girls u16, Girls u21, First-Timers
- b) WC/CC Doubles: Men A – Elite Doubles, Men B/C – Amateur Doubles, Men D/E – Beginner Doubles, Women A – Elite Doubles, Women B – Amateur Doubles, Mixed A – Elite Doubles, Mixed B – Amateur Doubles, Seniors (45+) Doubles, Seniors (55+) Doubles, Seniors Women (+45) Doubles, Seniors Mixed (+45) Doubles, Juniors (u13) Doubles, Juniors (u16) Doubles, Juniors (u21) Doubles, Girls (u16) Doubles, Girls (u21) Doubles, Juniors Mixed (u21) Doubles
- c) WC/CC National Teams: National Teams Elite, National Teams Amateur, National Teams Juniors (u21), National Teams Juniors (u16), National Teams Juniors (u13), National Teams Seniors (+40), National Teams Seniors (+45), National Teams Seniors (+55)
- d) Super World Tour: Men A - Elite, Men B - Advanced, Men C - Amateur, Women A - Elite, Women B - Amateur, Seniors +40, Seniors +45, Seniors +50, Seniors +55, Seniors +60, Women Seniors +40, Women Seniors +45, Seniors +45 Doubles, Seniors Mixed (+45) Doubles, Juniors u13, Juniors u16, Juniors u21, Girls u21, Men A – Elite Doubles, Men B/C – Amateur Doubles, Men D/E – Beginner Doubles, Women A - Elite Doubles,

- Women B – Amateur Doubles, Mixed A – Elite Doubles, Mixed B – Amateur Doubles, First-Timers
- e) International World Tour: Men A - Elite, Men B - Advanced, Men C - Amateur, Women A - Elite, Women B - Amateur, Seniors +40, Seniors +45, Seniors +55, Women Seniors +40, Juniors u21, Men A – Elite Doubles, Men B/C – Amateur Doubles, Mixed A – Elite Doubles, Mixed B – Amateur Doubles, Women A – Elite Doubles, Women B – Amateur Doubles, Seniors +45 Doubles, First-Timers
- f) Challenger: Men A - Elite, Women A – Elite, First-Timers

3.6.2. *Minimum 3 players/pairs per class*

For all classes it is a requirement to use the official naming of the FIR otherwise World Ranking points may not be awarded. All classes in the requirement list must be on the application form. Classes MUST be played with a minimum of four participants registered and three players taking part. Classes require at least three participating players in order to count for the World Rankings. Classes with only three registrations can be played if all players agree. If less than 4 players enter for a class, classes can also be grouped together. The requirements for World Ranking events are just the minimum, if tournament organisers want to have additional classes played, they may of course. If a tournament wants to play new and other classes than given above, it can do so even with less than 4 participants, but this will not award World Ranking points.

3.6.3. *Two classes possible*

Players cannot play two classes in one Open category (e.g. Men A and Men B. All age-banded players must be allowed to play two singles classes per tournament, e.g. Seniors +50 and +55, or Juniors u21 and Men B, Women can also enter Men B, Men C or Men D (singles or doubles), but must at least also play one Woman's Singles class if held. All players must be allowed to play two doubles classes per tournament e.g. Men A Elite Doubles and Mixed A Elite Doubles, or +45 Doubles and Men B Doubles.. Which ones these are, can be defined by the Tournament Director according to the time schedule. It shall not be possible for a player to enter more than two doubles classes, or more than two singles classes in total, at any tournament.

3.7. **Equipment and Facilities**

All balls used for Olympic draws have to be on the FIR Approved Balls List, which is published each year on www.racketlon.net/content/tournament-support.

3.7.1. *Table Tennis balls*

Non-celluloid (plastic) table tennis balls are a requirement for all FIR events according to the FIR Approved Balls list and must have 3 stars. The tournament can decide which colour of balls to use, if this option is available, but these must not have a similar colour as the background walls or banners. In case a player is wearing a similar colour T-Shirt as the ball he can be obliged by the referee, Tournament Director or FIR Delegate to change the T-Shirt, or the tournament can provide a different colour ball if available.

3.7.2. *Badminton shuttles*

It is a requirement at all FIR events, that feather shuttles are used in all classes for Badminton. For all draws the feather shuttles must be on the FIR Approved Balls list.

3.7.3. *Squash Balls*

Double yellow dot squash balls are a requirement in all classes for all FIR events according to the FIR Approved Balls list.

3.7.4. *Tennis Balls*

ITF-approved tennis balls are required in all classes for all FIR events, according to FIR Approved Balls list.

3.7.5. *Protective Glasses*

It is a recommendation (as stated in the FIR rules) that organisers require protective glasses to be worn in squash for all Juniors classes.

3.7.6. Courts

A minimum of three match courts in each sport must be available in order to start three matches parallel (two every 15 min, one every 20 min) for all SWT, WCNT and CCNT events. At WC and CC a minimum of six match courts at the same venue are required. One match court in each sport must be part of a specially built Centre Court Arena including a glass squash court, a mobile badminton mat, a table tennis box including special floor and spectator stands (if not available) usually built on two extra courts next to the tennis centre court. For IWT events two match courts in each sport must be available, but three are strongly recommended and for Challengers two match courts must be available. All courts must be approved beforehand by FIR to meet the international standards of the individual sports.

Elite classes main draw matches should be played on centre courts (one in each sport including referees) at all WC, CC, SWT and IWT events with starting times at least every 20 minutes to make sure that the time rules for breaks between the sets can be kept to. Three minutes to move to the court for the next set and three minutes warm up before each set. For WC and CC events, approved referees are required.

If there are any problems with this availability, organisers can ask FIR for exceptions. In case of summer events with tennis played outdoors at least two tennis courts must be available indoor in case of rain for all events at least offsite. The light must be reasonable on all courts, badminton and tennis and held by weights in badminton. Single Posts must be used on the tennis courts for all single matches. The space around the table tennis tables must be according to ITTF regulations⁴ for Elite classes. For all other classes, the space must be reasonable; the matches can't take place in a small low ceiling room. Badminton Elite matches should be played on floors with only badminton lines marked; if the hall has multiple-coloured lines for different sports, then badminton mats must be used for Center Court matches in WC, CC, SWT and IWT events.

The net height for Table Tennis, Badminton and Tennis is according their respective official regulations, i.e. for table tennis the net must have a height of 15.24 cm (6 inch), the badminton net must have a height of 1.524 m (5 ft) in the centre and one of 1.55 m (5 ft 1 inch) on the edges and for tennis the net must have a height of 0.914 m (3 ft) in the centre and a height of 1.067 m (3.5 ft) on the edges.

3.7.7. Practice Courts

It is a requirement that organisers provide two practice courts in each sport for WC, CC and SWT events at least from 5 p.m. the evening before the tournament starts.

On match days at all WC, CC, SWT and IWT events the same number of practice courts as match courts must be available from two hours before tournament start. During the tournament the only compulsory warm up court is a table tennis table where Elite players must have the possibility to warm up 15 min before their match start.

At Challengers no practice courts are compulsory, but Elite players must have the possibility to warm up with Table Tennis at least 15 minutes before the start of their match, which is compulsory for all tournaments.

3.7.8. Shuttle Service

WC, CC and SWT events must offer shuttle service at least for the Elite players from the major airports to the sports centre or the tournament hotel or cover the costs for public transport. For WC and CC events, the shuttle service shall be free of charge for Elite players.

IWT events are recommended to offer shuttles for the Elite players at least twice a day from and to the tournament hotels.

3.7.9. Scoreboard

Scoreboards are to be used on all centre courts, if no live scoring on monitors is used.

3.8. Draws and Seeding

3.8.1. Minimum 3 matches

It is a requirement for all World Ranking events to guarantee at least three scheduled matches for all players in each Singles draw, unless the draw is too small to allow this, and two matches in each Doubles draw. If the draw

⁴ 14m long by 7m wide by 5m high

has byes then the minimum rounds must be increased to ensure this. Tournament Directors should strive to organise four matches for players wherever possible. Walkovers and withdrawals will be considered as matches regarding this guarantee.

3.8.2. *Size of draws*

The official sizes of all FIR draws are: 4, 8, 12, 16, 24, 32, 48, 64, 96 and 128. The FIR World Tour Officer decides on the size of all draws. All other draws in e.g. Men B, Men C shall be filled up to a number according to these draw sizes. Only in the last draw of a class e.g. Men D, places can be left open for byes.

3.8.3. *Entry Deadline*

The regular entry deadline for SWT, IWT and CHA events is Monday 11:59 a.m. local time of the week before tournament start. WC and CC events close seven days earlier. The FIR World Tour Officer can approve bringing this date forward for one or more individual classes if the class is full to capacity. The FIR WTO can approve extending the entry deadline and must publish this on www.racketlon.net for it to be valid.

If a draw is not full on reaching the regular entry deadline, the FIR WTO can decide to accept further entries via email until publishing the draw. In case a draw is already complete, or after the draw has already been published, players shall be placed on a waiting list, so they qualify for being entered into the tournament in case of withdrawals or no-shows. The Tournament Director must enter players on the waiting list into Tournament Planner “Reserve List”.

On reaching the regular entry deadline, the Tournament Planner TP-file is to be transferred by the Tournament Director to the FIR WTO. The WTO will determine the draw sizes in all classes at latest 72 hours after receiving the TP-file. During this time, players on the waiting list can be included in draws that are not full. The FIR WTO will organise the making of the Olympic draws and will then return the TP-file to the Tournament Director. Once draws are made and published, no further players can be added to the draws other than as ALT players to replace player withdrawing from the tournament.

The relevant world ranking for the tournament is the one valid at the date of the entry deadline and is used 1) for the classification of the players in the different classes and 2) for the seeding.

3.8.4. *Seedings*

The seeding for the draws of all world ranking tournaments including Challengers must be done according to the world rankings. A total of 1/4 of the draw-size should be seeded e.g. 16-draw with 12 players, 4 are seeded.

3.8.5. *Wildcards*

For all FIR Ranking events, the players ranked, according to the valid FIR world rankings on the day of the entry deadline, in the top 7/8th of the Elite draw of an Open category MUST always play in the Elite class (e.g. Mens A or Womens A), unless they have been awarded Special Exemption status by FIR.

A maximum of 1/8th of the total number of players in Olympic draws can be offered a wildcard, meaning they can enter the Elite draw although having a lower ranking than the Cut-Off or no world ranking at all. Half of the wildcards are offered by the Tournament Director, the other half by FIR. If there is an odd number of wildcards the Tournament Director has the only or extra wildcard, except for Olympic Draws of World Championships and Continental Championships, where the FIR shall have the only or extra wildcard. FIR can offer the tournament its wildcards and vice versa.

By registering for an Olympic draw, players are implicitly applying for a wildcard, should this be necessary. Players may additionally contact FIR and the Tournament Director stating their justification for Olympic status. If there are no applications or the Tournament Director and/or FIR see no need to issue any or the full number of wildcards they must not do so and can instead raise the Cut-Off to the next players according to the FIR world rankings.

There are no limits on wildcards for non-Olympic draws, nor for Challenger events.

3.8.6. *Publishing of Draws*

All draws for FIR international Racketlon events must be published online together with the time schedules on the Monday of the week of the first day of the tournament on fir.tournamentsoftware.com. After the time schedule has been published, no first-round match times may be changed without the players' consent.

3.9. Tournament Software

3.9.1. Obligation to use Tournament Software

All FIR events are obliged to use Tournament Software for draws, entries and results reporting. It is the responsibility of the Tournament Director that all participants have registered their players profile on Tournament Software, otherwise their results cannot be processed for the World Rankings.

If Tournament Directors enter any players themselves who have not paid their annual licence fee via Tournament Software, they are responsible to collect licence fees on site and transfer to FIR.

3.9.2. Costs of Tournament Software, Collection of Annual Licence Fees

The costs per country for a licence of Tournament Software, to run all FI Racketlon tournaments in that country is around 100 €⁵ per year and needs to be paid to FIR together with the annual country membership fee

3.9.3. Matters concerning Tournament Software

The FIR Tournament Software Officer and the FIR Delegate are in charge of communicating with the tournament organisers and players for all matters concerning Tournament Software.

3.10. Media - Reporting Results

3.10.1. Requirements overview

a) World Championships and

Continental Championships: Media officer, Tournament Software, Internet, Live-scoring, one report one week before tournament and one report one day after, draws and results displayed in sports centre, National TV coverage, Internet TV coverage, national print media cooperation.

b) Super World Tour:

Media officer, Tournament Software, Internet, Live-scoring, one report one week before tournament and one report one day after, draws and results displayed in sports centre, National or local TV coverage, Internet TV coverage, national print media cooperation.

c) International World Tour:

Media officer, Tournament Software, Internet, one report one week before tournament and one report one day after, draws and results displayed in sports centre, Internet TV coverage, local print media cooperation.

d) Challenger:

Tournaments Software, Internet, one report one week before tournament, e-mail draws and report one day after tournament draws and results displayed in the sports centre.

3.10.2. Media Officer

It is a requirement for FIR World Ranking event organisers to appoint a Media Officer for the tournament who is responsible for all points below.

3.10.3. Tournament Software - Internet

FIR Tournament Software is required for all FIR events. Internet must therefore be available for the Media Officer at all tournaments. Results should be permanently updated at least every 15 minutes. They must be completed and online and available on fir.tournamentsoftware.com immediately after the tournament is over on the same day. In addition a short paragraph of 5 sentences shall be sent per e-mail to FIR Head Office office@racketlon.net to make clear who won the Olympic classes with prize money.

3.10.4. Live Scoring

All WC, CC and SWT events must use the online live-scoring system of Tournament Software for the Olympic draws involving four extra laptops and screens at each centre court of each sport as soon as the application is available for Racketlon and approved by FIR.

⁵ EUR 75 for 2016

It is a recommendation for any other World Tour event to use the system too if possible.

3.10.5. Reports and pictures on the internet

The media officer is responsible to deliver one short report plus one picture of the tournament latest one week before the first day of play once the draws are published. When matches have finished on each day of the tournament the media officer must produce a general text of what has happened on the day especially in Olympic draws to publish on www.racketlon.net daily. At the end of the tournament a long report about all draws is to be written and published including pictures on www.racketlon.net. These requirements are in the interest of the tournament to help with the promotion.

3.10.6. Draws, results and rules displayed in sports centre

All draws must be displayed in the sports centre either on paper or on monitors. The results should be updated permanently so that spectators can follow the tournament. The “Rules of Racketlon” must be displayed in the sports centre with the most important ones highlighted.

3.10.7. TV and Internet Coverage

WC and CC events must guarantee some kind of live and non-live TV coverage on national TV as well as Internet TV livestream coverage from all courts of the centre court arena. SWT events must guarantee local or national TV coverage in addition to Internet coverage. IWT and Challengers should do their best to make at least Internet coverage possible. All TV or Internet spots on DVDs must be given personally to the FIR president or sent per post to the FIR Head Office.

3.10.8. Print Media

WC, CC and SWT events are required to sign a media cooperation with national print media in order to promote the event. World Tour events should aim for regional and local print media. All print media articles must be given personally to the FIR president or scanned and sent per email to office@racketlon.net or sent per post to FIR Head Office.

3.11. Referees

Each FIR event has to nominate a Head Referee who has knowledge of all FIR rules and regulations. This Head Referee takes all final decisions concerning the games, scoring and so forth according to the FIR Racketlon Rulebook together with the FIR Delegate. In cases which are not provided for in the Rules and Regulations of FIR, the head referee may take a final decision on his own responsibility according to ideas and ethics of Racketlon and after consultation of the responsible FIR Delegate. He is also the only person who needs to be called if a player wants to take a 5-minute injury time-out according to FIR rules. The Head Referee can take a doctor or physio with him on the court and ask for consultation, but he makes the final decision.

On all World Tour events, at least one official referee in each sport with a national referee education must be on site to be able to referee all Olympic Draws matches played in the Olympic draws. This counts for all main draw matches from the first round, except for the losers’ pool. Regardless of this fact, for WC and CC events, all Centre Court matches no matter of which draw must be refereed by official referees with a national referee education in the respective sport.

For all other draws and for Challenger events referees must be provided if any of the players ask for one. Challenger events are required to provide referees for Elite matches from semi-finals on. If no Head Referees are appointed at challengers, the Tournament Director automatically acts as Head Referee. Referees can be any of the players taking part in the tournament, because by entering an international Racketlon tournament all players agree to referee in at least one of the four sports.

3.12. Other Requirements

3.12.1. World Tour Race Trophies

It is a requirement on the last World Tour Race events of the year to provide trophies for the players who finished among the top 3 in the Seniors, Men A - Elite and Women A - Elite and to organise a prize giving ceremony. The trophies are paid by FIR and should not cost more than 300 €.

3.12.2. *Prize Giving Ceremony*

At all FIR events it is required to hold an official prize giving ceremony at the end of the tournament where at least the top 3 players, double pairs or teams in all classes are awarded with medals or trophies. If specific draws are finished on an earlier day, then an additional prize giving ceremony on this day is recommended. The FIR Delegate can approve, as an exception, awarding medals or trophies to players before the ceremony.

This prize giving ceremonies should take place on a podium.

3.12.3. *Massage, Physiotherapist, Medical Service, Doctor*

At WC, CC and SWT events a massage should be possible on site, medical service or a doctor and a physiotherapist (permanently, for WC and CC events) on standby in cases of injury (players have to pay themselves).

At IWT and at Challenger events a doctor, physiotherapist and a masseur should at least be on standby.

3.12.4. *World Tour Banner, Flags and National Anthems*

At WC, CC and SWT event prize giving ceremonies the national anthems should be played for the winners of all Olympic classes. National anthems can be played for the winners of other classes at the discretion of the Tournament Director. At WCNT and CCNT events, the national anthem of each participating nation should be played at least once, either at the opening ceremony or before each team's first match.

All flags of the participating nations should be put up in the sports centre at all WC, SWT and IWT events together with the FIR World Tour banner. FIR has a set of 50 flags to rent out.

3.12.5. *Stringing Service*

At WC, CC and SWT events a stringing service at the player's own cost should be on site. At IWT and Challenger events such service should at least be on standby.

3.12.6. *Time Schedules*

To avoid problems with the time schedule it is strongly recommended that all Doubles matches except finals should start and be played on Friday. Normally women and men the Elite singles finals must be the last matches of any tournament, but shall never take place at the same time, except at WCD, CCD, WCNT or CCNT events, or due to changes of schedule due to TV or Internet Livestream.

It is a requirement to allow at least 15 minutes between the start of the matches on all side courts and at least 20 minutes on the centre courts for Elite matches. 15 minutes rest is allowed for all players in all draws no matter how many they play. All Players have the right of at least 1 hour rest from the end of their match to the beginning of the next match in the same singles draw. In doubles a 15 minute break must be granted.

3.12.7. *Elite Time Schedules*

It is a requirement that the time schedule is built around the Elite matches. At all WC and WT events all Elite matches of the main draw must be played on so called Centre Courts (at least one court per sport, maximum 2 courts per sport) with starting times of no less than 20 minutes intervals. Some empty spaces should ensure that in the Elite main draw players never have to wait for courts and the time rule 3 minutes to move to the next court between the sets is maintained. Elite Players have the right of at least 1 hour rest from the end of their match to the beginning of the next match in the same draw. In the Olympic singles draws no more than 3 matches per full day of 12 hours or 2 matches per short day of 8 hours are allowed.

3.12.8. *Volunteer and Team Recommendations*

A team of at least 15 persons is required for WC, CC and SWT events, 10 for IWT and 5 for Challengers. At WC, CC and SWT events the official T-shirts in the same colour are compulsory for the team. Structurally, FIR asks for the names of the positions on tournament committees beforehand; this list also covers the main tasks in organising an event.

Compulsory for WC, CC and SWT events: - Tournament Director
- Head Referee
- Referees in all sports for Olympic main draws TT, BA, SQ, TE
- Media Officer

Recommended for all tournaments:

- Tournament Co/Vice Director
- Results Secretary
- Sports Centre Liaising Officer
- Marketing Officer
- Webpage Officer
- Result Reporter Officer
- Rankings Officer
- 3 Desk Helpers
- 4 Score keepers for centre courts
- 4 Court Co-ordinators, one in each sport
- Referees from domestic sporting federations – TT, BA, SQ, TE
- Equipment Officer
- Sponsorship Officer
- Finance Director - Payments Officer / Financial Advisor / Debt Collector / Budget Officer

3.12.9. *Tournament Program*

All SWT and Champions League events must publish a short program on the tournament. All WC and CC events must publish and print (1000 pieces) together with FIR a proper high quality A4 magazine as programme using the annual FIR template and splitting the costs 50:50.

3.12.10. *Tournament Banner*

All WC, CC, SWT, IWT and Champions League events must produce an own big Tournament Banner (approx. 6 x 1m) as background on the main centre court and for the prize giving ceremony.

The FIR Banner World Tour or World Championships must be on one of the centre courts or outside the building of all World Tour events.

3.12.11. *Doping Control*

At WC and CC the Organiser must organise and pay for an unannounced after-match doping-control on one random day of the tournament including at least 3 male and 3 female elite players randomly picked.

3.13. **Tournament and FIR Sponsors**

3.13.1. *General principles*

All CC and World Tour events must comply with the new FIR General Sponsorship Guidelines. This shall not affect the individual tournament sponsors, but will mean some more obligations in regards to the FIR sponsors of WT, especially SWT and WC events. All Title, Presenting and Ball Sponsors must be named to FIR together with the tournament application, so FIR can check a conflict of interest with existing or potential FIR Sponsors. The following points are taken out of version 1 of the FIR General Sponsorship Guidelines and can be amended slightly before and during the World Tour.

The FIR General Sponsorship Guidelines are published on the official FIR website and may be amended by the FIR from time to time.

3.13.2. *FIR Logos Usage (pdf Document)*

The official FIR logos must be used on all printed material in connection with all World Tour and Challenger tournaments as well as the official tournament websites. Each tournament has its individual World Tour Tournament logo, which is created by FIR and to be used as well as the FIR Logo according to the document FIR Logos Usage

3.13.3. *Rights of Tournament Sponsors*

- Title sponsor with name in the title of tournament, e.g. XYZ Austrian Open
- Other Sponsors
- Ball Sponsor

3.13.4. *Rights World Championships Sponsors*

- Presenting Sponsor of FIR Championships, e.g. World Championships presented by XYZ
- Other Sponsors
- Ball Sponsor

3.13.5. *Tournament obligations towards FIR World Tour title Sponsor (only one) e.g. Novomatic Austrian Open on the xxxx World Tour*

Super World Tour (SWT) Events guarantee

- Sponsor name and logo on the title page of the official webpage of all SWT events
- Sponsor name and logo on all SWT posters, flyers, and other printed materials in connection with the SWT events.
- Sponsor name and logo in the SWT event programs
- Sponsor name and logo on at least one event banner at all SWT events
- Space for a minimum of 6 sponsor Banners (max. 6x1sq) on the 4 Centre Courts and in the Sports centre at all SWT events
- Sponsor name and logo in E-mail newsletters to all players of all SWT events
- Sponsor name or logo on tournament or organisation T-Shirts or any other players gift of all SWT events
- Sponsor name or logo on the prize giving podium of all SWT events
- Sponsor name through the microphone at Opening and/or Closing Ceremony and match calls of SWT events
- National or local TV coverage of SWT events
- Sponsor name and logo on interview walls of SWT events with TV coverage
- Internet coverage of all SWT events
- Print media cooperation at all SWT events
- Sponsor name and logo on all press texts of SWT events

International World Tour (IWT) Events guarantee

- Sponsor name and logo on the title page of the official webpage of all IWT events
- Sponsor name and logo on all IWT posters, flyers, and other printed materials in connection with the IWT events.
- Space for a maximum of 4 sponsor Banners (max. 6x1sq) on the 4 Centre Courts and in the Sports centre at all IWT events
- Sponsor name and logo in E-mail newsletters to all players of all IWT events
- Sponsor name or logo on tournament or organisation T-Shirts or any other player's gift of all IWT events
- Sponsor name through the microphone at Closing Ceremony at IWT events
- At least one local or regional Print media cooperation
- Sponsor name and logo on all press texts of IWT events

Further Sponsor activities on request

- Possibility of a sales and marketing area at all World Tour tournaments
- Possibility for sponsor representative to speak at Opening or Prize Giving Ceremony of all World Tour tournaments
- Possibility to put up a Blow Up in the sports centre (if space available) or outdoors in front of the sports centre at World Tour tournaments

- Possibility to invite VIP Customers at sponsors costs to SWT events and arrange a Meet and Greet with World Class Racketlon players together with a gala dinner
- Possibility to invite 4 customers or employees to take part in World Tour tournaments without having to pay the entry fees
- Possibility of any other needs of the sponsor if ratified by FIR

3.13.6. Tournament obligations towards FIR Pool Sponsors (max.4)

Super World Tour (SWT) Events guarantee

- Sponsor name and Logo in the SWT event programs
- Sponsor name and logo on at least one event banner at all SWT events
- Space for a maximum of 2 sponsor Banners (max. 6x1sq) in the Sports centre at all SWT events
- Sponsor name through the microphone at Opening and/or Closing Ceremony of SWT events
- National or local TV coverage of SWT events
- Sponsor name and logo on interview walls of SWT events with TV coverage
- Internet coverage of all SWT events
- Print media cooperation at all SWT events

International World Tour (IWT) Events guarantee

- Space for a maximum of 1 sponsor banner (max. 6x1sq) in the Sports centre at all IWT events
- Sponsor name through the microphone at Closing Ceremony at IWT events
- Internet coverage of selected IWT events
- Print media cooperation at selected IWT events

Further Sponsor activities on request

- Possibility of a sales and marketing area at all SWT events
- Possibility for sponsor representative to speak at Opening or Prize Giving Ceremony of all World Tour tournaments
- Possibility to invite VIP Customers at sponsors costs to SWT events and arrange a Meet and Greet with World Class Racketlon players together with a gala dinner
- Possibility to invite 2 customers or employees to take part in World Tour tournaments without having to pay the entry fees
- Possibility of any other needs of the sponsor if ratified by FIR

3.13.7. Obligations FIR World Championships Sponsor (1 per WC)

Racketlon World Championships (WC) Events guarantee

- Sponsor name and logo on the title page of the official webpage of all WC events
- Sponsor name and logo on all WC posters, flyers, and other printed materials in connection with the WC events.
- Sponsor name and logo in the WC event programs
- Sponsor name and logo on at least one event banner at all WC events
- Space for a minimum of 8 sponsor Banners (max. 6x1sq) on the 4 Centre Courts and in the Sports centre at the WC events
- Sponsor name and logo in E-mail newsletters to all players of all WC events
- Sponsor name or logo on tournament or organisation T-Shirts or any other players gift of all WC events
- Sponsor name or logo on the prize giving podium of all WC events
- Sponsor name through the microphone at Opening and/or Closing Ceremony and match calls of WC events
- TV coverage of WC events
- Sponsor name and logo on interview walls of WC events
- Internet coverage of all WC events

- Print media cooperation of all WC events
- Sponsor name and logo on all press texts of WC events

Further Sponsor possibilities on request

- Possibility of a sales and marketing area WC events
- Possibility for sponsor representative to speak at Opening or Prize Giving Ceremony at WC events
- Possibility to put up a Blow Up in the sports centre (if space available) or outdoors in front of the sports centre at WC events
- Possibility to invite VIP Customers at sponsors costs to WC events and arrange a Meet and Greet with World Class Racketlon players together with a gala dinner
- Possibility to invite 2 customers or employees to take part in WC events without having to pay the entry fees
- Possibility of any other needs of the sponsor if ratified by FIR

3.13.8. Liability of FIR Sponsor Rights

The Tournament Directors of all World Tour and WC events are responsible towards FIR that the Rights of FIR Sponsors are fulfilled as stated in these FIR General Sponsorship Guidelines. FIR and the FIR Delegate will assist and monitor all World Tour and WC events in regards to fulfil the FIR Sponsors rights in the best possible way.

3.14. Fines

3.14.1. Withdrawals and no-show

In case a Player withdraws after the entry deadline from an Olympic draw, a fine of 100€ in addition to the normal entry fee must be paid for each tournament the player has pulled out of and if he has given notice to the tournament. This is unless he can provide evidence that he by no fault could not participate (e.g. with medical proof or cancelled/postponed flight etc.). In case a Player does not show up at an Olympic draw without any notice to the Tournament Director, a fine of 100€ in addition to the tournament entry fee must be paid regardless of the reasons for not showing up.

The Tournament Director may decide whether above rule shall apply for all other draws too.

FIR can suspend Elite players (players participating in all five Olympic draws) from any FIR events until they have paid the entry fee and possible penalty fees. All other players can only be suspended by the tournament organisers for their own next tournament. The Player Suspension List is managed by the FIR World Tour Officer. Players who have not paid their debts will be blocked from registering for any other tournaments.

3.14.2. Tournament Regulations

In case certain points of the Tournament Regulations are not fulfilled by the tournament, a fine of 50€ per point shall be paid. Fines are based on the evaluation report of the FIR-Delegate and FIR Co-Delegate.

3.14.3. Tournament Changes and Cancellations

If a FIR event is cancelled a fine of 1000€ is to be paid to FIR and the organisers may not participate in any FIR events until this fine is paid. If a FIR event changes its date or its place after the application deadline a fine of 500€ plus the costs for reprinting World Tour posters and flyers (in case they have already been printed) of around 700€, need to be paid. If players can prove they have paid flights, this also needs to be reimbursed. The national federation exists in the respective country it is liable to be charged. FIR can also decide further sanctions such as the cancellation of the tournament in the following year.

3.14.4. FIR-Tournament Delegate

A FIR Tournament Delegate and optionally a trainee Co-Delegate are nominated by FIR for each FIR event as assistance for the tournament organisation. FIR Delegates are nominated by FIR und published annually. They are obliged to visit at least one FIR Delegate workshop per year. The FIR Delegate list is published annually and found on www.racketlon.net/content/tournament-support.

The Tournament Delegate and Co-Delegate should be on site the night before the tournament starts at around 17:00 and stay until one hour after the tournament ends and check the tournament regulations with the

tournament organiser. A technical meeting is to be held with the tournament organiser and some of his most important team members like head referee and media officer the evening before tournament start.

The FIR Tournament Delegate and Co-Delegate are also responsible to be in contact with the tournament organiser and FIR before the tournament concerning draws and time schedule.

The Tournament Director accepts that the FIR-Delegate and Co-Delegate are the highest officials at the tournament and take all final decisions around the tournament for the best of international Racketlon.

In return for the help, the tournament organisation must offer the Delegate during the entire tournament free accommodation in a hotel single room including breakfast and one warm meal per day and no entry fee. This is valid from one day before tournament start (room and evening meal) until latest one day after tournament (room and breakfast) start if the Delegate cannot travel home the same day the tournament ends. The tournament organisation is not obliged to pay anything for the Co-Delegate, as his/her main focus is on training, not providing additional support to the tournament. The Co-Delegate is also required to pay normal tournament entry fees.

Tournament Status Fees are due for the FIR Co-Delegate, but not for the FIR Delegate (see 3.4 above).

B. FIR NATIONAL TEAM COMPETITIONS (WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS AND CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS)

From 1.1.2017, the Open FIR National Team Competition will be changed from the monrad playing format, to a league basis. Juniors and Seniors competitions remain unchanged.

The top division shall be called the “Championship Division” and shall consist of 8 national teams, with a maximum of one team per country, organised into two groups of 4 teams.

- The top 2 teams of each group go forward to a semi-final knockout to play for the championship. The winner of Group A plays 2nd position of Group B and vice versa. The winners of these matches play each other for 1/2 place. The losers play each other for 3/4 place
- The bottom 2 teams of each group play a relegation knockout. The 3rd position of Group A plays the 4th position of Group B and vice versa
- The winners of the relegation knockout play each other for 5/6 place
- The losers of the relegation knockout will play the top 2 teams of Division 1 to decide which Division they play in the following season

The next division shall be called Division 1. This and all other divisions shall each consist of a maximum of 8 national teams, with a maximum of two teams per division per country. Only the lowest division may have less than 8 teams. Each division shall be played on the same basis as the Championship Division, with the exception that the top two teams play for promotion, not against each other for 1/2 place. An exception is possible for the lowest division, if it has less than 6 teams, in which case a single Round Robin group will be played.

In the promotion/relegation playoffs, each team finishing in the last two positions will play against one of the teams finishing in the top two positions of the division below.

If a country has both a team playing for relegation and another team playing for promotion, then these two teams will not play each other. Otherwise, who plays who will be decided by a simple coin toss, made by the FIR Delegate.

If a national team is in a promotional playoff, but cannot be promoted because no more teams from that country are allowed in that division, then their promotional match is still played.

If a national team is relegated, and that leads to more teams from that country than allowed, then the lowest team of that country is force-relegated, even if they did not finish in position 7 or 8.

Promotions/relegations between leagues will propagate between World Championships and Continental Championships as far as possible. National teams which are not eligible for the European Championships will retain their division and position for the following World Championships. Any gaps created at the EC by their absence will be filled up by moving up teams from below, including from lower divisions as necessary, until the division is complete. The reverse logic will apply the following year and teams will be moved down, including to lower divisions, to make way for other non-European national teams reclaiming their position at the World Championships.

The assignment of teams to divisions will be decided at the 2016 World Team Championships. FIR will determine how this is done following the entry deadline and publish at the latest at the Team Captains Meeting the evening before the tournament starts.

All disputes regarding a national team’s allocation to a division shall be decided by the FIR Council.

1. THE TEAM

1.1. Designation of Team members

Each FIR member country can submit national teams to the FIR National Team Competitions, as long as it has no outstanding debt to FIR.

Each Elite national team consists of a minimum of 5 players (4 men and 1 woman) and a maximum of 8 players (6 men and 2 women) and must have a team captain. The team captain can be one of the players or another non-playing person. The first team of a country is ALWAYS the Elite national team. The second and third team are amateur teams, where the same rules apply.

A Juniors (u21) national team consists of a minimum of 3 players (at least one girl) 2 boys and 1 girl and a maximum of 6 players (at least one girl).

A Juniors (u16) national team consists of a minimum of 2 players (boys or girls) and a maximum of 4 players.

A Juniors (u13) national team consists of a minimum of 2 players (boys or girls) and a maximum of 4 players.

A Seniors (+40) national team consists of a minimum of 4 men and a maximum of 6 men plus a minimum of 1 woman and a maximum of 2 women.

A Seniors (+45) national team consists of a minimum of 4 men and a maximum of 6 men plus a minimum of 1 woman and a maximum of 2 women.

A Seniors (+55) national team consists of a minimum of 4 men and a maximum of 6 men.

All members of the National Team have to be citizens of the country that they represent and allowed to play for their country according to the Players and Draws Regulations.

The team members must be designated at entry deadline of the tournament. One single man or one woman of the team may be changed until the team captains meeting on the evening before the team event starts.

It is compulsory that the team captain or at least one player of the team comes to the team captains meeting, which is organized by FIR on the evening before tournament start.

Players may be in on the squad of more than one team, but the time schedule will not be adjusted for any of such players e.g. a Player in the Juniors u21 national team or Seniors +45 national team may also play on the Elite team, but if both teams play at the same time no adjustment of the schedule will be made. This does not apply for amateur teams. Players playing in amateur teams may not be on any other squads.

1.2. Line-up commitment

Before a team match begins each team shall commit to their line-up; i.e. to all team members who will be active in it and in what positions. Teams may choose who plays singles and doubles, regardless of the players' world rankings.

The order of the national players within the team is determined by the FIR world ranking, i.e. the player with the highest ranking plays on position one etc. and players without world ranking play at the end. In case of several players without world ranking, the team may choose their seeding. The FIR Seniors world ranking shall be used for the seeding of the senior national teams, and the FIR Juniors world rankings shall be used for junior national teams.

For the doubles line up the player named first in the pair shall start in Squash.

Each of the teams has the right to hide their line-up from their opponents until their opponents have committed to their line-up.

The team captain is responsible to pass the Line-up to the tournament organizer 20 minutes before the beginning of the match.

All national team players must be ready in their country shirts for the national anthem and a team picture 10 minutes before the very first match of each team. All subsequent games should at least be started wearing their country national shirts.

Once a match has started, the line-up is confirmed, even if it is subsequently noticed to be incorrect, and the match will be played with this line-up to completion. Following matches shall use the corrected line-up.

1.3. Reserves Deployment

Reserves may be deployed during a tournament but never during a team match. If a player needs to interrupt a match due to injury he may not be replaced and loses the remaining points.

1.4. Seeding of the National Teams

For Elite and Amateur national teams, the sum of the Elite ranking positions of the best three men and the best woman of the respective team at the close of team registrations shall determine the seeding.

For Seniors (+45) national teams, the sum of the Seniors ranking positions of the best 3 senior men, and the best senior woman shall be decisive.

For Seniors (+55) national teams, the sum of the Seniors ranking positions of the best 3 seniors shall be decisive.

For Juniors (u21) national teams, the sum of the Juniors ranking positions of the best two boys and the best girl shall be decisive.

For Juniors (u16) national teams, the sum of the Juniors ranking positions for the best ranked two players shall be decisive

In last instance FIR Council decides!

The teams with the worst positioning need to play preliminary round(s) to qualify for the main draw, if necessary.

1.5. FIR makes draws at Team Captains Meeting

FIR makes the draws of the Championship Division at the Team Captains Meeting, the day before the tournament starts. Team seedings is based on the players who will actually be participating in the Team Event. It is the Team Captain's responsibility to de-register any players who have withdrawn after registration, or who will not be available to play in the Team Event (due to injury, other private commitments etc).

2. ORDER OF PLAY

An Elite and Amateur team match consists of four individual Racketlon matches – 2 Men's Singles, 1 Women's Singles and 1 Men's Doubles – and is played in the following order:

AM1 (best man in Team A)	vs.	BM1 (best man in Team B);
AW (woman of Team A)	vs.	BW (woman of Team B);
AMD (Men's Doubles Team A)	vs.	BMD (Men's Doubles Team B);
AM2 (second best man in Team A)	vs.	BM2 (second best man in Team B).

All sets in the main draw of a team competition must be played following each other. This means all players must play Table Tennis, then move on to Badminton, then to Squash and finally to Tennis. The players must be on the court immediately after the set before them is finished. The warm up time before the next set is limited to one minute. The same ruling applies to any Amateur national teams.

The Seniors (+45) competition is played in the same manner as an Elite team match.

The Seniors (+55) competition consists of three Racketlon matches – 2 Men's Singles and 1 Men's Doubles – and is played in the following pairs: Best Seniors, Doubles, Second Best Seniors.

The Juniors (u21) competition consists of 3 individual Racketlon matches in singles in the order of play: boy1, girl, boy2.

The Juniors (u16) competition consists of 2 individual Racketlon matches in singles in the order of play: boy1, boy2, and one doubles with the same players.

The single coin-toss to decide who shall start serving at table tennis shall apply to the whole team.

3. SCORING AND GUMMIARM RULE

In line with the fundamental principle of "each rally counts" the winner of the team match is not the team that wins most individual matches but the team that wins most points in total.

The individual matches in national team competitions are played to 11 points. Sides are changed when one of the player, or doubles pairs, reaches 6 points. If the score is 10-10 the serve switches hand for every point until the set is decided by a two point margin.

From 1.1.2017, the individual matches in national team competitions are played to 15 points. Sides are changed when one of the player, or doubles pairs, reaches 8 points. If the score is 14-14 the serve switches hand for every point until the set is decided by a two point margin.

There is no Gummiarm point played in Tennis if the score is equal in one match. A Gummiarm is only played, if the score of the two teams is equal after all 4 matches. In this case, the tennis set of the last match is extended for one single point according the ordinary Gummiarm rules. This point shall determine the winner of the team match.

A team can also start and play a team match if at least two encounters can be played. The missing players encounter is then scored with 0:60 (from 1.1.2017; for 2016 with 0:44).

A woman can play instead of a man in all national team competitions if not enough men are present.

If a player gets injured during the match the achieved points are frozen and all remaining points go to his opponent.

C. FIR CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

1. LEAGUE FORMAT

From 1.1.2017, the Champions League is a league based format, with all the teams in the same league selected to have similar strengths. The Champions League is played at one or more FIR World Tour tournaments in combination with the regular singles and doubles categories.

1.1. Application to play

A team may apply to FIR to participate in the Champions League, naming the team captain. FIR will name the teams selected at the beginning of the season, specifying the dates and locations where it will be held.

All players with a valid FIR player licence may register to participate. There is no guarantee they will be selected to play.

1.2. Squads

Team captains make up their squad by selecting in turn from a pool of available players. There are no restrictions (gender, nationality, age etc) for the player selection. The minimum squad size is 3 men and 1 woman. The maximum squad size is determined by FIR. The player selection uses a “drafting” process:

- The team captain with the lowest world ranking (mens or womens) at the time of the draft chooses first. If a woman and a man share the same world ranking, the woman chooses first. If two men, or two women share the same ranking, lots are drawn to see who chooses first
- The team captain with the next lowest world ranking chooses next, and so on until the player with the highest world ranking has chosen his/her player
- The team captain with the highest world ranking then chooses again
- The team captain with the next highest world ranking chooses next, and so on until all squads have reached their maximum size

1.3. Teams

The team captain selects teams from his squad for each individual team match, This team can be different from match to match. The team captain decides whether a player should play just one singles or one doubles match, or whether the player should play in both a singles and one doubles match. A player may not play in two doubles team matches

1.4. Line-up commitment

Before a team match begins each team captain shall commit to their line-up; i.e. to which team members will be active in it and in what positions. Teams may chose who plays singles and doubles, regardless of the players’ world rankings.

The order of the players within the team is determined by the world ranking, i.e. the player with the highest ranking plays on position one etc. and players without world ranking play at the end. In case of several players without world ranking, the team may choose their seeding.

For the Men’s doubles line up the player named first in the pair shall start in Squash. For the Mixed doubles, the Women shall start in Squash.

The team captain is responsible to pass the Line-up to the tournament organizer 30 minutes before the beginning of the match.

1.5. Order of Play

A Champions League team match consists of 4 individual Racketlon matches – 3 Men’s Singles, 1 Women’s Singles and 2 Doubles – and is played in the following order:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------|
| AMD (Men’s Doubles Team A) | vs. | BMD (Men’s Doubles Team B); |
| AXD (Mixed Doubles Team A) | vs. | BXD (Mixed Doubles Team B); |
| AM1 (best man in Team A) | vs. | BM1 (best man in Team B); |
| AW (woman of Team A) | vs. | BW (woman of Team B); |
| AM2 (second best man in Team A) | vs. | BM2 (second best man in Team B); |

AM3 (third best man in Team A) vs. BM3 (third best man in Team B);

All sets in the main draw of a team competition must be played following each other. This means all players must play Table Tennis, then move on to Badminton, then to Squash and finally to Tennis. The players must be on the court immediately after the set before them is finished. The warm up time before the next set is limited to one minute.

The single coin-toss to decide who shall start serving at table tennis shall apply to the whole team.

2. SCORING AND GUMMIARM RULE

The Scoring and Gummiarm Rule as described in section B clause 3 (National Team) is applicable to the FIR Champions League with the following exceptions.

In case the two teams are equal after all 4 matches, a Gummiarm point is played in the last match: 3rd Men Singles.

D. FINAL PROVISIONS

1. COMING INTO FORCE

These Tournament Regulations were passed by the FIR Council on 1st January 2017 and shall be valid immediately.

2. AMENDMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS

The Tournament Regulations can only be amended and modified by the FIR Council.

FIR – Fédération Internationale de Racketlon

Kresten Hougaard Hans van Daele

President Rules Officer