



FIR Regulations Change Summary

FIR has issued a revision of all regulations for the coming 2016 season. The revised documents are published on <http://www.racketlon.net/content/rules>.

The **Tournament Regulations** is aimed at the Tournament Directors, not the players, and defines the quality standards, to which the TD agrees to comply when holding a FIR tournament. The 2016 World Tour and Challenger events were already contracted with the TD's in Q3 of last year using the previous version of this document, and so nothing with any negative financial impact towards running tournaments has been introduced.

The **Players Draws Regulations** is primarily aimed at the players, so they know what to expect at the international Racketlon tournaments they compete in. At times, for the sake of simplicity, it repeats some of the information in the Tournament Regulations, but should not contradict it in any way.

Each document also has a version history at the beginning, listing in very brief form what has changed since the last version, but below is an "Executive Summary" for those who like everything in a nutshell.

Tournament Regulations

- Introduction of +40 and +70 classes. As a result, a major overhaul of the rankings system is needed to enable this, mainly to cover players' transition from Open to Seniors categories, when players often play in both classes. A detailed coverage of this topic will follow
- Introduction of promotional "First Timers" events for local players who have never played in a FIR tournament before and so who have no FIR licence. These events may only be held on Saturday, so they can also witness the atmosphere of an international FIR tournament, and so are limited to a maximum of 16 players to ensure they can be completed in one day
- Introduction of Womens Seniors events to the FIR World Tour Race
- Olympic events are now only guaranteed a minimum of 3, not 4, matches, so that all Open categories are treated equally in this respect. Increasing all categories to a minimum of 4 matches can be considered for future revisions, but was not an option for 2016 as it violated the 2016 agreement already struck between FIR and the TD's. Obviously, all TD's are encouraged to offer 4 (or more) matches to all players, if there are time and courts available, as this is seen as very positive tournament marketing for attracting players to return, with more of their colleagues, in following years
- Normal tournament entry deadline remains the Monday 11:59 a.m. of the week before the tournament starts, but for WC & CC events, it will be a full week earlier, to give Tournament Directory the time they need to properly organise such a high-attendance event.

Tournaments may formally close individual events early in consultation with FIR. Whereas this can be frustrating for players who find themselves unable to enter at the last minute, it is considered preferable to allowing more player registrations than can be handled, with ensuing scheduling difficulties and general reduction in tournament quality, i.e. in future, please book your place early to avoid disappointment!

- The minimum number of players to hold an event has been reduced from four registered players, to three (if all players agree), as 3 players participating in the event were always considered enough to go ahead
- +45 National team event seedings also now considers the ranking one Women player, on the basis that the team make-up is the same as that for Elite and Amateur teams
- One single coin-toss do decide which side serves first at table tennis for team events
- FIR Co-Delegates are guaranteed no financial contribution from the Tournament Director, on the basis they are “in training” and so offer little additional support to the TD

Players Draws Regulations

- Players forfeiting a match due injury (retire) will no longer be allowed to play in any other matches, in any category, scheduled for that day. The player may play again in all other matches, in any category, from the following day. FIR Rankings may in future distinguish between matches forfeited through injury and from non-injury
- Players forfeiting a match due non-injury (w/o) will no longer be allowed to play in any other matches scheduled for that day. The player may only play again in matches of a different category, from the following day onwards. FIR Rankings may in future distinguish between matches forfeited through injury and from non-injury
- Players registering for a Mens A or Womens A event are implicitly applying for a wild card
- Players registering for a Mens B or a Womens B event are implicitly applying for Special Exemption status
- Entry deadlines modified, as above
- A player’s country of domicile or nationality must be a FIR member country for the player to participate in FIR international Racketlon events
- Minimum of 3 registered players required to hold an event, not 4, as above
- Players in Olympic doubles events are encouraged to wear clothing of matching colour bearing their names/nationality

Further revisions of both regulations may be expected in the first half of next year, once we have gathered experience with this round of changes and other general player and Tournament Director feedback, plus the FIR “wish-list” of changes which could not be implemented for 1.1.2016 due to either TD cost restrictions, the change in FIR Council make-up, or general time-pressure.