

# 2009 ITF Men's Circuit Revised Entry Structure



15 November 2008

## Key Changes for 2009

- **Unranked players** (as well as ATP-ranked players) should now enter ITF Futures tournaments in advance, before the entry deadline <sup>1</sup>
- The ITF will publish a **Qualifying Draw** as well as a Main Draw <sup>2</sup>
- The entry deadline and withdrawal deadline will be on separate days <sup>3</sup>:
  - **Entry deadline** – Thursday (14h00 GMT), **18 days** (two and a half weeks) before the start of the tournament <sup>4</sup>
  - **Withdrawal deadline** – Tuesday (14h00 GMT), **13 days** before the start of the tournament <sup>5</sup>
- A player not accepted into the Main or Qualifying Draw of any Futures tournament by the withdrawal deadline will remain on one or more entry lists as an Alternate until such time as he moves into a Qualifying Draw. At this time he will be automatically withdrawn from all the other tournaments he entered in that same week and will be committed to the tournament he moves into

### Notes: Reasoning and Implications

- <sup>1</sup> At the entry deadline, players with a National Ranking will have priority over those players without a National Ranking, for acceptance purposes. For the most recent National Rankings to be used for acceptance in a given week, National Associations must submit their National Rankings to the ITF (in the correct format) no later than three weeks before the start of that tournament week. Updated National Rankings may be submitted to the ITF up to four times per calendar year.
- <sup>2</sup> Players who appear in Main and Qualifying Draws on the lists published following the withdrawal deadline **will be committed to those tournaments**. This will *guarantee* advance places in Futures tournaments to *as many players as possible* and will greatly reduce the number of non-entered players who travel to Futures tournaments (at huge personal cost) when there is only a possibility (i.e. no guarantee) of gaining a place in Qualifying once they arrive, as has been the case for many years.
- <sup>3</sup> Between the entry and withdrawal deadlines (five days), players will remain in all the tournaments they entered (i.e. a player could appear in up to six Main Draws) BUT no player will be committed to any one specific tournament until after the withdrawal deadline. During this period players will be able to withdraw from any tournament **without penalty**, giving players further opportunity to withdraw from tournaments they definitely do not want to play.
- <sup>4</sup> The entry deadline for Challenger Series tournaments falls on Monday, 21 days prior to the start of the tournament. Scheduling the entry deadline for Futures tournaments on the following Thursday gives those players not accepted into a Challenger, time (up to two and a half days) to enter alternative Futures tournaments before the deadline expires.
- <sup>5</sup> A player on more than one Main or Qualifying Draw at the time of the withdrawal deadline will be automatically withdrawn from all but one tournament according to his priorities (except that a Main Draw place always takes priority over a place in Qualifying), which he will then be committed to.  
If a player withdraws from a Main or Qualifying Draw after the withdrawal deadline, i.e. once he has been accepted into and is therefore committed to the tournament, it will be classed as a **late withdrawal** and he will be penalised in accordance with the ITF Pro Circuit Code of Conduct.