



COVID-19 RULES IMPACT – 2021

*Summary of the application of WTA Rules for **2021 only** due to the effects of operating in the COVID-19 environment. All rules will be “evergreen” and subject to change as may be appropriate.*

PLAYER COMMITMENT (SINGLES)

- Commitment Tournament requirements will not apply through March 21, 2021. As a result, players who withdraw from Commitment Tournaments after the entry deadline will not receive a zero ranking point result through March 21, 2021.
- After March 21, 2021, players are required to play the following:
 - All WTA 1000 Mandatory Tournaments if she can gain main draw acceptance; and
 - All but one (1) of the WTA 1000 Non-Mandatory Tournaments scheduled after April 5, 2021 that a player can gain main draw acceptance into as of the singles main draw entry deadline.
 - If a player can gain MD acceptance into 4, she is required to play 3.
 - If a player can gain MD acceptance into 3, she is required to play 2.
 - If a player can gain MD acceptance into 2, she is required to play 1.
 - If a player can gain MD acceptance into 1, play is optional.
 - Zero ranking point results will be applied for missed Commitment Tournaments; provided, however, that if a player is withdrawn from a Commitment Tournament for COVID-19 reasons, then such Tournament (and subsequent Tournament(s) for which she uses a Continuing Withdrawal) does not count toward her Commitment Tournament requirements.
- Tournament compensation for player delivery levels will not be provided.

WTA 250 TOP 10 PLAYER ENTRY

- For the entire year, Top 10 Players will be defined as players ranking 1-10 in the WTA Rankings at the singles main draw entry deadline.
- Top 10 Player entries will be limited to one (1) per Tournament unless the Tournament wishes to increase its prize money per the policy in the Rulebook.
- Top 10 Players will still be limited to playing three (3) WTA 250 Tournaments.
- A WTA 250 Tournament scheduled against a WTA Non-Mandatory 1000 Tournament due to COVID-19-related Calendar changes will be allowed to secure one (1) Top 10 Player. A player who accepts this entry will not be released from her WTA 1000 Commitment Tournament requirements.
- Through the week of March 15, 2021, WTA 250 Tournaments during weeks in which there are no WTA 500 or WTA 1000 Tournaments scheduled may have two (2) Top 10 Players without an increase in prize money.

WITHDRAWALS

- All current withdrawal rules will apply (two (2) excused + two (2) on-site prize money).
- Players may substitute an on-site prize money withdrawal with an excused withdrawal to eliminate the need for unnecessary travel in 2021. Players will still be limited to a total of four (4) withdrawals without penalty.
- Players will maintain the right to appeal late withdrawal fines and the use of excused withdrawals.

WITHDRAWALS DUE TO COVID 19 REASONS

The below COVID-19 withdrawals do not count toward a player's allotment of excused withdrawals and prize money withdrawals per Tour Year.

To qualify for the below COVID-19 withdrawals, a player must have intended to play but was withdrawn by WTA for COVID-19 reasons, including, but not limited to, (i) testing positive, (ii) being in contact with a known positive, or (iii) being required to quarantine. If a player who intended to play a Tournament tests positive before travelling to the Tournament and provides documentation of the positive test, then she will be withdrawn by WTA and the withdrawal will not count toward her allotment of excused withdrawals or prize money withdrawals, but she will not receive any prize money as outlined below.

*If there is more than one (1) withdrawal from a draw, but not all of the withdrawals qualify for prize money per the Rules below, then the last player(s) or team(s) that move into the draw receive the reduced prize money, regardless of their position in the draw.

Singles Qualifying (on-site withdrawal)*

- A player withdrawn by WTA from the Singles Qualifying of a Tournament before her first match because of COVID-19 will receive 50% of first-round Qualifying prize money.
- A player who replaces the withdrawn player will receive any prize money she earns in Qualifying and the Main Draw, if applicable, less the 50% of first-round Qualifying prize money paid to the withdrawn player.

Singles Main Draw (on-site withdrawal)*

- Before the Start of Qualifying (or if no Qualifying, before a player's first match):
 - A player withdrawn by WTA from the Main Draw before the start of Qualifying (or if no Qualifying, before her first Main Draw match) because of COVID-19 will receive 50% of first-round prize money.
 - A player who replaces the withdrawn player will receive the greater of (i) any prize money she earns in the Main Draw less the 50% of first-round prize money paid to the withdrawn player or (ii) the prize money she would have earned in the first round (or second round if she had a bye) of Qualifying.
- After the Start of Qualifying but Prior to a Player's First Main Draw Match
 - A player withdrawn by WTA from the Main Draw after the start of Qualifying but prior to her first Main Draw match because of COVID-19 will receive first-round prize money in accordance with the Prize Money Withdrawal Rule.

- An Alternate or Lucky Loser who replaces the withdrawn player will receive any prize money she earns in Qualifying, if applicable, and the Main Draw less the Main Draw first-round prize money paid to the withdrawn player.

Doubles Main Draw (on-site withdrawal)

- A team withdrawn by WTA from the Doubles Main Draw before its first match because of COVID-19 will receive 50% of first-round prize money. A team that replaces the withdrawn team will receive any prize money it earns in the draw less the 50% of first-round prize money paid to the withdrawn team.*
- If a player is withdrawn by WTA from the Doubles Main Draw before her team’s first match because of COVID-19 and her partner re-pairs, then:
 - The withdrawn partner will receive 25% of total first-round prize money;
 - The non-withdrawn partner will receive any prize money she earns in the draw as normal (team earnings/2); and
 - The new partner will receive any prize money she earns in the draw (team earnings/2) less the 25% of first-round prize money paid to the withdrawn partner.

Example for Doubles WD where Partner Repairs

	1ST Round Loss			2ND Round Loss	
	1st Round Pz My			2nd Round Pz My	
	Team = \$1,000			Team = \$2,000	
Withdrawn partner	25%	\$250	Withdrawn partner	25% of 1 st Round	= \$250
Non withdrawn partner	50%	\$500	Non withdrawn partner	50%	= \$1,000
	(\$1,000 /2)			(\$2,000/2)	
NEW partner	25%	\$250	NEW partner	50% (\$2,000/2)	= \$750
				Less 25% 1 st Rd (\$250)	
TOTAL		\$1,000	TOTAL		\$1,750

WILD CARDS

- All current Wild Card Rules will apply in 2021.

BONUS POOL

- The 2019 / 2021 Bonus Pool will be suspended.
- The Bonus Pool will be reinstated in 2022 with the format that was approved for 2020 or as may be restructured.

WTA FINALS AND ELITE TROPHY QUALIFICATION/RACE STANDINGS

- Qualifying standards as reflected in the Rulebook will be followed.
- Only 2021 earned results will be included towards the qualification for the WTA Finals and WTA Elite Trophy (WTA 125 and ITF results are excluded).

ENTRY DEADLINES

- **WTA 1000 Tournaments will use 6-week MD Singles, 3-week Qualifying Singles and 2-week advanced doubles entry timelines. Exception: Miami, Madrid, Rome, Montreal, and Cincinnati will use 4-week MD Singles to align with ATP.**
- **WTA 500 and WTA 250 Tournaments will use 4-week MD Singles, 3-week Qualifying Singles and 2-week advanced doubles entry timelines. Exception: Hamburg's MD and Qualifying singles entry deadlines will be the prior Thursday and all doubles entry will be on-site.**
- **WTA 125 Tournaments will use 4-week MD & Q Singles entry timelines with Doubles entries all on-site. Exception: Bastad's MD singles entry deadline will be the prior Thursday.**

All entry deadlines are subject to change as necessary.

RANKINGS

The current BETTER OF ranking system and rules will remain in place through the Tournament week of March 15, 2021 (i.e., the week prior to Miami), which results in a better of ranking system for March 4, 2019 – March 21, 2021.

At the conclusion of the 2021 Miami Tournament, points will begin to drop and the traditional ranking system will transition into place. Starting with the April 5, 2021 ranking, 2021 ranking points are replacing 2019 ranking points or the better of 2019/2020 ranking points, as applicable (with the exception of 2020 Tournaments held more than 4 weeks outside the originally scheduled dates and Tournaments not held in 2021). See the Ranking Drop Chart for further details on the dropping of ranking points.

Players will be required to count all WTA 1000 Mandatory and their best two (2) WTA 1000 Non-Mandatory Tournament singles main draw results on their Best 16 ranking beginning with the April 5, 2021 rankings if they can gain main draw entry.

SPECIAL RANKINGS

For new Special Ranking applications, the five (5) months the Tour was suspended will be excluded when calculating the minimum six (6)-month timeframe a player must be out of competition to be eligible for a Special Ranking.

Players who have not played since the Tour resumed play in August and are now ready to return to play in January 2021 will be given the following options:

- **Option 1: Medical Special Ranking with eight (8) tournaments in both singles and doubles**
 - Player must be out of competition for six (6) months from when the Tour resumed play (until at least February 1, 2021).

- **Option 2: Medical Special Ranking with six (6) tournaments in both singles and doubles**
 - Player must be out of competition for five (5) months from when the Tour resumed play (until at least January 1, 2021).

Special Ranking Entry (SRE) Rule Adjustment

Eligible players who have not played since the Tour resumed play can use their March 16th frozen ranking for four (4) Tournament entries until the end of 2021.

A Tournament only counts as a SRE Tournament if the player is accepted into the Tournament.

COVID Special Ranking Entry

A player may request a COVID Special Ranking Entry if she: (i) has been withdrawn from a Tournament for testing positive or being in close contact with a known positive; and (ii) misses the following Tournament(s) because she is recovering from COVID-19 or is unable to travel.

If approved, a player's COVID Special Ranking Entry is her WTA Ranking as of the time she was withdrawn from the original Tournament. She may use her COVID Special Ranking Entry to enter four (4) WTA or ITF Tournaments until the end of 2021.