

INTERNATIONAL TENNIS NUMBER RATING SYSTEM (ITN)

Hi all,

Listed below is an introduction to the International Tennis Number Rating system. More information will be made available to you and your club in the near future as the project progresses in Ireland.

What is the ITN ?

The ITN is an international tennis number that represents a players general level of play. In time it is hoped that every tennis player worldwide will have an ITN.

Under this system players will be rated from ITN 1 – ITN 10. ITN 1 represents a high level player (holding an ATP/WTA ranking or of an equivalent playing standard) and ITN 10 is a player that is starting to play competitively (can serve rally and score) on a full court using a normal ITF approved ball.

To facilitate the rating of players the ITF has developed an On-court test, a description of standards and a calculation formula which will be used to rate the players.

The On-court test is used to measure a players skills set and the ITN description of standards describes each of the ten rating categories. A concise summary of the description of standards is available at <http://www.itftennis.com/itn>.

Objectives of the ITN:

It is believed that current tennis rating systems linked to a country's competitive structure have played a crucial part in increasing the number of people playing tennis.

The International Tennis Rating Project will provide a method of rating skill levels of tennis players' globally

How will players be Rated Initially ?

The Players will be rated using the following tools:

- **On Court Assessment** – Comprises of a Groundstroke Depth assessment, Volley Depth assessment, Groundstroke Accuracy assessment, serve assessment and finally a mobility assessment. These scores are added together and you are given a rating.
- **Description of standards** – Gives you the general characteristics of various playing levels through the five game / tactical situations of tennis (eg Serving, Returning, Both back, approaching, opponent approaching).
- **Results** – In time results will be the best measure of the players rating

- **Clubs Knowledge of the Player** – Club officials/coaches would also be consulted as to the rating of the player.

ITN Calculation Formula

Once players have been rated, the next phase will be to begin playing competitions. It will be necessary, on the basis of matches played, to re-evaluate and re-rate the players on a regular basis. This may be done twice a year. This decision has to be made.

The ITN rating should be calculated at least once a year. Obviously, how often the rating is calculated will depend on the number of players participating as well as the means available.

The ITN Calculation can be done manually or run on an excel spread sheet on a computer. The result of the calculation shows the player their new ITN rating.

This calculation Formula can be found at : <http://www.itftennis.com/itn>.

Conclusion:

Benefits to member nations of ITN Rating System:

- **More accurate rating system** – Players will get points for each match played rather than tournament wins
- **Easy Access to Competition for Beginner Adults** – Any player can be assessed using a combination of the methods above and can begin competition immediately
- **Easy transition from junior to senior** – all players from a young age will be on the same rating system
- **Facilitate the movement of all levels of players between counties and countries**
- **Unite tennis under a common rating language (Similar to that of Golf)**