



Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Introduction of ITF World Tennis Number (WTN) System for Open Tournaments in Munster

The introduction of the ITF WTN player rating system in Open Tournaments is an exciting development that will introduce an all Ireland player rating system to cover tennis in every province which will eventually replace all existing Irish systems for grading players. Here in Munster this will mean some adjustments as we transfer from the Munster Directory Grading system to the new automated WTN player rating system.

As you are aware the Munster Directory places people within specific Grades relative to their experience and ability. This aims to ensure that players will get appropriate play at all levels of the game. The WTN is in some ways a type of handicap system which will adjust up or down dynamically with a player's results and the strength of the players wins or losses to. Playing within what is called your "WTN band" will also allow all players to get appropriate play with players of similar ability. The ITF WTN system will ultimately allow a player to move up or down more easily depending on results. If you win against stronger players your WTN goes up, if you lose to weaker players your WTN goes down.

TI (Tennis Ireland) have initially selected WTN bands (1 – 6) for open competition in Munster that are intended to allow graded competition in a similar way to the traditional tournament/competition grading system. However, as we transition from the Directory to WTN, players WTN number may not align directly with the WTN band intended to replace a player's grade. There are a number of reasons for this, but generally it is because a player has either played an insufficient number of WTN registered matches overall or insufficient matches against similar or better opponents. This will correct itself over time as players matches are recorded by WTN.

In addition, the bands selected by TI will be carefully reviewed and adjusted over the next year to more accurately reflect tennis within the country and province. However, TI has to start somewhere based on current and recent data.

In the meantime, within Munster the following system will be in operation:



1. The Directory will be maintained in parallel FOR INFORMATION only. This is intended to allow Tournament Directors and Players assess the WTN band that they should enter in an open competition.
2. Players may enter at their own WTN band or any band that is better than their current band, but not worse with the following additional restriction:
 - a. Players who were Grade 3 or above in the Munster Directory on the 15th January 2026 MUST enter in WTN Bands 1 -3. They may choose which WTN band within this restriction, but they will not be permitted to enter WTN Band 4 or below.
 - b. Players in Grade 4 as of 15th January 2026 are encouraged to enter WTN Band 4 or higher, but they may also enter WTN Band 5.
 - c. Players in Grade 5 as of 15th January 2026 are encouraged to enter WTN Band 5 or higher, but they may also enter WTN Band 6.
 - d. There are no restrictions on players currently in the Munster Directory Grade 6
3. All other regulations are in accordance with the TI competition rules for WTN.
4. Munster Tennis will review the WTN results against the Directory on a monthly basis so that we can advise clubs on WTN accuracy. A bulletin will be issued on a monthly basis.
5. It is intended that the Directory will be retired at the end of 2026, however this will be reviewed throughout the year. Munster Tennis will maintain the Directory in parallel until the WTN is fully established.
6. Munster Leagues will also transition to the WTN at the end of 2026. A decision will be made on the 2026 Summer Cup within the next 8 weeks and will be announced separately.
7. There will be a Webinar for all clubs on Tuesday 27th January 2027.
8. Munster Tennis officers and referees are available to provide assistance to clubs with their schedule and draw if required.

Best Regards



Áine Dunne

President Tennis Munster : Uachtarán Leadóige na Mumhan



Overview of the ITF World Tennis Number (WTN)

The ITF World Tennis Number (WTN) is a global rating system for tennis players, designed to provide a standardized measure of skill level. It operates on a scale from 40 (beginner) to 1 (elite professional). This system is applicable to all players, regardless of age, gender, or ability, and includes separate ratings for singles and doubles.

How WTN is Calculated:

- a. Match Results and Algorithm
- b. The WTN is calculated using match results from 2016 onwards.
- c. An algorithm analyzes the pre-match ratings of players to predict match outcomes.
- d. Players' WTNs are updated based on actual match scores compared to predictions.
- e. The system considers individual sets as separate results, impacting the WTN based on set wins and losses.

Confidence Level:

The Confidence Level indicates how reliable a player's WTN is, based on the amount and recency of match data.

A high Confidence Level ($\geq 70\%$) is marked with a blue checkmark, while a lower level ($\leq 70\%$) is indicated by a grey checkmark.

Regular play and diverse opponents enhance the Confidence Level, leading to more stable WTNs.

Benefits of WTN:

Matchmaking: Helps players find opponents of similar skill levels for more competitive matches.

Player Development: Provides statistics to track progress and improve skills.



Global Standard: Facilitates participation in international tournaments and events.

Updates and Maintenance:

The WTN is updated weekly, allowing players to see their progress in real-time.

Players are encouraged to participate regularly to maintain and improve their ratings.