

Wheelchair Tennis Community
[via email]

17 August 2020

Dear Players and Wheelchair Tennis Community

RE Wheelchair Tennis-Resumption of play

Further to previous announcements about the ITF's plans for the resumption of play of ITF Tours and the publication of ITF's Return to International Tennis Protocols ([available to download here](#)), we can confirm that tournaments on the UNIQLO Wheelchair Tennis Tour will resume from 14 September. The resumption of tournaments is subject to ongoing monitoring of the Covid-19 crisis and compliance with the measures and limitations put in place via the ITF Return to International Tennis Protocols.

The decision for tournaments to resume was taken by the Wheelchair Tennis Committee and ITF Board of Directors following a review of the potential impact on the UNIQLO Wheelchair rankings and on qualification of players for the postponed Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, which now has a qualification date of 7 June 2021.

The US Open and Roland Garros wheelchair tennis events are scheduled to take place on 10-13 September and 7-10 October respectively. The decision for UNIQLO Wheelchair Tennis Tour tournaments to resume will apply only to those events scheduled to commence prior to 11 October who have previously advised ITF that they will be able to proceed while meeting the requirements of the ITF Return to International Tennis Protocols, specifically:

16 Sept	Toyota Open International de L'île de Re	Ile de Ré	FRA	ITF2
29 Sept	French Riviera Open	Biot	FRA	ITF1
01 Oct	Citta di Civitavecchia	Civitavecchia	ITA	Futures

Prior to the resumption of the Tour the Committee will meet again to review the Return to Tennis landscape, including experiences from other ITF Circuits and the accessibility/eligibility status of wheelchair tournaments scheduled from 11 October, to agree the onward progress of the UNIQLO Wheelchair Tennis Tour.

The health and safety of all participants at ITF tournaments is the key priority in the resumption of tournaments. In order to support a safe return to international tennis tournaments, the ITF has published ITF Return to International Tennis Protocols for all tournament hosts and participants that mitigate the risk of exposure to, and spread of, Covid-19.

The ITF Board also recently approved the introduction of a revised wheelchair tennis ranking system designed to provide fairness to players to the greatest extent possible while also keeping the familiar concept of the rankings. It protects the ranking points of those players unable to compete while travel restrictions and health concerns remain, while also awarding ranking points for tournaments where they are able to be hosted. The system recognises results achieved as part of the original Tokyo 2020 qualification period, that will continue to count for the delayed qualification process.

Our priority throughout this period has been to restore opportunities for our athletes to compete and earn, while protecting the health and safety of all involved. A resumption of tournaments, under stringent protocols, is a positive step forward. We will continue to monitor and address issues that arise from the ongoing impact



of the global pandemic, including protocols, rankings and scheduling, and the mechanisms in place to minimise any disadvantages to individual players.

Further details and information about updated and revised processes (including in relation to tournament obligations) as well as expected behaviours of all participants, will be shared as soon as possible. If you have any questions please contact wheelchair@itftennis.com.

Regards



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