



# 2026 Masters Ranking and Draw System

## 1. RANKING LISTS

- 1.1. There will be South African Masters ranking lists for **MEN'S SINGLES, WOMEN'S SINGLES, MEN'S DOUBLES, WOMEN'S DOUBLES and MIXED DOUBLES**.
- 1.2. ITF ranking points will also be earned in those tournaments that are designated as ITF tournaments but are not discussed in this document.
- 1.3. Players will only appear on the ranking list of their **current** age group.
- 1.4. When moving up an age group, the points earned in the younger age group will be **carried over** to the new age group and will count until they have been replaced by new tournament results or until they fall outside the period being used to calculate points.
- 1.5. Points will be awarded at the **2 Inter-Provincial tournaments** and **14 ranking tournaments** played during 2026. Points earned in 2025 at these tournaments will be kept until the next time the tournament is played in 2026. If a tournament is cancelled or replaced, points earned in the previous year will fall away on the date the tournament would have been played the following year. The list will never include two results from the same ranking tournament held in successive years even if the date of the tournament has moved to a different time.
- 1.6. A player's position on the ranking list is determined by the **sum of the ranking points** earned in the **best three results** achieved in the ranking tournaments, **plus** the points for **one** Inter-Provincial.
- 1.7. Ranking points will be loaded on the **second Monday** after the closing of the tournament.

## 2. TOURNAMENTS WHERE POINTS WILL BE AWARDED

- 2.1. Attendance points will be awarded for the Inter-Provincial tournaments in the table below. A player have to play at least three matches in the Inter-Provincial to receive ranking points.

Inter-Provincial	Points
30-59+ age groups	100
60-75+ age groups	100

- 2.2. Ranking points will be earned for the ranking tournaments in the table below. Each ranking tournament is given a grade which guarantees the winner of an event a fixed no. of points.

Ranking tournaments	Tournament grade
Masters Super 6 Cape Town	B (200 points)
Masters Super 6 Gauteng East	B (200 points)
SA Nationals ITF Masters (Closed)	A (290 points)
Eastern Cape Masters	B (200 points)
Masters Super 6 Gauteng North	B (200 points)
UGU South Coast Masters	B (200 points)
Mpumalanga Masters	B (200 points)
Kwa Zulu-Natal Masters	B (200 points)
Ugu Abadala	C (160 points)
Masters Super 6 Winelands (Boland)	B (200 points)
Free State Masters	B (200 points)
Masters Super 6 Jozi Seniors (Gauteng) Central	B (200 points)
Cape Town Masters	B (200 points)
Masters Super 6 Eden	B (200 points)

2.3. If a ranking tournament is cancelled in 2026, points from 2025 will be cancelled.

### 3. POINTS FOR INTER-PROVINCIAL TOURNAMENTS

3.1. 100 attendance points, for players who played at least three matches, will be awarded for Inter-Provincial tournaments in the singles, doubles and mixed ranking lists.

3.2. All players and their substitutes will be awarded full points provided that they play at least one match in a tie.

3.3. A player may earn points for only one Inter-Provincial.

3.4. Attendance points will be awarded to all players regardless of whether they play in another age category or for another province.

### 4. SEEDING AND DRAWS FOR RANKING TOURNAMENTS

4.1. For the CLOSED ITF Nationals, the TSA Masters ranking will be used. This will run as a local tournament with the local rules applying. For other ITF tournaments the ITF ranking will be used.

4.2. The Seeding Committee of TSA Masters will send the seeding documents to the Tournament Director after the withdrawal deadline. They will request the Tournament Director to do optional pairings of LOCAL players, recommendations of discretionary seeds (strong players with little or no ranking) before the seeding meeting.

4.3. All **MASTERS SINGLES, DOUBLES AND MIXED DOUBLES** matches in local ranking tournaments are standardised as follows:

- All matches in the over 80 age groups will be the best of 3 tiebreaker sets with the third set a 10-point match tiebreaker.
- Main draw matches in the men's singles, woman's singles, men's doubles, and woman's doubles for all other age groups will be the best of three tiebreaker sets. **Where an over 80 player plays against a younger player in an event where age groups are combined, the third set will be a 10-point match tiebreaker.**
- Consolation draws (after losing at least one match) will be the best of three tiebreaker sets with the third set a 10-point match tiebreaker.
- All MIXED DOUBLES matches will be two tiebreaker sets and a 10-point match tiebreaker.
- The change-of-ends tiebreaker, (Coman method), will be used for both the 10-point match tiebreaker and the 7-point set tiebreaker. Players change ends after the first point and then after every 4 points thereafter.

4.4. The draws will be done using SportyHQ tournament software. Players who have not paid will not be included in the draw. Players from the same province will be separated where possible in the first round.

4.5. There should be two types of seeding in each event: seeding according to the rankings and discretionary seeding. The ranked seeds are always given a seeding higher than the discretionary seeds. The reason why ranked seeds are given priority is to reward for both ability and loyalty. Discretionary seeds are not reflected on the draw sheets.

4.6. When using the rankings for seeding, only the players with more than 160 points in singles and combined points of 320 in doubles and mixed need to be considered.

4.7. Two discretionary seeds are allowed in any event. If there are fewer seeds than the number of ranked seeds specified by the size of the draw, more discretionary seeds may be used to make up the number.

4.8. Whenever possible the head-to head results of entries will be looked at when discretionary seeds are chosen. Discretionary seeds should not be considered as giving local players an easy draw but are there to prevent strong players meeting in the early rounds of a tournament where possible.

4.9. Players from higher age groups will be included in the seeding order with ranking points of their own age group ranking, reduced by the following percentages:

- Players playing down 1 age group: 20% reduction from their ranking points
- Players playing down 2 age groups: 40% reduction from their ranking points
- Players playing down 3 age groups: 60% reduction from their ranking points
- Players playing down 4 age groups and more: 80% reduction from their ranking points

4.10. In men's and woman's singles, only 3 adjacent age groups can be combined without referring the matter to the players. If players have to be moved more than two age groups, the players must be informed, and they need to decide immediately whether to withdraw or remain in the draw.

- 4.11. In men's and woman's doubles and mixed doubles, 4 adjacent age groups can be combined without referring the matter to the players.
- 4.12. In the round robins of two groups the two top ranked players will be separated. The remainder of the players will be seeded in order of strength at the discretion of the Seeding Committee and then randomly drawn.
- 4.13. For an event with 6 to 9 players, two ranked entries should be seeded. The seeding committee to decide whether two discretionary seeds are required.
- 4.14. For an event with 10 to 17 entries, four ranked entries will be seeded. The seeding committee to decide whether two discretionary seeds are required.
- 4.15. For an event with over 17 entries, six ranked entries will be seeded. Two discretionary seeds may be chosen if there are less than 25 entries, and four discretionary seeds may be chosen if there are more entries.
- 4.16. For an event of over 33 entries, eight ranked entries will be seeded. Two discretionary seeds may be chosen.
- 4.17. If a seed withdraws from a tournament after the draws have been done but before the order of play has been published, then the next eligible player on the ranking list will take the position vacated by the seed in question. If a seed withdraws from a tournament after the order of play has been published, then it's a walkover to the opposing player.
- 4.18. Where there is a withdrawal before play commences in the round robins of two groups which causes an imbalance in the two groups, then the draw will be re-done.
- 4.19. The draws for **MEN'S SINGLES, WOMEN'S SINGLES, MEN'S DOUBLES AND WOMAN'S DOUBLES** should be so chosen that there is a match in each event every day for as many entries as possible. This may mean playing a double round in either the singles or the doubles in an age group. A decision on what format is to be played will be made jointly by the Tournament Director, the Referee and the Seeding Committee. The list below gives the options available:
- **3 entries:** Round robin (3 rounds). This size of draw is only permissible in the over 70 age groups or when deemed necessary by the Seeding Committee in the best interests of the tournament. Entries of 3 or less, wherever possible, are to be combined with an adjacent age group, preferably a lower age group provided that it doesn't result in a draw of 5 or 9. In that case, a draw of 3 will be permitted.
  - **4 entries:** One Round Robin group. (3 rounds).
  - **5 entries:** One Round Robin group (5 rounds which may necessitate a double round on one day in a four-day tournament). This may be combined with an adjacent age group, preferably a lower age group, in a four-day tournament, provided that the combined draw is 16 or less entries.
  - **6 entries:** In a four-day tournament, a Round Robin in two groups and a playoff is played (4 rounds). In a five-day tournament a Round Robin in one group (5 rounds) is played.
  - **7 to 8 entries:** Round robin in two groups and a playoff round (4 rounds). Where there are 7 entries the first seed is placed in the group of 3.
  - **9 to 10 entries:** Monrad in a four-day tournament (4 rounds). In a five-day tournament there is a choice between a Round Robin in two groups and a playoff round (6 rounds) which will mean a double round on one day, or a monrad draw. Where there are 9 entries the first seed is placed in the group of 4.
  - **All draws for events** of 11 entries and over will be Monrad draws.
- 4.20. The format for draws in **MIXED DOUBLES** will be chosen so that the final matches will be played on or before the penultimate day of the tournament if at all possible.
- **3 entries:** Will be combined with another age group as long that doesn't result in a draw of 5 or 9. In that case a draw of 3 will be permitted.
  - **4 entries:** One Round Robin group. (3 rounds).
  - **5 entries:** This will preferably be combined with another age group, preferably a lower age group, as a monrad draw, provided that the combined draw is 16 or less entries. It may also be played as a Round Robin (5 rounds, which may necessitate a double round on one day in a four-day tournament).
  - **6 to 8 entries:** Monrad (3 rounds)
  - **All entries in the mixed doubles** of 9 entries and over will also be Monrad draws.

## **5 POINTS FOR POSITION ACHIEVED IN RANKING TOURNAMENTS**

- 5.1 Points will be awarded for the position achieved in the draw. These points are shown in Annexure A of this document and shall be used for both monrad and round robin draws.
- 5.2 The table to be used will be determined by the event strength and the number of players in the draw at the time that the draws are done. At the end of the tournament all players in the draw will be given a position between first and the number of players in the draw.
- 5.3 Players that are in the draw and report their withdrawal from the tournament to the tournament director in sufficient time for opponents not to arrive for the match will be given a code violation of "late withdrawal". These players will be given last position in the round of the draw that they have been placed and will be awarded no points. Players are allowed two free late withdrawals per annum, thereafter they will receive a code violation with penalty points and will be awarded no points for the tournament.
- 5.4 Players that do not arrive for their first scheduled match will be given a code violation of "no show". They will, be given last position in the event, along with the late withdrawals. They will receive no points because of the code violation and will take no further part in the event.
- 5.5 Players who do not arrive for any scheduled match after their first match and have not filled in a player release form, will receive a "no show" code violation and receive no points. They will retain the position they have already achieved in the draw.
- 5.6 Players that are scratched because they reported late to the tournament desk may request the tournament desk to include them in following matches as a "forward loser". These players will not be given a code violation and their opponents will be given a walkover.
- 5.7 . Players who retire during a match will forfeit that match, the player may still be forwarded to the next round and continue to participate in the event.
- 5.8 Position may be shared if a match is not scheduled, or a match is not played or completed in the official tournament time. For example, if a match is not scheduled or a match is not played or completed for 3rd and 4th position, both players will be given 4th position.
- 5.9 Players that are given a code violation warning will retain their position and points. For all further code violations players will retain their position but will lose their points.

## **6 EVALUATION OF POSITION IN ROUND ROBINS**

- 6.1 Eliminate all players/teams who withdrew without going on court for any match as described in item 5.3 and 5.4. These players/teams must not be put through to the playoffs, if there are any. All other players/teams must be put through to the playoffs.
- 6.2 Examine the matches won, including walkovers and retirements.
- 6.3 If there is no tie in matches won, process position according to matches won.
- 6.4 If two teams tie on matches won, award the team who won the head-to-head match between them the higher position. This may be a played match, a retirement or a walkover.
- 6.5 If there is a second occurrence of two teams tying in a round robin, process the second tie the same as the first tie.
- 6.6 If three teams tie on matches won, check to see whether there are any walkovers or retirements in the three team's results.
- 6.7 If there are no retirements or walkovers, determine position by set percentage won, then game percentage won. The results of all matches played in the round robin group will be taken into account when determining the position.
- 6.8 If there is a team that has retired or given a walkover when three teams tie on matches won, allocate them the lowest position of the three and give the highest position to the team who won the head-to-head between the other two teams.

## **7 POINTS FOR COMBINING AGE GROUPS**

- 7.1 If the Tournament Committee combines two age groups in a singles event, the players who entered in the higher age group are entitled to a bonus of 20% in ranking points earned, provided that there is a player in the lower age group that has a better result in the event. For example, in a combined 30/35 event, where the best 30+ player gets

5th position, no bonus of 20% will be given to the 35+ players who achieve 5th position or higher, but bonus points will be awarded to the 35+ players achieving lower than 5<sup>th</sup> position.

- 7.2 In a doubles event where the tournament committee has combined two age groups, both the player who entered in the higher age group and the partner who entered the lower age group are entitled to a bonus of 10% in ranking points earned; a couple who entered in the higher age group are each entitled to a bonus of 20% in ranking points earned. The bonus points are earned provided that there is a player in the lower age group that has a better result in the event.
- 7.3 If the seedings committee combine age groups in the 30 to 45 age groups in smaller tournaments to create bigger draws and opportunity to play against players in another age group, then no bonus points will be allocated. (this will be for a trial period)

## **8 WALKOVERS AND NOT PLAYED MATCHES**

- 8.1 The reason for walkovers and not played matches must be stored in the tournament data. This must be recorded on the control sheets and entered into the computer application with the assistance of a drop-down list.

**Event Strength A**

**Annexure A**

- Winner (guaranteed points) – 290 points
- Loyalty points (last position) – 48 points

A	Draw size					
	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-16	17-24	25-32
1	290	290	290	290	290	290
2	159	224	246	257	268	274
3	87	173	209	228	248	258
4	48	134	178	202	229	244
5		104	151	180	212	230
6		80	128	159	196	217
7		62	109	141	181	205
8		48	92	125	168	193
9			78	111	155	182
10			67	99	143	172
11			57	87	133	162
12			48	78	123	153
13				69	113	145
14				61	105	136
15				54	97	129
16				48	90	121
17					83	115
18					77	108
19					71	102
20					66	96
21					61	91
22					56	86
23					52	81
24					48	76
25						72
26						68
27						64
28						61
29						57
30						54
31						51
32						48

**Event Strength B**

**Annexure B**

- Winner (guaranteed points) – 200 points
- Loyalty points (last position) – 16 points

<b>B</b>	<b>Draw size</b>					
	<b>3-4</b>	<b>5-8</b>	<b>9-12</b>	<b>13-16</b>	<b>17-24</b>	<b>25-32</b>
1	200	200	200	200	200	200
2	86	139	159	169	179	184
3	37	97	126	143	161	170
4	16	68	100	121	144	157
5		47	80	102	129	144
6		33	63	86	115	133
7		23	50	73	103	123
8		16	40	62	93	113
9			32	52	83	104
10			25	44	74	96
11			20	37	67	89
12			16	31	60	82
13				27	54	75
14				22	48	69
15				19	43	64
16				16	39	59
17					35	54
18					31	50
19					28	46
20					25	43
21					22	39
22					20	36
23					18	33
24					16	31
25						28
26						26
27						24
28						22
29						20
30						19
31						17
32						16

**Event Strength C**

**Annexure C**

- Winner (guaranteed points) – 160 points
- Loyalty points (last position) – 8 points

Grade C	Draw size					
	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-16	17-24	25-32
1	160	160	160	160	160	160
2	59	104	122	131	140	145
3	22	68	93	107	123	132
4	8	44	71	88	108	120
5		29	54	72	95	109
6		19	41	59	83	99
7		12	31	48	73	90
8		8	24	40	64	81
9			18	32	56	74
10			14	27	50	67
11			11	22	43	61
12			8	18	38	55
13				15	34	50
14				12	29	46
15				10	26	41
16				8	23	38
17					20	34
18					17	31
19					15	28
20					13	26
21					12	23
22					10	21
23					9	19
24					8	17
25						16
26						14
27						13
28						12
29						11
30						10
31						9
32						8