

International Tennis Number Manual

Guidelines to help create and run a
National Tennis Rating System
using the International Tennis Number

what's your number?



International Tennis Number



Published by the Tennis Development
Department of the International Tennis Federation



International Tennis Number Manual

Guidelines to help create and run a National Tennis Rating System using the International Tennis Number

Published by the ITF Tennis Development Department
© The International Tennis Federation, ITF Ltd, 2004 (First edition)

The authors want to thank the ITF International Tennis Rating Taskforce, the ITF Coaches Commission members, the ITF Development Officers and the staff in London who have assisted and advised in the preparation of this ITF Manual, and also to the scores of experts who have assisted the ITF in their educational programmes around the world.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electrical, mechanical, photocopied, recorded or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publishers.

Note: Throughout this book the pronouns “he”, “him” and “his” have been used inclusively, and are intended to apply to both men and women.

International Tennis Federation
ITF Ltd
Bank Lane
Roehampton
London
SW15 5XZ
England.

Tel: 44 (0) 20 8878 6464
Fax: 44 (0) 20 8878 7799
E-mail: itf@itftennis.com
Web: www.itftennis.com

Registered address: PO Box N-272 West Bay Street, Nassau, Bahamas.







International Tennis Number Manual

INDEX

FOREWORD	7
INTRODUCTION	9
THE ITF MARKETING THE GAME INITIATIVE	11
THE ITF INTERNATIONAL TENNIS RATING PROJECT	11
WHAT IS THE ITN?	12
THE ITN ON COURT ASSESSMENT	15
HOW CAN THE ITN WORK IN ITF MEMBER NATIONS?	17
HOW WILL PLAYER INITIALLY BE RATED...? WHAT'S YOUR ITN?	17
RECOMMENDED ITN CALCULATION FORMULA	19
INCORPORATING DOUBLES RESULTS INTO THE ITN	21
COMPETITION FORMATS LINKED TO THE ITN	22
IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT OF A NATIONAL RATING SYSTEM	25
FINDING SPONSORS FOR THE ITN	28
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ITN AT CLUB LEVEL	29
INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION ASSISTANCE	32
APPENDIX:	
REFERENCES	34
GLOSSARY OF TERMINOLOGY.....	34
EXISTING RATING SYSTEMS	36
USEFUL CONTACTS	40
ITN DESCRIPTION OF STANDARDS	42
ITN CONVERSION CHART	44
ITN ON COURT ASSESSMENT GUIDE	45





FOREWORD

The ITF International Tennis Number (ITN) is one of the most important developments from the ITF Marketing the Game Summit held in 2000 in London. At the time the ITF were aware that no more than 20 countries worldwide had a national rating system in place. Yet it was also recognised that those countries with a rating system in place tended to have high levels of tennis participation making it clear that the ITF should motivate its member nations to establish a rating system in their respective countries. The ITF also saw an opportunity for the ITN to become a common rating language of world tennis.

what's your number?



International Tennis Number

I believe that the work done by the ITF International Tennis Ratings Taskforce under the direction of Executive Director of Tennis Development Dave Miley has been exceptional. In a very short time the Taskforce developed the ITN as a recommended rating system that could not only be used in those countries with no system in place but also that could be used in conjunction with those existing national systems. Australia, a Grand Slam nation, was the first country to adopt the ITN as their national rating system and this greatly enhanced the credibility of the ITN rating system worldwide. Many other countries are now embracing the system including Austria, Finland, India and Ireland.

This guide will help ITF member nations to introduce the ITN on a national basis. It gives practical advice on how the ITN and its innovative On Court Assessment can be used in clubs to get more people playing the great game of tennis. I am convinced that the ITN is an important tool that can be used by our ITF member nations to generate interest and enthusiasm in tennis, creating a big impact on the growth of tennis participation worldwide.

The ITF is ready to rate the tennis world...are you?

The ITN...what's your number?

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Ricci Bitti', written in a cursive style.

Francesco Ricci Bitti
President
International Tennis Federation



INTRODUCTION

what's your number?



International Tennis Number

The ITF International Tennis Number (ITN) was created by the ITF as a tool to help our member nations to increase tennis participation in their countries. We were aware that very few of the ITF member nations had a national rating system in place and it was recognised that countries that had a national rating system in place tended to have high levels of tennis participation.

This manual gives guidelines on how the ITN can be established in a country and also how the ITN can be used effectively to increase participation. The 1-10 rating system is very simple and easy for tennis players worldwide to understand. The creation of the sub-category for starter players (ITN 10.3; 10.2; 10.1) has ensured that all players can be included because players whatever their level can have an ITN. For players that are not yet at the ITN 10 level (where they can play competitively e.g. serve and return / rally with a normal ball on a full tennis court) a logical progression now exists within the ITN linked to the different types of transition balls...3, 2, 1 – Tennis!

The ITN On Court Assessment has been developed to allow countries to cater more fully to the recreational players that don't play competition on a regular basis. Whilst the ITF recognises some of the limitations of any non competition based assessment in tennis (e.g. the static feeding, only assessing strokes in a closed situation, only certain strokes being assessed etc.) we believe that the ITN On Court Assessment is a powerful tool that can be used in conjunction with the ITN rating system and to complement competition particularly for the recreational players. Not only can the ITN On Court Assessment be used as an objective method of initially rating those players that have no history of competition results but it can also be used as powerful promotional tool at events and as a means for players of all levels to measure their improvements in certain aspects related to tennis play.

I was privileged to have been invited by ITF Vice President Juan Margets to chair the ITF International Tennis Rating Taskforce that was established following the ITF Marketing the Game Summit in 2000. The Taskforce met 4 times between June 2001 and February 2003 and the positive attitude displayed by all of the Taskforce members and their respective National Associations towards this important project for world tennis as well as their hard work between meetings ensured that a great deal has been achieved in a short time. The members of the Taskforce were:

- Peter Johnston, Tennis Australia
- Martin Reiter, Tennis Austria
- Allard Elema, Dutch Tennis Federation (KNLTB)
- Jean-Francois Magne, French Tennis Federation (FFT)
- Wolfgang Burkhardt, German Tennis Federation (DTB)
- Martin Rands, Lawn Tennis Association of Great Britain (LTA)
- David Schobel, United States Tennis Association (USTA)

In the ITF Development team I would like to recognise the work of Frank Couraud, Tori Billington, Miguel Crespo and Brenden Sharp all of whom worked tirelessly on the preparation of this manual and on the other important elements of the ITN rating system. The development of the ITN On Court Assessment which was launched on a one year trial at the ITF AGM in Rio in September 2003 took a great deal of research and trial testing. We looked at many existing on court assessments, which had been published over the past 70 years before agreeing on the assessment outlined in this manual. All of these assessments are referenced at the back of the ITN On Court Assessment Guide (see Appendix).

However I would like to give special recognition to both Neil Johnson of the US and our own ITF Development Officer Dan O'Connell both of whom had been working on developing and using on court assessments over the past 20 years and who were very helpful in providing advice on the project. The ITN On Court Assessment will I believe prove to be a powerful tool for not only promoting tennis but also for increasing participation.

The ITF believe that the ITN will over the next few years change the face of tennis particularly for the recreational players. We have a chance through the ITN not only to attract new people to this great game of tennis but also to retain players...to motivate these new players and existing players wherever they might be to play more tennis. We expect that in a very short time most tennis players in the world will hold an ITN and the ITN will be recognised as the common rating language of the tennis world.



The ITN is a tool that is now ready to be used by our member nations. We still have a lot of work to do and the success of the project will depend on the ability for the ITN to be used effectively at club level in each country. For it to succeed the administrators of tennis and the coaches all over the world need to get behind the ITN and to give it their full support. Are you ready to rate the tennis world...we start today!

The ITN...what's your number?

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Miley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dave Miley
Executive Director, Tennis Development
International Tennis Federation



THE ITF MARKETING THE GAME INITIATIVE

Marketing The Game - The Drive For Growth

In 1997, the ITF began a long-term international marketing research project to ascertain participation trends and attitudes to the game of tennis. The research showed that tennis continues to grow in the vast majority of ITF member nations. However, some concerns in the more mature tennis nations were highlighted.

Building on this three-year research, the ITF developed a series of activities that focused on increasing tennis participation and growth of the game. The initiative involved a number of key partners who influence and contribute to the growth of the game including:

- National and Regional Associations
- Leading players
- The tennis industry
- Sports marketing and communication experts, and
- Development directors of the respective tennis organisations.

Upon completing this research, a decision was made to organise the Marketing the Game Summit in September 2000. The top (most mature) tennis nations together with the ATP Tour, WTA Tour and other constituents of the game met with the ITF to discuss how best to market the game of tennis and increase participation in tennis, whether it be the number of:

- Players coming into the game
- Spectators and followers of the game
- Purchasers of tennis related material.

Following on from the Marketing the Game Summit, it was decided to implement a number of projects including the development of an international tennis rating system. In early 2001, an International Tennis Rating Taskforce was established by the ITF with its overall mission statement being:

'To create, utilise and promote an international tennis rating system that will help grow all levels of competitive tennis participation worldwide.'

This Taskforce consisted of experts in competition and rating systems from some of the world's leading tennis nations and was chaired and co-ordinated by ITF Executive Director of Tennis Development, Dave Miley.

ITF International Tennis Rating Taskforce

Peter Johnston, Tennis Australia

Martin Reiter, Tennis Austria

Allard Elema, Dutch Tennis Federation (KNLTB)

Jean-Francois Magne, French Tennis Federation (FFT)

Wolfgang Burkhardt, German Tennis Federation (DTB)

Martin Rands, Lawn Tennis Association of Great Britain (LTA)

David Schobel, United States Tennis Association (USTA)

Dave Miley, ITF

Frank Couraud, ITF

Miguel Crespo, ITF

THE ITF INTERNATIONAL TENNIS RATING PROJECT

OBJECTIVES AND BENEFITS TO ITF MEMBER NATIONS

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.

For example, in the Netherlands where a national rating system linked to the competitive structure has been in place for many years now, over 5% of the population are registered tennis players of the Dutch Tennis Federation (KNLTB).



The International Tennis Rating project will provide a method of rating skill levels of tennis players' globally which in turn can help:

- Encourage more playing of tennis
- Unite tennis under a common rating language
- Encourage nations to implement an international tennis rating system nationally
- Promote a variety of tennis competition formats, which are linked to the tennis rating system
- Give more options for finding compatible playing partners and therefore more enjoyable competitive play
- Facilitate the movement of all levels of players between countries.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ITF INTERNATIONAL TENNIS RATING SYSTEM

Following an initial meeting of the Taskforce in July 2001, a strategy was formulated to develop an international tennis rating system that could be used by countries which currently have no national rating system and could also be used in conjunction with those rating systems currently in place in some of the more established tennis nations. The Taskforce, with help and advice of a tennis marketing company, decided on a name for the rating system – the 'ITF International Tennis Number' or 'ITN'.

WHAT IS A RATING AND HOW DOES IT DIFFER FROM A RANKING?

A rating is a description of standards that is used to determine the general competitive level of a player. It groups players of a similar level together within a category / band. The most famous example of a global rating in sport is the golf handicap. The relative level of players within each band is not determined by the rating system. This is the job of a ranking system.

A ranking is a more accurate estimate of the relative standard of players, based usually upon specific tournament results or competitions. A ranking is a comparison of similarly 'rated' players based on results of players within a specific rating category. For example in the proposed ITN 1 rating category (see chart on page 9), ATP/WTA rankings would represent a ranking within this rating category.

Most countries use rankings that they produce on a regular basis at various levels of their national game. However the ITF estimates that there are less than 20 countries worldwide that have a national rating system.

WHAT IS THE ITN?

The ITN is an international tennis number that represents a player's 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 and return) on a full court using a normal ITF approved ball.

To facilitate the rating of players the ITF have developed a **Description of Standards** and an objective **On Court Assessment** both of which can be used to rate players in the absence of competition results.

The '**ITN Description of Standards**' describes each of the ten rating categories. A concise summary of this Description of Standards is shown below. Approved by the ITF Coaches Commission and the ITF International Tennis Rating Taskforce, it is hoped this guide will help players to be accurately rated. Whilst trying to make the Description of Standards as precise as possible, the Taskforce has attempted to keep it simple and not too technical. The intention is that it should be easy to understand and useful for both the player and / or the assessor (coach / administrator).

The ITN Description of Standards has avoided rating players purely on the technical assessment of individual shots. Instead it has used as its basis:

- the general characteristics of various playing levels
- the five-game / tactical situations of tennis (e.g. serving, returning, both at baseline, approaching, passing) and
- the game-style of the player.



The following is an extract from the ITN Description of Standards and gives a concise summary of the 10 ITN rating categories:

- ITN 1** This player has had intensive training for national tournament competition at the junior and senior levels and has extensive professional tournament experience. Holds or is capable of holding an ATP / WTA ranking and their major source of income is through tournament prize money.
- ITN 2** This player has power and / or consistency as a major weapon. Can vary strategies and styles of play in a competitive situation. Is usually a nationally ranked player.
- ITN 3** This player has good shot anticipation and frequently has an outstanding shot or attribute around which a game may be structured. Can regularly hit winners and force errors off short balls. Can put away volleys and smashes and has a variety of serves to rely on.
- ITN 4** This player can use power and spins and has begun to handle pace. Has sound footwork, can control depth of shots, and can vary game plan according to opponents. Can hit first serves with power and can impart spin on second serves.
- ITN 5** This player has dependable strokes, including directional control and depth on both groundstrokes and on moderate shots. Has the ability to use lobs, overheads, approach shots and volleys with some success.
- ITN 6** This player exhibits more aggressive net play, has improved court coverage, improved shot control and is developing teamwork in doubles.
- ITN 7** This player is fairly consistent when hitting medium paced shots, but is not yet comfortable with all strokes. Lacks control over depth, direction and power.
- ITN 8** This player is able to judge / control where the ball is going and can sustain a short rally.
- ITN 9** This player needs on court experience and strokes can be completed with some success.
- ITN 10** This player is starting to play competitively (can serve and return / rally) on a full court using a normal ITF approved ball.

ITN 10.1 This player is able to rally with movement and control.

ITN 10.2 This player has developed some simple tennis-specific skills in hitting an oncoming ball regularly, however rallying with movement and control is not yet achieved.

ITN 10.3 The player is in the early stages of tennis skills development and is primarily learning simple tennis co-ordination tasks / exercises.

* The ITN 10.1 to 10.3 categories will usually be done in a modified environment using transition / soft balls on a reduced court and / or using adapted rackets as appropriate.

** For a more comprehensive description of the ITN levels please refer to the ITN Description of Standards (see Appendix).

WHY USE ONLY 10 RATING CATEGORIES?

The number of rating categories is limited to 10 so that the system is simple, easily understood and relatively easy to promote and to use. The number of rating categories was discussed extensively by the Taskforce and, while recognising that the rating categories could be expanded at national level, the ITF's intention is to maintain at the international level 10 rating categories as per the chart. However, the rating categories ITN 1 – ITN 10 should not be restrictive and National Associations should be able to expand and adapt by adding sub-levels within each category (e.g. 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5 etc) if they feel it is beneficial to tennis in their country.



THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ITN 10 CATEGORY

When implementing the ITN, National Associations will realise that they have a large number of **starter** players in the entry levels of the system. The future of tennis will depend so much on this category and the effectiveness of taking beginner adults and children from 10.3 to 10 when they can start playing tennis competitively. Experience has shown us that the best way for children and adult beginner players to learn tennis is through a modified version of tennis / mini tennis (tennis played on a smaller than normal court with soft / transition balls). Mini tennis not only helps to introduce people to the game effectively but also ensures that starter players get to rally and play the game of tennis as soon as possible which makes learning tennis easier and more enjoyable

Some National Associations have put in place mini tennis programmes, which consist of step-by-step skill challenges and can be easily adapted to the ITN 10.3 - ITN 10.1 categories. Players can then progress through the various skill levels of ITN 10.3, ITN 10.2 and ITN10.1 to ITN 10 at which stage they are ready to play the game competitively (serve and return / rally) on a full court with a normal ITF approved ball... **3, 2, 1...TENNIS!**

- We would recommend that ITN 10.3s play with a foam ball or equivalent.
- We would recommend that ITN 10.2s and ITN 10.1s play with a transition ball (lighter and with less pressure than a normal ball).

ITN	10.3	10.2	10.1	10
Description	1. Cut foam or moulded foam.	Low compression transition ball of similar construction and size as standard ball.	Low compression transition ball of similar construction and size as standard ball.	Standard tennis ball
ITF performance specifications	Foam ball to have a maximum diameter of 9 cm.	Size: 6.0-6.5 cm Mass: 36-40 g Rebound: 1.00-1.15 cm Fdef: 1.40-1.65 cm	Size: 6.3-6.8 cm Mass: 47-51.5 g Rebound: 1.18-1.32 m Fdef: 0.80-1.05 cm	Size: 6.541-6.858 cm Mass: 56.0-59.4 g Rebound: 1.346-1.473 m Fdef: 0.559-0.737 cm

TYPES OF PLAYERS

Players can roughly be divided into 5 general types within the ITN according to their ability. We would suggest that the following terminology is used to describe the 5 types of players:

- **ITN 1** should be referred to as **Elite / High Performance** players.
- **ITN 2, 3 or 4** should be referred to as **Advanced** players.
- **ITN 5, 6 or 7** should be referred to as **Intermediate** players.
- **ITN 8,9 and 10** should be referred to as **Recreational** players
- **ITN 10.3, 10.2 and 10.1 (adults and juniors)** should be referred to as **Starter** players

THE DIFFERENT COMPETITIVE GROUPS

The Taskforce gave a great deal of thought to the different competitive groups in a country such as juniors, veterans and wheelchair tennis players. However it was decided that only one International Tennis Rating System would be operated and that juniors, veterans and wheelchair tennis players would be rated within the same system based on their current level of play.

The issue of doubles was also considered. Again it was felt that a separate doubles rating would complicate the International Tennis Rating System at this time and that for doubles matches, the rating of the team should be determined by combining both players' ITN and arriving at an average. A calculation system has been developed to allow doubles results to be counted towards the singles ITN of each player.

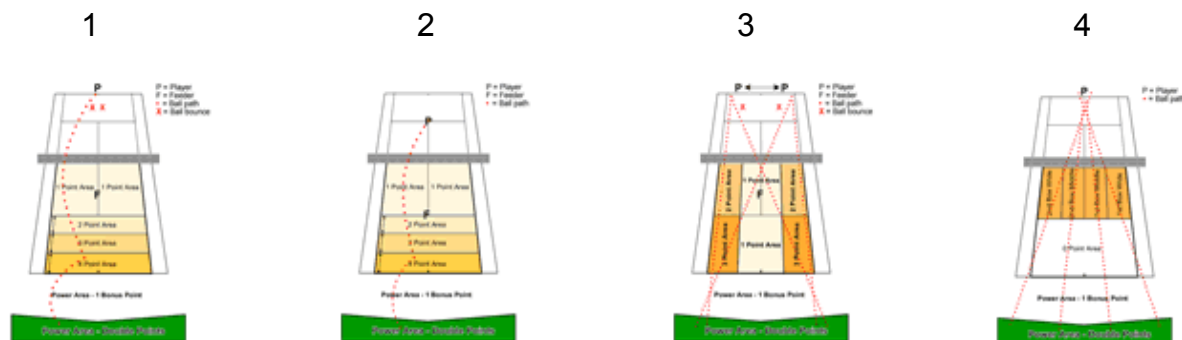
The ITN scale for women and for men is different. For example, under the ITN system an ITN 4 rated man is not the same competitive level as an ITN 4 rated woman. The ITN On Court Assessment scoring table reflects this in so far as the points corresponding to the various ITN levels are different for men and women.

Wheelchair tennis players can also receive an ITN Rating. In order to do so they should use the general characteristics of the ITN Description of Standards or undergo an ITN On Court Assessment. The mobility element of the assessment may need to be modified to take account of the fact that the wheelchair player is allowed two bounces when competing.



THE ITN ON COURT ASSESSMENT

An on court assessment has been specifically developed for the ITN, which will be an important tool for the ongoing success of the ITN. Launched on a one year trial at the ITF AGM in Rio, in September 2003, the ITN On Court Assessment measures certain key strokes of consistency, accuracy (1st bounce) and power (2nd bounce). It also includes a mobility element. The various components of the assessment and the maximum points available for each part are outlined below:



Groundstroke Depth

Maximum Score: 90

Volley Depth

Maximum Score: 72

Groundstroke Accuracy

Maximum Score: 84

Serve

Maximum Score: 108

Mobility Assessment — Maximum Score: 76

Time	40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15
Score	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	12	14	15	16	18	19	21	26	32	39	45	52	61	76

Assessment highest possible score = 430 points

- 1) Groundstroke Depth Assessment: 10 alternate forehand and backhand ground strokes
 - 2) Volley Depth Assessment: 8 alternate forehand and backhand volleys
 - 3) Groundstroke Accuracy Assessment: 6 alternate forehand and backhand down the line and 6 alternate forehand and backhand cross court.
 - 4) Serve Assessment: 12 serves in total, 3 serves in each target area; 2nd serve (used if first serve is missed) to score up to 50% of first serve score
 - 5) Mobility assessment: measures the time it takes a player to pick up five tennis balls and return them individually to a specified zone.
- **Scoring Accuracy:** Points are awarded for each shot based on where the ball lands within the singles court.
 - **Scoring Power:** 1 Bonus point is awarded when the second bounce lands between the baseline and the Bonus Line. Double points are awarded when the second bounce lands beyond the Bonus Line.
 - **Scoring Consistency:** 1 extra point is awarded for every shot that is not an error.

The ITN On Court Assessment is:

- An objective on-court assessment based on a set number of tasks.
- An objective means of rating recreational players (ITN 10 - ITN 7).
- A tool to measure control, accuracy and power in a set of tasks.
- An objective assessment tool to differentiate between players of similar ability.
- A tool to enable players to benchmark their tennis level against themselves and others around the world.
- A tool to enable players to track their own development and improvement in an objective manner.
- A reward and recognition tool.
- A tool to encourage participation in tennis at all age groups and standards.
- A tool to motivate players to improve / take lessons.



- A tool that will enable assessors to generate income from conducting assessments.
- A tool to help promote the ITN.

Because tennis is a sport which demands technical ability, tactical ability, physical ability, determination and has match pressure, it is unlikely any test / assessment will ever 100% successfully predict a player's competitive level. The best way to test a player's competitive level is through competitive play. However in the absence of meaningful competitive results, the ITN On Court Assessment will be a reasonably accurate method of estimating a recreational player's initial rating because the tactics of a recreational player are all assessed in the ITN On Court Assessment:

- Consistency
- Depth
- Accuracy (move your opponent / exploit opponent's weakness)

The ITN On Court Assessment is not:

- An exact indication of how the player will perform under match conditions
 - An assessment of the player's technical ability
 - An assessment of the player's style
 - A replacement for competition.
-
- See Appendix for a complete guide to the ITN On Court Assessment.



HOW CAN THE ITN WORK IN ITF MEMBER NATIONS?

For those countries without a national rating system, players will hold only one rating - the International Tennis Number (ITN).

Once rated, a player's ITN may move up or down as a direct result of matches played in 'rated' competition. The ITF has developed a simple calculation formula linked to competitive play, which can be used (manually or by computer) from club to national level to adjust a player's ITN rating according to results (see page 16).

A major objective of the ITN system will be to encourage all rated players to take part in rated competitions in order to play against players of a similar level and to improve their ratings. In light of the fact that some recreational players in clubs do not play in regular competitions we envisage that these players will be allowed to use the ITN On Court assessment as both an objective means of measuring their improvement and as a way to improve their ITN rating. We would recommend that recreational players are encouraged to play competition to improve their rating but that they will also be able to improve their rating up to a maximum of ITN 7 by bettering their ITN On Court Assessment score. Players rated higher than ITN 7 may still use the ITN On Court Assessment to assess their improvements in certain aspects related to tennis matchplay but the assessment results should not be used to change their ITN rating.

For those countries with an established national rating system, the ITF has developed an ITN Conversion Chart. This chart compares the rating categories / bands of those countries with the ITN (see Appendix). Once the ITN is launched the players in these countries in effect will hold two ratings - their national rating and the corresponding ITN. These countries will continue to calculate the national rating of their players as before and as these players move up or down their national rating categories, their ITN will also move up and down according to the comparison chart.

The ITN is adjustable rather than fixed and may be adjusted as the results of match play at club, regional, national or international level demonstrate that the player needs a re-rating. The method of first classification and then re-rating of players is the responsibility of each national association and whilst self rating and the use of the ITN On Court Assessment will provide a practical method of initially rating players (and in the case of recreational players re-rating players) the ITN rating will ultimately be based on the match results of each player in that country.

The ITN Conversion Chart will also provide those countries implementing a national rating system with additional information that can be used when evaluating and determining the appropriate ITN for their players.

HOW WILL PLAYERS INITIALLY BE RATED...? WHAT'S YOUR ITN?

The methods of rating players can vary depending on the situation in the country, region or club and include the following:

Objective Methods:

- **Players Competitive History:** The best method of initially rating players and of adjusting tennis players' ratings is through competitive results. Whenever possible a player's ITN rating should be based on their most recent competitive play.
- **ITN On Court Assessment:** The ITF recommend if insufficient competitive results exist for a player to be accurately rated, that the ITN On Court Assessment should be used as the next best way to rate the player. In light of the fact that some recreational players are not able (for different reasons) to play competitively we would recommend that these players are allowed to improve their ITN rating up to ITN 7 by doing the ITN On Court Assessment. After players reach a rating of ITN 7 their ITN rating should normally only be adjusted through competition results.

It is recognised that the ITN On Court Assessment is an excellent promotional tool for players of all levels and it will allow players of all levels to measure their improvement and development in specific areas related to their level of play. It can also provide a form of accountability to coaches working with starter and recreational players. After a certain amount of coaching is the player more accurate, more consistent, hitting with more depth and power etc? Are the coaches helping the player to play more effectively? See Appendix for a full guide to the **ITN On Court Assessment**.



Non objective methods:

- **Independent verifiers / classifiers:** some National Associations may want to pass the responsibility for rating players to independent persons who understand the ITN system. These persons could be the club coach / club manager / tournament director and would be expected to use the ITN Description of Standards guidelines to rate players. Some National Associations have already produced videos to help these classifiers with their task.
- **Self-rating:** players can rate themselves using the ITN Description of Standards guidelines provided.

It is recognised that independent verifiers / classifiers and self-rating is usually less accurate than using the competitive history or the objective ITN On Court Assessment. Whichever method is used, once the player is rated and begins to play matches at their level (i.e. within their ITN rating category), their rating should move (according to the results against other rated players) to the correct ITN within a relatively short time. If players are not able to play in regular rated competition they may choose to retake the objective ITN On Court Assessment to measure their improvement.



RECOMMENDED ITN CALCULATION FORMULA

Once players have been rated, they will begin playing competitions. It will then be necessary, on the basis of matches played, to re-evaluate and re-rate the players on a regular basis. When competitive match results are used to adjust the players ITN rating, a decision will need to be taken regarding the most appropriate calculation formula to be used.

Obviously, countries will have to decide on the method of calculation that best suits the particular conditions in that country. Some countries will choose to use a very simple system while others may choose to use a more sophisticated system. Cost and administrative time will be a major factor in this decision. The ITF has developed, in conjunction with the Taskforce, a simple calculation formula for re-rating players. This system is outlined below:

Type of system: The recommended ITN Calculation Formula system is a head-to-head system.

Which matches count towards the ITN? It is recommended that only matches recognised by the national, regional, provincial association and or club count towards the ITN i.e. so called official matches. These matches can take place in a tournament, in a team-competition or a club-match. Official matches should be played under the ITF Rules of Tennis. So, if players want to have an ITN that is re-evaluated according to their match results, they should participate in competitions using match formats within the ITF Rules of Tennis.

When does the ITN calculation system start? Players will get their first ITN on the basis of their most recent competitive history or by participating in an ITN On Court Assessment conducted by an authorised person. From then onwards their ITN rating will be decided by results in official competitions or in the case of recreational players ITN 10 to ITN 7 by completing additional ITN On Court Assessments.

Who deals with the results of these matches? It is recommended that only authorised people be responsible for dealing with the results from official competitions or ITN On Court Assessments. The tournament directors, referees or coaches should collect the results and send them to the relevant governing body (national, regional or provincial association or club) immediately after the completion of the competition or assessment. Official computer or hand-written forms could be created and used for this purpose.

How often should the ITN rating be calculated? The ITN rating should be calculated at least once a year. However, it is recommended to calculate the rating twice a year or every three months. Obviously, how often the rating is calculated will depend on the number of players participating as well as on the means available.

Is there a minimum number of matches required to get an ITN rating? It is recommended that the minimum of matches within the period of evaluation should be 6, but fewer matches are possible.

What about defaults and walkovers? In an effort to avoid players giving walkovers on a regular basis, players winning by walkovers should not be given points for these wins. In addition, if a player gives more than 3 walkovers in a year they should be penalised.

What if a player does not compete? Players who do not compete at all for more than a year will need to be re-rated.

HOW DOES THE CALCULATION FORMULA WORK?

The ITN Calculation can be done manually or run on an excel spreadsheet on a computer. The result of the calculation shows the player's new ITN rating.

- For a win against a player of his own rating, a player gets + 1 point
- For a win against a player of one rating band higher, a player gets + 2 points
- For a win against a player of two rating categories higher, a player gets + 3 points etc.
- For a loss against a player of his own rating, a player gets - 1 point
- For a loss against a player of one rating band lower, a player gets - 2 points
- For a loss against a player of two rating categories lower, a player gets - 3 points etc.
- For a win against a player one or more rating categories lower or a loss against a player one or more rating categories higher, no points are given because these wins or losses are expected.

- **NEW ITN RATING = (ACTUAL ITN) - (TOTAL POINTS ÷ NUMBER OF MATCHES)**



Example of a player with ITN 5:

ITN of player	ITN of opponent	points for win	points for loss
	1	+ 5	± 0
	2	+ 4	± 0
	3	+ 3	± 0
	4	+ 2	± 0
5	5	+ 1	- 1
	6	± 0	- 2
	7	± 0	- 3
	8	± 0	- 4
	9	± 0	- 5
	10	± 0	- 6

Matches played	Points earned
7 losses against ITN 5:	- 7
3 losses against ITN 4:	± 0
3 losses against ITN 6:	- 6
2 wins against ITN 5:	+ 2
Total points:	- 11
Total points ÷ number of matches	- 11 ÷ 15 = - 0.73
New ITN rating	ITN 5 – (-0.73) = + 5.73
New ITN rating	ITN 6 (ie player goes down one band)

Example of a player with ITN 8:

ITN of player	ITN of opponent	points for win	points for loss
	1	+ 8	± 0
	2	+ 7	± 0
	3	+ 6	± 0
	4	+ 5	± 0
	5	+ 4	± 0
	6	+ 3	± 0
	7	+ 2	± 0
8	8	+ 1	-1
	9	± 0	-2
	10	---	- 3

Matches played	Points earned
3 wins against ITN 8:	+3
5 wins against ITN 9:	± 0
4 losses against ITN 6:	± 0
3 losses against ITN 7:	± 0
2 losses against ITN 8:	- 2
1 loss against ITN 9:	- 2
Total points:	- 1
Total points ÷ number of matches	- 1 ÷ 18 = - 0.05
New ITN rating	ITN 8 – (-0.05) = + 8.05
New ITN rating	ITN 8 (ie player remains in same band)



Example of a player with ITN 10:

ITN of player	ITN of opponent	points for win	points for loss
	1	+ 10	± 0
	2	+ 9	± 0
	3	+ 8	± 0
	4	+ 7	± 0
	5	+ 6	± 0
	6	+ 5	± 0
	7	+ 4	± 0
	8	+ 3	± 0
	9	+ 2	± 0
10	10	+ 1	-1

Matches played	Points earned
7 wins against ITN 10:	+ 7
2 wins against ITN 9:	+ 4
4 losses against ITN 9:	± 0
2 losses against ITN 10:	- 2
Total points:	+ 9
Total points ÷ number of matches	+ 9 ÷ 15 = + 0.6
New ITN rating	ITN 10 – (+ 0.6) = + 9.4
New ITN rating	ITN 9 (ie player goes up one rating band)

INCORPORATING DOUBLES RESULTS INTO THE ITN

National Associations wanting to include the results of doubles matches in the ITN, could consider the following:

To calculate points won when playing doubles, add together the ITNs of the two opponents (Opponent 1 and Opponent 2) and subtract the ITN of the partner ($D = B + C - A$) - see chart below. The value obtained represents the opponents combined “doubles” ITN and can be treated in the same way as that of a singles opponent. The singles formula can then be used as normal to calculate the points won. This gives the National association the ability to maintain separate spreadsheets for singles and doubles or combine them on the same spreadsheet. The results in doubles will then count towards the singles ITN of each player.

Calculating the ITN in doubles			
A	B	C	D
Partner's ITN rating	ITN Rating of Opponent 1	ITN Rating of Opponent 2	New combined ITN of Opponents (Formula: $D = B+C-A$)
4	5	5	6
6	5	5	4
4	5	6	7
6	5	6	5
5	5	5	5

COMPETITION FORMATS LINKED TO THE ITN

Competition is a vital part of both attracting and keeping people in the game of tennis. One of the big advantages of having a national rating system is that the players can be organised competitively into similar playing categories. This in turn will make the competition played more enjoyable for all of those participating and ensure that people continue to want to participate in competitive tennis.

The implementation of a national rating system has proven to be very successful in maintaining a high level of tennis participation in a number of countries. We believe that an effective national rating system combined with a variety of competitive formats and scoring systems can ensure high levels of player participation in a country.

ALTERNATIVE SCORING SYSTEMS

Over the past five years, the ITF Rules of Tennis have changed to allow a number of alternative scoring systems to be used in competitive play. These new scoring systems allow National Associations, clubs and tournament organisers to better adapt the competition to the needs of the participants.

The new scoring systems include:

- **No-Ad scoring method:** at 'deuce', one deciding point is played to determine the winner of the game. The receiver decides to which service court this last point is to be played.
- **Short sets:** The first player/team who wins four games wins that Set, provided there is a margin of two games over the opponent(s). If the score reaches four games all, a tiebreak game shall be played.
- **Deciding Tiebreak game (7 points):** When the score in a match is one set all, or two sets all in best of five sets matches, one tie-break game shall be played to decide the match. This tiebreak game replaces the deciding final set. The player who first wins seven points shall win this match tiebreak and the match provided there is a margin of two over the opponent(s).
- **Deciding match tiebreak (10 points):** When the score in a match is one set all, or two sets all in best of five sets matches, one tie-break game shall be played to decide the match. This tiebreak game replaces the deciding final set. The player who first wins ten points shall win this match tiebreak and the match provided there is a margin of two points over the opponent(s).

For further details, please consult the current **ITF Rules of Tennis**.

ALTERNATIVE COMPETITION FORMATS

Traditionally the main format used in tournaments was the single elimination draw using best of three set matches. However there is a wealth of alternative competition formats available:

- Round Robin: singles and doubles with variations
- Box leagues – (see appendix)
- Feed in consolation/compass draw.
- Basic consolation (first match losers with consolation), last hope, feed-in consolation or compass draw, continuous feed-in event, rated draw (knock-out format with block seeding), staggered draw, double elimination event, and double elimination draw
- Ladders: Pyramid ladder and group ladder
- Team, doubles, score and time competition formats.

For further ideas on alternative competition formats, please consult the **ITF Competition Formats Manual**.

A decision will need to be taken at national level regarding which types of matches and competitions should be counted towards a players rating. The ITF believe that in order for a match to be counted towards a player's rating it should follow the basic tradition of the original scoring system in tennis whereby the player has the chance to win the match even if he loses the first set. Therefore instead of a Pro Set we would recommend using the short sets format with a deciding tiebreak game.



Once the national rating system has been introduced in a country, all competitions at national, regional and club level should use the rating categories as the basis for organising tournaments. The match results generated by the many formats used will allow the players to be rated and re-rated on a regular basis. In addition, as a result of the implementation of the national rating system, it will be possible to have national individual and team competitions for each rating category.

HANDICAPPING - USING HANDICAPPING TO FACILITATE ENJOYABLE COMPETITIVE PLAY

The most important objective of the International Tennis Rating Project was to increase participation in tennis. We believe that an effective handicapping system for tennis can also play an important role in achieving this objective especially at the recreational level by facilitating play between players of different competitive levels. Handicapping is a complimentary element to the rating system i.e. it is linked to the overall mission of getting more people playing tennis, however, results from handicapped matches should not count towards a player's ITN rating.

A form of 'free points' handicapping could be used effectively for players where the difference in level is not too great (e.g. when the average set score is between 7-6 and 6-2) to ensure that the match played is closer in score and therefore more enjoyable to both players.

Where there is a greater difference in the level of two players (e.g. when the average set score is 6/0 or 6/1) establishing an effective handicapping system is unrealistic, usually not enjoyable for the two players concerned and ultimately ineffective.

ITN 'FREE POINT' HANDICAPPING SYSTEM

This handicapping system is based on a 'free points' system which allows players of different levels to engage in a match where the outcome is extremely close.

Step 1: Players agree on what is a typical match score when they play a match. For instance, if they have played five times they can throw out the two matches with the largest margin of victory and also the two with the smallest margin of victory. The remaining match is the basis for the handicap.

Step 2: The player who is receiving the free points can claim them at any time. If claiming the point does not end a game then it will count as a service point played and server will serve to appropriate court for the next point.

Step 3: The player who loses the first set gets an additional free point in the next set (this could be either player).

Step 4: If players split sets then the loser of second set gets an additional free point for third set (this could be either player, but now both players will possess at least one free point).

Typical match score between opponents	Possible free points per set
7-6 7-6	0-2
7-6 7-5	1-3
7-6 6-4	2-4
6-4 6-4	2-5
6-4 6-3	3-6
6-3 6-3	4-7
6-3 6-2	5-8
6-2 6-2	5-9
6-1 6-2	NA
6-1 6-0	NA
6-0 6-0	NA

Another recommended handicapping system is the **Equalising / Flexible Handicap:**

- Players 'A' and 'B' play a match.



- 1st game: 'A' wins the game.
- 2nd game: 'A' starts playing with a handicap against him of 1 point i.e. love 15. 'A' wins the game.
- 3rd game: 'A' starts playing with a handicap against him of 2 points i.e. love 30.
- 4th game: If 'A' wins the 3rd game, 'A' starts the 4th game with a handicap against him of 3 points i.e. he starts at love 40. If 'B' wins the 3rd game, 'A' starts the 4th game with a handicap against him of 1 point i.e. he moves back to love 15 down.

And so on. The more games a player wins, the bigger the handicap in the next game. The handicap varies for each game. It is always flexible.



IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT OF A NATIONAL RATING SYSTEM

INTRODUCTION

The ITF has more than 200 National Associations affiliated to it. Many of them have a ranking system but currently less than 20 have a rating system in place. For the growth of the game, nationally and internationally, it is hoped that more National Associations will develop a national rating system and that the ITN will provide the basis for any new systems developed. It is envisaged that the ITN will also compliment and run along side existing national rating systems providing them with an international perspective to their system.

The ITF name will no doubt help the credibility of the national rating system but ultimately each National Association should be responsible for running their own system and managing the rating classification and re-rating.

STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO IMPLEMENTING THE ITN AT NATIONAL LEVEL

In many parts of the world, the foundation of any tennis programme is the club system. Club-based tennis has been the hallmark of many of the world's leading tennis nations such as France, Spain, Germany, Sweden and the Czech Republic. In these countries, clubs are where players first learn to play the game, enter competitions and have their first rating.

In these countries there is a specific system followed by all sports. The building block in each case is the club. In terms of competition and ratings or rankings, the club can be viewed as the base of the pyramid while the National Championships and the National Ratings / Rankings represent the apex of the pyramid. The success of the ITN at national level will depend upon the successful adoption and implementation at club level.

A checklist to implement the ITN at national level could be as follows:

1. The plan

The National Association decides to implement the ITN and develops a plan incorporating the following:

1. Possible pilot projects
2. Target groups
3. Marketing campaign to promote the ITN project
4. Budget
5. Sponsorship
6. ITN link to competition
7. ITN link to coaching
8. Method of rating and re-rating players ITN
9. Administration requirements
10. Maintenance of calculation system / IT requirements
11. Time-frame of re-rating etc

2. Training

The National Association organises courses for coaches, tournament directors and competition administrators to introduce them to the ITN and train them on how to initially rate players based on competition results or through the ITN On Court Assessment. This course could also include how to re-rate players (calculation formula, processing the data, etc).

3. Clubs

The clubs are informed about the rating programme and invited to join. National Associations may wish to provide specific guidelines relating to the fee charged to conduct ITN On Court Assessment. They may also want to consider giving some incentives to clubs to join and adopt the ITN rating system.

4. Competitions

The National Association structures existing national competitions taking into account the ITN

categories. The coach / programme manager / club administrator are encouraged by the National Association to re-structure the club's competitive programme using the club-members' ITNs to organise evenly matched competitions. New competitions (individual or team events) for specific ITN groups can also be established by the club / National Association.

5. Results

The event organisers (referees, tournament directors, club coach, club captain, etc) collect the results from the official matches and tournaments that count towards an ITN rating and forward the results to the national, regional or provincial association or club. Results from leagues, ladders and tournaments can also be considered.

6. Re-rating

At a pre-determined interval e.g. once a year, twice a year or every 3 months, the national, regional or provincial association inputs all the results in their calculation system and re-rates all players. The new ratings are given to the players for them to use for the next period. The ITN On Court Assessment can also be used to adjust the ITNs of recreational players ITN 10 to ITN 7 that do not play regular competition.

7. ITF 10.3 – ITF 10.1

National Associations should try to establish club programmes that cater for the ITN categories 10.3 to 10.1 which ensure that a progressive path exists for adult and junior starter players to ensure that players can move from ITN 10.3 to ITN 10 at which level the players can play competitively on a full court with a normal ball **3, 2, 1...Tennis!** The use of the foam and transition balls in all starter tennis programmes is strongly recommended by the ITF.

PROMOTING AND MARKETING THE ITN

National Associations should develop specific marketing and promotional strategies for:

1. Clubs and tennis centres
2. Tournament and competition organisers
3. Coaches
4. Players – existing and potential new players.

The effective promotion of the ITN at all levels of tennis is crucial to its establishment, acceptance and ongoing success.

1. Clubs and tennis centres

- a. ITN posters and pamphlets explaining the ITN
- b. ITN posters and pamphlets detailing the ITN On Court Assessment
- c. Develop and distribute 'ITN promotional materials (e.g. car bumper stickers) based on the 'What's Your Number?' concept as well as pamphlets for clubs and tennis centre users.
- d. Encourage clubs to conduct ITN assessment days
- e. Encourage change of grading language for club / centre based competitions e.g. convert Grade A, B, and C to ITN 1-ITN 10 language
- f. Use the Concept of **"3, 2, 1...Tennis"** in conjunction with the ITN 10.3,10.2,10.1 rating categories.

2. Tournament and competition organisers

- a. Distribute ITN Description of Standards charts to each tournament organiser and ensure the Description of Standards is displayed on entry forms (develop a generic template)
- b. Develop a process whereby existing grading language is changed to new ITN language (or at least is used in conjunction with existing language)
- c. Provide funding incentives (if possible) for tournaments / competitions incorporating the ITN into their competition structure.

3. Coaches

- a. Inform coaches of the programme by distributing ITN posters, information on the ITN On Court



Assessment, Description of Standards etc explaining the purpose of ITN and how it can be utilised by coaches to enhance their business

- b. Provide coaches with an ITN On Court Assessment kit
- c. Conduct workshops to train coaches to rate and adjust players' ratings accurately.

4. Players - existing and potential new players

- a. Create ITN posters for club and centres featuring 'What's your number?' and the ITN Description of Standards
- b. Provide certificates or cards to players with an ITN rating
- c. Depending on the National Association's budget, consider developing a television or radio commercial to promote the ITN based on the 'What's your number?' concept
- d. Other forms of advertising to be considered to increase general awareness re the ITN could include:
 - Articles in newspapers and magazines
 - Running ITN assessment clinics during events (e.g Davis Cup / Fed Cup matches / professional tournaments etc)
 - Using top players to endorse the ITN
 - Using non-tennis famous personalities to promote the ITN
 - Developing an ITN website (with the possibility of capturing results of matches on-line).
 - Having a national sponsor for the ITN Programme.
 - Linking the ITN rating system to a License - Playing card scheme.
 - Creating a national rating newsletter and a Tennis Information phonenumber



FINDING SPONSORS FOR THE ITN

1. The ITF owns the ITN logo and therefore is reserving the right to find an international sponsor (presenting sponsor). Therefore National Associations cannot include a national sponsor with the ITN logo.
2. National Associations can appoint national sponsors to appear on leaflets, membership cards etc provided it is not included along side the ITN logo – which is reserved for the international (presenting) sponsor.

Below is a summary of the possible sponsorship opportunities available.

ITN Logo:	Reserved by the ITF for use by an International Sponsor Logo only i.e. “ITN Presented by xxxxx”
Membership Card (front):	ITF Logo National Association Sponsor Logo National Association Logo ITN Logo (International Sponsor Logo)
Introductory Letter:	ITN Logo (International Sponsor Logo) National Sponsors Logos National Association Logo International Sponsor Logo ITF logo
Leaflet:	ITN Logo (International Sponsor Logo) International Sponsor Logo National Association Logo National Sponsors Logos ITF logo
Poster:	ITN Logo (International Sponsor Logo) International Sponsor Logo National Association Logo National Sponsors Logos ITF Logo
Scorecard:	ITN Logo (International Sponsor Logo) International Sponsor Logo ITF Logo
On-court scoring products:	ITF to license
Assessment Guide:	ITN Logo (International Sponsor Logo) International Sponsor Logo ITF Logo
Websites:	
a) International:	ITN Logo (International Sponsor Logo) International Sponsor Logo ITF Logo
b) National:	ITN logo (International Sponsor Logo) National Association Logo National Sponsors Logos International Sponsors Logos ITF Logo

For further advice on sponsorship rights for the ITN, National Associations should contact the ITF.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ITN AT CLUB LEVEL

Clubs can help with the implementation of the ITN by:

- a. Having their coaches trained as ITN verifiers
- b. Arranging for all their members to be rated by organising ITN rating clinics / assessments periodically
- c. Organising rating tournaments for players rated in different categories
- d. Organising intra and inter club events for rated players

How the ITN can work at club level?

1. Learning about the ITN

The club committee/coach decides they would like to implement the ITN in their club and gather all of the available information from their National Association. The club may invite a representative from the National Association to conduct a presentation to the committee and or club members on the ITN. Check the ITF's ITN official website (www.internationaltennisnumber.com) for the latest information.

2. Training

The club coach or appropriate person should attend a workshop conducted by the National Association to learn how to rate players, conduct an ITN On Court Assessment and how to incorporate the ITN into all club based competitions and coaching programmes.

3. Informing the club members

The club informs their members of their intention to implement the ITN at the club, which will involve rating all of the club members and adapting all of the existing club competitions to the ITN. This could involve letters being sent to members, posters being displayed in the club, meetings for members being held etc.

4. Rating the club members

The club coach/captain or a small rating committee allocates ITN ratings to all members whose competitive level is already known using as a reference the ITN Description of Standards chart which outlines the ITN 1 to 10 levels of play. Players' new ratings should be displayed on the club notice board. Competitions involving these players could now be linked to the ITN.

The club should encourage those players who's competitive level is unknown to take part in an ITN On Court Assessment. The club coach should utilize every opportunity to provide club members and prospective members with a chance to participate in an ITN On Court Assessment (club nights, ladies mornings, club open days, junior coaching sessions etc).

We recommend that all new members should undergo an ITN On Court Assessment when joining the club so that the club can effectively involve them as soon as possible in the clubs competitions at the appropriate competitive level. Within 3 months all of the club members should know their ITN level.

5. Using the ITN to increase competitive play

Once the ITN system is implemented and sufficient numbers of members have been rated, some of the ways the ITN can be used to increase competitive play could include:

- a. Providing each member with the contact details of other players with the same ITN rating
- b. Establishing Box Leagues and Ladders for similarly rated payers
- c. Organising rated draws eg. when an ITN 9 wins matches against other ITN 9s, he qualifies to play against an ITN 8.
- d. Develop ITN tournaments e.g. events for ITN 1 to 3, ITN 4 to 6, ITN 7 to 10 etc.
- e. Consider utilising the new scoring systems and formats other than single elimination events e.g. short sets, tiebreak instead of the 3rd set etc in conjunction with the ITN competitions.



6. Re-rating players

The club coach/captain or rating committee will be responsible for adjusting player's ratings on a regular basis based on results from club competitions. Decisions will need to be taken:

- a. How often the ratings will be adjusted e.g. every 3 months
- b. The calculation formula to be used (see ITF recommended calculation formula on page 16)
- c. The types of competition matches to be counted.

7. The recreational players (ITN 10 – ITN 7)

For the recreational players (ITN 10 - ITN 7) that are unable to play regular competitions:

- a. Provide the opportunity to participate in regular ITN On Court Assessments to improve their ITN rating
- b. Every 2 months provide prizes for the most improved score from the ITN On Court Assessment
- c. Every 2 months provide prizes for the most improved score in one aspect of the ITN On Court Assessment e.g. most improved serve, volley, groundstroke depth, ground stroke accuracy, etc.

Note: Players that participate in regular competitions and ITN players rated ITN 7 or better could also participate in the ITN On Court Assessment activities and be eligible for the prizes outlined above.

8. Coaching programmes

All coaching programmes should be linked to the ITN. Some ideas include:

- a. Adult "Intro to Tennis" classes for the ITN 10.3 to 10.1
- b. Mini tennis classes for kids rated ITN 10.3 to ITN 10.1
- c. Tactics classes for ITN 10s and ITN 9s
- d. Ladies mornings for ITN 10, 9 and 8
- e. Ladies mornings for itn 7, 6 and 5
- f. Social nights could also be organised based on the ITN.

We recommend that coaches organise an ITN On Court Assessment for all their students at least once per term so that their students have the opportunity to measure their own improvement and development.

THE LINK BETWEEN THE ITN AND COACHING

The ITN is one of the most versatile tools currently available to teaching. Through a multitude of applications, the ITN will increase the number of players, and the enjoyment of those players, at private or public facilities. These are some of the ways in which coaches can apply the ITN to the mutual benefit of this very important cause:

1. Maintaining player compatibility among participants in group lessons is a factor that can determine the effectiveness and overall enjoyment of the group. It also encourages students to practice between lessons.
2. For lesson programming, the ITN offers an ideal progression for any tennis teaching programme. The distinction of basic strokes and strategies between one ITN level and the next makes an ideal guideline and sales tool to be used by coaches to promote their respective lesson programmes. The ITN On Court Assessment gives the students the chance to measure their improvements and in many ways to make the coach more accountable.
3. The one renowned aspect of golf is that players can judge their improvement and are further motivated by 'playing against the course' or by 'improving their handicap'. If properly positioned in the minds of the public, the ITN and its On Court Assessment is the tennis equivalent and the self-motivational tool for improvement.
4. The most successful coach is one who cares about the broad interests of the facility at which he works. At multisport facilities, there are opportunities to upgrade members from the social, health club or racketball categories to a full membership (including tennis), providing the proper interests and incentives can be generated. The ITN through the On Court Assessment provides the teaching professional with a tool to encourage non-tennis players at any facility to make tennis their "second sport". Arranging an assessment followed by immediate and compatible games or lessons for starter players is a step towards converting that person to tennis.



5. The ITN provides the imaginative tennis coach with a variety of ways to equalize individuals or teams during a match. The difference between two ITN ratings can be used as a means of either adding to, subtracting from or working off points in order to win a game in any fun set or handicap/equalization tournament (see section on handicapping on page 21).
6. The ITN makes the perfect equalizer for any fun tournaments at private or public facilities, which might benefit from different levels of competition. These include round robin tournaments, ladders, men's, women's and mixed doubles tournaments, adult-child events and team tournaments. The ITF recommended handicapping system can be used in these social events as appropriate.
7. The ITN can be used to assure truly competitive match-play in virtually every type of activity including league tennis, corporate leagues, inter-club leagues and intra-club leagues.
8. With player bank programmes (e.g dial-a-game initiative), ITN ratings are one of the most important elements whether it is a manual or computerised list of available players. Not being able to find compatible partners and opponents is often one of the major reasons people stop playing tennis.
9. As the ITN becomes a universal ratings language, coaches will be able to recommend games to visiting players from abroad.
10. For starter tennis programmes, the ITN 10.3, 10.2, 10.1...Tennis idea provides a progressive path for adult and junior starter players to ensure that players can move from ITN 10.3 to ITN 10 at which level the players can play competitively on a full court with a normal ball 3, 2, 1...Tennis! The use of the foam and transition balls in all starter tennis programmes is strongly recommended by the ITF.



INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION ASSISTANCE

The ITF is ready to work with and to assist its member nations to effectively implement the ITN in their country. Possible assistance includes the following:

Resources

- ITN manual
- ITN calculation formula (excel file)
- ITN On Court Assessment resources
- Examples of promotional products (posters, banners, stickers) for the marketing of the ITN in their countries
- Examples of marketing strategies to promote the ITN
- Examples of systems already in place
- The official ITN website (www.internationaltennisnumber.com) containing all the latest information and contact details to help National Associations to implement the ITN.

Training

- Rating experts (ITF Development Officers or other international experts) to deliver training courses for National Associations, coaches, tournament directors and administrators on how to implement the ITN and to conduct the ITN On Court Assessments.
- Assistance to those National Associations that want to implement the ITN for the first time so that they can get in touch with the relevant experts in National Associations that already have a national rating system in place.

THE WAY FORWARD

The ITF recognises that the success of the International Tennis Rating Project will be measured by its ability to be implemented at club / recreational level. We encourage each country to focus on this. The more the ITN and the ITN On Court Assessment is used as a base for recreational and starter competitive activities, the more it will grow in popularity. Thus, any tennis promotional activity such as instructional programmes, round-robins, social matches, parties, leagues, challenge ladders and inter-club competitions should be linked to and include references to the ITN whenever possible. As the ITN becomes more widespread and credible the International Tennis Rating Project will gain popularity and eventually international tennis activities for all levels of players based on the ITN will become feasible.

We hope this Manual will not only create interest in the project among our member nations but will also help you to effectively implement a rating system in your country, region or club.

The ITN...what's your number?





APPENDIX

REFERENCES

- FFT. (1997). Initiation Adultes: Programme Pédagogique. Fédération Française de Tennis. Paris.
- FFT. (2002). Classement. Fédération Française de Tennis. Paris.
- IAAF. (1989). Administration Manual. International Amateur Athletic Federation. London.
- IOC-OS. (1986). Sport Leadership Course. Olympic Solidarity. International Olympic Committee.
- ITF. (1998). Leadership, Management and Administration Manual. International Tennis Federation, Ltd. London.
- ITF. (1999). Competition Formats Manual. International Tennis Federation, Ltd. London.
- ITF. (2001). Developing Young Tennis Players. International Tennis Federation, Ltd. London.
- ITF. (2002). Rules of Tennis. International Tennis Federation, Ltd. London.
- LTA. (2001). Player's Guide to Tennis Ratings. Lawn Tennis Association. London.
- LTA. (2001). Club Ratings: A Nationwide Incentive for Club Players. Lawn Tennis Association. London.
- LTA. (2002). Mini tennis web site. LTA.
- Tennis Canada. (1998). Play Tennis Kids Awards. Tennis Canada. Toronto.
- USTA. (2002). National Tennis Rating Programme Guidebook. USTA. White Plains. NY.

GLOSSARY OF TERMINOLOGY

Basic Consolation (first match losers with consolation): This format involves a second tournament being held in conjunction with a regular tournament, with the participants being drawn from the regular tournament losers. First round losers and second round losers who had a bye in the first round are put into a "consolation" draw. Thus, the regular draw gives a tournament winner and runner-up, and the consolation draw gives a consolation tournament winner and runner-up. Under this format every player is guaranteed at least 2 matches.

Box Leagues: This format allows players to compete in a Round Robin format against other players of the same skill level. At the end of the playing period players are promoted or relegated to other box leagues according to their performance in the round robin.

Continuous Feed-in Event: This competition format allows all players to play the same number of matches and players losing in the first round can still finish in 3rd place.

Double Elimination Event: A feed-in system whereby players have to lose twice before they are eliminated. It means that a player can lose one match but still win the tournament.

Feed-in Consolation (Compass Draw): This format allows for the main competition to progress as normal but ensures that every player, win or lose, plays the same number of matches during the event. For instance, in a 32 draw at the end of the tournament an order of 1 - 32 can be determined.

Handicapping: A system of allocating a given number of points (or games) during a match to one player based on the difference in rating or ranking between the players in order to make the match more competitive.

Knockout draw: A draw in which players play head to head. The winner moves on to play against another winner of the same round, whereas the loser is out of the competition. It is also known as the 'traditional' or 'single elimination draw'.

Ladder: This format places the players in a given order and they have to challenge other players 1 or 2 places above themselves. If the challenger wins, he takes the loser's place and the loser moves down one place or they exchange places on the ladder. If the challenger loses, they stay where they are and may not challenge that person for a set period of time e.g. 4 weeks. A variation of this is the pyramid ladder where players are placed in a pyramid (e.g. 2 players at level one, four players at level two etc) and can challenge anyone in the level above.

Last Hope: This format is the same as the Basic Consolation (first match losers with consolation) except each player is guaranteed a minimum of 3 matches. First round losers in the consolation event enter in a new draw called 'Last Hope'. Thus the regular draw gives a tournament winner and runner-up, the consolation draw gives a consolation tournament winner and runner-up, and the 'Last Hope' draw gives a 'Last Hope' tournament winner and runner-up.



One-Point Tournaments: Any type draw can be used, however the match consists of one point only. Winners advance to the next round until a winner is declared.

Ranking: An accurate estimate of the relative standard of players, based usually upon specific tournament results or competitions. A ranking is a comparison of similarly rated players based on results of players within a specific rating category.

Rated Draw (Knock-out Format with Block Seeding): This system consists of taking the best rated players of a given knock-out tournament (e.g. 4 from a draw of 16) and placing them ahead in the draw (into the quarter finals, for a draw of 16). The other 12 players play as normal with 4 players qualifying to play these four players in the quarterfinals.

Rating: A description of standards that is used to determine the general competitive level of a player. It groups players of a similar level together within a category / band. The relative level of players within each band is not determined by the rating system. This is the job of a ranking system.

Round Robin: The Round Robin Tournament is played with three or more competitors. All contestants play each other irrespective of results and so benefit from maximum participation.

Round Robin (Doubles): There are two ways of running a Round Robin doubles event:

1. The partners do not change for the entire event, or
2. The partners change after a given number of games played.

Staggered draw: This type of draw is based on the player's ranking or rating. Tournaments begin with only the lower rated players, who compete against each other for a place in the next draw, which already contains players of a slightly higher standard, and so on.

Transition ball: A ball which is lighter, has less pressure and which bounces lower making it easier for starter players to rally.

For information please consult the **ITF Competition Formats Manual**.



EXISTING RATING SYSTEMS

AUSTRIA – Tennis Austria’s Rating System (SSG)

The Austrian rating system gives information about the real match-level (SSG) of a player and motivates players to play tennis by rewarding them with points. All players are rated between 0,0 and 60,0 points. This first rating, which is not always correct, is made by the tournament director or a coach with the aid of technical tests, (six different levels for each stroke), or through self-rating with the help of the following explanations:

SSG Level	Explanation
1 – 14,9	For players playing on a small court using transition / soft tennis balls.
15 – 19,9	15: Starting to play on a regular court. Beginners try to reach this level as soon as possible.
20 – 24,9	Used to a match situation but groundstrokes are still technically weak. Needs tennis lessons.
25 – 29,9	Good technical level and ball control. Correct groundstrokes. Topspin and slice used occasionally. Ladies start to play in lower categories of team competition.
30 – 34,9	A good tennis player. Men occasionally take part in team competitions and ladies are seeded in team competitions.
35 – 39,9	Average ‘Team-players’. Men are seeded in the different team competitions, and ladies are usually among the best in the region.
40 – 44,9	Good team player. Level much better than the average. One of the best district players. Ladies play regional tournaments.
45 – 49,9	Men can play regional tournaments. Best district players. Juniors are quite successful in regional competitions. Ladies and seniors are among the best non-professionals.
50 – 52,9	Top ITF junior player.
53 – 56,9	Men are Satellite, Future and Challenger level players. Ladies are top WTA-level.
57 – 60	ATP top 100 player.

The rating changes and corrects itself automatically with match results. The more players play, the more accurate the rating becomes. The rating changes with wins and losses against players of the same or different ratings. Players cannot improve their rating by beating much weaker opponents and they cannot pass a much better player with one single win.

The rating administration is done using computer software which changes the rating automatically. The tournament director is the only person who can enter the results in a single omni-accessible online-databank (with username and password) as soon as the tournament is over. The rating list is immediately accessible on the internet, which leads to a great number of hits on the homepage.

FRANCE – THE FFT SYSTEM

The French “classement” system for singles comprises of more than 280,000 players. Competitive players in France are rated from 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th series and unranked (NC) player.

The rating system is explained as follows:

- 1st Series - done manually by a commission.
- System of rating below 1st series is for 2nd, 3rd, 4th series and unranked (NC)
 - 2nd series: Promotion, -30, -15, -4/6, -2/6, 0, 1/6, 2/6, 3/6, 4/6, 5/6, 15
 - 3rd series: 15/1, 15/2, 15/3, 15/4, 15/5, 30
 - 4th series: 30/1, 30/2, 30/3, 30/4, 30/5
- The system is based on points won against each opponent that you play in any tournament or team event sanctioned by the FFT. If you win you earn positive points. You also earn more points with various types of bonuses.
- How points are distributed based on:
 - 1) Capital of points (depending on your ranking)
 - 2) Wins or losses during the year
 - 3) Number of results taken into account
- 1) **Capital of points (Starting points):** At the beginning of each tournament year, each player receives a set number of points (capital) based on their end of year “classement”. For each ranking, players receive “starting” points, from 5 points when you have a “classement” of 30/5 to 740 points for a “classement” of -30.

2) Wins or losses during the year: Added to the capital of points, players earn points as follows:

Win over someone 2 “classements” or more above:	+ 150 points
Win over someone 1 “classement” above:	+ 100 points
Win over someone with same “classement” :	+ 50 points
Win over someone 1 “classement” lower :	+ 30 points
Win over someone 2 “classements” lower:	+ 20 points
Win over someone 3 “classements” lower :	+ 15 points

Walkover: After the 3rd walkover, each walkover from then on is considered as a defeat against someone 1 “classement” lower. At the end of the year, if a player has given more than 6 walkovers in a year, his new “classement” will be adjusted one “classement” lower than the “classement” calculated.

Bonus: If a player ranked 30/3 or better, has no significant defeats i.e. he has not lost against an opponent of his ranking or below, he wins an additional 50 points in 3rd and 4th series and 100 points in 2nd series provided the player has played a minimum of 10 matches. For each match won in regional individual championships, players win 15 points (maximum is 75 points).

Bonus for a winner of a tournament: Provided the tournament or championship has 24 participants in the men’s event or 12 participants in the women’s event, the player will be credited with a win against the highest ranked player who has entered the event and played a match (excluding the winner himself). This applies only for main draw matches. The number of bonuses is limited to two.

3) Number of results taken into account:

a. A minimum number of wins will be taken into consideration, subject to the player’s “classement” as follows:

- 5 significant wins for NC, 30/5 and 30/4
- Up to 18 significant wins for Promotion

b. Number of additional wins (added to the minimal number of wins): Another incentive particularly for players who play the most tournaments is a bonus awarded based on the difference between the significant wins and the significant losses of the players concerned. Here is an example in the 4th series

<u>Series</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Bonus</u>
4 th series:	0 to 4	+ 1
	5 to 9	+ 2
	10 to 14	+ 3
	15 to 19	+ 4
	20 to 24	+ 5
	25 or more	+ 6

- **How Players Move Up or Down**

- At the end of the French competitive year (1 November to 31 October), each player has his total number of points accumulated. Based on these points, he will then move up, down or remain at his “classement”. To be accepted at a higher level, there are two conditions:

1. The player has the required number of points to be considered for promotion to the next level
2. The player still has enough points to merit this higher level, after his “classement” is recalculated using this higher level as the basis for the calculations (harmonisation).

- Points earned depend more on the “classement” of the players that you beat than on the stage of the tournament reached.

- The rating is re-calculated after 6 months.

- Doubles “classement” exists and is an individual rating and cannot be below the singles “classement”.



- Mid-year “classements” are calculated in May / June.

The main change in philosophy is to encourage players to play more matches because now matches lost do not count against their “classement”. It is hoped that players will play more for the pleasure of competing and improving their “classement”.

For further information, please refer to the FFT website: <http://www.fft.fr/competitions/classement.html>

UK - THE LTA SYSTEM

Player ratings were introduced in 1984 as part of an initiative to attract fresh faces into tennis and as a means of measuring standards of play. Rating schemes play a significant part in encouraging singles competition. LTA sanctioned tournaments are open to anyone who is a member of the Membership Scheme and has a National Player Rating. Members are first allocated a provisional rating and then they can start to participate in tournaments.

A rating is simply a description of a player’s competitive standard in singles. By matching together players of a similar standard, the tournaments encourage players to compete, since most of the matches are likely to be closely fought.

Throughout the year, singles results in all sanctioned tournaments are sent to the LTA. These are analysed by computer in the bi-annual ratings analysis (in May and September).

LTA Rating	Your playing level
1.1	World ranked, national standard and top division county players
1.2	
2.1	
2.2	
3.1	
3.2	Top middle division county players
4.1	
4.2	
5.1	Lower division county players and top club team
5.2	
6.1	Middle club team players
6.2	
7.1	Lower club team players
7.2	
8.1	Players competing regularly in singles and / or doubles
8.2	
9.1	
9.2	Players new to competitive tennis, either adults or juniors
10.1	
10.2	

USA - THE US NTRP SYSTEM (National Tennis Rating Programme)

The primary goal of this programme is to help all tennis players to enjoy the game by providing a method of rating skill levels for more compatible matches, group lessons, league play, tournaments and other programmes.

The rating categories are general indicators of skill levels. The category chosen is not meant to be permanent, but may be adjusted as the skills of the player change or as the results from match play demonstrate that the player needs a re-rating. Ultimately, the rating is based on the match results of the player.

Players should place themselves by deciding which category best describes their present ability level. They should assume that they are playing against a player of the same gender and ability. The general characteristics of the various playing levels are the following:



Level	Characteristics
1.0	This player is just starting to play tennis.
1.5	This player has limited experience and is still working primarily on getting the ball into play.
2.0	This player needs on court experience. This player has obvious stroke weaknesses but is familiar with basic positions in singles and doubles play.
2.5	This player is learning to judge where the ball is going although court coverage is weak. Can sustain a short rally of slow pace with other players of the same ability.
3.0	This player is fairly consistent when hitting medium paced shots, but is not comfortable with all strokes and lacks execution when trying for directional control, depth, or power. Most common doubles formation is one up, one back.
3.5	This player has achieved improved stroke dependability with directional control on moderate shots, but still lacks depth and variety. This player exhibits more aggressive net play, has improved court coverage, and is developing teamwork in doubles.
4.0	This player has dependable strokes, including directional control and depth on both groundstrokes on moderate shots, plus the ability to use lobs, overheads, approach shots and volleys with some success. This player occasionally forces errors when serving. Rallies may be lost due to impatience. Teamwork in doubles is evident.
4.5	This player has begun to master the use of power and spin and is beginning to handle pace, has sound footwork, can control depth of shots, and is beginning to vary game plan according to opponents. This player can hit first serves with power and accuracy and place the second serve. He tends to overhit in difficult shots. Aggressive net play is common in doubles.
5.0	This player has good shot anticipation and frequently has an outstanding shot or attribute around which a game may be structured. He can regularly hit winners or force errors off short balls and can put away volleys, can successfully execute lobs, drop shots, half volleys, overhead smashes and has good depth and spin on most second serves.
5.5	This player has developed power and/or consistency as a major weapon. This player can vary strategies and styles of play in a competitive situation and hits dependable shots in a stress situation.
6.0 - 7.0	<p>These players will generally not need NTRP ratings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The 6.0 player typically has had intensive training for national tournament competition at the junior and collegiate levels and has obtained a sectional or national ranking. ▪ The 6.5 player has a reasonable chance of succeeding at the 7.0 level and has extensive satellite tournament experience. ▪ The 7.0 is a world class player who is committed to tournament competition on the international level and whose major source of income is tournament prize winning.

There is also a Junior National Tennis Rating Programme (JNTRP), which offers ratings to junior players aged 6 to 18.

USEFUL CONTACTS

International Tennis Federation

Bank Lane
Roehampton
London
SW15 5XZ
Great Britain

Telephone: +44 20 8878 6464
Fax: +44 20 8878 7799
President: Mr Francesco Ricci Bitti
Executive Vice President: Mr Juan Margets
E-mail: reception@itftennis.com
WWW: www.itftennis.com

ITF INTERNATIONAL TENNIS NUMBER (ITN)

Tel: + 44 (0) 20 8878 6464
Fax: + 44 (0) 20 8293 4742
E-mail: ITN@itftennis.com
Web: www.internationaltennisnumber.com

ITF TENNIS DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Development

Fax: + 44 (0) 20 8392 4742
E-mail: development@itftennis.com

Juniors

Fax: + 44 (0) 20 8392 4735
E-mail: juniors@itftennis.com
Web: www.itftennis.com/juniors

Vets

Fax: + 44(0) 20 8392 4737
E-mail: vets@itftennis.com
Web: www.itftennis.com/vets

Wheelchair

Fax: + 44 (0) 20 8392 4741
E-mail: wheelchairtennis@itftennis.com
Web: www.itfwheelchairtennis.com

ITF FAXBACK: Tel: + 44 (0) 208 878 4800

Available 24 hours a day. Updated daily with the latest tournament information. Dial from the handset of your fax machine and follow the simple instructions. Quick-dial access to ITF Mens and Womens Circuit tournament information e.g:

- calendars
- entry forms
- fact sheets and acceptance lists

ITF PUBLICATIONS

- ITF This Week (available by registering on line at www.itftennis.com)
- ITF Monthly E-mail Newsletter for Coaches (to receive this free of charge, please e-mail development@itftennis.com)
- ITF Coaching / Tennis Development Publications include:
 - ITF COACHES MANUAL (English, French and Spanish)
 - ITF ADVANCED COACHES MANUAL (English, French and Spanish)
 - ITF SCHOOL TENNIS INITIATIVE TEACHER'S MANUAL (English, French and Spanish)
 - BEING A BETTER TENNIS PARENT (English, French and Spanish)
 - ITF COMPETITION FORMATS MANUAL (English, French and Spanish)
 - GROUP TENNIS DRILLS FOR COMPETITIVE PLAYERS (English)
 - ITF COACHES REVIEW, SUMMARY ISSUE (English)
 - ITF LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION MANUAL (English, French and Spanish)



- THE TENNIS VOLUNTEER (English, French and Spanish)
- TENNIS MEDICINE FOR TENNIS COACHES (English)
- ITF DEVELOPING YOUNG TENNIS PLAYERS (English and Spanish)
- STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING FOR TENNIS (English)
- ITF BIOMECHANICS FOR ADVANCED TENNIS (English and Spanish)
- ITF COACHING AND SPORTS SCIENCE REVIEW (English, French and Spanish)

For a full list of the latest ITF Coaching / Tennis Development publications, please e-mail development@itftennis.com.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

A full list of all ITF member nations contact details can be obtained from the ITF website (www.itftennis.com).



DESCRIPTION OF STANDARDS

www.internationaltennisnumber.com



ITN	Gen Ref (*)	Nat Rating (**)	GENERAL COMPETITIVE LEVEL	SERVE	RETURN	BASELINE GAME	APPROACHING / NET	PASSING NET PLAYER
1	Elite / High Performance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently holds or is capable of holding an ATP / WTA ranking. A world-class player who is committed to tournament competition on an international level and whose major source of income is tournament prize-money. Has extensive professional tournament experience. 					
2	Advanced		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can analyze and exploit an opponent's weakness. Can vary strategies and style of play and is capable of hitting dependable shots in stressful situations. Usually a highly ranked national player. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First and second serve can be relied upon in stressful situations and can be hit offensively at any time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has developed good anticipation for both returns. Can pick up cues from an opponent's preparation, toss, back swing and body position. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capable of hitting dependable shots in stressful situations. Can attack, counter-attack and defend effectively with both forehand and backhand. Can play a full range of shots. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hits slice or drive approaches. Anticipates well at the net and has good court sense. Can use angles or play deep effectively. Volleys aggressively. Overhead is invariably a winner. Backhand overhead is also strong. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvises and passes very well off both sides and from the return of serve. Is able to use the two-shot passing combinations very effectively.
3			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good shot anticipation and frequently has an outstanding shot, consistency or attribute around which a game may be based. The player is 'match wise', plays percentage tennis and can regularly hit winning return of serve or force errors in the return of serve from short balls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serve is placed effectively with the intent of hitting to a weakness or developing an offensive situation. Has a variety of serves to rely on. Good depth, spin and placement on most second serves to force a weak return or to set up the next shot. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can mix up aggressive and off-paced return of serve with control, depth and spin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forehand is strong with control, depth and spin. Uses forehand to set up offensive situations. Backhand is used as an aggressive shot with good consistency. Has good direction and depth on most shots. Has developed good touch. Varies spin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approach shots are hit with pace and a high degree of effectiveness. Can hit most volleys with depth, pace and direction. Plays difficult volleys with depth. When given the opportunity, the volley is often hit for a winner. Overheads can be hit from any position. Hits mid-court volleys with consistency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent on passing shots and hits them with pace and a high degree of effectiveness. Can lob offensively.
4			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent play, capable of generating power and spin effectively and has begun to handle pace. Has good anticipation, sound footwork and covers up weaknesses well. Can control the depth of shots and is beginning to vary game plans according to opponents. Although tentative on difficult shots, this player can hit first serves with power and accuracy and place the second serve. Aggressive net play is common in doubles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has an aggressive serve and commits few double-faults. Power and spin can be used effectively to set up offensive situations, especially on first serves. Second serves are typically well placed and deep. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Often hits aggressive return of serve. Can take pace off with moderate success in doubles. Can chip and drive and chip and charge with success. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very consistent (dependable) forehand. Uses speed and spin effectively. Controls depth well, but tends to over-hit when rushed or when pressing. Offensive on moderate shots. Backhand can control direction and depth but may break down under pressure. Has a reasonable slice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approach shots hit with good depth and control. Can handle a mixed sequence of volleys. Has depth and directional control on backhand volley. Can consistently hit volleys and overheads to end the point. Developing touch and good footwork, however the most common error is still over-hitting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to lob defensively and offensively. Able to pass the net player with a reasonable amount of effectiveness.
5		Intermediate		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good consistency (dependable strokes) including directional control and depth on both forehand and backhand sides on moderate shots, although rallies may be lost due to impatience. Ability to use lobs, overheads, approach shots and volleys with some success. Developing court coverage, experienced and tactically aware but not yet playing good percentage tennis. Occasionally forces errors in return of serve when serving. Teamwork in doubles is evident. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placement of both first and second serve is evident. First serve is often hit powerfully. Some use of spin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a dependable return of serve. Can return with depth in singles and vary the return in doubles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forehand is consistent and hits with depth and control on moderate shots, but placement can suffer when under pressure. Backhand can direct the ball with consistency and depth on moderate shots. Developing spin and may be able to use a bit of both topspin and slice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follows aggressive shots to the net. Has depth and control on the forehand volley. Can direct backhand volleys, but usually lacks depth. Is developing wide and low volleys on both sides. Can put away easy overheads. Can poach in doubles. Beginning to finish point off. Can hit to an opponent's weakness.

(*) **General Reference / Label:** To be decided by the National Association.

(**) **National Rating:** Corresponding National Rating (if applicable).



DESCRIPTION OF STANDARDS

www.internationaltennisnumber.com



ITN	Gen Ref (*)	Nat Rating (**)	GENERAL COMPETITIVE LEVEL	SERVE	RETURN	BASELINE GAME	APPROACHING / NET	PASSING NET PLAYER
6	Intermediate		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has achieved improved stroke consistency with directional control on moderate shots but with little depth and variety. Court coverage is improving yet there remains some hesitancy in moving forward. Is developing teamwork in doubles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starting to serve with control and some power. Developing spin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can return serve consistently with directional control on medium-paced shots. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forehand is quite consistent, varied on moderate shots and is played with directional control and some spin. Backhand is hit with directional control on moderate shots however difficulty is experienced on high and hard shots, which are often returned defensively. Will use either backhand drive or slice almost exclusively. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is developing approach shots and starting to look for the opportunity to come in to the net. More aggressive net play. Can direct forehand volleys, controls backhand volley but with little offence. Has difficulty in putting volleys away and in playing half volleys. Is capable of covering some passing shots and typically uses proper footwork. Consistent overhead on shots within reach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can lob fairly consistently on faster paced shots. Developing basic passing shot ability but has difficulty in playing a pass with the backhand.
7			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fairly consistent when hitting moderately paced shots but is not comfortable playing all strokes and can lack control when trying for direction, depth or power. A singles match will be played almost exclusively from the baseline, whilst the most common doubles formation is one-up, one-back. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is developing a rhythm, although is less consistent when trying for power. Second serve is often substantially slower than the first serve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can return serve with reasonable consistency with the majority returned to the middle of the court. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forehand is fairly consistent with some directional intent but has little control of depth. Backhand is starting to become fairly consistent on moderate shots with most of the balls directed to the middle of the court. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approaches the net when play dictates it but needs to improve its execution. Has a consistent forehand volley, but is less consistent on the backhand volley. Has difficulty volleying shots played low and wide. Sometimes caught out of position and can tend to take too large a swing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can lob fairly consistently on moderate shots and often uses it on the return of serve instead of a drive.
8	Recreational		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning to judge where the ball is going, although court coverage needs to be improved substantially. When playing with other players of the same ability this player can sustain a short rally of slow pace with modest consistency. Usually remains in the initial doubles position during doubles play. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attempting a full swing. There is little difference between the pace of first and second serves. Gets the ball in play at a slow pace. Toss needs to be more consistent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can return a slow paced serve. Will often have an abbreviated follow through. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forehand form is developing. Player is positioned and prepared for moderately paced shots. Backhand grip and preparation problems may be evident and the player will often choose to hit a forehand instead of a backhand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approaches the net only when forced to. Needs to spend more time at the net to build some confidence. Is currently uncomfortable at the net, especially on the backhand side and will frequently use forehand side of the racket face to play backhand volleys. Can make contact on overhead. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can lob intentionally but with little control. Will often play back to the opponent.
9			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs on-court experience. While strokes can be completed with some success, stroke weaknesses are evident. Is familiar with basic positions for singles and doubles play, although needs better positioning and may even prefer to play both back. This player has begun to engage in match play. Is learning the basic rules and scoring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service motion is not continuous and needs more co-ordination. Toss needs to be more consistent and controlled. Double-faults are quite common. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return of serve needs to be more consistent in order to reduce unforced errors. Will attempt to return almost exclusively with forehand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forehand needs to have a more complete swing and more directional intent. Reluctance to play backhand is clear and experiences several technical problems on this side (i.e. grip, swing, contact). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not yet familiar with approach and net play. Will look to play forehand volley exclusively and has problems making contact on overheads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experiences difficulties lobbing intentionally. Is not accustomed to playing a pass and will typically hit the ball straight back to the opponent.
10	<p>This player is starting to play competitively (can serve and return / rally) on a full court using a normal ITF approved ball.</p>							
10.1	Starter		<p>The ITN 10.1 to 10.3 categories will usually involve playing in a modified environment e.g. using transition / soft balls on a reduced court and / or using adapted rackets as appropriate.</p>					
10.2								
10.3								

(*) **General Reference / Label:** To be decided by the National Association.

(**) **National Rating:** Corresponding National Rating (if applicable).



CONVERSION CHART

www.internationaltennisnumber.com



ITN	Australia	Belgium	Canada	France	GBR	Italy	Morocco	NED	Spain	Sweden	Switzerland	USA
1	N1	A Int'l A Nat'l B-15/4 (23bis-35bis)	7.0 6.5	1 st série Promotion -30 -15	1.1 1.2 2.1	Cat. 1 2.1 2.2	1 st série	Cat 1	No 1- 150	Above 600p	N1 N2	7.0 6.5
2	N2 N3 N4	B-15/4 (50bis-65 bis) B-15/2 (100Bis)	6.0 5.5	-4/6 -2/6 0	2.2 3.1	2.3 2.4	-30 -15 -4/6	Cat 2	No 151 - 300	401-600p	N3	6.0 5.5
3	N5	B-15/1 B-15 B-4/6	5.0	1/6 2/6 3/6	3.2	2.5 2.6	-2/6 0 2/6	Cat 3	3 rd cat. Group 10	301-400p	N4	5.0
4	N6 N7	B-2/6 B 0 B+2/6	4.5	4/6 5/6 15	4.1 4.2	2.7 2.8	4/6 15 15/1	Cat 4	3 rd cat. Group 9	201-300p	R1	4.5
5	N8 N9	B +4/6	4.0	15/1 15/2	5.1	3.1 3.2	15/2 15/4	Cat 5	3 rd cat. Group 8	61-200p	R2	4.0
6	N10 N11	C +15	3.5	15/3 15/4	5.2 6.1	3.3 3.4	30	Cat 6	3 rd cat. Group 7	51-60p	R3	3.5
7	N12	C +15/2	3.0	15/5 30	6.2 7.1	3.5 4.1	30/1	Cat 6	3 rd cat. Group 6 & 5	50p	R4	3.0
8	N13	C +15/4	2.5	30/1 30/2	7.2 8.1	4.2 4.3	30/2	Cat 7	3 rd cat. Group 4 & 3	NR	R5	2.5
9	N14 N15	C +30	2.0	30/3 30/4	8.2 9.1	4.4	NR	Cat 8	3 rd cat. Group 2	NR	R6	2.0
10	N16 N17	C +30/2 C +30/4	1.5	30/5	9.2 10.1	4.5	NR	Cat 9	3 rd cat. Group 1	NR	R7	1.5
10.1 to 10.3	N18 N19 N20	NR	1.0	NR	10.2	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	1.0



Assessment Guide



ITN On Court Assessment

International Tennis Number — On Court Assessment

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Sex: M F
 Assessor: _____ Date: _____ Venue: _____

GS Depth			Volley Depth			GS Accuracy			Serve		
Stroke	#	Score	Stroke	#	Score	Stroke	#	Score	Stroke	#	Score
Forehand	1		Forehand	1		Forehand DL	1		1st Box Wide	1	
Backhand	2		Backhand	2		Backhand DL	2		1st Box Wide	2	
Forehand	3		Forehand	3		Forehand DL	3		1st Box Wide	3	
Backhand	4		Backhand	4		Backhand DL	4		1st Box Middle	4	
Forehand	5		Forehand	5		Forehand DL	5		1st Box Middle	5	
Backhand	6		Backhand	6		Backhand DL	6		1st Box Middle	6	
Forehand	7		Forehand	7		Forehand CC	7		2nd Box Middle	7	
Backhand	8		Backhand	8		Backhand CC	8		2nd Box Middle	8	
Forehand	9		Sub Total			Forehand CC	9		2nd Box Middle	9	
Backhand	10		Consistency			Backhand CC	10		2nd Box Wide	10	
Sub Total			Volley Depth Total			Forehand CC	11		2nd Box Wide	11	
Consistency						Backhand CC	12		2nd Box Wide	12	
GS Depth Total						Sub Total			Sub Total		
						Consistency			Consistency		
						GS Accuracy Total			Serve Total		

Time	Score
T 40	39
S 1	2
3	4
5	6
7	8
9	10
11	12
13	14
15	16
17	18
19	20
21	22
23	24
25	26
27	28
29	30
31	32
33	34
35	36
37	38
39	40

Score (F)	Score (M)	ITN
57-79	75-104	ITN 10
80-108	105-139	ITN 9
109-140	140-175	ITN 8
141-171	176-209	ITN 7
172-205	210-244	ITN 6
206-230	245-268	ITN 5
231-258	269-293	ITN 4
259-303	294-337	ITN 3
304-344	338-362	ITN 2
345-430	363-430	ITN 1

Number of Assessments: _____ New ITN Rating: _____

Circle players ITN level after completing the Assessment.

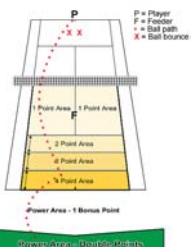


This ITN Assessment was conducted in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the Official ITN Assessment Guide. I hereby agree to its authenticity.

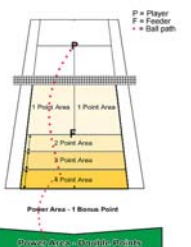
Signed by/benefit of the player: _____

Signed by the Assessor: _____

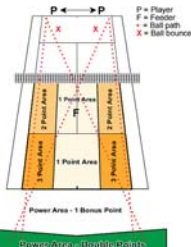
Strokes Total	Mobility Score	Total Score



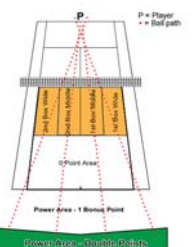
Groundstroke Depth
Maximum Score: 90



Volley Depth
Maximum Score: 72



Groundstroke Accuracy
Maximum Score: 84



Serve
Maximum Score: 108

Mobility Assessment — Maximum Score: 76

Time	40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15
Score	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	12	14	15	16	18	19	21	26	32	39	45	52	61	76

Assessment highest possible score = 430 points



Introduction



The **ITF International Number or ITN** for short was created by the ITF as a tool to help our member nations to increase tennis participation in their countries. We were aware that very few of the ITF member nations had a national rating system in place and it was recognised that countries that had a national rating system in place tended to have high levels of tennis participation.

I was privileged to have been invited by ITF Executive Vice President, Juan Margets, to chair the ITF International Tennis Ratings Taskforce that was established following the Marketing the Game Summit in 2000. The Taskforce met 4 times between June 2001 and February 2003 and the positive attitude displayed by all of the Taskforce members towards this important project for world tennis as well as their hard work between meetings ensured that a great deal was achieved in a short time. The members

The members of the Taskforce were:

- Peter Johnston, Tennis Australia
- Martin Reiter, Tennis Austria
- Allard Elema, Dutch Tennis Federation (KNLTB)
- Jean-Francois Magne, French Tennis Federation (FFT)
- Wolfgang Burkhardt, German Tennis Federation (DTB)
- Martin Rands, Lawn Tennis Association of Great Britain (LTA)
- David Schobel, United States Tennis Association (USTA)
- Dave Miley, ITF
- Frank Couraud, ITF
- Miguel Crespo, ITF

The ITN 1-10 rating system is very simple and easy for tennis players worldwide to understand. The creation of the sub-category for starter players (ITN 10.3, ITN 10.2 and ITN 10.1) has ensured that all players can be included because players whatever their level can have an ITN. The ITN has also been linked with those existing national rating systems in the more developed ITF member nations (such as the NTRP in the USA; the “classement” system in France and the British rating system) through an agreed ITN Conversion Chart which is available from the ITN website www.internationaltennisnumber.com

The **ITN On Court Assessment** which is outlined in this document has been developed on a “trial” basis to allow nations to cater more fully to the recreational players that don’t play competition on a regular basis. It will act as an objective method of initially rating this level of player. Whilst the ITF recognises some of the limitations of any non competition based assessment in tennis (e.g. the static feeding; only assessing strokes in a closed situation; only certain strokes being assessed etc.) we believe that the ITN On Court Assessment is a powerful tool that can be effectively used in conjunction with the ITN rating system. Not only can the assessment be used as an objective method of initially rating those players that have no history of competition results, but the assessment can also be used as powerful promotional tool at events and as a motivational tool for players of all levels to measure their improvement in relation accuracy and power on their key strokes.

The idea of the ITN On Court Assessments came out of the Taskforce meetings and after a great deal of work they were launched on a one year trial at the ITF AGM in Rio in September 2003. As well as the Taskforce members, I would also like to recognise the contribution of ITF Development team members Frank Couraud, Tori Billington, Miguel Crespo and Brenden Sharp all of whom



Introduction



worked tirelessly on the development of the ITN On Court Assessment. We studied many existing on court assessments which had been published over the past 70 years (see references at back of this booklet) and we had considerable feedback from the ITF Coaches Commission and from pilot assessments conducted in Great Britain, Australia and Finland before agreeing on the “pilot” ITN On Court Assessment outlined in this manual.

I would also like to give special recognition to both Neil Johnson of the US and our ITF Development Officer, Dan O’Connell, both of whom had been working over the past 20 years to develop on court assessments and were very helpful in providing advice on the project. I would also like to recognise the work of Dr J.E. Hewitt who developed on court tests using the 2nd bounce bonus line, which were published in the mid 1960s.

During the trial period we will continue to invite feedback on the “pilot” ITN On Court Assessments from our member nations. I hope that club coaches worldwide will try the assessments particularly with their recreational students and will find them to be a powerful promotional and motivational tool for tennis in their clubs. We hope to finalise the ITN On Court assessment in 2005 and any feedback on how they could be improved should be passed to Brenden Sharp at Brenden.Sharp@itftennis.com

The ITF believe that the ITN will over the next few years change the face of tennis particularly for recreational players. We have a chance through the ITN not only to attract new people to this great game of tennis but also to retain players...to motivate these new players and existing players wherever they might be to play more tennis. We expect that in a very short time most tennis players in the world will hold an ITN and the ITN will be recognised as the common rating language of the tennis world.

Are you ready to try the ITN On Court assessment? Are you ready to rate the tennis world...we start today!

THE ITN.....WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER!!

Dave Miley
Executive Director, Tennis Development
International Tennis Federation

ITN contact details:

Tel: 44 (0) 20 8878 6464

Fax: 44 (0) 20 8392 4742

E-mail: ITN@itftennis.com or Brenden.Sharp@itftennis.com

Web: www.internationaltennisnumber.com



Guide Contents



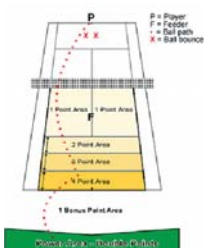
This guide has been produced to enable both players and assessors to gain a full understanding of the ITN On Court Assessment.

Please read the guide through from front to back

Contents	Page
Assessment Guide	49
Assessment Court Set Up 1	50
Assessment Court Set Up 2	51
Feeding Guidelines	52
Groundstroke Depth Assessment	53
Volley Depth Assessment	54
Groundstroke Accuracy Assessment	55
Serve Assessment	56
First Serve Scoring	57
Second Serve Scoring	58
Mobility Assessment	59
How to Score	60
What's my ITN?	61
Completed Score Sheet	62
Score Sheet	63
Conducting an ITN Rating Clinic	64
Court Set Up	66
References	67

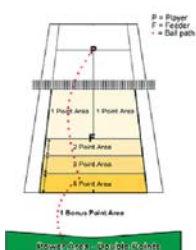


Assessment Guide



The Assessment is made up of the following tasks.

1. Groundstroke Depth Assessment - includes a power aspect. (10 alternate forehand and backhand ground strokes)
2. Groundstroke Accuracy Assessment - includes a power aspect. (6 alternate forehand and backhand down the line & 6 alternate forehand and backhand cross court).
3. Volley Depth Assessment - includes a power aspect. (8 alternate forehand and backhand volleys)
4. Serve Assessment - includes a power aspect. (12 serves in total, 3 serves in each target area)
5. Mobility assessment measures the time it takes a player to pick up five tennis balls and return them individually to a specified zone.



Scoring Accuracy

Scores are awarded for each shot based on where the ball lands within the singles court.

Scoring Power

1 Bonus point is awarded when the second bounce lands between the baseline and the Bonus Line. Double points are awarded when the second bounce lands beyond the Bonus Line.

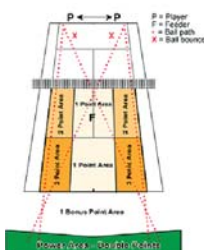
Scoring Consistency

1 extra point is awarded for every shot that is not an error.

Resources and Equipment needed to conduct the Assessment.

The ITN Assessment equipment is contained in the Assessment Kit which contains:

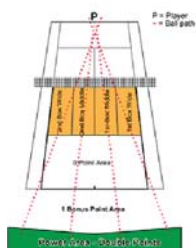
• 2 x 27' (8.23m) Depth lines.	• 1 x Score sheet pad and pen.
• 1 x 48' (14.63m) Bonus line.	• Stop Watch
• 2 x 39' (11.88m) Accuracy lines.	• Basket of Balls.



There should be 1 Assessor/Feeder and 1 Scorer. The scorer may be a player waiting for their turn.

Overall rules of the assessment.

1. All participants should be fully warmed up and ready to begin.
2. Players receive 4 practice shots at the start of each section. (Groundstrokes, volleys and serves)
3. The participant has the right to refuse a feed prior to hitting the ball. Once the participant makes contact with the ball the shot must count.
4. If the ball lands on a line the higher score is always taken.
5. The Assessor/scorer will be the highest authority during the Assessment and will have the final decision on all aspects of the Assessment.
6. Assessment scores are to be recorded after each shot and tallied at the completion of each section.
7. The Assessment must be signed by the Assessor/scorer and the participant. Participants are to be provided with a copy of the Assessment.



Players receive their ITN upon completing 1 authenticated Assessment.

The ITF recommend that players participate in a total of 3 Assessments in order to receive an accurate indication of their true ITN level. The true ITN level is based on the average score achieved in the last 3 Assessments.



Assessment Set Up 1



Assessment Set Up 1 - The Depth and Volley Assessments require 3 lines to be added to one end of a tennis court as shown in the diagram.

Please allow 10 minutes to set up the court.

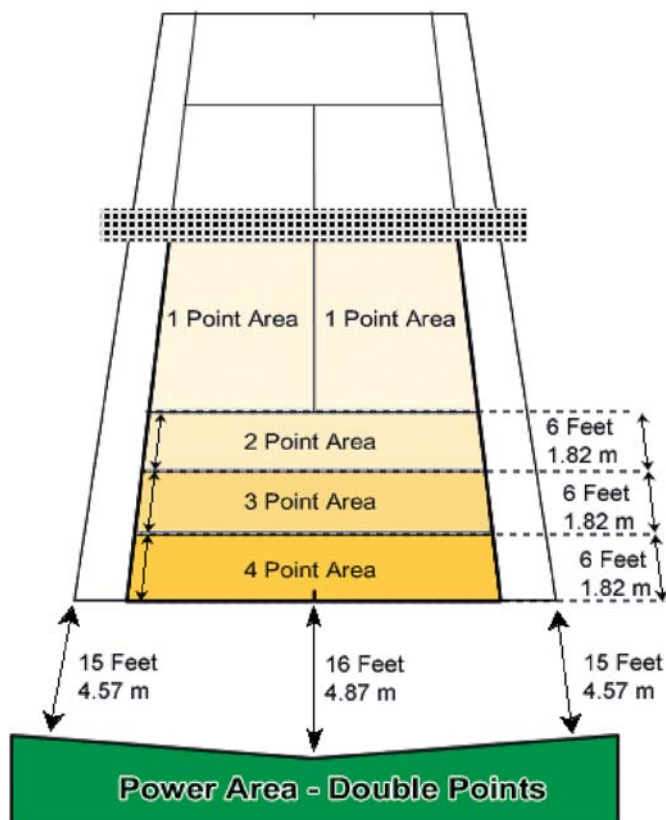
Two lines are added within the normal singles playing area of the court and a third (Bonus Line) is added behind the baseline.

Start at the service line. Measure 6 feet (1.82 m) towards the baseline or back of the court. Make a small mark on the court just outside the doubles side line.

Now do the same on the other side of the court (same end). When you have both markers you will be able to place the provided line across the court to create the 2 Point Area as shown in the diagram.

Now measure another 6 feet (1.82 m) towards the baseline or back of the court. Make a small mark on the court just outside the doubles side line.

Now do the same on the other side of the court (same end). When you have both markers you will be able to place the provided line across the court to create the 3 and 4 Point Area as shown in the diagram.

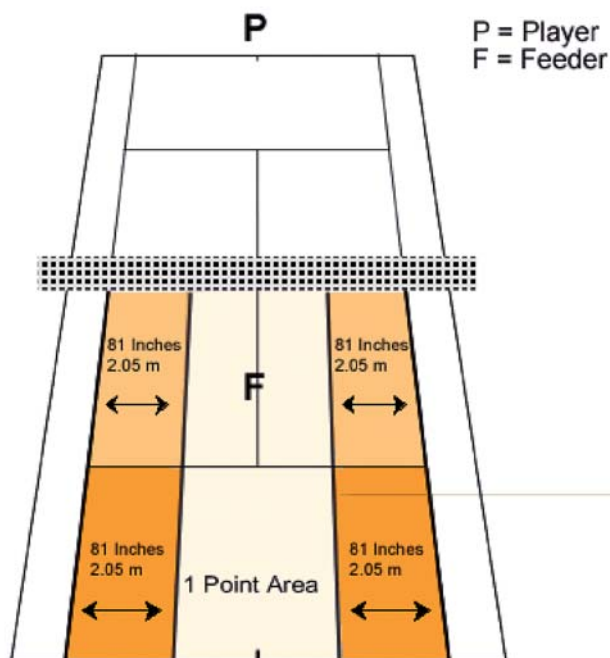


Now start at centre of the baseline and measure 16 feet (4.87m) towards the back fence. Make a small mark on the court just as you did with the other lines. Now measure 15 Feet (4.57m) from the doubles side line towards the back fence at each side and make a small mark on the court. When you have all three markers you will be able to place the provided line across the court to create the Power Area for Double Points as shown in the diagram.

Points are awarded based on where the ball lands on the first and second bounce in all aspects of the assessment.



Assessment Set Up 2



Power Area - 1 Bonus Point

Power Area - Double Points

Assessment Set Up 2 - The Groundstroke Accuracy and Serve Assessments require 2 lines to be added to one end of a tennis court as shown in the diagram.

Please allow 10 minutes to set up the court.

Two lines are added within the normal singles playing area of the court. The Bonus Line will also be used for the Groundstroke Accuracy and Serve portion of the assessment.

Start at the singles side line next to the Net. Measure 81 Inches (2.05 m) towards the centre of the court. Make a small mark on the court just near the net.

Now go to the baseline and measure 81 Inches (2.05 m) from the singles side line towards the centre of the court.

When you have both markers you will be able to place the provided line from the marker near the net to the marker on the baseline as show in the diagram.

Now do the same on the other side of the court (same end). When you have both markers you

will be able to place the provided line from the marker near the net to the marker on the baseline as show in the diagram.

This makes up the different areas needed to assess the Groundstroke Accuracy and Serve portion of the ITN On Court Assessment.

Now start at centre of the baseline and measure 16 feet (4.87m) towards the back fence. Make a small mark on the court just as you did with the other lines. Now measure 15 Feet (4.57m) from the doubles side line towards the back fence at each and make a small mark on the court. When you have all three markers you will be able to place the provided line across the court to create the 2 Power Areas for 1 Bonus Point and Double Points as show in the diagram.

Points are awarded based on where the ball lands on the first and second bounce in all aspects of the assessment.



Feeding Guidelines



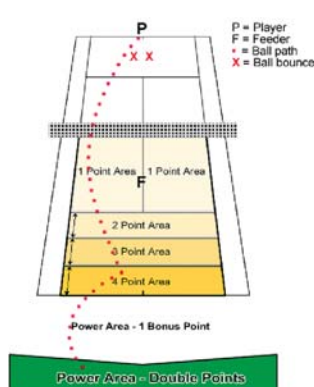
One of the most important aspects of the Assessment is the correct feeding of the balls for the Groundstroke Depth, Volley Depth and Groundstroke Accuracy portions of the Assessment.

Please take special note of the diagrams that clearly indicate where the feeder and the player should stand during the entire Assessment.

The task of the feeder is to deliver a consistent easy feed to all participants of the Assessment regardless of standard.

The feeder should wait until the player is ready before delivering the feed.

NB: Feeds can be rejected by the player or the feeder if they believe the feed did not meet the guidelines set out in this guide.



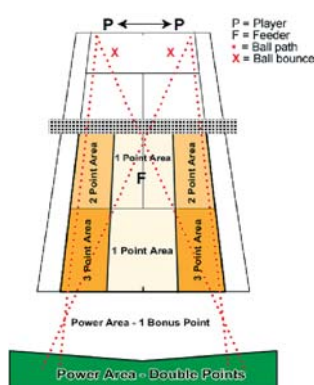
Groundstroke Depth Feeds:

For the Groundstroke Depth portion of the Assessment the player should start just behind the baseline in the middle of the court. The feeder should stand half way between the service line and the net as indicated in the diagram.

Feeding should alternate from forehand to backhand and either by hand or racket with a basket of balls and not rally feeding.

The feeder should endeavor to land the feed half way between the baseline and the service line just off centre as indicated by a red X on the diagram. This should provide enough space for the player to be able to step towards the ball before making contact.

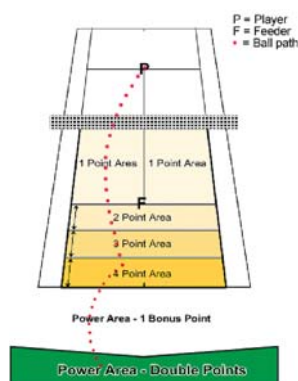
Ideally the player should make contact with the ball between knee and hip height on all ground strokes.



Groundstroke Accuracy Feeds:

For the Groundstroke Accuracy portion of the Assessment the player should start just behind the baseline half way between the middle of the court and the singles sideline as indicated in the diagram. The feeder should stand half way between the service line and the net as indicated in the diagram.

The feeder should endeavor to land the feed half way between the baseline and the service line and half way between the centre of the court and the singles sideline as indicated by a red X on the diagram. The player should make contact near the singles sideline. This should provide enough space for the player to be able to step towards the ball before making contact.

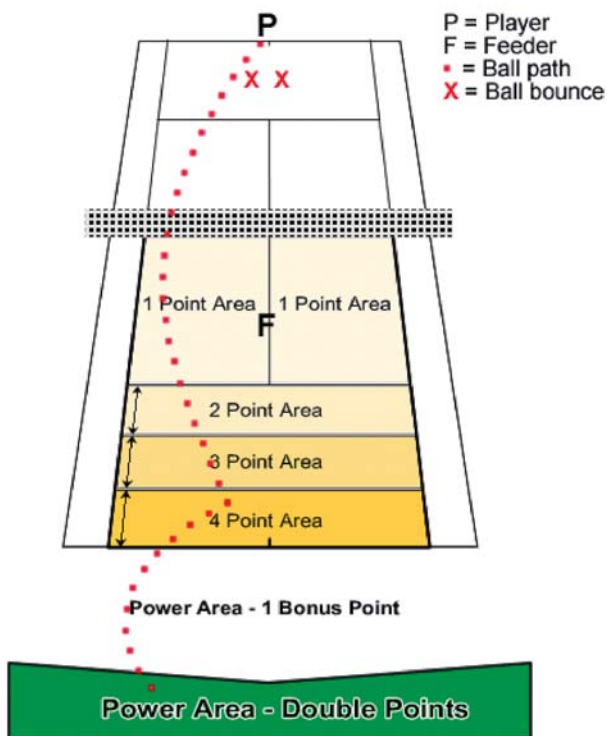


Volley Depth Feeds:

For the Volley Depth portion of the Assessment the player should start on the service line in the middle of the court as indicated in the diagram. The feeder should stand in the same position at the other end. Players should be able to step into each volley and make contact between hip and shoulder height.



Groundstroke Depth



Maximum Possible = 90 Points

Start by making sure all participants are fully warmed up and ready to begin.

The Groundstroke Depth Assessment has been designed to enable players to test their control, depth and power. Players will receive Double Points if the second bounce is beyond the Bonus Line.

Players only receive points for hitting balls into the singles playing area of a tennis court.

The player hits 10 balls that are fed to alternate sides, one Forehand, one Backhand, one Forehand, one Backhand, etc, etc, etc.

Points are awarded based on where the ball lands on the first and second bounce.

The feeder should make the ball land half way between the service line and the baseline as indicated in the diagram. The player or the feeder have the option to reject any feeds that have not landed in the correct area.

Accuracy Points are awarded as follows:

- 1 Point** - When a ball lands anywhere in the service box area.
- 2 Points** - When a ball lands in the front section of the back court area.
- 3 Points** - When a ball lands in the middle section of the back court area.
- 4 Points** - When a ball lands in the last section of the back court area.

Power Points are awarded as follows:

Power Area = 1 Bonus Point - When a ball lands anywhere within the singles court area and the second bounce lands between the baseline and bonus line, 1 Bonus point is awarded.

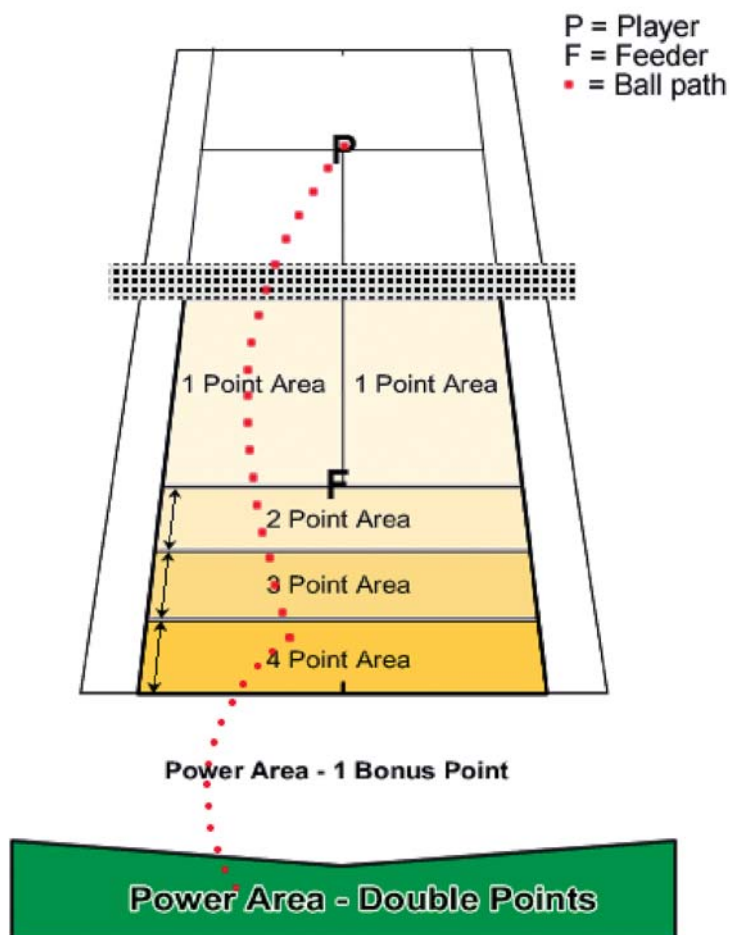
Power Area = Double Points - When a ball lands anywhere within the singles court area and the second bounce lands beyond the bonus line, double points are awarded.

Examples: 5 Points are awarded when the first bounce lands in the 4 Point Area and the second bounce lands beyond the baseline. 8 Points are awarded when the first bounce lands in the 4 Point Area and the second bounce lands beyond the bonus line.

0 Points - When a ball's first bounce lands anywhere outside the normal singles playing area.

Consistency: 1 extra point is awarded for every shot that is not an error.

The points are added up to achieve the total number of points scored in the Groundstroke Depth Assessment Section.



Maximum Possible = 72 Points

Start by making sure all participants are fully warmed up and ready to go.

The Volley Assessment - The player should hit 8 balls that are fed to alternate sides, one Forehand, one Backhand, one Forehand, one Backhand, etc, etc, etc.

Points are awarded based on where the ball lands on the first and second bounce.

The feeder should feed the ball to the player at between hip and shoulder height. The player or the feeder have the option to reject any feeds that are not at the correct height.

Accuracy Points are awarded as follows:

1 Point - When a ball lands anywhere in the service box area.

2 Points - When a ball lands in the front section of the back court area.

3 Points - When a ball lands in the middle section of the back court area.

4 Points - When a ball lands in the last section of the back court area.

Power Points are awarded as follows:

Power Area = 1 Bonus Point - When a ball lands anywhere within the singles court area and the second bounce lands between the Baseline and bonus line, 1 bonus point is awarded.

Power Area = Double Points - When a ball lands anywhere within the singles court area and the second bounce lands beyond the bonus line, double points are awarded.

Examples: 5 Points are awarded when the first bounce lands in the 4 Point Area and the second bounce lands beyond the baseline. 8 Points are awarded when the first bounce lands in the 4 Point Area and the second bounce lands beyond the bonus line.

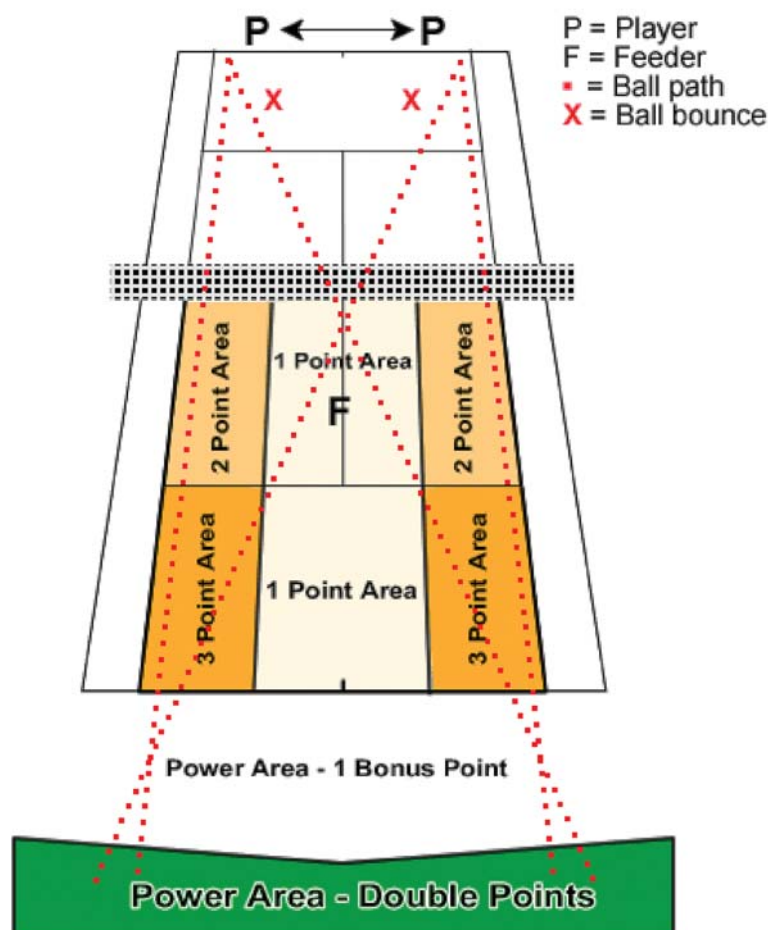
0 Points - When a ball's first bounce lands anywhere outside the normal singles playing area.

Consistency: 1 extra point is awarded for every shot that is not an error.

The points are added up to achieve the total number of points scored in the Volley Depth Assessment Section.



Groundstroke Accuracy



Maximum Possible = 84 Points

The Groundstroke Accuracy Assessment - 6 balls are fed to alternate sides, (one forehand, one backhand, one forehand, one backhand) etc... The player should hit each ball down the line.

6 more balls are fed to alternate sides, (one forehand, one backhand, one forehand, one backhand) etc... The player should hit each ball cross court.

Points are awarded based on where the ball lands on the first and second bounce. The feeder should make the ball land half way between the service line and the baseline as indicated in the diagram. The player or the feeder have the option to reject any feeds that have not landed in the correct area.

Points are awarded based on where the ball lands on the first and second bounce.

The feeder should make the ball land half way between the service line and the baseline as indicated in the diagram. The player or the feeder have the option to reject any feeds that have not landed in the correct area.

Accuracy Points are awarded as follows:

1 Point - When a ball lands anywhere in the center area outside the target areas.

2 Points - When a ball lands within the Groundstroke Accuracy target area before the service line.

3 Points - When a ball lands within the Groundstroke Accuracy target area inside the back section of the singles court.

Power Points are awarded as follows:

Power Area = 1 Bonus Point - When a ball lands anywhere within the singles court area and the second bounce lands between the baseline and bonus line, 1 Bonus point is awarded.

Power Area = Double Points - When a ball lands anywhere within the singles court area and the second bounce lands beyond the bonus line, double points are awarded.

Examples: 4 Points are awarded when the first bounce lands in the 3 Point Area and the second bounce lands beyond the baseline. 6 Points are awarded when the first bounce lands in the 3 Point Area and the second bounce lands beyond the bonus line.

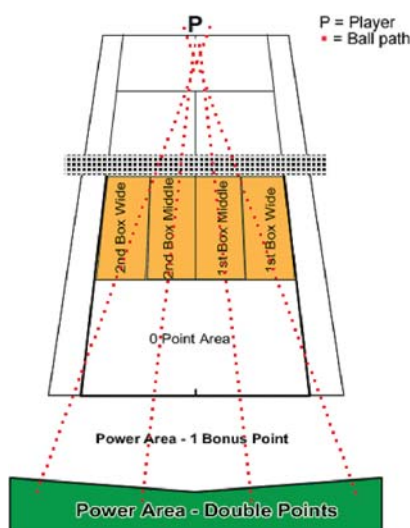
0 Points - When a ball's first bounce lands anywhere outside the normal singles playing area.

Consistency: 1 extra point is awarded for every shot that is not an error.

The points are added up to achieve the total number of points scored in the Groundstroke Accuracy Assessment Section.



Serve Assessment



Maximum Possible = 108 Points

The Serve Assessment - The player hits 12 Serves. 3 Serves to the wide area of the first service box, 3 Serves to the middle area of the first service box, 3 Serves to the middle area of the second service box and 3 Serves to the wide area of the second service box.

Points are awarded based on where the ball lands on the first and second bounce. If the first serve lands anywhere in the correct service box, no second serve is required. If the serve is a let, the serve is replayed.

Accuracy Points are awarded as follows:

First Serve

2 Points - When a ball lands in the correct service box area.

4 Points - When a ball lands in the target area of the correct service box.

Second Serve

1 Point - When a ball lands in the correct service box area.

2 Points - When a ball lands in the target area of the correct service box.

Power Points are awarded as follows:

Power Area = 1 Bonus Point - When a ball lands in the correct service box area and the second bounce lands between the baseline and the bonus line, 1 Bonus point is awarded.

Power Area = Double Points - When a ball lands in the correct service box and the second bounce lands beyond the bonus line, double points are awarded.

0 Points - When a ball's first bounce lands anywhere outside the correct service box.

Consistency: 1 extra point is awarded for every serve that lands in the correct service box. (First or second serve).

The points are added up to achieve the total number of points scored in the Service Assessment Section.

Serve Scoring Table:

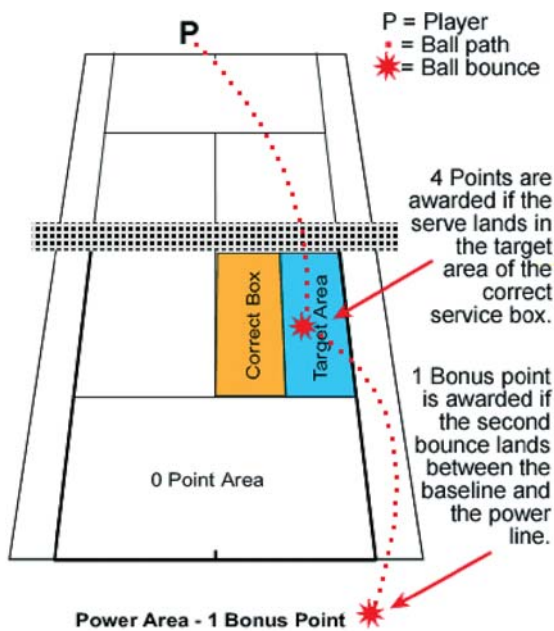
Serve	First Bounce		Second Bounce		Total Score
	Target Area	Correct Service Box	Power Area 1 Bonus Point	Power Area Double Points	
First Serve	4			4	8
	4		1		5
		2		2	4
		2	1		3
Second Serve	2			2	4
	2		1		3
		1		1	2
		1	1		2



First Serve Scoring

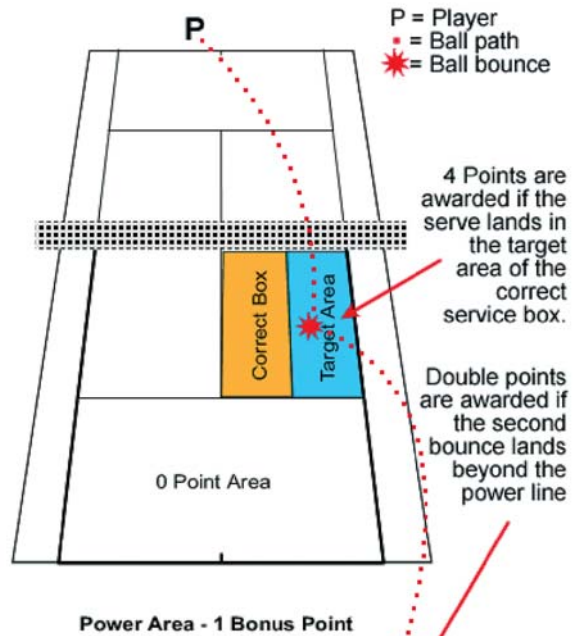


If the first serve lands in the target area of the correct service box.



Power Area - 1 Bonus Point

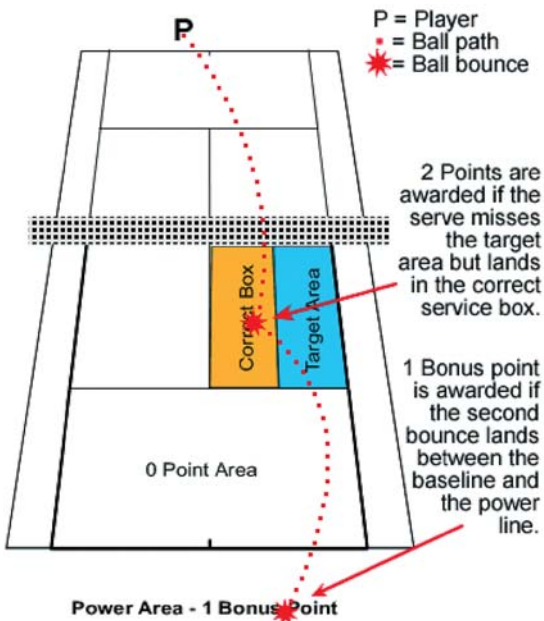
Power Area - Double Points



Power Area - 1 Bonus Point

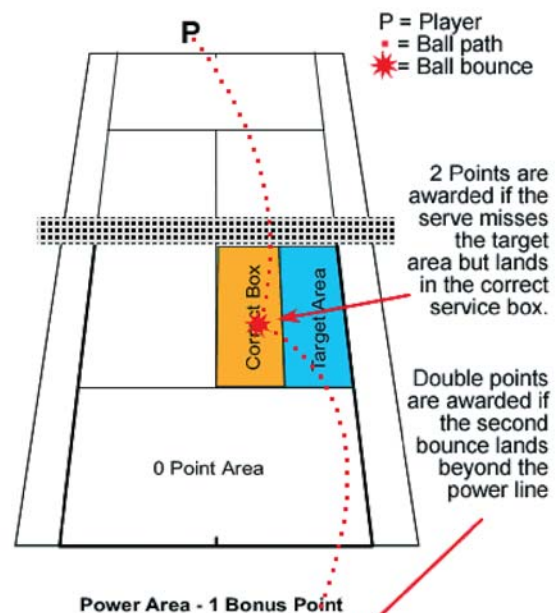
Power Area - Double Points

If the first serve lands in the correct service box but misses the target area.



Power Area - 1 Bonus Point

Power Area - Double Points



Power Area - 1 Bonus Point

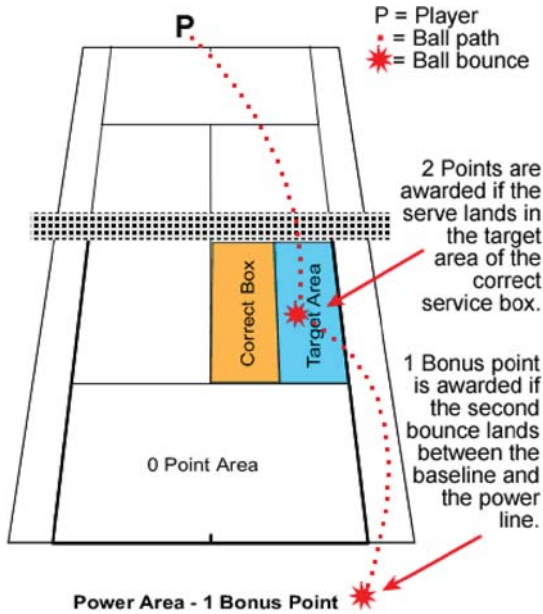
Power Area - Double Points



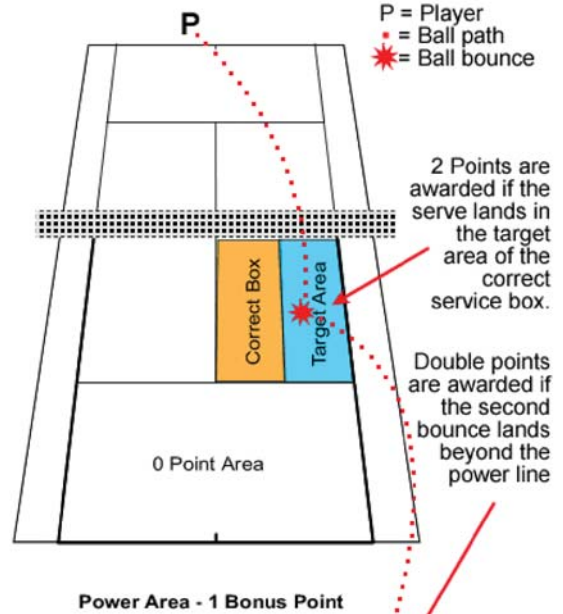
Second Serve Scoring



If the second serve lands in the target area of the correct service box.

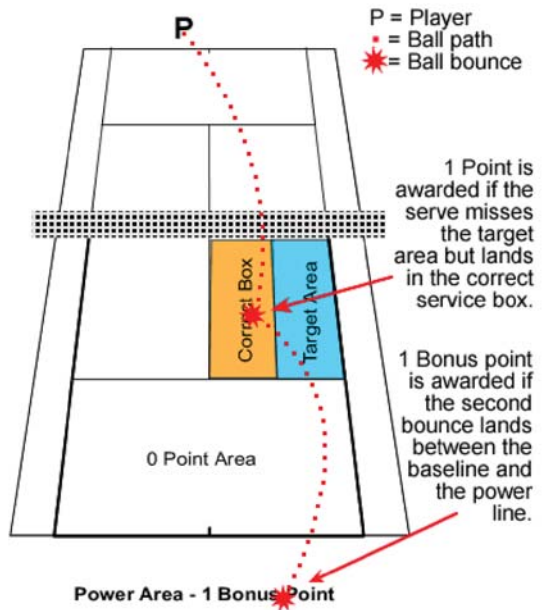


Power Area - Double Points

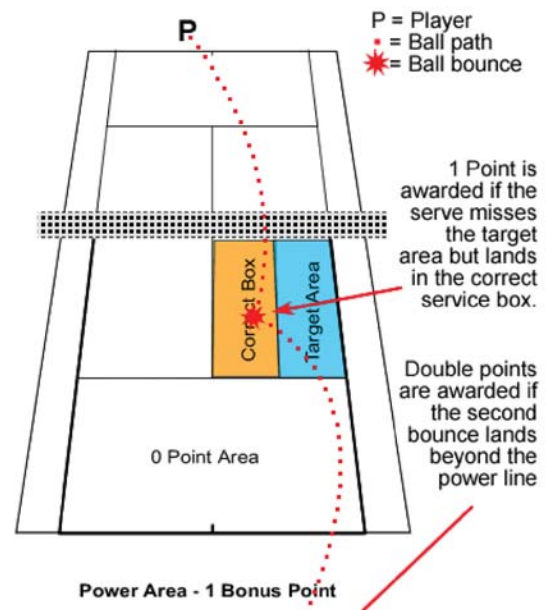


Power Area - Double Points

If the second serve lands in the correct service box but misses the target area.



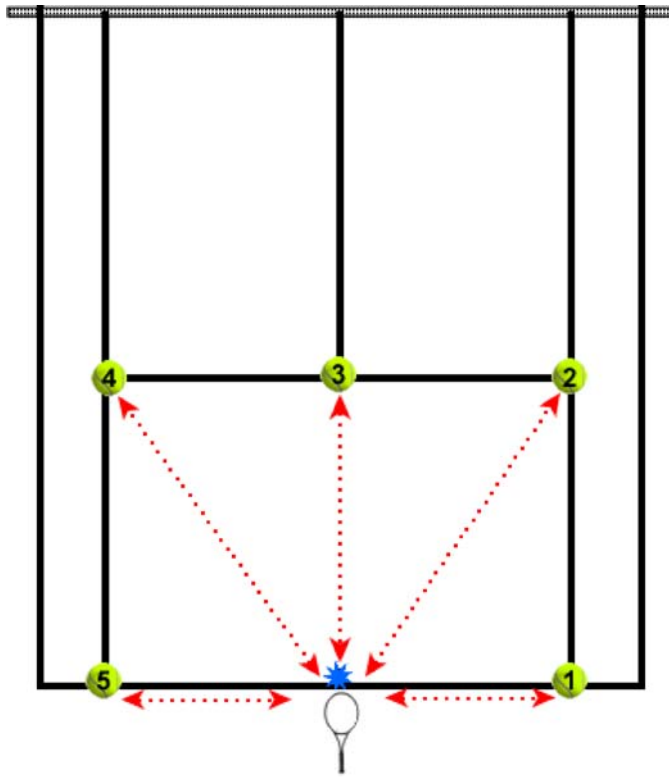
Power Area - Double Points



Power Area - Double Points



Mobility



Maximum Possible = 76 Points

The Mobility Assessment - This assessment measures the time it takes a player to pick up five tennis balls and return them individually to a specified zone.

The score is recorded in seconds.

Points are awarded based on the time it takes to complete this task.

The faster a player completes the task the more points are awarded.

Procedure:

Place a tennis racquet with the head of the racquet just behind the centre mark in the middle of the baseline. The handle of the racquet is pointed towards the back fence as shown in the diagram.

Position 5 balls on the court as shown in the diagram.

Starting at the middle of the baseline, each

ball has to be retrieved and placed on the strings of the racquet, one ball at a time in a counter clockwise direction.

The time will be recorded using a stopwatch after the command “Ready-set-go” is given.

As soon as the last ball is placed on the strings of the racquet, the time is stopped.

Points are awarded as follows:

The top row contain a table of time increments equaling 1 second intervals.

The bottom row represents the amount of points allocated for each time increment.

Mobility Table

Time	Score
------	-------

T	40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15
S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	12	14	15	16	18	19	21	26	32	39	45	52	61	76

The faster the time, the more points are allocated.

In the above example the player completed the mobility assessment in 22 seconds and received 21 points.



How to Score



The Assessment Score Sheet can be broken down into 3 areas.

- 1. Player, Assessor and Assessment details** - This is the section at the top of the score sheet. The scorer fills out the first portion of the score sheet which includes details on the Assessor and the player.
- 2. The main score recording area** - This is the area where the scorer enters all the results from the different shots and totals up the overall ITN Assessment score.

Once the Assessment starts every shot should be recorded in the areas provided. The Assessor should deliver the score of every shot in a loud and clear voice so both the scorer and the participant can hear. If an error is made the scorer enters a 0 in the appropriate box on the score sheet.

At the end of each section the scorer counts all of the shots together and enters the result in to the Section Sub Total Box. Then he counts the number of shots that recorded a score >0 and enters the results in to the Consistency Box. Example: If a player hits 6 shots that land in the singles area of the court they would receive a score of 6 in the Consistency Box.

- The scorer then adds the Consistency score to the Section Sub Total Score to achieve the Section Total Score.
 - Each Section Total Score is added together to achieve the Strokes Total Score.
 - The players Mobility score is placed in the Mobility Score box.
 - The Strokes Total score and the Mobility score are added together to achieve the Total Score.
 - The Assessor circles the appropriate box to indicate the players correct ITN level.
 - The Assessor places a number in Assessment # Box to indicate the number of Assessments completed by the player.
- 3. Score sheet authentication**—Player and Assessor sign the score sheet to authenticate the Assessment and the scores recorded.

International Tennis Number — On Court Assessment

Name: Jonah Sharp Date of Birth: 16-11-1996 Sex: M F
 Assessor: Dave Miley Date: 18-8-2003 Venue: Melbourne Park

GS Depth			Volley Depth			GS Accuracy			Serve		
Stroke	#	Score	Stroke	#	Score	Stroke	#	Score	Stroke	#	Score
Forehand	1	3	Forehand	1	2	Forehand DL	1	0	1st Box Wide	1	0
Backhand	2	1	Backhand	2	2	Backhand DL	2	1	1st Box Wide	2	2
Forehand	3	0	Forehand	3	0	Forehand DL	3	1	1st Box Wide	3	4
Backhand	4	2	Backhand	4	3	Backhand DL	4	2	1st Box Middle	4	0
Forehand	5	3	Forehand	5	1	Forehand DL	5	4	1st Box Middle	5	0
Backhand	6	1	Backhand	6	1	Backhand DL	6	1	1st Box Middle	6	2
Forehand	7	4	Forehand	7	4	Forehand CC	7	0	2nd Box Middle	7	1
Backhand	8	0	Backhand	8	1	Backhand CC	8	0	2nd Box Middle	8	1
Forehand	9	1				Forehand CC	9	1	2nd Box Middle	9	0
Backhand	10	2	Sub Total		14	Backhand CC	10	1	2nd Box Wide	10	0
Sub Total		17	Consistency		7	Forehand CC	11	3	2nd Box Wide	11	4
Consistency		8	Volley Depth Total		21	Backhand CC	12	0	2nd Box Wide	12	0
GS Depth Total		25				Sub Total		14	Sub Total		14
						Consistency		8	Consistency		8
						GS Accuracy Total		22	GS Accuracy Total		20

Mobility Table		Time	Score
T	40 39 38 37 36 35 34 33 32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15		
S	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 18 19 21 26 32 39 45 52 61 76		
Score (F)	57-79	80-108	109-140 141-171 172-205 206-230 231-258 259-303 304-344 345-430
Score (M)	75-104	105-139	140-175 176-209 210-244 245-268 269-293 294-337 338-362 363-430
ITN	ITN 10	ITN 9	ITN 8 ITN 7 ITN 6 ITN 5 ITN 4 ITN 3 ITN 2 ITN 1

Strokes Total	Mobility Score	Total Score
88	26	114

Number of Assessments	New ITN Rating
3	9

Signed by behalf of the player: Jonah Sharp
 Signed by the Assessor: Dave Miley

This ITN Assessment was conducted in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the Official ITN Assessment Guide. I hereby agree to its authenticity.

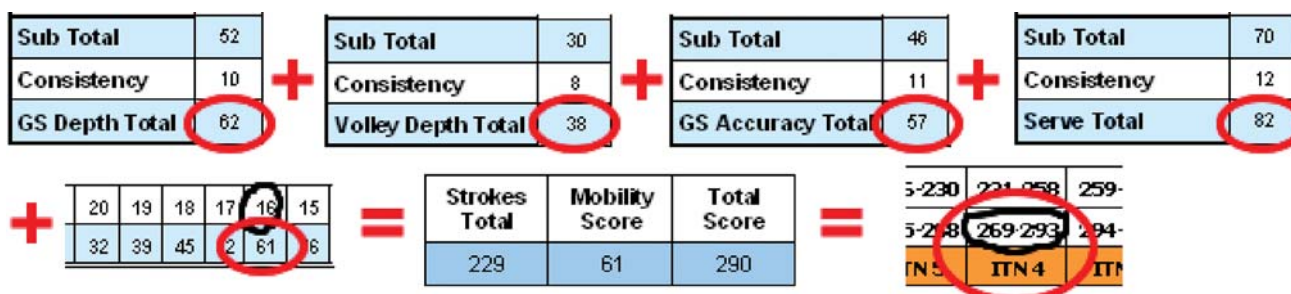
Circle players ITN level after completing the Assessment.



What's my ITN



The players ITN is produced by a simple calculation as follows.



Once the Assessment starts every shot must be recorded in the areas provided on the Official Score Sheet.

The scorer tallies up all of the shots that have landed in the singles area and have received a score and places the result in the Section Sub Total Score.

The Consistency score is added to the Section Sub Total Score to achieve the Section Total Score.

All Section Totals scores are added together to achieve the Strokes Total Score.

The Mobility Score is then added to the Strokes Total Score in order to achieve the Total Assessment Score.

This player has achieved a total score of 290 which makes this players an ITN 4.

ITN Correlation Table

Because it is recognised that the level of an ITN rated man is different to that of a similarly rated female player, there are separate male and female ITN scales.

Score (F)	57-79	80-108	109-140	141-171	172-205	206-230	231-258	259-303	304-344	345-430
Score (M)	75-104	105-139	140-175	176-209	210-244	245-268	269-293	294-337	338-362	363-430
ITN	ITN 10	ITN 9	ITN 8	ITN 7	ITN 6	ITN 5	ITN 4	ITN 3	ITN 2	ITN 1

The players ITN is calculated based on their Total Assessment Score as displayed in the ITN Correlation Table.

Please Note:

In order to get a true evaluation of a players correct ITN, a player should complete the On Court Assessment 3 times.

The 3 scores are then averaged out to produce the players true ITN level.

Example : A player achieves the scores of **162 164 171** in the 3 Assessments the players average score = **165.67**

For a male the players true ITN level is **ITN 8**.

For a female the players true ITN level is **ITN 7**.

As the player continues to complete additional On Court Assessments the calculation is based on their last 3 Assessment scores.



Completed Score Sheet



This is a completed score sheet for Jonah Sharp. Based on this Assessment Jonah is an ITN 9.

International Tennis Number — On Court Assessment

Name: Jonah Sharp Date of Birth: 16-11-1996 Sex: M F
 Assessor: Dave Mileg Date: 12-8-2003 Venue: Melbourne Park



This ITN Assessment was conducted in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the Official ITN Assessment Guide. I hereby agree to its authenticity.

Signed by behalf of the player:

Jonah Sharp

Signed by the Assessor:

Dave Mileg

GS Depth			Volley Depth			GS Accuracy			Serve		
Stroke	#	Score	Stroke	#	Score	Stroke	#	Score	Stroke	#	Score
Forehand	1	3	Forehand	1	2	Forehand DL	1	0	1st Box Wide	1	0
Backhand	2	1	Backhand	2	2	Backhand DL	2	1	1st Box Wide	2	2
Forehand	3	0	Forehand	3	0	Forehand DL	3	1	1st Box Wide	3	4
Backhand	4	2	Backhand	4	3	Backhand DL	4	2	1st Box Middle	4	0
Forehand	5	3	Forehand	5	1	Forehand DL	5	4	1st Box Middle	5	0
Backhand	6	1	Backhand	6	1	Backhand DL	6	1	1st Box Middle	6	2
Forehand	7	4	Forehand	7	4	Forehand CC	7	0	2nd Box Middle	7	1
Backhand	8	0	Backhand	8	1	Backhand CC	8	0	2nd Box Middle	8	1
Forehand	9	1	Sub Total		14	Forehand CC	9	1	2nd Box Middle	9	0
Backhand	10	2	Consistency		7	Backhand CC	10	1	2nd Box Wide	10	0
Sub Total		17	Volley Depth Total		21	Forehand CC	11	3	2nd Box Wide	11	4
Consistency		8				Backhand CC	12	0	2nd Box Wide	12	0
GS Depth Total		25				Sub Total		14	Sub Total		14
						Consistency		8	Consistency		6
						GS Accuracy Total		22	Serve Total		20

Mobility Table	
Time	Score
T 40	39
38	37
36	35
34	33
32	31
30	29
28	27
26	25
24	23
22	21
20	19
18	17
16	15
14	13
12	11
10	9
8	7
6	5
4	3
2	1

Score (F)	57-79	80-108	109-140	141-171	172-205	206-230	231-258	259-303	304-344	345-430
Score (M)	75-104	105-139	140-175	176-209	210-244	245-268	269-293	294-337	338-362	363-430
ITN	ITN 10	ITN 9	ITN 8	ITN 7	ITN 6	ITN 5	ITN 4	ITN 3	ITN 2	ITN 1

Strokes Total	Mobility Score	Total Score
88	26	114

Number of Assessments	New ITN Rating
3	9

Circle players ITN level after completing the Assessment.

International Tennis Number — On Court Assessment

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Sex: M F
 Assessor: _____ Date: _____ Venue: _____

what's your number?



International Tennis Number

This ITN Assessment was conducted in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the Official ITN Assessment Guide. I hereby agree to its authenticity.

Signed by/belief of the player:

Signed by the Assessor:

GS Depth			Volley Depth			GS Accuracy			Serve		
Stroke	#	Score	Stroke	#	Score	Stroke	#	Score	Stroke	#	Score
Forehand	1		Forehand DL	1		Forehand DL	1		1st Box Wide	1	
Backhand	2		Backhand	2		Backhand DL	2		1st Box Wide	2	
Forehand	3		Forehand	3		Forehand DL	3		1st Box Wide	3	
Backhand	4		Backhand	4		Backhand DL	4		1st Box Middle	4	
Forehand	5		Forehand	5		Forehand DL	5		1st Box Middle	5	
Backhand	6		Backhand	6		Backhand DL	6		1st Box Middle	6	
Forehand	7		Forehand	7		Forehand CC	7		2nd Box Middle	7	
Backhand	8		Backhand	8		Backhand CC	8		2nd Box Middle	8	
Forehand	9		Sub Total			Forehand CC	9		2nd Box Middle	9	
Backhand	10		Consistency			Backhand CC	10		2nd Box Wide	10	
Sub Total			Volley Depth Total			Forehand CC	11		2nd Box Wide	11	
Consistency						Backhand CC	12		2nd Box Wide	12	
GS Depth Total						Sub Total			Sub Total		
						Consistency			Consistency		
						GS Accuracy Total			Serve Total		

Mobility Table	Time	Score
T	40	39
	38	37
	36	35
	34	33
	32	31
	30	29
S	1	2
	3	4
	5	6
	7	8
	9	10
	11	12
	12	14
	14	15
	15	16
	16	18
	18	19
	19	21
	21	26
	26	32
	32	39
	39	45
	45	52
	52	61
	61	76

Score (F)	57-79	80-108	109-140	141-171	172-205	206-230	231-258	259-303	304-344	345-430
Score (M)	75-104	105-139	140-175	176-209	210-244	245-268	269-293	294-337	338-362	363-430
ITN	ITN 10	ITN 9	ITN 8	ITN 7	ITN 6	ITN 5	ITN 4	ITN 3	ITN 2	ITN 1

Number of Assessments	New ITN Rating

Circle players ITN level after completing the Assessment.



Conducting an ITN Rating Clinic



The ITN On Court Assessment has been developed to assist National Associations to cater more fully to the recreational players that don't play competition on a regular basis. Whilst the ITF recognises some of the limitations of any non competition based assessment in tennis (e.g. the static feeding; only assessing strokes in a closed situation; only certain strokes being assessed etc.) we believe that the ITN On Court assessment is a powerful tool that can be used in conjunction with the ITN rating system and to complement competition particularly for the recreational players. Not only can the assessment be used as an objective method of initially rating those players that have no history of competition results but the assessment can also be used as powerful promotional tool at events and as a means for players of all levels to measure their improvements in certain aspects related to tennis play.

The ITN On Court Assessment has been designed to be easily integrated into normal coaching programmes and is an ideal tool to use at club/tennis centre "Come and Try" and Open days. You may even like to provide some prizes to players who achieve the highest score for their age group etc. If the players have already completed an On Court Assessment at an earlier time you may provide prizes based on the biggest improvement in score and even break it down to the biggest improvement in different sections on the assessment. For example: The most improved score for Groundstroke Depth, Volley, Groundstroke Accuracy, Serve and even Mobility.

One of the key objectives when developing the ITN On Court Assessment was to keep the overall time to complete the assessment down to less than 10 minutes per player. For the assessment to keep to this timeframe several things should be kept in mind.

1. All players should be warmed up and ready to go when their turn arrives.
2. There should be at least 1 and preferably 2 players picking up tennis balls at all times.
3. All players should be competent at scoring the On Court Assessment or 1 external person should be used to score all assessments (e.g a parent or spectator).
4. Players should rotate / change roles after each completed assessment. For example, the scorer should change so that all players learn how to complete the score sheet.

As you will discover, upon completing the ITN On Court Assessment the players are always very eager to start to analyse their ITN Scoresheet. If you conduct the assessment in a group situation the players will immediately start to make comparisons with other players in the group.

The first time you conduct an ITN On Court Assessment with a player or group of players it will undoubtedly take a little longer as the assessor needs to explain the points involved in each aspect of the assessment. You should therefore encourage other players and parents to watch you conduct the ITN On Court Assessment with other players. Players and spectators will pickup the scoring very quickly if you follow a few simple guidelines.

1. Always shout out the scores in a loud and clear voice so the player, scorer and spectators can hear.
2. Always deliver the score in 3 separate parts for each stroke. In this example the assessor would shout out the score as follows. "3 and 3 equals 6".
 - A. The first part of the score is the score for where the ball lands in the singles playing area. E.g. "3"
 - B. The second part of the score is for if the second bounce lands beyond the baseline or the Bonus Line. E.g. "3"
 - C. The third and final score is the first part and second part added together. In this example the assessor would shout out "equals 6".



Conducting an ITN Rating Clinic



Try to organise the ITN On Court Assessment so that players are kept busy at all times and not left standing or sitting around with no activity. If there are more than 6 players we recommend that an additional court be used as a warm up/practice court to enable players to be ready when their turn arrives.

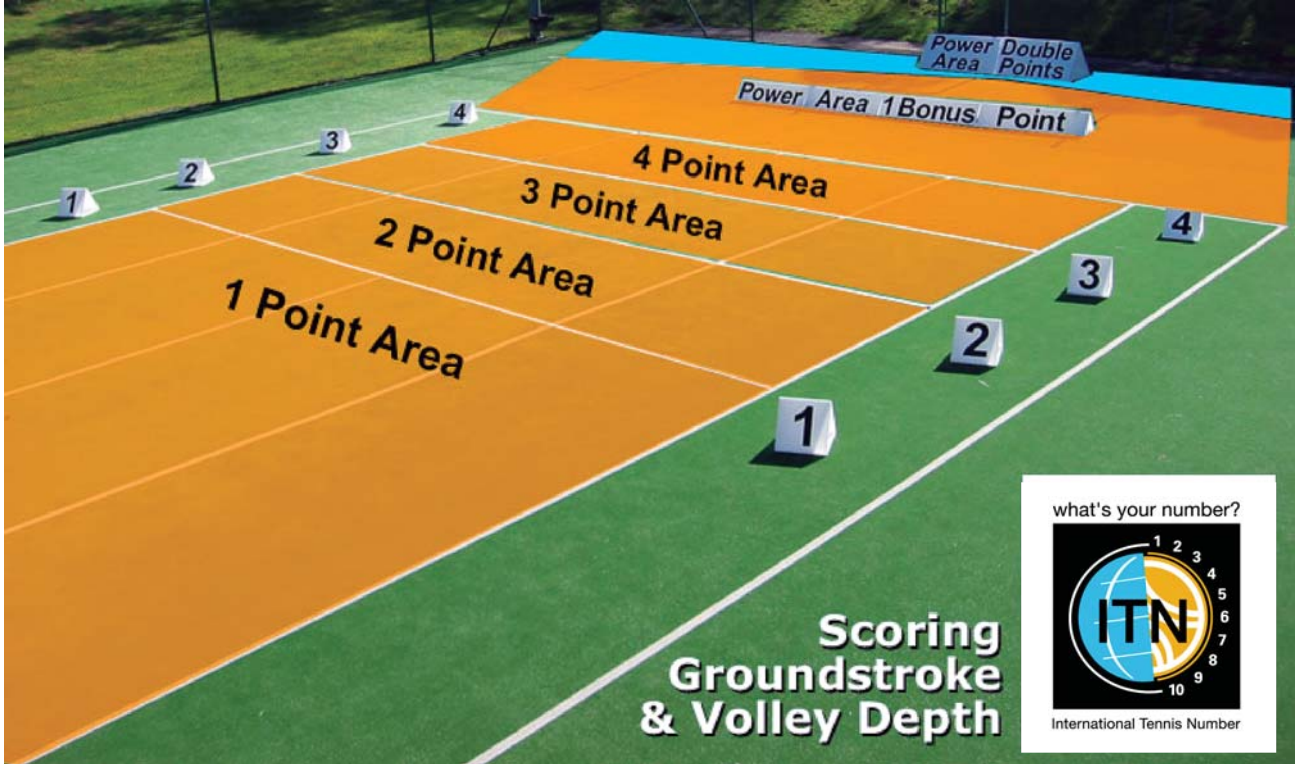
Based on the above considerations, we estimate that you can comfortably conduct the ITN On Court Assessment to the following number of players in the allocated timeframe as per the table below.

These figures are for 1 assessor on 1 court. If you set up additional courts then the time will be divided by the number of courts that are set up for conducting assessments.

No of Players	Total time needed to complete	No of Players all the assessments	Total time needed to complete all the assessments
1 Player	10 minutes.	7 Players	50 minutes.
2 Players	18 minutes.	8 Players	56 minutes.
3 Players	26 minutes.	9 Players	62 minutes.
4 Players	32 minutes.	10 Players	68 minutes.
5 Players	38 minutes.	11 Players	74 minutes.
6 Players	44 minutes.	12 Players	80 minutes.



Court Set Up





References



The ITF would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the following systems already in place which have been used as a reference in developing the ITN On Court Assessment.

- Avery, C.A., Richardson, P.A., & Jackson, A.W. (1979). A practical tennis serve test: Measurement of skill under simulated game conditions. RQES, 50, 554-564.
- Avery, C.A., Richardson, P.A., & Jackson, A.W. (1979). Response to McGehee discussion. RQES, 52, 296- 297.
- Broer, M.R. & Miller, D.M. (1950). Achievement tests for beginning and intermediate tennis. RQES, 21, 203-213.
- Di Genaro, J. (1969). Construction of Forehand drive, Backhand drive and Service tennis tests. Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport, Vol 40 (3).
- Dyer, J.T. (1935). The backboard test of tennis ability, RQES, 6, 63-74.
- Dyer, J.T. (1938). Revision of the Dyer Backboard test of tennis ability. RQES, Vol. 9: 25.
- Fox, K. (1953). A study of the validity of the Dyer Back board test and the Miller forehand-back-hand test for beginning tennis players. RQES, 24, 1-7.
- Hewitt, J.E. (1965). Revision of the Dyer Backboard Tennis Test. RQES, 36, 153-157.
- Hewitt, J.E. (1966). Hewitt's achievement test. RQES, 37, 2, 231-240.
- Hewitt, J.E. (1968). Classification tests in tennis. Res Q. Oct;39(3):552-5.
- Japanese Tennis Association (1998). On Court Assessment Test. Unpublished document.
- Johnson, N. (1973). SSV System.
- Kemp, J. & Vincent, M.F. (1968). Kemp-Vincent rally test of tennis skill. RQES, Vol 39 (4).
- McGehee, R.V. (1979). Discussion of a "practical tennis serve test: Measurement of skill under simulated game conditions". RQES, 52, 294-295.
- O'Connell, D. (1983). The 200-Point Ball Control Contest. Unpublished document.
- O'Connell, D. (1995). The 400 point ball contest, ITF Coaching and Sport Science Review, 7, 7-9.
- Purcell, K. (1981). A tennis forehand-backhand drive skill test which measures ball control and stroke firmness. RQES, 52, 238-245.
- Pyke, S. Elliott, C, & Pyke, B. (1974). Performance testing of tennis and squash players. British J. of Sports Med.. 8 (2), 80-86.

We would also like to thank the various staff members of Tennis Australia who contributed to the development of this Assessment.