

BIDDING AND OFFICIAL REQUIREMENTS
FOR HOSTING

THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 2027



PRODUCED BY THE IRTPA
JANUARY 2026

Any club who is interested in hosting the Challenge has to meet certain criteria, which is set out below. In the event of more than one club submitting a bid, an evaluation process is carried out to compare the submissions. This evaluation and how the IRTPA perform this is explained in Appendix I.

Requirements For Hosting The Challenge

'Good of the Game' The Best Interests of Real Tennis Internationally

- The length of time since the Challenge was last held in your country
- The likely impact through promotion and publicity on the sport
- High quality web streaming shown live on the internet

Suitability of Venue

- A court must be considered by the Executive of the IWCC to be of a championship standard.
- The lighting minimum for a host club should be at 500 Lux with a minimum of 400 Lux measured at a height of 700mm above the floor.

Logistics

- Spectator Capacity - Quantity and quality of seating in the dedans, side galleries and other viewing areas.
- Car parking
- Public Transport

The Players

- To provide 2 hours of court time per day per player for each of the ten days immediately prior to the challenge and for each of the two days between the challenge days.
- To provide 1 hour of court time per player before the start time of the match on each challenge day.

A total of 54 hours of practice courts are required over fifteen days, plus the time of the actual match.

- The cost of court usage to be borne by the host club.

The players also have obligations to the host club.
See Appendix III.

The Marker

- The Marker will be appointed by the IRTPA. It is normal in the Challenge for the Marker to stand at the net.

The Assistant Marker

- The Assistant Marker (formerly known as the Referee) will be appointed by the IRTPA. A seat in the front row of the Dedans will be provided for the Assistant Marker in a position where he can communicate with the Marker. It is also permissible for the Assistant Marker to be placed in the Grille or other locations. This is decided by the IRTPA in discussion with the professionals involved and the host club.

Accommodation for the players, their training partners and the marker

- Well-appointed, self-catered accommodations are to be provided for both players from the start of the 10-day official practice time until the day following the third match day. The accommodation for each of the players must be similar in quality. As the cost and/or difficulty of providing this has increased, the IRTPA should be consulted to help review and confirm player housing.
- To provide a billet or, if this is not available, to provide other accommodations for the training partners.
- To provide a billet or, if this is not available, to provide other accommodations for the Marker if the Marker is not local to the host club. The Assistant Marker is typically from the host club, so housing is usually not a factor for this person.
- The cost of providing these accommodations are borne by the host club.

Balls

- The balls to be used for practice and the challenge will be provided by the IRTPA and passed on at cost to the host club.
- 140 rented balls will be in the region (dependent upon the cost of ball cloth and other materials in 2027) of £15 per ball plus delivery cost and any duties payable by the host club upon delivery and or return to the IRTPA.
- Any 'lost' ball is charged at an additional £20 per ball.

- The balls are to be shipped within 3 days of the event's conclusion and evidenced by a courier receipt. The cost of rental will increase to £25 per ball after the 3 day window and £50 for any lost ball

Free Ticket Allocation *

The Players

- A total of 6 side gallery seats should be allocated free to the players. 3 in the service end 1st gallery area and 3 in the hazard end 1st gallery area.

The IRTPA Executive

- 3 court side seats
 - If any of the 3 Executive members are unable to attend, their seat allocations are released back to the host club.

The IWCC Chairman

- 1 court side seat for the Chairman of the IWCC

Total maximum allocation of free tickets to be made available 10

Additional Seat Reservations

The Players

- A further 14 tickets should be reserved for the supporters of each player (7 per player). These will be purchased at full cost. These should be in the side gallery with the

player's free tickets, unless other seating is requested by a player.

* See Appendix IV showing ticket prices charged at previous events

Social Functions

- These are not set in stone, other than the Championship Dinner at the end of the Challenge. Social functions are normally held during the Challenge and are outlined in Appendix II.

Free Social Function Tickets

- The Champion and the Challenger
- Their training team, up to 2 individuals per player
- The spouses of the Champion and the Challenger
- The Marker
- The Assistant Marker
- The IRTPA Executive and IWCC Chairman

A maximum total of 14 free social function tickets.

Live Coverage and Photography of the Challenge

- The IRTPA should receive on behalf of the players all images, whether still or movie, taken during the event. These will be used for future promotion of the game and will be shown on the IRTPA's web site.
- Web streaming is an essential aspect of your bid. The IRTPA will require assurances that this will be properly covered.

Ticketing

- The host club is responsible for ticket sales and related distribution for the event.

Sponsorship and Title of the Event

- The title of the event cannot be sold to the sponsor. The wording has to be 'World Championship sponsored by'.

Insurance of the Event

- The Executive recommends that the host club secure insurance for some costs of the event, including partial distribution of the guaranteed prize fund if the Challenge should be cancelled for any reason.
 - If the Champion is unable to defend his title, then the Challenger receives 22.5% of the guaranteed prize fund
 - If the Challenger is unable to play, then the Champion receives 45% of the guaranteed prize fund
 - If the Challenge is cancelled for any other reason, the Champion and Challenger receive all legitimate expenses incurred. The host club and the Executive will work cooperatively on this should it occur, but the default is towards reasonable player reimbursement
 - In addition, insurance should cover any costs incurred by the executive plus 10% of the guaranteed prize fund.
- Other costs a host club should consider would be any financial commitments the host club has made prior to the event, such as
 - Costs
 - Commitments

- Guarantees
- Expenses
- Fees
- Advertising
- Promotion costs
- Other expenses
- Net profit

Alternative Match If The Challenge is Over In Two Days

- If the Challenge is completed in 2 days, both players will play in a doubles match on the 3rd scheduled day of play. Two other players will be required of a good standard. Payment to the four players should come from a separate contingency fund and is an additional potential cost to the host club. This figure would be in the region of US \$2,000.

Other Host Club's Obligations

- To provide the Executive, within 6 weeks of the conclusion of the Challenge, a summary report of the event outlining sponsorships, funding, a balance sheet and/or profit & loss statement. This information is very helpful to the Executive for future World Championships,

Timing of the Challenge

- The Challenge is held in the month of September.
- The dates in September are the choice of the host club and should indicate in their bid letter their preferred date to host the event.

The Guaranteed Prize Fund

In Appendix I you will see the weighting of 60% is given to the guaranteed prize fund in the evaluation of bids.

To help you decide your guaranteed amount, previous guaranteed prize funds have been listed below.

Year	Club	Amount in country's currency	Amount in US\$
2002	The Royal Tennis Court	£30,000	\$50,125
2004	The National Tennis Club	\$82,500	\$82,500
2006	The Oratory Tennis Club	£30,000	\$50,125
2008	Fontainebleau	€50,000	\$67,975
2010	Royal Melbourne Tennis Club	\$50,000	\$46,127
2012	The Queen's Club	£80,000	\$133,688
2014	Royal Melbourne Tennis Club	\$75,000	\$69,190
2016	The National Tennis Club	\$100,000	\$100,000
2018	The Queen's Club	£40,000	\$51,860
2022	The Prested Hall Racquet Club	£50,000	\$63,000
2023	The Westwood Country Club	\$50,000*	\$50,000*
	* The amount finally raised and distributed to the two players totalled	\$129,712	\$129,712
2025	The National Tennis Club	\$80,000	\$80,000

The guaranteed prize fund is distributed as follows:

10% to the IRTPA

10% to the WC contingency fund

After the deduction of the above 20% the balance is distributed as follows:

45%	Defending Champion
32.5%	Winner of the Challenge
22.5%	Challenger

The host club should also bear in mind there is a schedule of deposits to be made. These should be made electronically to the IRTPA

By the end of March 2027 a deposit of 30%
By the end of June 2027 the balance

All invoices submitted by the IRTPA must be paid in full. The host club is responsible for any and all transaction fees.

Submission Of Your Bid

Your bid should be emailed to the IRTPA by the 2nd October, 2026. If multiple bids are received these will be assessed as in Appendix I by the Chair and Executive of the IWCC.

The successful club will be notified by the 17th October 2026.

Once the bid has been accepted, the host club must form a Championship Committee. This committee should comprise representation from the host club, the IWCC Executive, and a representative from the host club's National Association. Names and email addresses of Championship Committee are to be emailed to the IRTPA Executive (ceo@irtpa.com) within 2 weeks of the bid being accepted along with the designation of the Committee's Chair and or Co-Chairs. Committee engagement is very important to the success of the World Championship match and event and is also helpful throughout the process in case any questions or issues arise.

The International World Championship Committee (IWCC)

Chairman Jeremy Wintersteen

Representatives from ARTA
 Comité Français
 IRTPA
 T&RA
 USCTA

The IRTPA's World Championship Executive

Members Susie Falkner
 Andrew Gould
 Ben Ronaldson

The IRTPA's Responsibilities

The running of the Challenge, to include

- Appointing the Marker
- Appointing the Marker's Assistant
- Adjudicating on injuries
- Adjudicating on discipline
- Providing 140 balls to the host club

- To be the final arbiter in all matters relating to the conduct of the match and halting play should court conditions be deemed unsafe in conjunction with the Marker and Assistant Marker.

- Allocation of the training and practice times for the players. These will normally be 4 contiguous hours around the match time and for two hours prior to the match times on the days of the Challenge.

- To ensure the players meet all their obligations to the host club of the event.

- To be the sole conduit of all communications with the players.

The IRTPA has a wealth of expertise and are here to assist the host club in their preparations for the event beyond their official role of the running of the Challenge.

IWCC CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING HOST CLUB TENDERS

The following criteria have been set by the IWCC for the Executive as a guide for evaluating tenders to host the Challenge

Criterion		Maximum Points
The prize fund	Absolute	30
	Proportional	30
International rotation		20
Suitability of the proposed venue		10
Good of the game		10
TOTAL		100

For clarification of the prize fund criterion:

The best bid under the prize fund criterion will score maximum points and the points scored by other bidders will be proportionate to this.

For all other criteria the points awarded will be Absolute.

Under the Absolute scale under the prize fund criterion, one point will be deducted for each 1000 by which the less bid trails the greater.

Example: Club A bids 60,000 and Club B bids 40,000
 Absolute: Club A scores 30 and Club B scores 10 (i.e. 30 less 20)
 Proportional: Club A scores 30 and Club B scores 20
 Total: Club A scores 60 and Club B scores 30

Under international rotation criterion, weightings are applied as follows:

The most recent host club	0
All clubs in the most recent host country	5
All clubs in the previous host country	10
All clubs in the second previous host country	15
All other clubs	20

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

The whole week of the Challenge is not only for the match, it becomes a week of events off court as well.

What you propose to hold is important, but it is flexible, other than the Championship Dinner at the conclusion of the event.

Past Social Function Events Held

Not all of these will be possible, but a selection from the list below enhances the event overall.

Welcome Party

Mid tournament dinner or function

Amateur doubles

Pro-Am doubles

Other racquet or non-racquet sports if available

Historic tours

Educational conferences

Theatre and/or art opportunities

PLAYERS OBLIGATIONS TO THE HOST CLUB

- In order to avoid conflicts with the Host Club's Sponsors, to submit to the Championship Committee in advance for approval, any contractual obligations the player would like to enter into with third parties (e.g. Clothing Companies, Media, etc.).
- To comply with any reasonable request to wear the clothing on court provided by the Host Club, or its Sponsors if a player does not have a clothing contract.
- To comply with any reasonable request to sign medical forms for reasons of event insurance.
- To comply with any reasonable request to promote the event, such reasonableness to be determined by the Executive.
- To be available for interview by TV presenters, or members of the press, before and/or after play on each day of the Challenge Match.
- To advise the Championship Committee of the take-up of tickets set aside for the players by the prescribed dates.
- To attend the World Championship Press Conference.
- To be available, if required, to play a doubles match on the third day of the Challenge if it is completed in two days.
- To attend the Championship Dinner and all other social functions organised by the host club. If any doubt as to which events are required, the IRTPA shall determine so.

APPENDIX IV

Striking the right price for the event can be difficult. Below is information from past Challenges.

TICKETS	ALL PRICES IN USDS						
	Queens 2012	RMTC 2014	Newport 2016	Queens *** 2018	Prested 2022	Washington 2023	Newport 2025
3 DAY PURCHASE COST							
Dedans Special 5 tickets min. price **	\$ 5,985.00						
Dedans Front	\$ 1,187.00		\$ 1,575.00	N/A*	\$ 1,250.20		\$ 1,500.00
Dedans Back	\$ 1,197.00		\$ 1,470.00	N/A	\$ 1,010.80		\$ 1,250.00
SG Front	\$ 588.50		\$ 525.00	N/A	\$ 365.75		\$ 1,000.00
SG Back	\$ 478.80		\$ -	N/A			\$ -
SG Standing	\$ -		\$ -	N/A	\$ 292.60		\$ 600.00
Upper Gallery	\$ 299.25		\$ 630.00	N/A	\$ 268.40		\$ 300.00
Streaming Room	\$ 172.90		\$ 63.00	N/A			\$ -
Club Room Front			\$ 940.00	N/A	\$ 771.40		\$ 100.00
Club Room Back			\$ 735.00	N/A	\$ 558.60		\$ 800.00
Club Room Horseshoe			\$ 420.00	N/A	\$ 844.55		\$ -
2 DAY PURCHASE COST							
Dedans Special 5 tickets min. price				N/A			
Dedans Front				N/A			\$ 1,200.00
Dedans Back				N/A			\$ 1,000.00
SG Front				N/A			\$ 800.00
SG Back				N/A			\$ -
SG Standing				N/A			\$ 480.00
Upper Gallery				N/A			\$ 240.00
Streaming Room				N/A			\$ -
Club Room Front				N/A			\$ 800.00
Club Room Back				N/A			\$ 640.00
Club Room Horseshoe				N/A			\$ -
TICKETS ON A DAILY BASIS COST							
Dedans Special 5 tickets DAY 1	\$ 1,995.00						
Dedans Front DAY 1	\$ 399.00		\$ 750.00	\$ 532.00	518.7		\$ 750.00
Dedans Special 5 tickets DAY 2	\$ 1,995.00						\$ -
Dedans Front DAY 2	\$ 399.00		\$ 750.00	\$ 665.00	591.85		\$ 625.00
Dedans Special 5 tickets DAY 3	\$ 1,995.00						
Dedans Front DAY 3	\$ 399.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 399.00	452.2		
Dedans Back DAY 1	\$ 332.50	\$ 225.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 399.00	418.95		
Dedans Back DAY 2	\$ 332.50	\$ 225.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 498.75	478.8		
Dedans Back DAY 3	\$ 332.50	\$ 225.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 332.50	365.75		
SG Front DAY 1	\$ 199.50	\$ 135.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 199.50	152.95		\$ 500.00
SG Front DAY 2	\$ 199.50	\$ 135.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 252.70	172.9		
SG Front DAY 3	\$ 133.00	\$ 135.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 133.00	133		
SG Back DAY 1	\$ 159.60	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 159.60	0		\$ 300.00
SG Back DAY 2	\$ 159.60	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 199.50	0		
SG Back DAY 3	\$ 106.40	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 106.40	0		
SG Standing DAY 1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	126.35		
SG Standing DAY 2	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	139.65		
SG Standing DAY 3	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	106.4		
Upper Gallery DAY 1	\$ 99.75	\$ 70.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 99.75	126.35		\$ 150.00
Upper Gallery DAY 2	\$ 99.75	\$ 70.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 126.35	139.65		
Upper Gallery DAY 3	\$ 61.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 66.50	106.4		
Club Room Front DAY 1	\$ -	\$ 135.00	\$ 400.00	\$ -	319.2		\$ 500.00
Club Room Front DAY 2	\$ -	\$ 135.00	\$ 400.00	\$ -	365.75		
Club Room Front DAY 3	\$ -	\$ 135.00	\$ 400.00	\$ -	279.30		
Club Room Back DAY 1	\$ -	\$ 135.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	232.75		\$ 400.00
Club Room Back DAY 2	\$ -	\$ 135.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	266.00		
Club Room Back DAY 3	\$ -	\$ 135.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	199.50		
Club Room Horseshoe DAY 1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ -	352.45		\$ -
Club Room Horseshoe DAY 2	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ -	399.00		\$ -
Club Room Horseshoe DAY 3	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ -	305.90		\$ -
General Admission	\$ -	\$ 40.00					
Streaming Room DAY 1	\$ 66.50		\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00			
Streaming Room DAY 2	\$ 66.50		\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00			
Streaming Room DAY 3	\$ 39.90		\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00			
SOCIAL EVENTS							
Opening Cocktail Party	\$ 46.55	\$ 65.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 35.00	\$ -		
Mid-Week Dinner	\$ 133.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85.00	\$ -		\$ 125.00
Championship Dinner	\$ 166.25	\$ 115.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 166.25		\$ 250.00
Amateur Obies per player	\$ 33.25	\$ 25.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 133.00		\$ 225.00
Pro Am	\$ 465.50	\$ 205.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 532.00		
Golf Day	\$ 166.25	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 133.00		
Theatre	\$ 172.90	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		

*QC in 2018 gave a free drinks ticket val
 ** 5 front row seats were put up for auct
 *** QC in 2018 offered no package deal