



INTERNATIONAL  
RACQUETBALL  
FEDERATION

**IRF RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS RULES AND FORMATS**  
**IRF World Championships and IRF World Junior Championships**  
**Revised November 2024**

**A. GENERAL**

Only established members recognized by the IRF and with membership dues paid may participate. Entries will be accepted only from affiliated federations and not from individuals.

In general, all possible cases that are not specified in these rules and formats will use the same criteria of the laws and regulations of the IRF.

At least 60 days prior to the start of a competition, the IRF will submit the official invitation that emerges from the meeting with the LOC (Local Organizing Committee).

The results of all matches will be posted daily at a visible location near the courts and must show the winner with results. This will officially be the only element used by the Control Desk and Tournament Director.

Entries will be accepted until 15 days before the start of the competition, with name changes allowed up to 96 hours before the start of the competition. After these deadlines, the Tournament Director will decide if the entries are accepted.

Each participant should play at least 3 matches in each category in any Cup, except in Team Competition. Should a player get the benefit of receiving a bye or forfeit, it will be considered a played match.

If a player does not show up for more than one match of the group's first round, he/she cannot continue participating in the competition in the second phase of the draw. Including verified and certified injury, this will only serve not to deduct points to the country for Team Competition.

To report any last-minute problems regarding the arrival of the team into the country where the competition is being held, and to request any special treatment relative to the schedule, notify the Tournament Director by email before 17:00 hrs of the day before the Technical Meeting.

After the last match of the group's competition in each category, the format of the seeding for the draws phase of the competition will be selected. The Tournament Director will send a copy with the matches for each country through the Delegate. Also, a copy will be posted on the IRF official website.

Players must play the second phase (draws) in the same category and division that they did in the first group stage, with the following exceptions:

- a)** If a doubles player is injured and an approved valid medical certificate is provided to the Tournament Director, that player may be replaced by one of the singles players who has played in the first phase.
- b)** If a singles player is injured and an approved valid medical certificate is provided to the Tournament Director, he/she may be replaced by one of the doubles players who has played in the first phase.
- c)** The injured player who has been replaced cannot continue in the tournament.

The players have the right to take a maximum of 45 minutes of rest time between matches.

The Technical Meeting will be announced along with the complete schedule for the entire week.

Recommendations for changes will only be accepted directly from the Presidents of National Federations. The recommendations will be brought to the Technical Committee for evaluation. The Technical Committee will then present the proposed changes along with its recommendations to the Executive Committee for consideration.

Any changes made to these rules that undergo the above process shall be approved by the Executive Committee under the recommendation of the Technical Committee and will take effect the following year. However, changes may be applied in the competition of the same tournament if the proposed changes are approved unanimously by the delegates present in the Technical Meeting with a quorum of 80%.

There will be no referees or line judges assigned to matches who are of the same nationality as any of the competing players. Countries have the right to request the Control Table and Tournament Director to appoint referees and line judges from neutral countries.

A.13.A Referees may not be removed of a match. Only in the case detailed in point 5.3 of the Rule Book.

A13.B Line judges will only be assigned from the quarter finals on (depending on the number of referees and courts).

For the relevance it has for our sport, the Olympic Chain events will have their own format, decided by the Tournament Director and the Technical Committee following the present rules. Any country that has not participated in the Technical Meeting, for whatever reason, is not entitled to object to any decisions taken in the meeting. Any items not included in these rules and regulations shall be addressed and resolved by the Executive Committee.

## **B. DATES OF COMPETITION**

### **World Championships**

The World Racquetball Championships will be played every two years (in even years) with a duration of nine days, beginning on Friday with the Opening Ceremony; the competition from Saturday to Saturday, leaving the decision of a day off (Tuesday) to the Tournament Director's discretion. (In exceptional cases, the Executive Committee has the latitude to change the date.)

### **Junior Championships**

The Junior World Championships will be played every year starting on a Sunday and ending on a Saturday. The Executive Committee will determine the dates of the Junior World Championships, taking into consideration the multiple factors that influence such decisions.

## **C. ORGANIZATION**

For uniform regulations, please see the IRF Uniform Policy 2023.

Round robins and matches schedule and the main draws (only schedules) will be delivered at the Technical Meeting to be held the day before the start of competition at a time and place announced by the Tournament Director. Delegates will have a maximum of two hours after the end of the Technical Meeting to make any claim.

After the end of the Technical Meeting, player's eligibility documents must be presented and registration fees must be paid. Only players who have paid their registration fees and presented the documents will be allowed to begin competition.

## **D. CUPS**

### **WORLD**

**a)** Individual (Singles and Doubles)

**b)** Team Competition - Country

**c)** Challenger Cup - Only played if there are time and court availabilities. This will be determined by the Tournament Director.

### **JUNIORS**

**a)** World Cup

**b)** Esprit Cup

**c)** Challenger Cup - Only played if there are time and court availabilities. This will be determined by the Tournament Director.

## **E. DIVISIONS**

### **WORLD**

#### **a) Individual Competition**

Men's Singles	2 players per country
Women's Singles	2 players per country
Men's Doubles	1 team of two players per country
Women's Doubles	1 team of two players per country
Mixed Doubles	1 team of two players per country

#### **b) Team Competition**

##### **MEN**

Men's Singles	2 players per country
Men's Doubles	1 team of two players per country

##### **WOMEN**

Women's Singles	2 players per country
Women's Doubles	1 team of two players per country

#### **c) Challenger**

Divisions and the number of participants will be designated by the Tournament Director.

### **JUNIORS**

#### **a) WORLD CUP**

Boys Singles 21 and under	2 singles players per country
Boys Doubles 21 and under	1 team of two players per country Boys
Singles 18 and under	2 singles players per country
Boys Doubles 18 and under	1 team of two players per country Boys
Singles 16 and under	2 singles players per country
Boys Doubles 16 and under	1 team of two players per country
Girls Singles 21 and under	2 singles players per country
Girls Doubles 21 and under	1 team of two players per country Girls
Singles 18 and under	2 singles players per country
Girls Doubles 18 and under	1 team of two players per country

Girls Singles 16 and under	2 singles players per country
Girls Doubles 16 and under	1 team of two players per country
Mixed Doubles 21 and under	1 team of two players per country
Mixed Doubles 18 and under	1 team of two players per country
Mixed Doubles 16 and under	1 team of two players per country

**b) ESPRIT CUP**

Boys Singles 14 and under	6 singles players per country
Boys Doubles 14 and under	2 doubles team of two players per country
Girls Singles 14 and under	6 singles players per country
Girls Doubles 14 and under	2 doubles team of two players per country
Boys Singles 12 and under	6 players per country (only two pre-designated players will win points for the country)
Boys Doubles 12 and under	2 teams per country (only one pre-designated team will win points for the country)
Girls Singles 12 and under	6 players per country (only 2pre-designated players will win points for the country)
Girls Doubles 12 and under	2 teams per country (only 1 pre-designated team will win points for the country)
Boys Singles 10 and under	6 players per country (only 2pre-designated players will win points for the country.)
Boys Doubles 10 and under	2 teams per country (only 1 pre-designated team will win points for the country)
Girls Singles 10 and under	6 players per country (only 2pre-designated players will win points for the country)
Girls Doubles 10 and under	2 teams per country (only 1 pre-designated team Will win points for the country)
Mixed Doubles 14 and under	2 teams of two players per country (only 1 pre-designated team Will win points for the country)

Mixed Doubles 12 and under      2 teams of two players per country (only 1 pre-designated team  
Will win points for the country)

Mixed Doubles 10 and under      2 teams of two players per country (only 1 pre-designated team  
Will win points for the country)

**c) CHALLENGER CUP**

Categories and number of participants will be designated by the Tournament Director.

**F: FORMATS**

**OPEN**

**a) WORLD CUP**

This cup will be played in round-robin groups in the first phase; on the second stage will be two different eliminations draw, following point a.2.

**ROUND ROBIN**

The first stage will be played in a group format classifying those previously designated by the Tournament Director. Within these groups, all players compete against each other. The intention will be to have four players in each group.

**ELIMINATION DRAWS**

From the round-robin, with 16 or more participants, will classify the top two of each group to the Gold Elimination Draw. The third and fourth will classify to the Elite Elimination Draw. Winners will emerge from the elimination draws but also points will be awarded to certain players (see Points Awarded) that help to select the winners of the Team Tournament by points.

In each category, the draws on the second phase (Gold and Elite Single Elimination) will be seeded as follows: 1° & 2° will be seeded directly. Then, each position will be seeding doing a raffle by couples (3° & 4°, 5° & 6°, ...). Always, respecting point F.1.a.2 of this document. This selection will be held after the end of the last match of the groups, in the presence of at least three delegates from different countries.

If two players from the same country both finish in first place in their groups, they are guaranteed that they will not play against each other before the championship final. If necessary, the position of the lower seeded player will be modified with the first position that will resolve the situation.

## **TEAM COMPETITION**

In the Team Competition, teams from each country face each other in a Single Elimination bracket until reaching a winner, a second, and two third places. A separate Men's and Women's Team Competition will be held. In turn, by adding the points of those competitions, the first four positions (1°, 2°, 3°, 4° place) will be awarded in the Team Competition Combined. Each team will be composed of a minimum of two athletes and a maximum of four.

Each crossing between the teams will be made up of a minimum of 2 matches and a maximum of 3 which will include the matches between singles 1, singles 2, and doubles team. The team that wins two of three matches will advance to the next round of the bracket. In case a team wins the first two games of the match, the third game will not be played. The order of play of the matches will be defined by the following criteria in each stage:

- Finals: SINGLE2-SINGLE1-DOUBLES
- Semi-finals: SINGLE2-DOUBLES-SINGLE1
- Quarterfinals: SINGLE2-SINGLE1-DOUBLES
- Round of 16's: DOUBLES -SINGLE2-SINGLE1
- Round of 32's and previous stages: DOUBLES-SINGLE2-SINGLE1

If the characteristics of the event so require, the Tournament Director may adapt the order of play.

## **JUNIORS**

### **a) WORLD CUP**

This cup will be played in round-robin groups in the first phase; the second stage will be elimination draws.

### **ROUND ROBIN**

Played in a group format classifying those previously designated by the Tournament Director, the intention will be to classify all to the second phase. Within these groups, all players compete against each other. The intention will be to have four players in each group.

### **ELIMINATION DRAWS**

Winners will emerge from the elimination draws but also points will be awarded to certain players (see Points Awarded) that help to select the winners of the Team Competition.

In each category, the draws on the second phase\* will be seeded as follows: 1° & 2° will be seeded directly. Then, each position will be seeding doing a raffle by couples (3°&4°, 5° & 6°, ...). Always, respecting point F.1.a.2 of this document. This selection will be held after the end of the last match of the groups, in the presence of at least three delegates from different countries.

\*In juniors, the format of the second stage, have one or two draws (Gold and Elite Single Elimination) will be a decision of the Tournament Director taking into consideration the number of entries, the available time, and number of courts on the competition venue)

**b) ESPRIT CUP**

Olympic format will be played with a Gold, Blue, Red and White Draw if there are at least 16 participants.

If the number of participants in each category is less than 16, it will be played on the same system as the World Cup, or, if there are 6 or fewer participants, a Round Robin with no second phase will be played, leaving any modifications to the consideration of the Tournament Director.

In any format played, for the team tournament, points will be awarded only to the 2 singles players and doubles team pre-designated by the country for such, leaving the other players the right to win medals individually. This means that a player not designated will not score points for the country in the team tournament but can still be an individual champion in his/her class and receive a gold medal.

**CHALLENGER**

To be determined by the IRF Tournament Director.

**G. ELIGIBILITY**

The only legal ways of demonstrating eligibility for a National Federation are the passport of the country that represents or the IRF authorization with another type of document.

Every player who was transferred to a new National Federation, have to wait 18 months from the last participation for the old National Federation. Or get the international transfer card. Any special situation could be decided by the IRF.

**WORLD**

- a) The minimum age to participate is 15 years at the starting date of the championship. After carefully studying a request, there may be exceptions for special reasons that may be accepted by the Tournament Director with the approval of the Executive Committee.
  
- b) In the Elite Tournament, players can only participate in one Cup (Elite or Challenger) and in a maximum of two divisions.



## **JUNIORS**

- a) The age of the participant as of January 1st of the competition year determines eligibility in each category.
- b) Players may participate in two Cups, and two divisions, but competing in the World Cup or Esprit Cup, Challenger Cup must be done in a higher age category (the only exception is in the 21 & Under division).

## **H. APPEALS**

In all IRF tournaments, an Appeals Committee will be formed consisting of seven (7) person selected by the Tournament Director and announced at the Technical Meeting. When the Committee is requested, at least three (3) out of the seven members must be present to gather facts, deliberate, vote, and reach a decision.

The Committee must have summoned the two or more parties in contention as well as the referee or any other person deemed helpful to provide a fair decision.

The followings are the ways a player, coach or delegate can appeal rulings believed to be in error:

- a) First, ask for explanation from the referee.
- b) If the complainant still believes that there remains a misinterpretation or misapplication of a rule, it shall be addressed to the Tournament Director who will review the rules and issue his/her ruling.
- c) If the complainant continues to believe that there exists an error in the decision, he/she can request the Tournament Director to assemble the Appeals Committee to address the issue. The ruling made by the Appeals Committee, after consulting the persons they deemed necessary to reach a decision, shall be final and cannot be appealed.

**Note:** To use any of the above appeal options, the complaint must be made at the time the violation occurs; therefore, once the match or game is restarted and or completed, there is no possibility of appeal. Consequently, if there are any doubts about the application of the rules, the referee shall be requested to stop the match so that the progressive steps of the appeal process can be followed as appropriate and necessary.

## **L. RANKING (Seeding Order)**

### **WORLD**

#### **a) Individual**

The World category ranking is made taking the best position (not points) that each country earned, between the past two championships. Seeding will be

done separately for singles, doubles, men, and women. In case of tie positions between two or more countries, the following tie breaker system will be used:

- A1)** The close stretched position in time will be taken.
- A2)** The highest position of all will be taken.
- A3)** The first and second years will be taken into account when choosing the best of the last two.
- A4)** Previous years will be taken into consideration until the fourth year.
- A5)** The Tournament Director will decide the position with a raffle.

**Note:** The positions of the Singles Ranking Divisions of each year will be created by adding together the final positions results of both Singles Players. The winner of the Elite Draw will be awarded with the position of the next round following the last one that was played in the Gold Draw. For example, if the Gold Draw is a 16's draw (even though the draw was not complete) the winner of the Elite Draw will be seeded 17<sup>th</sup>, the runner-up will be seeded 18<sup>th</sup>, both losers of the semifinals 19<sup>th</sup>, and so on until the last player in the division.

If there is a tie between two or more countries, the following tiebreaker system will be used to get the ranking of the country that year:

- 1°) Single 1 final position in Draw
- 2°) Single 2 final position in Draw
- 3°) Single 1 final position in Round Robin
- 4°) Single 2 final position in Round Robin
- 5°) The Tournament Director will decide the position with a raffle.

## **JUNIORS**

The ranking to be used for seeding the Juniors emerges from the previous year's results and will be taken in each separate category, corresponding the earned ranking to the Country and not the player.

In case of a tie, the positions between two or more countries will use the following tiebreaker system:

- a)** The highest position of all will be taken.
- b)** Previous years will be taken into consideration until the fifth year.
- c)** The Tournament Director will decide the position with a raffle.

## **CREATING THE SEEDINGS**

- a)** Players are organized by country ranking and within each country in positions 1 and 2, forming a continuous list where the number one ranked is located first in the list.

- b) Players are chosen in order and are erased as they are placed in the new list, always choosing the first un-erased player with the condition that he/she be from a different country than the last picked. When there is only one player left, he/she will be placed in the last position.
- c) For the cases where there are more than 2 players per country, placement will be made first for positions 1 and 2 of each country, proceeding next with all positions 3 and 4, then 5 and 6 if such were the case, and so forth always in pairs.

## **J. SEEDING**

### **a) Group seeding**

Seeding system to use once the Ranking List has been obtained for each category:

Players are chosen in order and are deleted from the list as they are placed in the groups. If a player is seeded together in a group with his/her team mate, he will be moved to the next group. The seeding system will start from the first group to the last in order, then return from the last to the first and repeat the operation until all the players have been seeded – “snake seeding.”

### **b) Draw Seeding (Simple Elimination)**

In each category, the draws on the second phase (Gold and Elite Single Elimination) will be seeded as follows: 1° & 2° will be seeded directly. Then, each position will be seeding doing a raffle by couples (3° & 4°, 5° & 6°, ...). Always, respecting point F.1.a.2 of this document. This selection will be held after the end of the last match of the groups, in the presence of at least three delegates from different countries.

**Note:** In some cases of the original seeding of the draw, R2 Sport doesn't follow the "snake system" to avoid playing against the same player/team of the group. In these cases the R2 seeding will be respected before to do the IRF raffle.

### **c) Team Competition Seeding**

The seeding of the Single Elimination Draw of the Team Competition will be done separately in each branch and following the final positions of the previous individual competition at the same event.

- Men's Team Competition: Singles 1, Singles 2 and Men's Doubles.
- Women's Team Competition: Singles 1, Singles 2 and Women's Doubles.

The winner of the Elite Draw will be awarded with the position of the next round following the last one that was played in the Gold Draw. For example, if the Gold Draw is a 16's draw (even though the draw was not complete) the winner of the Elite Draw

will be seeded 17th, the runner-up will be seeded 18th, the both losers of the semifinals 19th, and so on until the last player in the division.

If there is a tie in between two or more teams the tiebreaker system is as follows:

- 1- Position reached by Singles 1 in the Single Elimination Draw
- 2- Position reached by Singles 2 in the Single Elimination Draw
- 3- Position reached by Doubles Team in the Single Elimination Draw
- 4- Raffle between the tied teams

The Tournament Director may decide to use different seeding formats for the Team Competition brackets.

## **K. TIE BREAKER**

### **Groups (Round Robin)**

If there is a tie in points between two or more players within a group, the tiebreaker system is as follows:

- a) Head-to-head match win between those tied.
- b) The difference between games won and games lost between tied players. Games played between the tied players will be the only ones considered. Always check the referee's results (for no shows Forfeit 11-0 and 11-0, if Forfeit with a partial results example: 11-8, 3-3, use 11-8, 11-3).
- c) The difference between points won and points lost between tied players. Only the points between those involved in the tie will be considered. Always check the referee's results (for no shows Forfeit 11-0 and 11-0, if Forfeit with a partial results example: 11-8, 3-3, use 11-8, 11-3).
- d) The division between points won and points lost between the tied players. Only the matches between those involved in the tie will be considered. Always check the referee's results (for no shows Forfeit 11-0 and 11-0, if Forfeit with a partial results example: 11-8, 3-3, use 11-8, 11-3).
- e) Random lottery system done at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

### **TEAM COMPETITION BY POINTS**

In the case of a tie between two or more countries in the Team Competition, with in the top four, the following tiebreaker system will be applied:

- a) The player designated as #1 singles that has reached the highest position in the second phase.
- b) The doubles team that has reached the highest position in the second phase.
- c) The player designated as #2 singles who has reached the highest position in the second phase.

- d) The difference between games won and games lost between two singles players and doubles team who have tied. Only the matches between those involved in the tie will be considered. Always check the referee's results (for no shows Forfeit 11-0 and 11-0, if Forfeit with a partial results example: 11-8, 3-3, use 11-8, 11-3).
- e) The difference between points won and points lost between two singles players and doubles team who have tied. Only the matches between those involved in the tie will be considered. Always check the referee's results (for no shows Forfeit 11-0 and 11-0, if Forfeit with a partial results example: 11-8, 3-3, use 11-8, 11-3).
- f) Random lottery system done at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

**Note:** Any time that a multiple tie results in a new tie between two or more players for two or more positions, return to point (a) (winner when they played each other)

## L. **POINTS AWARDED**

### **POINTS AWARDED FOR ROUND ROBIN STANDINGS**

The points awarded in the Round Robin to determine the positions of the groups are as follows:

WINNER OF MATCH= 2 POINTS

LOSER OF MATCH = 1 POINT

LOSERFORFEITNOSHOW=0POINTS

### **TEAM POINTS AWARDED (without competition)**

#### **a) FIRST PHASE**

Within the groups, points are earned that will be added to the points of the second phase to achieve the final score of each player, using the following criteria:

FIRST OF THE GROUP: 24 POINTS

SECOND OF THE GROUP: 16 POINTS

THIRD OF THE GROUP: 8 POINTS

#### **b) SECOND PHASE:**

For the points of the second phase, the following table will be used. The positions of the Elite Elimination Draws will be considered starting in the position of the next round following the last one that was played in the Gold Draw.

POSITION DRAWS	OF 4	OF 8	OF 16	OF 32	OF 64
FIRST	160	160	160	160	160
SECOND	120	120	120	120	120
THIRD	80	80	80	80	80
5 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup>	-	40	40	40	40
9 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup>	-	-	20	20	20
17 <sup>th</sup> to 32 <sup>nd</sup>	-	-	-	10	10
33 <sup>rd</sup> to 64 <sup>th</sup>	-	-	-	-	5

### General Score

The final overall score of each player will come from the sum of total of points earned in the second phase (draws) plus the points earned in the Round Robin (groups).

**NOTE:** Players who do not show up to play in one of the first groups (Round Robin) will be penalized with a deduction of 12 points to the country's general total for the team championship, except in the event that a medical excuse is provided stating that the no show was due to injury and that the excuse is then accepted by the Tournament Director.

### TEAM COMPETITION

a) **MEN'S TEAM:** Add the number of points earned by the singles players and doubles team which will be the Men's team total for the country.

b) **WOMEN'S TEAM:** Add the number of points earned by the singles players and doubles team which will be the Women's team total for the country.

c) **COMBINED TEAM:** Add the amount of points earned by the country in both the Men's Team and Women's Team competitions which will be the combined total for the country.

### POINTS IN OLYMPIC SYSTEM

**GOLD DRAW:** The same criteria as in the second phase format / draw –M.2 b. Points for the other draws are as follows:

**BLUE DRAW:** Will award the champion with 14 points, second with 12 points and third (2) with 10 points in addition to the GOLD DRAW.

**RED DRAW:** Will award the champion with 9 points, second with 7 points and third (2) with 6 points in addition to the GOLD DRAW.

**WHITE DRAW:** Will award the champion with 5 points, second with 3 points and third (2) with 2 points in addition to the GOLD DRAW.

**M.**     **AWARDS**

**A) WORLDS**

**a) INDIVIDUAL CUP**

Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals (2 third place, no playoff) in all draws.

**b) TEAM COMPETITION CUP**

The Women's and Men's Team Competitions give trophies to the 1st, 2nd and two 3rd places. The Combined Team Competition gives Trophies to the first 4 places.

**c) CHALLENGER CUP**

Medals will be awarded individually: gold, silver and bronze (two bronzes).

**B) JUNIORS WORLD CUP**

**INDIVIDUAL**

Gold, silver, and bronze (2 third places, no playoff)

**COUNTRY**

Trophies will be awarded from the First to the Fourth place for both Girl's Team, Boy's Team, and Combined (the sum of girls and boys).

**a) ESPRITCUP**

**INDIVIDUAL**

**OLYMPIC FORMAT**

GOLD DRAW: 1gold, 1silver, and 2bronze

BLUEDRAW: 1gold, 1 silver, and 2 bronze

REDDRAW: 1 gold, 1 silver, and 2 bronze

WHITEDRAW: 1 gold, 1 silver, and 2 bronze

**Note:** If played in another format other than Olympic, 1 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronzes will be awarded.

**COUNTRY**

Trophies will be awarded from the First to the Fourth place for both Girls' Team, Boy's Team, and Combined (the sum of girls and boys).

## **b) CHALLENGER CUP**

Medals will be awarded individually: gold, silver and bronze (two bronzes).

## **N. ATHLETE PERSONAL RANKING**

With full respect to points I1 and I2, a personal ranking of each athlete will be created and showed on the IRF Official Website. The sum of points gained by each player on the last 3 events will take into consideration to seed the personal ranking. Following the point scale of point L2.

## **UPDATES AND MODIFICATIONS**

### **a) August 2024**

- 1- I; a; Note: Added note to clarify the seeding of the rankings.
- 2- J, c: Addition of seeding criteria for team competition
- 3- K: Removed note on tiebreaker system (after WRC 2024)

### **b) November 2024**

- J, b) Added note to allow R2 to seed differently in some special cases

*November 2024*

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