

**Survey Results  
& Analysis**

for

**2009 USTA National Player ITF Seeding  
Questionnaire**



Monday, June 08, 2009  
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## **Executive Summary**

This report contains a detailed statistical analysis of the results to the survey titled *2009 USTA National Player ITF Seeding Questionnaire* . The results analysis includes answers from all respondents who took the survey in the 66 day period from Saturday, January 24, 2009 to Monday, March 30, 2009. 569 completed responses were received to the survey during this time.

# Survey Results & Analysis

**Survey:** 2009 USTA National Player ITF Seeding Questionnaire

**Author:**

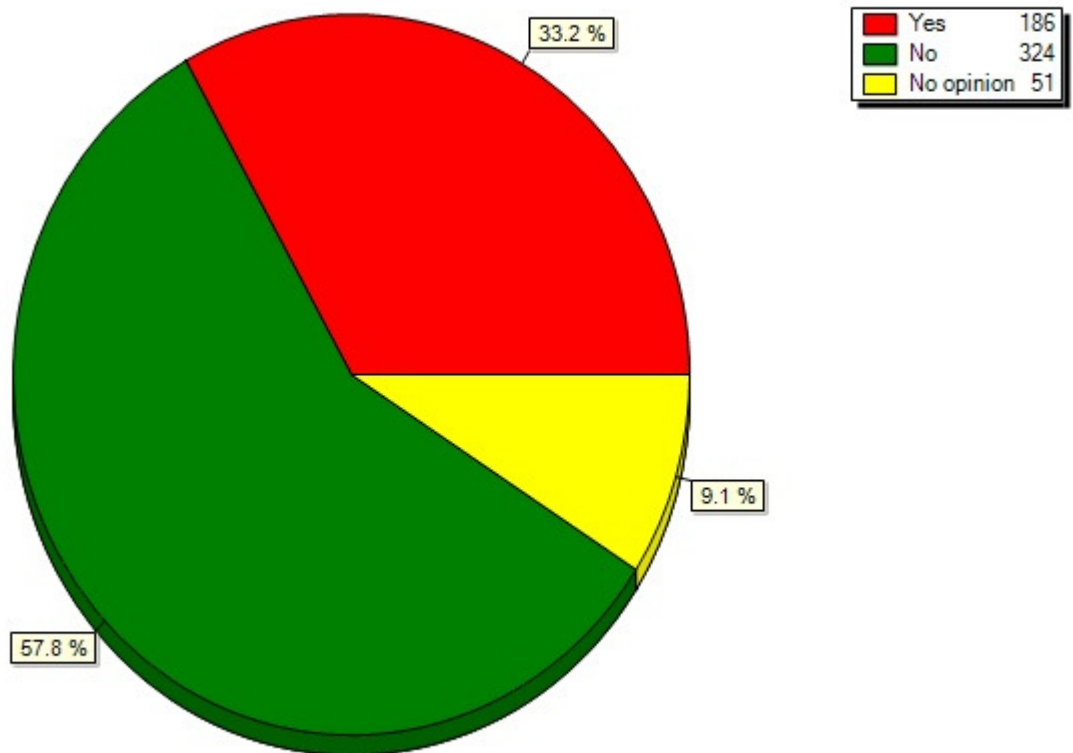
**Filter:**

**Responses Received:** 569

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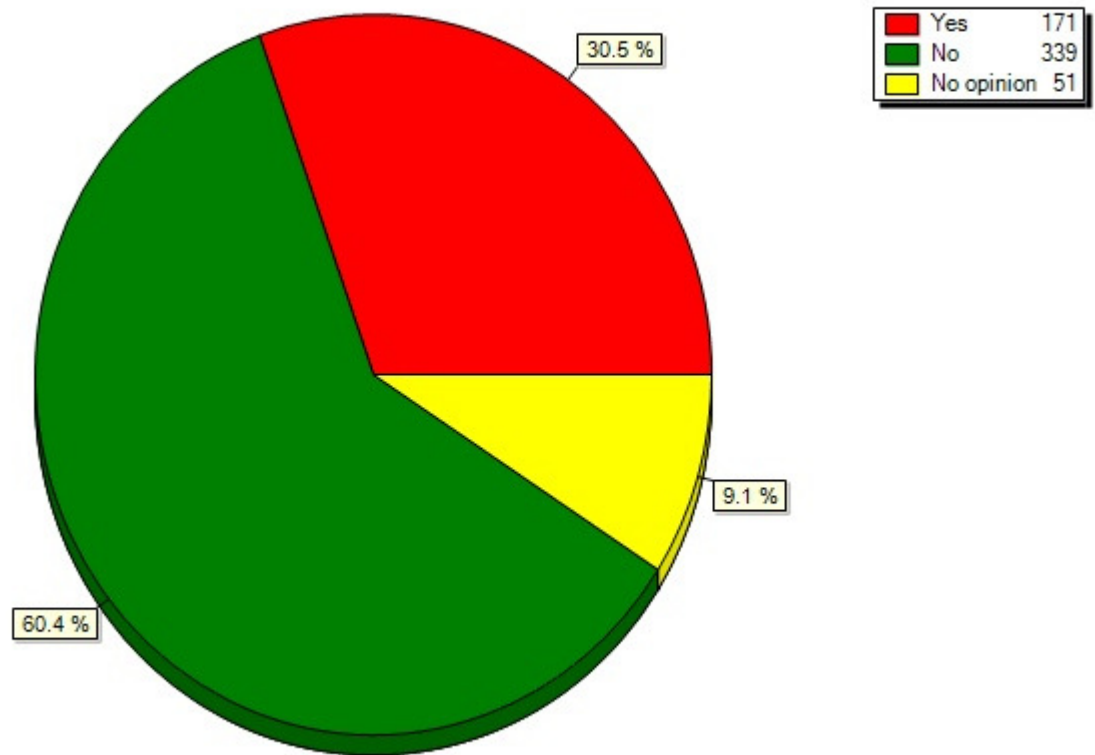
**Does it matter to you that USTA Category I National Championships are sanctioned by the ITF?**

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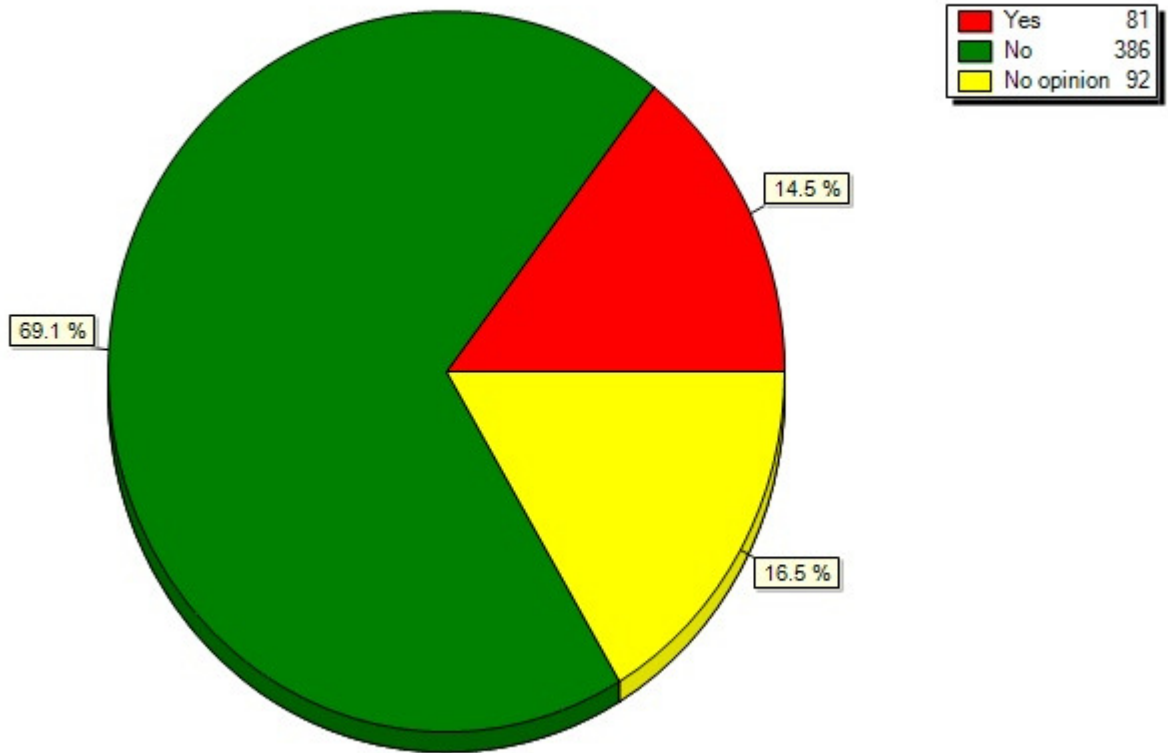
**Does it matter to you that some USTA Category II Tournaments are sanctioned by the ITF?**

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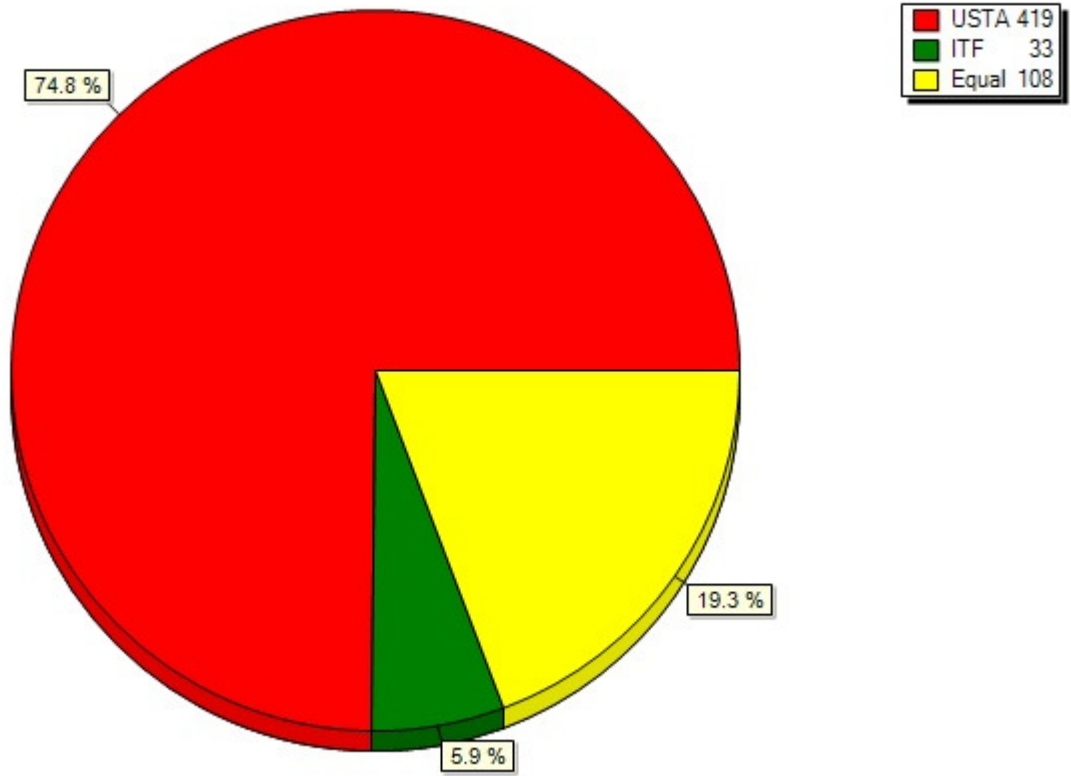
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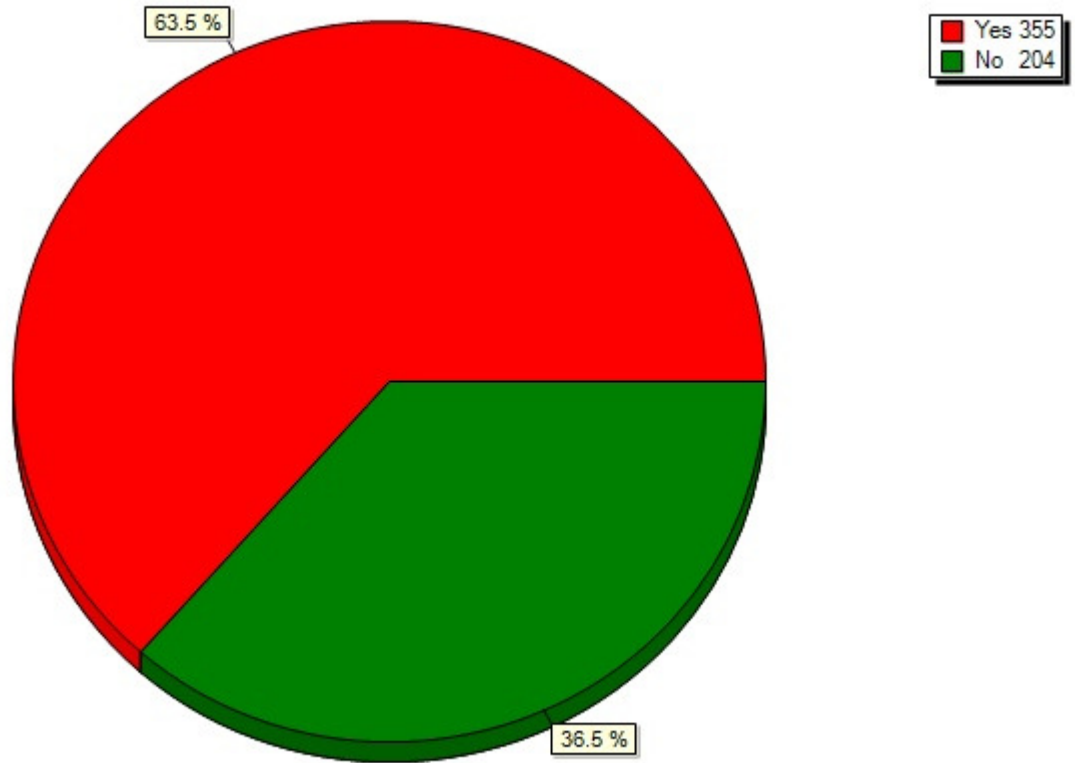
## Which ranking is more important to you?

Which ranking is more important to you?



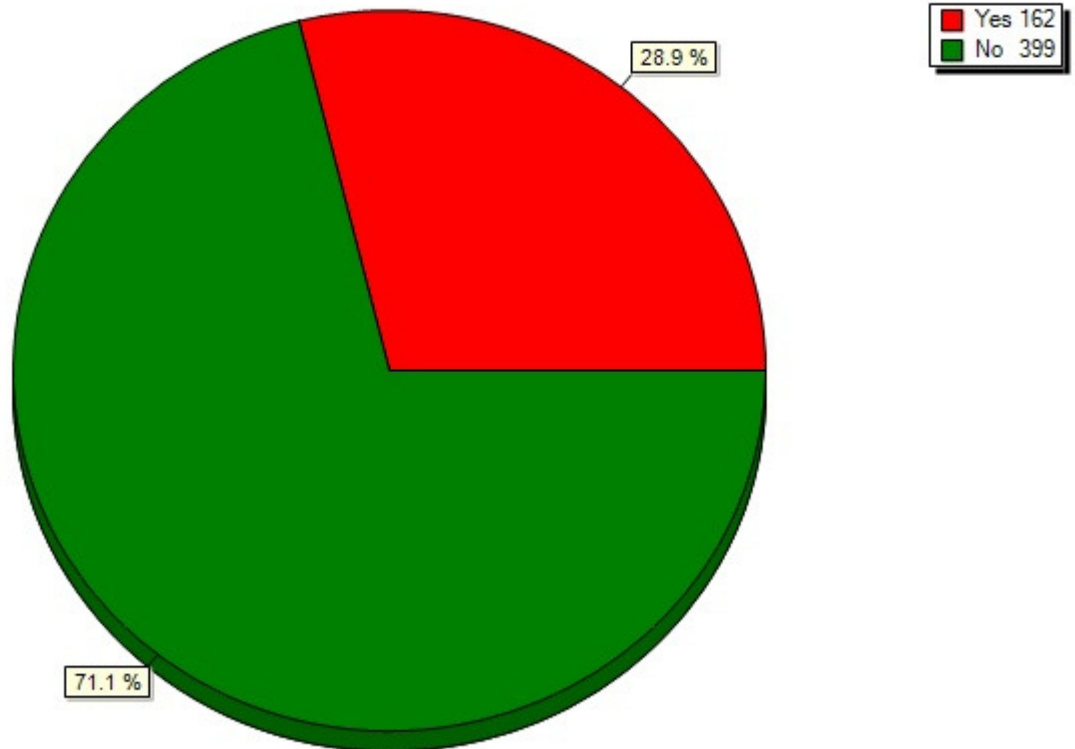
## Did you know and understand the difference between ITF seeding and USTA seeding methods?

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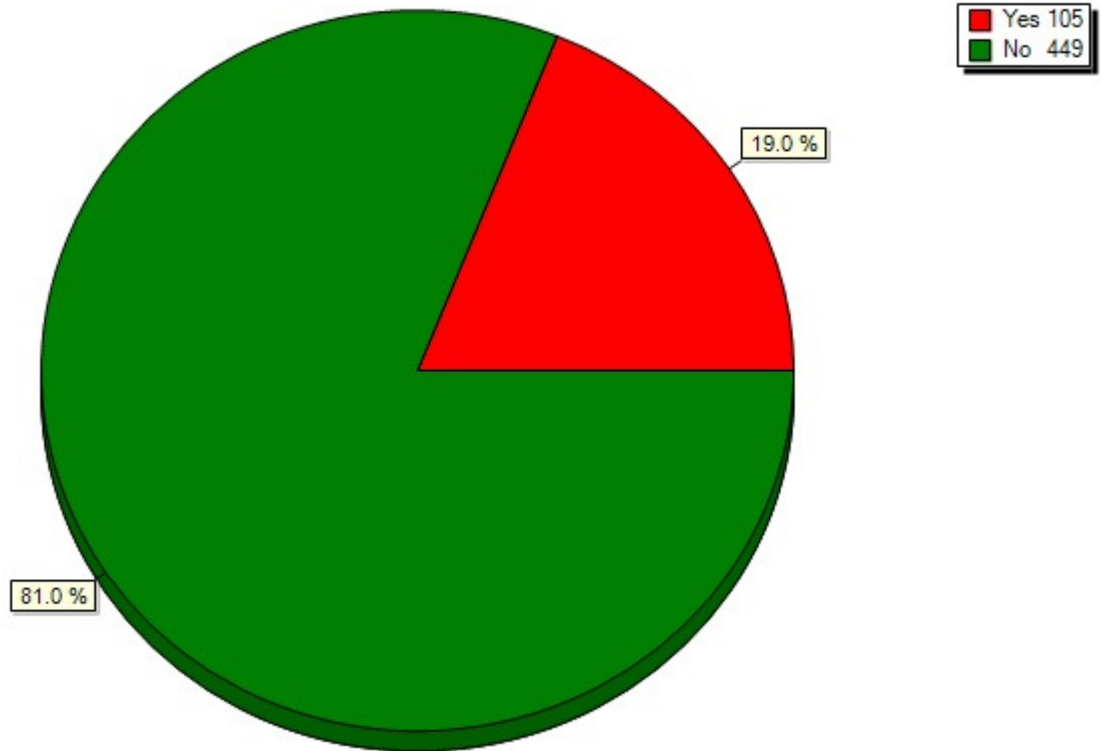
## Does the method of seeding used affect which tournaments you play?

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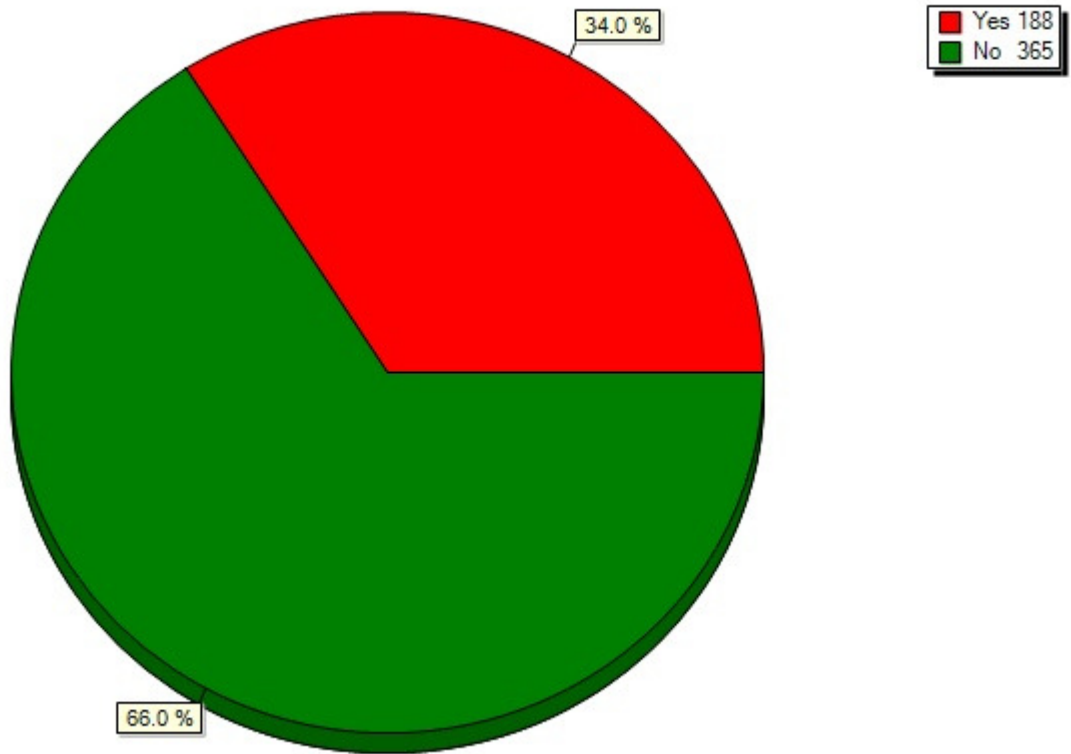
## Do you play in ITF sanctioned tournaments outside the U.S.?

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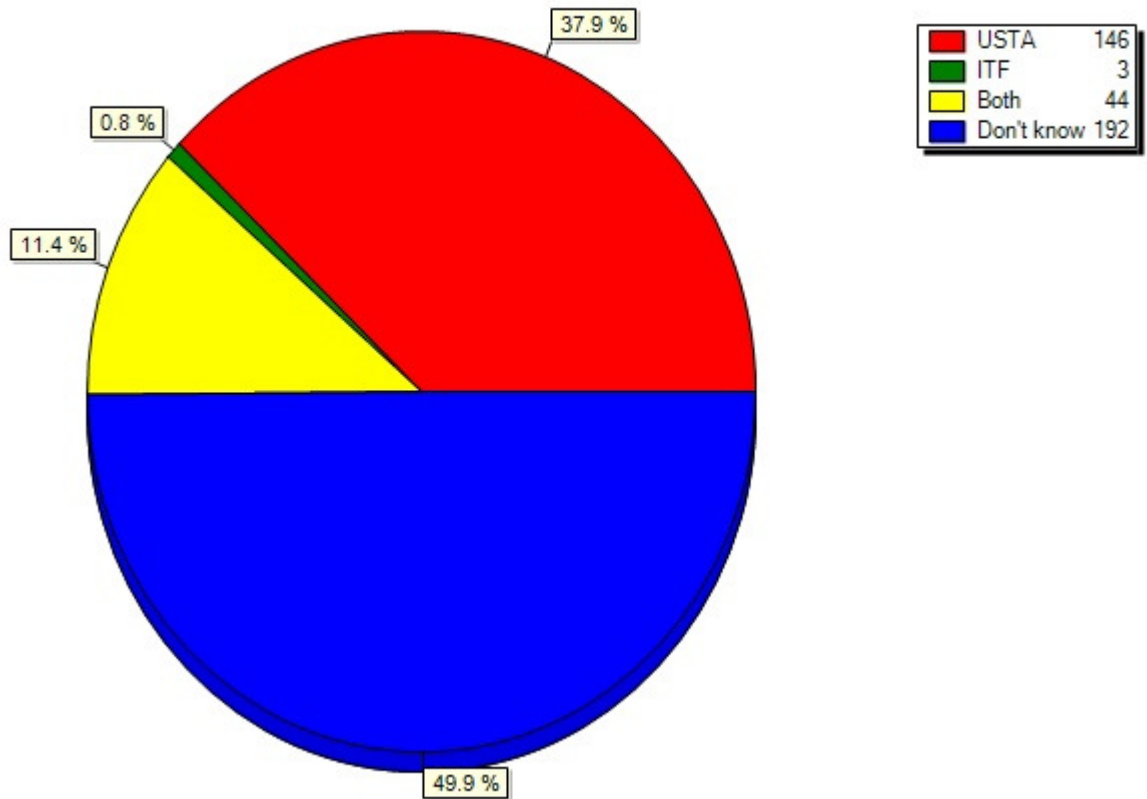
**Would you be willing to purchase an ITF IPIN (ITF membership number) in addition to your USTA membership in order to play in ITF sanctioned tournaments held here in the US?**

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## Do you currently have a top-ten ranking?

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### Comments:

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I prefer not a rigid rule on seeding. Tournament seeding committee discretion should be reasonable. For example, if Fred McNair plays a couple of tournaments for the first time in 5 years, he should get the benefit if the doubt if he has shown recent winning results even if not alot of points earned total for that year. Some of the worst seeding errors happen when a top player hasn't competed enough in the past year to have sufficient ranking points. If Larry Turville takes his year 59 off and plays his first year in the 60's, his numerous national championships in the past should carry alot of weight over a grinder who played 20 tournaments the year before. I couldn't answer question 9 as my ranking in both is not top-ten. I have ambition to play ITF out of the US but haven't yet

(waiting to retire).

All factors seeding is a more fair seeding method and most US players do not play in ITF tournaments outside the US. We should not have to change our practices for the ITF.

ITF seeding is the proper way to seed. USTA seeding leaves the door open to politics and giving certain players advantages in placement in draws.

Seedings are a mess! Forget head to head and legend status and just go off ranking like the ATP. This will make it consistent tournament to tournament and encourage people to play more.

No way should seeding be based on points. It is a poor indicator of strength of player. I'm year-end #7 in USTA points. I'm nowhere near being the seventh strongest player in 60 singles. If ITF requires that USTA tournaments use ITF points for seeding, USTA should withdraw all its tournaments from ITF. ITF points are a horrible way to seed.

Why make this and other tennis tournaments more expensive to play for 10 players who seem to care? I have heard of no one complaining, maybe because I am not in the top ten. I doubt if this will be a democratic vote.

I strongly disapprove of seeding exclusively based on ITF rankings. It allows for no latitude for top players playing down a division; would create inequalities in draws and affect head to head wins needed for Cup selection. The US is considered a continent by the ITF and as such should be able to seed by the rules of that continent. Few foreign players are in our tournaments and those top foreign players who enter are considered for seeding under current all factors methods of seeding.

This really is not as big of an issue, because whether in U.S. or other countries, the top players are going to rise to the top. Secondly, if USTA decides to go against this, the US players are the ones who will be penalized when the USTA Cat I and Cat II events no longer are awarded significant (point) status or level on the ITF calendar. Though I am not yet a top ranked player, I do recall when top players from the U.S. were essentially penalized because the biggest tournaments in their home country were not big ITF events, so when they went for cup play or ITF play elsewhere, their seeding was low/non-existent and as such, they had much harder times than their non-U.S. competitors. The USTA is not the final authority in WORLD senior tennis, so let's think through how such an contest of wills can ultimately hurt the most important parties involved - the players.

You have the poorest designed incomprehensible web page - it's embarrassing.

The ITF rankings are ludicrous to use in the US since so many of the strong players do not play ITF tournaments outside the US. There was a foreign player at Forest Hills last year in the 50s who was getting coaching from her husband and who moaned about the seedings. Yet she lost early. The purpose of

seedings should be to keep the strongest players apart in the draw. This doesn't happen in ITF tournaments. Moreover, with very few exceptions, quite weak ITF players would get good seedings in US tournaments since the tournaments with the most points are not in the US. This will also make it much harder for the selection of US teams and for US rankings. I think it would be absolutely disastrous for US women's senior tennis. Don't let bad policies dictate what we do!

Of course-this favors only the 'elite' and the only thing I would get from it is having less money from having to buy a 'pin'. If I didn't have to work for a living and was able to be a globetrotter wherever and whenever, it wouldn't be a big deal. #9 should have a "No" instead of "Don't know".

ITF rules are somewhat ridiculous.

ITF rankings are on points only. This would be the same as using our USTA ranking (points also) for USTA tournament seeding. Points are not a fair measure - only rewards you for lengthy participation, in my opinion. Suella Steel

International competition is usually limited to the select individuals who compete on our cup teams. The USTA should concentrate its focus on improving our own sr. national tournaments and offering more venues in the northern states to provide elite players from all sections of the country to compete without having to fly to tournaments

i don't think the ITF should rule the USTA tournaments.

My 2008 USTA Ranking in 85 doubles is #4 and 85 Singles is 18. I will not plan to enter any tournament if I have to belong to the ITF!!!

Ridiculous idea

Seeding should take into account head-to-head results. There is a reason for seeding, and basing it solely on points can lead to absurdity.

no consideration for players who move up in age group This year King Van Nostrand will be a new 75 and will not be seeded according to these rules. Rudy Hernando will be a new 70 and will not be seeded. If the rule was used last year then Jimmy Parker would not have been seeded in the men's 65. In addition consider a player has a number of great wins, early in the year, but did not play much previously. He will still be seeded lower (or not at all) than players he has beaten recently. If McEnroe decided to play in his age group he would not be seeded. What a joke

If we use ITF rankings for seedings we are asking for a lot of negative feelings among players, complaints to the TDs and USTA. Tournaments seeded using ITF points per round rankings is unfair and not accurate enough to be a fair process atleast in the US..Bad, bad bad !! The answer to #6 would change from no to yes if ITF rankings were used.

this is a correction to the survey i submitted initially..

<p>USTA event should be governed by USTA rules. ITF rules are self serving to them and not beneficial to us. Our decisions should always be based on what is best for the USTA players(ranked &amp; non-ranked players), not bureaucrats.</p>
<p>I thibnk points should be given for FIC matches and 3/4 play-offs. It seems as though these are not allowed by ITF rules.????</p>
<p>I don't know the different between the two rules ,so if you want to have all tournaments covered by both rules then have one membership that covers both,but not at double the price</p>
<p>Another survey idea would be where to place the USTA Cat. 1 tournaments. Currently looking at the map, it is ridiculous how limited the tournament schedule is in the Midwest, Northern and Miss. Valley. More events need to be in these sections. The placement of Cat. 1 nationals is heavily favored in some sections versus others. This makes it extrememly difficult for some players to travel outside their state, and section to even get a ranking. Whereas other players may not even have to leave their own state or city.</p>
<p>In this economy especially it seems unnecessary to require ITF membership for all US players when it really only affects the top echelon of players. It is hard enough to encourage new people to enter national tournaments as it is and this would be one more thing for them not to understand.</p>
<p>Only played in Austria once in an ITF tourney and doubt if I'll ever play outside the US again.</p>
<p>I believe there should be "carry-over" seeding for players moving up in age category.</p>
<p>ITF rankings and seedings are not necessary for our USTA tournaments as most senior players do not participate in ITF tournaments outside the U.S. ITF seedings would totally disrupt our senior tournaments in the U.S.!!</p>
<p>Seedings should not be based on rankings for the following reason. There are players who win points for playing in sectional tournaments that are sparsely attended and/or play in Cat IIs that are sparsely attended. Their "ranking" does not reflect their true ranking. Therefore, better players will face other better players in earlier rounds, resulting in tournaments in which the top four players do not reach the semis.</p>
<p>none</p>
<p>Players moving up a division definately should be given seeding consideration based upon results in the lower division</p>
<p>I do not think that we should have to purchase an ITF membership when we play in USA.</p>
<p>Since I do not play outside the USA, (and I asume a majority of USTA tournament players also do not), I would like to know the advantage of being a</p>

member of the ITF, other than ranking. It seems that their rules, such as: 1)partners must dress in like colors, 2)no Coman tie break 3)logos must not be more than 3 in. high, puts a crimp in our "style". Also, doubles is an after thought in Europe. Everything is based on singles. In the USA Senior play, doubles is just as important. As an after thought, the USTA ranking is by points and does not affect seeding. The ranking system has been in effect for several years now and as I look at the ranking, it seems to fall in place. And now with the Tier II Super and regular (with different points) the ranking should be more true. I always thought that the people living in the East had more opportunity to play Tier II's with smaller draws and therefore, could get more points. With the super category, maybe more people will enter Nationals. Wouldn't mind talking more with Kathy Langer. Gata go. Lurline Fujii

Make it like the Atp

The ITF rankings are neither a fair nor an accurate way to seed in USTA events.It would be better to lose the ITF sanction than to seed based on their rankings.

Have not playe for several years and have no ranking. Willing to start over and build again

Don't understand what all this means

We need a simple seeding process.

Of course, I play for fun and challenge. I'm not concerned with ITF rankings or seedings since I rarely play outside the USA. For # 8, my answer would be only if I had to. Thank you.

all factors should be used in determining seeding not just a usta or itf ranking

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Question #9 is NO. I would like to play in ITF tournaments outside the US. If the opportunity was there. But it is doubtful I'll travel overseas. I love playing USTA national tournaments now.

There is too much individual impute in the seeding process.

there is no way we will be able to seed cat IIs in our section if only 1 or 2 of the players have an ITF ranking...ludicrous....plus it's unfair to charge ITF membership to play in a cat II...we're talking 400-500 players in our cat II....

It is more important to have correct seedings in a national tournament than it is to have an ITF sanction.

In an ideal world, it would be nice to use "judgement" to consider multiple factors for seeding the way it is done at USTA tournaments now. However, I think doing it based on rankings would encourage people to play more tournaments in order to get a ranking -- and would eliminate inconsistent seeding that exists now between tournaments, since some tourneys use rankings

heavily and others use them hardly at all (e.g. National 50 Clay Champs).

1. Changing to ITF ranking seeding could adversely affect entries as those who play only one or two tournaments may not be willing to pay the extra fee. 2. It seems it would be quite easy for a known very good player, who has for whatever reason not been able to play for a year, to not get seeded, which could really scramble a draw. 3. I think the majority of USTA Sr. women who play USTA tournaments pay no attention to the ITF rankings. 4. It would be my hope that all draws would be made with utmost integrity. Knowledge of as much information as possible for each player enhances the chances of a fair draw.

Re #9, the top-ten ranking is in doubles.

Have been top-ten in doubles several times prior to injuries. Traveled with Dick Johnson to Europe in 2005 and played in two tourneys. Seeding is always difficult anywhere. See NO reason to give ITF control of our events and then have to pay extra. This makes no sense. Graciously decline their offer. If a players plays in ITF event extra costs are fine--they seem to want us according to the mail I receive. Lee Reid life member

Had top 10 ranking 2 years ago.

Lets not lower our standards to comply. Many ITF events do not have the depth of competition as US tourn which permits lesser players point advantage.

many playera only play USTA tnmts. and not many ITF tnmts>,therefore doing seeding,etc.,based on ITF rankings isn't a true measure of strength, not to mention the added cost it would entail - for what?

It doesn't make a difference as long as USTA stands up and makes sure our rankings are done for our year-end.ITF has no right to lump us into their system, without our own ranking also

I'm ranked just out of top 10 and have already bypassed one tournament because of ITF concerns. Also have concern about limiting to two events participation in tournament when draws will be down this year because of economy.

There is too much discretion in the USTA seeding process.

USTA as an ITF member should honor the rules they agreed to or withdraw as a member. Either way it will not change how many tournaments I play.

Last year in the national 40 & 50 clay chps, a top seed dropped out after the draw was made, and instead of reseeding, they went by the ITF rule of merely putting the next team to be seeded (#5) in the now open seeded spot. It really screwed up the draw! The only response by the tournament directors was that they were bound by the ITF rules. Truly was unfair! Every player complained about it.

SEEDING BY ITF POINT RANKING IS BS!

I am dead set against paying for an ITF IPIN membership. I play a lot of tournaments but ITF affiliation is of no value to me and the more they intrude the more the tournaments will be fouled up. Seeding by ITF standards is a great disservice to USTA events. I personally would benefit this year by ITF standards in the seedings but I sure don't support the concept. I want to be seeded according to my ability and not by some artificial point system. Thanks, George Watts M 75 PNW

Not sure why we need to conform to ITF rulings in USTA tournaments.

I see no reason to comingle the two sanctioning bodies. We certainly do not need any added costs for tournaments that seem to be just spiraling upwards.

ITF ranking is important since there are so many foreign players playing our tournaments with no restrictions. If they do not pay for USTA membership, we should not have to pay for ITF membership either.

It is important to use head to head evaluations as well as ranking points when seeding tournaments- Otherwise, the seeding gets off and hurts the tournament.

Kathy, I explained to you, Ken, and Chuck at dinner in Palm Springs that I thought this was a dumb idea and I believe most USA players will agree. Michael Stewart 65's

Within the US we have enough data - results, rankings, familiarity with players, etc. to seed more accurately than mere ITF rankings

I think the "all-Factors" method is far better than the ITF ranking only for seedings. It does not take into effect players who obviously should be seeding but don't have a ranking. If used there should be at least a 2 or 3 wildcard insert for those players. Thank you.

if the rest of the world's tennis players are OK with this system...why can't the USTA be OK with it? In this day and age of "global" everything why does the usta want to be so exclusive in what it does. As a former tournament director I seeded players based on all the info and know for sure that the ITF seeding for events did the same thing (I played the ITF World's in Turkey and they didn't just go off the rankings for their seeding)...so that issue doesn't exist. The fact is that the usta doesn't want USA players putting ITF tourneys (and world ranking...not just USA rankings) higher in importance then usta events. It has been like that for decades...that is why our juniors were never told about the ITF play/tournaments...the usta de-emphasized the ITF events. I will be less likely to play usta national events if they don't carry any itf points!!!

ITF seeding is a step backward. If ITF requires that we seed based on ITF ranking, then USTA tournaments should sever ties with ITF.

I'm sorry I don't know enough about the issue

what is accomplished by using a 'seeding' system in super seniors tournaments? as an unseeded participant, usual upshot of seeding is one must play two or

three plateau levels above one's skill...in other words, your seeding plan guarantees a first round loss for lesser lights...it'd be nice, once in a while, to face a player of comparable ability rather than #2 in the state.... thanks, dave dickerson, austin, tx

Just like Wimbledon, tournament officials should have some ability to have an opinion. The best solution is to have a committee of players. This is the best solution.

The additional ITF registration is an unneeded expense and barrier to registration for USTA tournament participants. Draws have and are shrinking in CA and another reason for players not to participate is not a good idea.

Don't like the IPIN system used on the circuit. Stopped participating once that was forced. It is bad for generating participation in tennis the way it is currently designed. I would likely discontinue playing senior events if the IPIN system is implemented

I play very few USTA tournaments although recently qualified to play the National Senior Olympics to be held August in San Francisco. I qualified in Olympia as a doubles team with Gary Loosli.

Answer to #8 Don't know and to #9 No. Is the IPIN also going to be required for LTA players and players from other countries with their own associations/federations memberships or are those organizations already in line with what will be the ITF online registration program that they will not incur any extra cost?

It's a mistake to have ITF impose its rules on USTA national events. It's like the UN setting USA policy. If they wish an ITF event in the USA, then have it as a separate event. Otherwise a group of small countries under the banner of the ITF will dictate policy that may not be in the best interest of USA tennis players. It's bad enough that our colleges, that US citizens support with taxes, are flooded with foreign players taking up valuable scholarships (many times just for a year until they are ready to turn pro). If it is desirable to have ITF rankings available for US players, then have special ITF events and invite and help pay the expenses of our top ten players. Leave the rest of us out of this. We just want a chance to play against our own best players for our own national championships.

Although I enjoy playing in the National tournaments, I am not good enough at this time to be concerned with the ITF.

will play tournaments more in future but have only played in three to date...age 63

i think itf should do the same as the usta, but at no additional cost to the usta member

Lets just play tennis and get everybody involved ITF, USTA.....etc.

I did not realize there were 2 different types of rankings until I took this survey. Also, many people are not able to play enough tournaments to be accurately

ranked or seeded based on the ITF requirements.
Sorry that I can't be more helpful. I'm not too informed on it all. Tournament directors tend not to share or reveal how they seed. That might be an issue to address.
In general, make seeding easier to understand. If the ITF methodology is more inclusive, taking into account more factors, then it should result in a better/fairer seeding procedure (which I think benefits everyone).
I really don't know about the ITF so I feel unqualified to comment. I do play actively in USTA leagues and tournaments but only locally.
who runs the ITF? Why should USTA League bother with the ITF Super Senior 60's and 70's are my Main Recreation. My Partner and I play in the mens' 50's @ the Multnomah Athletic Club. would that be part of ITF?
Dont want to pay the \$40. If I want to play abroad, I dont mind paying.
I don't think enough players play ITF tournaments to make the seedings truly accurate.
USTA seeding system is better as player quality overrides point total accumulation which can be misrepresentative of player quality.
No extra charges should be required by players. If the USTA wants to implement the ITF, let them pay for the system. Thsy certainly can afford it.
I think for the majority of players, the ITF seeding and rankings are insignificant. It just seems like another fee to pay to get an ITF IPIN.
USTA computer rankings should take into account closes matches, i. e. three setters and give some points to a loser. I lost twice last year in three sets in National 60's consolations(clay and grass). Only the winner got ranking points.Charlie Curtis, Bronxville, NY
I'm currently ranked #13 for USTA 65 doubles. I belong to Berkeley TC, which hosts an ITF sanctioned Senior tournament. I still prefer the USTA seeding method.
If I don't play international tournaments, what is the need that I pay ITF membership? I would pay it if I later decide to play those int'l tours. Thanks.
I like the idea of using all available info for seeding. I don't understand what benefit there is to having the ITF sanction USTA national tournaments and I'd jsut as soon not pay extra for it, but would if there were no other way.
Nothing wrong with current system. USTA players can still get ITF rankings by joining the ITF.
I am in the Top Ten Local USTA Chapter in Southern California.
Cost of ITF IPIN ?
Past results should be considered much more relevant than current results in

some cases. For example, if a player has won numerous national championships in the past but did not play much the past year, many times they are superior players to some that have high rankings in the current year.

There are many very good players that don't play enough tournaments to get a ranking or a high ranking. These players should be seeded. We shouldn't throw being reasonable out the window just to be a part of ITF.

I do not want to pay for another membership in addition to my USTA membership. I do not play out of the U.S. do I do not see any benefit. If it is required to play in USTA tournaments I may no longer play tournaments.

Make it right for USTA play and if ITF choose to allow our results to count, then great.

Are foreign players that play in USTA Cat I events required to purchase a USTA memberships? This arrangement should be reciprocal. If we pay, they should pay. I think it would be best if a player is only required to be a member of their country's governing body and not both.

I would guess that the majority of US players do not travel abroad to play in ITF events. I think it is much more fair to go by USTA seeding policies everywhere but especially in the USA.

Let us leave it alone. Leave it the way it is.

I would like to see more tournaments in the EAST COAST in category I and II. Do I have to go to Cal or TEX or a far away place to play any of these tournaments?

Why isn't there a national tournament for Super Senior Plus players?

Have an ITF pin# but no ranking. Only a USTA ranking

The ITF in the past has stated that the ITF Rankings have no meaning, and now we are to use them to seed, stupid. If the ITF wanted to be more accurate, at least they would use points per tournament use that to determine rank position.

Very much as we have dealt with the challenge of the 'new' point system, I hope over time we find a way to become a global network of tennis players where participation is respected and head to head results will be taken into consideration for seeding purpose. Not an easy task but worth working towards.

if they are going to require this, then alot more tournaments in the U.S. should have ITF point values attached to them... not just the 4 cat 1s and a couple of cat 2s...

35 + ranking = 28

I do not play in enough tournaments to intelligently answer these questions.

I would like to see all of USTA Cat. 11 sanctioned by ITF. I would love to see ITF sanction Seniors Tourn. In the u.s., that way I don't have to travel outside the

usa to get a would ranking.
Definitely prefer the "All Factors" approach. Points per round rewards wealth, not competence.
I am new to the senior circuit and really don't understand all that goes into the ITF rankings. Because of the limited exposure to international tournaments I would be reluctant to totally rely on one system.
National tournaments tend to attract only the same players who then dominate the results and, consequently, the seedings. This discourages others from getting "into the circuit". It would be beneficial to use more information for seeding purposes (USTA League results, for example). This proposed use of ITF info will likely further discourage new players into the tournaments (if requiring yet another fee).
Since I'm not trying for Cup Team status it doesn't really matter to me. Margy
host USTA 45 hardcourt men, I think the ITF sanction is very important, raises prestige and quality of event. The seedings will not be very different for the top players whether ITF or all factors method, and for the rest of the players if they have a bad draw, they can still proceed in the tourney via consolation.
In your background section, you do not discuss any of the major differences in ranking methodologies of USTA and ITF which would have been very helpful.
The point system for seeding does not produce the best tournament results, nor is as fair to players as the USTA system of considering all available information including head-to-head results.
I defer to Alan Messer who has handled the seedings in the Morristown Field Club tournament, the only one I have any involvement in.
I could care less about the ITF. I understand there are other issues such as special umpires etc. which will cost the tournament directors more. Keep the USTA the way it is. Michael Stewart
Seedings should be done by head to head wins.
irrelevant to me but don't want to pay for it
sounds like someone else has their hand out looking to make a buck
Do not like the accuracy of the ITF seeding and like to play in a National Championship event rather than a ITF event.
I just started back at tennis and am a 2,5. I will be 56 this month and would love to be hooked up with a senior team here in Peachtree City GA.
I feel the USTA rankings have flaws, especially in the Sr. rankings. 70 year olds should not have the same rankings as 50 year olds. 70 year olds should be able to self rank otherwise, many are not able to play and compete. Try to change this. Thanks, MarLa Sayers

I think the ranking should be a combination of USTA and ITF. To go by ITF ruling only does not make sense. Many foreign player, I in particularly think of the Australians, do not have enough tournaments to play to get a high ITF ranking. Also there is no ranking in doubles. What to do then? Thus,I think one need a seeding committe that can look into each tournament and make some changes when appropriate. Thanks for the survey.

I think head to head is important but also give credit to players that get out there and play alot of tournaments and put it on the line tournament to tournament. Seeding sometimes does determine who makes it to the semis or finals depending where they fall in the draw as in the #3 seed having to play #1 rather than #2 in first or second round.

ITF sounds like a great way to get rid of the local tennis players who like to play the CAT I/II tournaments. Shame on you.

My rankings are in doubles, but my concern is that ITF rankings would out weigh common sense in seeding USTA tournaments.

#9 SHOULD HAVE THE CHOICE: NEITHER

As a 5.0 player, I like the opportunity to play Adult League. The rule about breaking a team up for National qualifying is wrong. Low populated areas can't add players where there aren't any.

Currently ranked #16, I have been as high as #11 twice in the past. ITF format still has problems.

ranking is in father/daughter 70 & over

All information is important for seeding

Most of us don't have time to travel overseas on a regular basis. I have played the an ITF event in Scotland but can't do on a regular basis.

No to question number 10

Being rather extensive, our comments have been addressed to Ms Langer via email. King Van Nostrand 70018, Yvonne Van Nostrand 1303202

TO GIVE BY'S IN 80'S AND OVER IS RIDICULOUS !

Hello, my name is Heide Orth and I´m end of 2008 No 1 in the ITF-Ranking for 60+ and 65+. I´m of German Nationality, however I have a home in the USA and being member of the USTA I play each year several US-tournaments, mainly category I. I´m strictly in favour of the USTA method of seeding because the ITF regulation does not consider the real strength of the player. A player who is strong but doesn´t participate in too many ITF events may not be seeded at all or seeded too low with respect to his real strength when using the ITF rule. Therefore in my view the method of seeding used bý the USTA is definetly superior to the new ITF regulation. Heide Orth

i like the use of head-to-head seeding better than total points collected as some

players --with money--can play many events, but really are not the better players--but they gather up points by 'participation.' Only the top few USTA players go to International events....we who are not there would resent paying more to help them become sanctioned. Tennis is expensive enough already for those of us who do not win the prize money.!!

An "all factors" basis for seeding is much more accurate and realistic. Advocates for the ITF ranking only basis, no doubt, like its simplistic and administratively easy path of least resistance. Also it "protects" the TD from allegations of subjective bias - a weak and non- courageous position.

If ITF system is to be used, would that mean all US based results will be considered for World Ranking even if no tournaments outside the US are played?

Just a way for the ITF to make money. Not interested. USTA is fine and with the ITF I think we will lose some players.

any seeding system that does not take into account head to head matchups is a travesty. seeding is a means of predicting who will be in qtrs., semis, and finals. one needs to look at many factors in determining seeds--head to head, surface, newcomers in the division, common opponents, ranking, etc. lets not be lazy and take the easy way out with using itf rankings. instead, lets be American and do some homework and research for seedings and make the tourneys the best we can.

the usta has continuously raised is membership fee; now there will be another raise and for what,,, crummy modern publications that leave me wondering if I'm viewing an ad or an article... why does the USTA give more and more prize money to the PRO game and nothing to USTA national senior tournaments...  
KOR

In USTA tournaments using the ITF ranking will skew the seedings and result in a tournament that will not fairly seed players. This ultimately will lead to a reduced rate of participation.

Sounds like the ITF wants to be the "big dog" and boss the USTA around. I don't understand why we care what the ITF thinks are says. I joined the USTA seniors and have been having a great time, and no ITF has been involved. I don't know why we need them. In my opinion, we don't.

#8 I guess I would if that is what is decided. #5 I understand some differences but probably not all.

I AM NOT RATED IN THE TOP 10

I prefer the head to head seeding as not everyone can financialy play all the tournaments that are out of thier state

ITF rankings are done stictly on a point scale as are the USTA rankings. Fortunately, the seedings for US tournaments take in many other factors. Since the ITF doesn't take in those factors, the ITF rankings should not be used solely

for the seedings. I am ranked 2 in USTA and 10 in ITF.

itf rankings should not influence usta rankings or seedings. the two orgs can have separate or the same regs.. there may not be so many who can play itf. i'd like to play itf but so far have not

This definitely discriminates against those players who don't have the time or money to travel the world to compete, but are still worthy players. And it seems silly to have to pay for an ITF IPIN to play in one of our own national championships.

I am #11..just outside top 10. I'm already dealing with having solid wins (including a 6-1, 6-0 win) over 2 people ranked ahead of me. The USTA ranking system is points-based, but allows for adjustment in seedings, as is clearly needed. Those who have financial resources to "chase points" but don't have the game to back it up should not be seeded. Moving the "point-chasing" activities up to a world-wide, instead of country-wide, geographic area, will only exacerbate this mis-match between financial strength and tennis-playing ability determining the seedings. If seedings had to go off ITF rankings, I would not play, as all the "good players" couldn't be seeded unless they were also, quite frankly, very wealthy. The USTA has always stood for grass-roots tennis, and this, in my opinion, is moving away from that standard.

If you are not going to adhere to the ITF rankings/seedings then do not have tournaments sanctioned by ITF. Both rankings of USTA and ITF are flawed just the same as they are based on points, which always favours the players who can travel, can afford it and have the time. My opinion and I play in the UK, Europe and USA is to use the ITF rankings first followed by USTA National, but each tournament should have two to four spots for them to make alterations. There is usually somebody, especially in the USA who is very good but does not have a good ranking but obviously should be seeded. Tournament Director should have this authority

I play the Cat I & Cat II tournaments, but will never play in any Cup or Worlds, so it's not worth my paying an extra \$20 to \$40 to play any tournament. They are expensive enough as it is.

Apparently there is flexibility in the ITF seeding in practice. I was seeded below a player ranked LOWER than me by the ITF at last years World Championships at Manavgat. By the way, that seeding was perfectly proper as that other player was a better player on clay and should have been seeded higher. Whatever system is used it should be used consistently!

Even with the 'head-to-head' option. there are still many players who receive ranking and seeding benefits from playing more small, less attended tournys; gaining the points to enter 'invitation only' events. i have had a brief spot in the top ten ranking in the 50's competing against the top players. the numbers game punts me when i miss even two months. it is what it is. it would worsen using

ITF standards.
top ten in doubles
Right now, the USTA does not use rankings for seeding. What is the point of a USTA ranking if they don't use it. Not everyone plays itf tournaments so using them would not be accurate. Damned if you do and damned if you don't.
Compromise needs to be reached so US ranking will take priority for seeding US players but otherwise ITF rankings will be used. Otherwise you could have top player in the US seeded behind lower player because he did not play as many ITF. Also it makes the US ranking meaningless in seeding it own National and Cat II tournaments.
12th in the USTA in Men's 50's
No, I do not have a top 10 ranking. ITF points do not matter to me. Unless, as you are talking about, there are more ITF tournaments to play in.
I would be willing to purchase an ITF IPIN for a tournament I might play which is outside of the US. I do not know what benefit I would have as an ITF member if I am not interested in an ITF ranking or do not play in ITF tournaments outside of the USA. Is there any benefit for me or for the USTA?
Question 9 doesn't have a "No" answer for top ten ranking. I do not have a top ten ranking.
USTA seeding procedures should apply to USTA events. ITF seeding requirements are too rigid.
I believe that if a player enters a foreign tournament, his/her National ranking should be considered as well as their ITF ranking.
Since I am not currently seeded in National events, the issue has little impact on me. Perhaps that will change in the future. However, I regard these tournaments as already very expensive, and anything that adds cost to them seems questionable.
I answered no to question 8, but would probably reluctantly, under protest, pay the additional fee if it was the only way I could play in the Nat'ls.
ITF is trying to rank a huge pool of players that rarely if ever play each other. A strong player that has been inactive or is just moving into the age group will devastate and ITF seeding. Seedings are supposed to predict the order of finish of the tournament, and should use all data available. The present USTA requirements are excellent, but breakdown because the seeding committees don't have all the information available. Stick with what you have, and talk more to the strong, active players in each age division.
I feel the current method of seeding as is presently done by the USTA for senior events held in the USA is the correct one.
Using points only for senior women is counterproductive. It enables people to

<p>"buy" rankings. We should use the weighted system that was used before.</p>
<p>how many seniors really play tournaments outside the u.s. ?? if itf certification is going to raise the cost of entry fees then i am not in favor -----i rarely travel outside the u.s so an itf ranking wouldnt do much for me -----if there are benefits then i would like to hear about them ----if its just to benefit the top 20 players in age categories who may play internationally -- i dont see the point thanks</p>
<p>As a tournament player, I am satisfied with current U"STA procedures for registering for events and the way they are run. I do not like the increasing costs of the tournaments.</p>
<p>I do not care for another added charge. We already have USTA charges for tournament play, USTA league play, and NSWTA dues. Everyone is cutting back now, not adding,</p>
<p>I think that an all-factor means of seeding is better than just ITF rankings, because that excludes alot of folks who should be seeded that does not have an ITF ranking. Not only does it hurt that individual but it does for everyone else.</p>
<p>I for one would never be seeded again in the United States. That's a lot of fun!!!I"m being sarcastic!</p>
<p>I would never be seeded and find having a USTA ranking would mean nothing. You are really trying to stop us average players from wanting to play for ranking purposes. Cost too much money to do it just for fun.Why wreck something that isn't broken.</p>
<p>The ITF rankings are a joke. You can go to South America, for example, and pick up lots of easy points to bolster an ITF ranking. Plus, the ITF has shown itself to be motivated sometimes by personal animus.</p>
<p>The ITF and USTA are two independent tennis organizations, and should dictate the rules governing their respective geographical boundaries. i.e. The USA and Europe. If the USTA WISHES TO INCORPORATE some of the ITF regulations, it would be up to the respective USTA committees to decide.</p>
<p>I would be in favor of a uniform system for both USTA and ITF tournaments and seeding even though I am not a top ten player. My husband and I plan on attending some ITF tournaments in the future and a global system would definitely encourage that and make it simpler. Margy Pettit, 45's and 50's, Charlotte, NC mhpettit@aol.com</p>
<p>I only compete in doubles and my understading is the ITF does not seed/rank doubles.</p>
<p>How come #9 does not have a NO spot?</p>
<p>I answered #1 &amp; 2 as YES. IF being sanctioned byt the ITF means that I would have to be an ITF member to play in the Cat I &amp; II US tournaments, than I am</p>

opposed to them being sanctioned. If it only means that the results would go towards the ITF ranking, that would be okay. I think if you get a calculate a percentage of US players that play ITF events, it might be a fairly low percentage. If so, it wouldn't be fair to ask the rest of us to finance ITF in order to play in the tournaments we've always played in.

i am proud to be a usta member with my family ,you are doing a great job keep it this ,we are having less senior tournament in florida we need more thank you for your effort and god bless you julien moussali

Additional costs for IPIN may aggravate some players. Suggest not exceeding cost for USTA membership if possible. Thanks.

No benefit of imposing ITF on women seniors who have a brief reentry window to competitive tennins has been offered. This is an unreasoned unprincipled move to favor the status quo of a small entrenched group.Focus on inclusion not exclusion.

keep it simple and less costly

The USTA's method of seeding is fairer than a simple ranking based on how many tournaments one plays. We should not have to change our long history of successful seeding for ITF.

Computer rankings are total bullshit when applied to senior tournaments. Point based rankings only good when players play each other a lot. Most seniors don't have the money and or time to make enough tournaments to make a point system valid. I really don't know why rankings were turned over to a computer. The old system was better. Nothing will be perfect -- but computer rankings based on point accumulation is not an improvement. Even in juniors it is a problem. Players and parents seem to think it's all about points -- not match play experience.

I'm only ranked in singles in ITF, so I would also like to be ranked in doubles, too.

This sounds like a push by the ITF to get more income for doing very little, if anything.

Will ITF also have rankings for doubles? If they are going to stick us with their requirements, stick them back with having them do a doubles and mixed doubles ranking so the seedings will be consistent for ALL events. I have asked them in the past about doubles rankings and you get the usual response - " we are considering it "

Many US players do not have the opportunity to play outside the US in ITF tournaments. Thus the US players are at a disadvantage for seeding at the World Championships and in team play. ITF sanctions for US Cat I and II tournaments enable players to get on the ITF ranking list, but seeding by ITF rankings skews the US tournaments. Certainly for those players who do not play a lot of

tournaments, but win those they play, it would be a big disadvantage to follow the ITF rankings.

Many of us struggle just to afford to travel in the US to get a ranking much less pay an extra fee to play. It would be nice to have the money to afford travel outside the US for tournament play but for many players in this is never going to be possible. Having the ITF govern National and Cat II in the US does not add any benefit to senior tennis in the US and may very well skew the rankings.

i like our system more for several reasons. a player moving up in an age category wouldn't have any points for seeding.

Providing the opportunity to get a world ranking is great and should be considered.

I will never have a high ITF ranking because I don't play enough tournaments. It will be unfair to the top seeds if I am not seeded and they have to play me in an early round because there is an excellent chance I will beat them. This ITF rule is another way to DISCOURAGE people from playing senior tennis tournaments. The USTA should stand up to them and tell them to take a hike. Don't let them extort more money from us with this fee either. We care far more about enjoying a fairly run tournament than about an ITF ranking. Anne Guerrant

Most tournament players in the US don't play tournaments outside the country, so why would want to submit to outside rules. Also many of the best players in the country only play a couple tournaments a year, so they wouldn't have a very high ranking. I think taking the human/rational thinking element out and relying on a computer for seedings is not the way to go.

I'm not really sure if this applies to open players but the number of competitors is not as high as it should be. If you complicate it even more, than the ages of late 20's early 30's crowd I think will just say, uughh I don't want to fool with all that. I'm not sure I understand all of the questions though. Andy Beckman #4 Southern USTA Open ranking.

Most USTA players don't play ITF outside the U.S. We don't need to have USTA tournaments be ITF tournaments. Let's keep seeding based on USTA rules!

I feel it fair to to keep the seedings as USTA has been doing.

Tennis is a world-wide sport. Let's adopt one set of rules. I like the idea of rewarding players who play more tournaments. We already see the damage done by certain women players who are only interested in playing Grand Slam tournaments.

I have played in all the USTA National 80 and 85 Men's Tournaments in both Singles and Doubles. My daughter and I have played in the National F/D Super Senior and Ultra Senior Tournaments for the past eight years.

since so few players have a chance to play ITF, seems unfair to use ITF rankings for seeding in USTA tournaments

There should be a yes/no answer for question number 9 don't you think?
At two recent ITF World Championships (Turkey and New Zealand) service footfaults were NOT called until the final when a referee was in the chair. This aids and abets unfairness and diminishes competitive quality.
ITF Ruling is not the way to go need head to head
Either include all USTA sanctioned tournament for ITF points and then use the ITF seedings or don't use ITF seedings at all. Not enough players get the opportunity to play enough ITF events for it to create fair seedings.
I believe an "all factors" method is the best for seeding
The USTA sanctioned tournaments run in the USA should use USTA rankings! Very few American women playing NSWTA tournaments play the European circuit--cup competition is the only foreign competition played by many. ITF rankings and seeding will turn people away from USA tournaments.
No head to head and players aging up ???
No head to head and players aging up ???
I'm not in favor of using the ITF new ranking method
This only makes sense if you are on the business side of the ITF
Creating additional expenses for players at this time is wrong in principle
The current USTA system is so broad that the seedings are all over the board. Ex. 55 Grass Courts 2008 Draws were redrawn because the seeding committee used the Kitchen Sink in their seedings. No guidelines or pecking order is provided by USTA, just do your best.
I appears that the ITF is looking for some standardization with their tournaments, and I agree with that to a certain extent. This new ruling could also encourage more ITF play as some players would want to boost their ITF in order to get a better seeding. However, I believe that the ITF rankings are very thin, especially among the U.S. players, which would result in some very crazy seedings. Also, it is not at all uncommon for a former touring pro to pop up in a national tournament, and in this case, he or she would not be seeded. I believe that the ITF should allow countries to seed based on their own criteria at their own national championships (i.e. our Category I tournaments). It would also make sense for other countries as well. Take for instance when Romania has their own national championships, they should seed based on their own criteria. Bottom line, I could compromise with the ITF by seeding at Cat II tournaments according to ITF rankings but going by our own criteria at our national championships (Cat I). One more caveat and this may be the new rule, let the top x players as determined by the ITF rankings be the seeds but allow the tournament to place the order of these seeds (similar to the way Wimbledon does it). As for the IPIN, I would prefer not to purchase one. It seems that the

ITF tournaments in the U.S. already pay a fee to the ITF for the tournament. Also as a resident of NC, I am a member of the NCTA, STA and USTA all covered by my USTA membership. Could my ITF membership also be covered under my USTA membership (maybe with a slightly higher fee to the USTA each year)? Very interesting topics!

Not fair to the lower players with the ITF seeding more players. It's like placing instead of a draw. Not that many players interested in outside usa play.

ITF fails to account for players who move up in an age group. When a top 50's player moves into the 55's, the ranking in the prior age group should be considered in seeding the tournament.

don't want ITF taking over our USTA

Questions 9??? 'do you have a top-ten ranking?'... Top 10 where???? Top 10 in the world, the us, etc... Seeding only based on ranking is problematic here in the us b/c a lot of great players only play one or two national events per year... They are simply better than someone who chases points... The point chasers are rewarded... Hopefully this policy won't trickle down to all USTA events...

Why not seed like they do on the wta or atp tour.

In seeding of tournaments, I feel that consideration MUST be given to current results, head to head matches, AND rankings, not just ONLY to rankings. This is, in my opinion, the most equitable way. I do not feel the ITF should dictate how the USTA makes its own seedings.

the current usta 'all inclusive' method seems much more logical!

It would be great if the ITF would use their points for the ITF World Individual Chmps. Seems like a waste since they do not.

Using ITF rankings would only make sense if all Cat 2 tourneys were ITF sanctioned. Otherwise it would be inconsistent with the ranking system created by USTA only a few years ago.

I think the USTA senior women have done a good job seeding. You have to use alot of criteria to seed, not just numbers.

There are at least two large separate questions here: (1) Should seeding be based solely on ranking (as determined by points per round), or should other factors be considered. And (2) Should only ITF info, whatever it is, be the only thing considered for seeding. As regards (1):When ppr was being considered originally, it was recognized (and conceded) to be relatively useless as a method of ranking players in terms of strength, even strength of record over any period (e.g. a year). Seeding on only that basis would produce results where stronger players (with stronger records) were seeded below weaker players. This general point will hold regardless of whether the points list is USTA or ITF. Concerning (2), no matter what method ITF uses, even if they used a more intelligent seeding system than their own points per round ranking list, using their list in the

USA will "miss" players who play only in the US, who don't play, or play very little, in ITF events. I would assess very carefully the benefits the USTA and its players receive from having ITF sanction, because it is obvious that the costs of those "benefits" to players in this country would be pretty high.

It would be very annoying to turn over decisions to the ITF They are not good at seeding ITF events as it is and should not interfere with USTA rankings or seedings.

ITF way of doing rankings and seeds is TOTALLY unfair and should NEVER be used. I am STRONGLY against ITF suggested methods.

thanks.

I am not in favor of this change at all because an ITF ranking has no importance for me and because it is another added expense. The cost of leagues and tournaments has gone up a lot recently, and I feel that this expense is the prime reason I don't play in more tournaments and leagues, not the USTA/ITF ranking. Thanks you.

If players are not properly seeded-the outcome would not be a true showing of ability.

it doesn't seem to take head to head competition into consideration. would make a mockery of seedings, and make US tourneys meaningless and hurt sponsorships. let issue rest until we get more information.

#9, I am not ranked in the top 10 by the ITF or USTA so answered don't know.

The ITF appears to be more consistent than the USTA. I'm not a top-ten player mainly because of inconsistency throughout the sections. The USTA keeps recycling the same players until they quit and are only concerned with the youth. It's no wonder so many players retire in their twenties. This questionnaire is proof of my statement. regardless of not having a top-ten ranking, everyone has to pay the same membership annually. I already have an ITF IPIN membership number, and I thank god for Online registration, the internet's world wide web, and the Tennis Channel on cable. These avenues allow everyone to learn & play Tennis, regardless of gender, age or race. The USTA has allowed tournaments to be badly micro-managed via tournament directors far too long, until now!! I am so appreciative of the new direction the USTA has taken by becoming high-tech and current with the rest of the world's sports. The ITF governs tennis and the USTA should not separate itself. Why can't we have better prize money tournaments to create more incentive for increased participation within the United States? I don't think we would have to try so hard to get more membership from older players. This would give the USTA a much larger pool with which to draw better players. Smaller countries are successful in drawing our players. I started late, but should not be counted out. I love this game and hope to play for years to come. thank you for reading my comments

i need an invitation to play in usta tournaments i have a usta number

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gaspizzy@yahoo.com

I have just recently started playing Adult tournaments after playing as a junior. My inclination is the KIS principle--KEEP IT SIMPLE and keep the current USTA seeding method. Also, it seems hard enough to fill a draw these days, why add more fees and more obstacles to getting players on the court??? Thanks and I hope ITF will listen to our concerns.

We already follow the USTA mens' leads. Do we also have to succumb to the ITF rules? I hope not.

My answer to #9 is NO, but there is no space for that.

Why complicate the seeding system and add fees when it is hard enough to get a decent draw in some of these tournaments?

It is difficult to get a rating in an advanced group because of no members playing the 75 or 80 age level. Can results in tournaments played be considered for a current rating?

This will really affect tournaments adversely....

What is ITF?