

## **RACE TO THE WTA FINALS – QUALIFICATION RULES**

### **Overview**

- Race Points are earned from tournaments beginning the week before the previous year's WTA Finals through tournaments beginning two weeks before the upcoming WTA Finals
- This period is referred to as the Race Year
  - For example points from 2025 Chennai/Hong Kong/Jiujiang count for the 2026 Race
  - 2026 Tokyo / Guangzhou are the last events that count for the 2026 race
- Results from WTA 125 and ITF tournaments do **not** count
- Results from the WTA Finals are **not** included in the following year's Race

### **Singles Race Points and qualification rules:**

- Singles Race Points are calculated from 18 tournament results during the Race Year
- The 18 results must consist of the following
  - The **four** Grand Slams: Australian Open, Roland-Garros, Wimbledon and the US Open
  - The best **six** results from the seven combined WTA 1000 tournaments: Indian Wells, Miami, Madrid, Rome, Toronto/Montreal, Cincinnati, Beijing
  - The best **one** result from the three non-combined WTA 1000 tournaments: Doha, Dubai, Wuhan
  - The best **seven** results from selected WTA 1000, WTA 500 and WTA 250 tournaments
  - Zero-point results for missed mandatory WTA 1000 tournaments & WTA 500 commitments are included (explainer below)
- In addition a singles player must have played at least eight WTA 1000 Mandatory or WTA 500 tournaments during the Race Year (unless is exempt due to long-term injury)
- Singles qualification is determined in the following order:
  - The top seven players on the Race Leaderboard
  - The highest-ranked current-year Grand Slam winner who is ranked 8–20 and not already qualified
  - If no such Grand Slam winner exists, the next highest-ranked player who is ranked 8 or lower.

## **Doubles Race Points and qualification rules**

- Doubles Race Points are based on the best 12 results earned as a team during the Race Year.
- Eligible tournament levels include the Grand Slams, WTA 1000 tournaments, WTA 500 tournaments, and WTA 250 tournaments
- To qualify in doubles, each player must have played doubles in at least six WTA tournaments during the Race Year (unless is exempt due to long-term injury) in addition to the team having competed together in at least two tournaments
- A player who qualifies with more than one eligible team may select the team with which she will compete. The partner not selected is eligible only if she qualifies with another team.
- Doubles qualification is determined in the following order:
  - The top seven teams on the Race Leaderboard.
  - The highest-ranked current-year Grand Slam winning team ranked 8–20 and not already qualified
  - If no such team exists, the next highest-ranked team that is ranked 8 or lower

\*\*\*

## **Tie-Break Rules i.e if a player or doubles team has the same number of points**

Singles ties are broken in this order:

1. Most points from WTA 1000 Mandatory tournaments
2. Highest single WTA 1000 Mandatory result
3. Highest single WTA 500 result
4. Highest single WTA 250 result

Doubles ties are broken in this order:

1. Most points as a team from WTA 1000 Mandatory tournaments
2. Highest single team result at a WTA 1000 Mandatory tournament
3. Highest single team result at a WTA 500 tournament
4. Highest single team result at a WTA 250 tournament

**Zero-point rule explained:**

- If a player incurs a WTA Rankings penalty for not playing a Grand Slam, WTA 1000 or WTA 500 event, this penalty will also be applied to their Race Points as well, with points being removed from their lowest-scoring corresponding tournament
- The zero-point rule is applied to the following categories:
  - Grand Slam 0s count in the four Grand Slams bucket
  - 0's from Indian Wells, Miami, Madrid, Rome, Canada, Cincinnati and Beijing count in the six combined WTA 1000 mandatory bucket
  - 0's from Doha, Dubai and Wuhan count in the three WTA 1000 mandatory bucket
  - 0's from WTA 500 commitments count in the seven other best results bucket
- For example, if a player plays five WTA 500 tournaments – one short of the required six WTA 500 commitment and incurs a penalty - she would have her ranking and race points removed from her lowest-scoring 500 event contested that season