Good News Tennis Bursary

The bursary for 2017 will work as follows:

* Every player who enters in a minimum of ten tournaments from 10 January 2015 – 18 July 2016 will be eligible. As from 19 & 21 March 2016 the days count between 19 March 2016 and 18 July 2016 as tournaments i.e. from 19 March a two day tournament counts for two tournaments. This enables more players to qualify.
* Every player’s match results according to the ITN Rating Calculation will be used to calculate the player’s improvement to the nearest four decimal places. (Improvement = Starting Point Rating minus Current Rating)
  + The Starting Point Rating is calculated after eight matches have been completed (according to ITN Rating Calculation which explained at the end of the post)
  + The Current Rating (according to ITN Rating Calculation which explained at the end of the post) can be calculated for less than the eight matches after the last completed series. Previous Rating (at the end of an 8-10 match series) minus average score [(score divided by total matches for recent series) {note score can be negative or positive}] for matches.
  + Improvement starts from matches played between 10 January 2015 to current date i.e. it includes all the series (8-10 matches per series)
* Every player will be placed on a ladder based on their improvement from 10 January 2015.
* The ladder will be published on the website after every tournament so everyone will know from tournament to tournament who the leading competitors for the bursary are. Every player will be able to see how close they are to the leader.
* The bursary will be transparent with sources of funding published on the website along with the ladder of each player’s improvement. Note the bursary is not for the best player but the most improved player.
* The objective of the bursary funds is to cover the player’s cost of coaching, tournaments; school costs e.g. tours and tennis equipment. If these costs are covered for one player and there are funds over smaller bursaries can be given to the players ending 2nd or 3rd.
* The first source of funding will come from Good News profits when tournaments are cancelled on account of the weather. The initiative stems from parents donating their profit refund to the bursary fund after the tournament was rained out on 5 September 2015. Parents will be unofficially asked to contribute to the bursary fund and sponsors will be sought to bolster the impact of the bursary.
* Weighting of a player’s Starting Point Rating was introduced so that the better players had an equal chance of showing sufficient improvement to win the bursary. When the bursary was introduced it discriminated against the top players because it is more difficult to improve if you have a low ITN Rating. An athletic beginner with a starting point rating of 10 can easily improve to an ITN Rating of 7. Whereas a player with a beginning ITN rating of 6 will find it difficult to improve to an ITN rating of 4. It can be compared to measuring grades at school. A student who is failing badly can apply themselves and double their grade (%) while a pupil who has a distinction can’t double their mark. To compare the improvement made by the strong player the improvement made by the athletic beginner weighting of the Starting Point Rating was introduced. It was decided to give weights for the different ratings (only the beginning rating is weighted). A beginner is a rating 10 and a professional player is a rating 1. A weight of 10 is given to a Rating 1 and a weight of 1 is given to a Rating 10. Therefore the following weights are given:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Rating | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Weight | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

* A sensitivity analysis is done after each tournament to show how easily players with moderate to good performances during the recent tournament climbed the improvement ladder. The sensitivity analysis illustrates how recent successes have great impact on climbing the improvement ladder.

**New rule as from 21 March 2016: Each player’s end point on 18 July 2016**

Currently a player whose cycle (8-10matches) is completed and there are left over matches in a new incomplete cycle can be unfairly benefitted by a few good scores. The player can also be adversely affected by a few negative scores. The average for the new cycle for only a few matches can be highly positive or highly negative which greatly skews the current rating i.e. the current rating is higher or lower than it should be because too few matches are considered. On 18 July 2016 only the last completed cycles current rating will be considered. Currently for the Improvement Ladder all matches are considered even 1-9 matches in the new cycle.

* **RECOMMENDED ITN CALCULATION FORMULA**
* Once players have been rated, they will begin playing competitions. It will then be necessary, on the basis of matches played, to re-evaluate and re-rate the players on a regular basis. When competitive match results are used to adjust the players ITN rating, a decision will need to be taken regarding the most appropriate calculation formula to be used.
* **Type of system**: The recommended ITN Calculation Formula system is a head-to-head system.
* **Which matches count towards the ITN?** It is recommended that only matches recognised by Good News Tennis Ministries count towards the ITN i.e. so called official matches. These matches
* can take place in a tournament. Official matches should be played under the ITF Rules of Tennis. So, if players want to have an ITN that is re-evaluated according to their match results, they should participate in competitions using match formats within the ITF Rules of Tennis.
* **When does the ITN calculation system start?** Players will get their first ITN on the basis of their most recent competitive history or by participating in an ITN On Court Assessment conducted by an authorised person. From then onwards their ITN rating will be decided by results in official competitions or in the case of recreational players ITN 10 to ITN 7 by completing additional ITN On Court Assessments.
* **Who deals with the results of these matches?** It is recommended that Good News Tennis Ministries be responsible for dealing with the results from official competitions or ITN On Court Assessments.
* **How often should the ITN rating be calculated?** The ITN rating will be calculated after each tournament.
* **Is there a minimum number of matches required to get an ITN rating?** It is recommended that the minimum of matches within the period of evaluation should be 6, but fewer matches are possible.
* **What about defaults and walkovers?** In an effort to avoid players giving walkovers on a regular basis, players winning by walkovers should not be given points for these wins. In addition, if a player gives more than 3 walkovers in a year they should be penalised.
* **What if a player does not compete?** Players who do not compete at all for more than a year will need to be rerated.
* **HOW DOES THE CALCULATION FORMULA WORK?**
* The ITN Calculation can be done manually or run on an excel spreadsheet on a computer. The result of the calculation shows the player’s new ITN rating.
* • For a win against a player of his own rating, a player gets + 1 point
* • For a win against a player of one rating band higher, a player gets + 2 points
* • For a win against a player of two rating categories higher, a player gets + 3 points etc.
* • For a loss against a player of his own rating, a player gets - 1 point
* • For a loss against a player of one rating band lower, a player gets - 2 points
* • For a loss against a player of two rating categories lower, a player gets - 3 points etc.
* • For a win against a player one or more rating categories lower or a loss against a player one or more rating categories higher, no points are given because these wins or losses are expected.
* • **NEW ITN RATING = (ACTUAL ITN) - (TOTAL POINTS** ÷ **NUMBER OF MATCHES)**
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* **Example of a player with ITN 5:**
* **ITN of player ITN of opponent points for win points for loss**

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

* **Matches played Points earned**

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

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* **Example of a player with ITN 8:**
* **ITN of player ITN of opponent points for win points for loss**

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

* **Matches played Points earned**

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

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* **Example of a player with ITN 10:**
* **ITN of player ITN of opponent points for win points for loss**

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

* **Matches played Points earned**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Matches played** | **Points earned** |
| 7 wins against ITN 10: | 7 |
| 2 wins against ITN 9: | 4 |
| 4 losses against ITN 9: | 0 |
| 2 losses against ITN 10: | -2 |
| Total points: | 9 |
| Total points/number of matches | +9/185=+0.6 |
| New ITN rating | ITN 10 - (+0.6)=+9.4 |
| New ITN rating | ITN 9 (ie player goes up one rating band) |