



## 2020 World TeamTennis Media Information

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## FACTS & FIGURES

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- What:** World TeamTennis showcases the best in professional tennis with the innovative team format co-founded by Billie Jean King in the 1970s. Recognized as the leader in professional team tennis competition, WTT features many of the world's best players competing annually for the King Trophy, the league's championship trophy named after King.
- 2020 Teams:** Chicago Smash, New York Empire, Orange County (Calif.) Breakers, Orlando Storm, Philadelphia Freedoms, San Diego Aviators, Springfield (Mo.) Lasers, Vegas Rollers and Washington (D.C.) Kastles
- 2020 Schedule:** 2020 will mark the 45th season of World TeamTennis. The entire WTT regular season and WTT Playoffs will be contested at The Greenbrier "America's Resort" in White Sulphur Springs, WV.
- Regular Season:** July 12-30 (Teams play 14 regular season matches)
- WTT Semifinals:** August 1 – The top four teams from the regular season compete against each other. Matchups are No. 1 vs. No. 4 and No. 2 vs. No. 3.
- WTT Final:** August 2 – The semifinal winners play for the King Trophy, awarded to the year's WTT champion.
- 2020 Broadcast:** CBS Sports, ESPN and Tennis Channel are the official television broadcast partners of WTT. CBS will broadcast the Aug. 2 WTT Final and one regular season match (Washington vs. Vegas, July 19) live. CBS Sports Network carries live telecasts of 13 regular season matches and the WTT semifinals on Aug. 1. ESPN2 will air 15 matches live from July 12-26, while ESPN's online streaming service, ESPN+, is live streaming 10 matches during the season. Tennis Channel airs 19 live matches from July 20-30 and will carry the WTT Playoffs on replay. Additionally, five matches will live-stream on the CBS Sports app and Facebook Watch. All matches can be streamed on demand at [WTT.com](http://WTT.com) after each match has concluded.
- 2019 Champion:** The Springfield Lasers defeated the New York Empire, 20-19, to capture the 2019 WTT title and earn the franchise's second consecutive championship in its 24-year history.
- History:** The league was co-founded in the 1970s by Billie Jean King and Larry King, and first hit the courts in 1974. Since the League's debut, virtually every major champion of the Open era has played WTT including Pete Sampras, Andy Roddick, Kim Clijsters, Stefanie Graf, Bob and Mike Bryan, Andre Agassi, Venus and Serena Williams, Martina Hingis, Maria Sharapova, Lindsay Davenport, John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors, Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert.
- In 2015, WTT joined the NFL, NBA, NHL and MLB as only the fifth U.S. pro sports league to reach the 40 season milestone. In March 2017, WTT team owners Mark Ein (Washington Kastles) and Fred Luddy (San Diego Aviators) purchased majority ownership of World TeamTennis from league co-founder Billie Jean King who will remain involved as a minority owner of the league and majority owner of the Philadelphia Freedoms franchise. In February 2019, Orange County Breakers owner purchased a share of majority ownership of World TeamTennis, alongside Luddy.



**Sponsors:** The Greenbrier Resort, official hotel partner, July 12 – August 2. GEICO (Government Employees Insurance Company) returns as the league’s official auto insurance provider. Wilson has signed on as official racket and ball, Har-Tru Sports Coatings as the official playing surfacer, Weatherman Umbrellas as the official umbrella, and Zenni as the official eyewear. Additional sponsors include UTR powered by Oracle, Chosen Foods, EleVen, Greenbrier Tourism and KT Tape. Pertaining to WTT’s New York Empire, HSS is the team’s official hospital, providing the official physicians for the franchise.

**Format:** In a WTT match, each team is comprised of two men, two women and a coach. Team matches consist of five sets, with one set each of men's and women's singles, men's and women's doubles and mixed doubles. The first team to reach five games wins each set. A nine-point tiebreaker is played if a set reaches four games all. One point is awarded for each game won and scoring is cumulative. If necessary, Extended Play and a Supertiebreaker are played to determine the winner of the match.

**Owners:** Eric Davidson and Fred Luddy own equal majority ownership of WTT; Billie Jean King is a minority owner.

**CEO/Commissioner:** Carlos Silva

**Co-Founders:** Billie Jean King, Larry King, Fred Barman, Jordon Kaiser, Dennis Murphy and Frank Fuhrer

**Website:** WTT.com

**WTT Community Tennis – Youth / Juniors:**

WTT supports and sponsors various junior, college and adult initiatives throughout the year. They include:

**WTT Junior Nationals:** A national three-day team competition that includes 96 high school age tennis players, playing on 16 coed teams. The players and coaches are from USTA Sections and communities. The event includes visits from college coaches and Tennis On Campus organizers, along with educational seminars.

**San Diego CIF High School WTT League:** A winter league for high school players in Southern California which leads to the WTT San Diego High School Festival with 190-plus kids from around 20 high school teams. This is currently active in San Diego County and the program will be expanding to Orange County in 2019.

**Volleys Against Violence High School Challenges:** These events are held in pro team markets to bring the local police together with high school tennis teams for a fun, fast-paced competition. Teams have the opportunity to win Wilson tennis balls for their high schools. Teams also support their local pro team(s) by buying a “High School Team” ticket package.

**Freedoms TeamTennis Challenge:** More than 300 youth tennis players participate in events held throughout the year at local tennis clubs in the Philadelphia area. The events are a collaboration between the clubs, the USTA Middle States section, the Philadelphia Freedoms, and the Down the Line and Beyond Foundation. Each participant receives a ticket to a



Freedoms match, player autographs, and on-court recognition on court. In 2018, this program was expanded to the New York market.

**WTT Community Tennis – College / Adults:**

**Tennis On Campus:** WTT is a partner and the official format of the successful USTA Tennis On Campus (TOC) program, which is active in over 700 college campuses with more than 60,000 players. WTT assists with the TOC events at all levels, including 15 Sectionals, two Invitational tournaments and the Tennis On Campus National Championships.

**Adult Leagues:** At the grassroots level – WTT has over 19,000 players in more than 150 WTT leagues throughout the U.S. – all who continue to play the sport and support the industry with their discretionary dollars. More than 2,500 participants in seven WTT Community National Qualifier events throughout the U.S. Players advance from National Qualifiers to WTT Nationals, held annually in Indian Wells, Calif.



## BROADCAST OUTLETS & HAWK-EYE LIVE

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### **CBS Sports/Tennis Channel/ESPN & Online Streaming Platforms**

CBS Sports and Tennis Channel are the official television broadcast partners of WTT in 2020. CBS will broadcast live a July 19 regular season match featuring the Washington Kastles and Vegas Rollers live on CBS from 4:30-6:30 p.m. ET/1:30-3:30 p.m. PT and will broadcast the WTT Final live for the first time on Aug 2 at 12 p.m. ET.

CBS Sports Network will televise live coverage of 13 regular season matches and the WTT Semifinals on Aug. 1 at 2 p.m. ET/11 a.m. PT and 5 p.m. ET/2 p.m. PT.

Tennis Channel will bring live coverage of 19 regular season matches from July 20-30, and air a replay of the WTT Playoffs.

ESPN2 will air 15 matches live from July 12-26. In addition, online streaming service ESPN+ will live stream 10 matches during the 2020 WTT season, with an additional five matches streaming on the CBS Sports app and Facebook Watch.

All 2020 WTT matches can be streamed on demand after each match has concluded at [WTT.com](http://WTT.com). A full schedule denoting broadcast partners for each of WTT's 63 regular season matches in 2020 is available at [WTT.com](http://WTT.com).

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### **HAWK-EYE LIVE**

In 2020, WTT will use the electronic line-calling system **Hawk-Eye Live** for all matches at The Greenbrier. While tennis audiences have grown used to seeing the Hawk-Eye challenge system over the years at major events, Hawk-Eye Live plays a very different role in the match. Hawk-Eye Live will make the on-court calls, supported by only two officials – the on-court chair umpire and a review official in the Hawk-Eye booth to monitor foot faults. The real-time ball-tracking technology determines whether a shot is in or out immediately after it has landed. No challenges are needed.

Hawk-Eye statistical data and line-calling graphics will be incorporated into coverage on WTT's live streaming platform, WTT.tv. Hawk-Eye Live will also be integrated with the in-stadium LED screens as well as WTT television broadcasts.

The Hawk-Eye Live system uses 12 ball-tracking cameras and six foot fault cameras. The technology has been utilized in other sports such as soccer and cricket.

The automated line-calling technology is also expected to help streamline play, building on a trend with WTT matches. With the addition of coach's timeouts in 2012 and the 25-second service clock in 2015, WTT match times have been reduced by approximately 30 minutes over the past five seasons.



## TEAM ROSTERS

(All players will play entire season unless otherwise noted; subject to change)

### CHICAGO SMASH

Genie Bouchard (CAN)  
Evan King (USA)  
Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA)  
Brandon Nakashima (USA)  
Rajeev Ram (USA)  
Sloane Stephens (USA)  
*Coach: Kamau Murray (USA)*

### NEW YORK EMPIRE

Kim Clijsters (BEL)  
Sabine Lisicki (GER)  
Kveta Peschke (CZE)  
Neal Skupski (GBR)  
Jack Sock (USA)  
*Coach: Luke Jensen (USA)*

### ORANGE COUNTY (CALIF.) BREAKERS

Luke Bambridge (GBR)  
Jennifer Brady (USA)  
Gabriela Dabrowski (CAN)  
Steve Johnson (USA)  
Andreja Klepac (SLO)  
Austin Krajicek (USA)  
*Coach: Rick Leach (USA)*

### ORLANDO STORM

Danielle Collins (USA)  
Darija Jurak (CRO)  
Jessica Pegula (USA)  
Tennys Sandgren (USA)  
Ken Skupski (GBR)  
James Ward (GBR)  
*Coach: Jay Gooding (AUS)*

### PHILADELPHIA FREEDOMS

Caroline Dolehide (USA)  
Taylor Fritz (USA)  
Sofia Kenin (USA)  
Fabrice Martin (FRA)

### PHILADELPHIA FREEDOMS (CONTINUED)

Taylor Townsend (USA)  
Donald Young (USA)  
*Coach: Craig Kardon (USA)*

### SAN DIEGO AVIATORS

Ryan Harrison (USA)  
Christina McHale (USA)  
Nicole Melichar (USA)  
Jonny O'Mara (GBR)  
Coco Vandeweghe (USA)  
*Coach: John Lloyd (GBR)*

### SPRINGFIELD (MO.) LASERS

Hayley Carter (USA)  
Olga Govortsova (BLR)  
Mitchell Krueger (USA)  
Robert Lindstedt (SWE)  
Caty McNally (USA)  
Jean-Julien Rojer (NED)  
*Coach: John-Laffnie de Jager (RSA)*

### VEGAS ROLLERS

Kristie Ahn (USA)  
Bob Bryan (USA)  
Mike Bryan (USA)  
Asia Muhammad (USA)  
Monica Puig (PR)  
Sam Querrey (USA)  
Ajla Tomljanovic (AUS)  
*Coaches: Tim Blenkiron (USA)*

### WASHINGTON (D.C.) KASTLES

Marcelo Arevalo (ESA)  
Nick Monroe (USA)  
Tommy Paul (USA)  
Bernarda Pera (USA)  
Arina Rodionova (AUS)  
Venus Williams (USA)  
*Coach: Robby Ginepri (USA)*

### COUNTRIES REPRESENTED BY PLAYERS (15):

Australia - 2  
Belarus - 1  
Belgium - 1  
Canada - 2  
Croatia - 1  
Czech Republic - 1  
El Salvador - 1

France - 1  
Germany - 1  
Great Britain - 5  
Netherlands - 1  
Puerto Rico - 1  
Slovenia - 1  
Sweden - 1  
United States - 32



## SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	VISITOR	vs	HOME	LOCAL START	
Sunday	7/12	Orlando	vs	Springfield	12:00 PM	ET
Sunday	7/12	Chicago	vs	Vegas	4:00 PM	ET
Sunday	7/12	Orange County	Vs	San Diego	8:00 PM	ET
Monday	7/13	Vegas	vs	Orlando	1:00 PM	ET
Monday	7/13	Washington	vs	New York	5:00 PM	ET
Monday	7/13	Philadelphia	vs	Orange County	9:00 PM	ET
Tuesday	7/14	San Diego	vs	Vegas	11:00 AM	ET
Tuesday	7/14	Orlando	vs	Chicago	3:00 PM	ET
Tuesday	7/14	Springfield	vs	Philadelphia	7:00 PM	ET
Wednesday	7/15	Orange County	vs	Chicago	11:00 AM	ET
Wednesday	7/15	New York	vs	Philadelphia	3:00 PM	ET
Wednesday	7/15	Washington	vs	San Diego	7:00 PM	ET
Thursday	7/16	Vegas	vs	Orange County	11:00 AM	ET
Thursday	7/16	Springfield	vs	Washington	3:00 PM	ET
Thursday	7/16	<del>San Diego</del>	<del>Vs</del>	<del>Washington</del>	7:00 PM	ET
Friday	7/17	Philadelphia	vs	Washington	9:00 AM	ET
Friday	7/17	Chicago	vs	New York	12:00 PM	ET
Friday	7/17	Vegas	vs	Springfield	3:30 PM	ET
Friday	7/17	San Diego	vs	Orlando	7:00 PM	ET
Saturday	7/18	Vegas	vs	San Diego	9:00 AM	ET
Saturday	7/18	Orlando	vs	Orange County	12:00 PM	ET
Saturday	7/18	Washington	vs	Philadelphia	4:00 PM	ET
Saturday	7/18	Springfield	vs	New York	7:30 PM	ET
Sunday	7/19	Washington	vs	Vegas	12:30 PM	ET
Sunday	7/19	Chicago	vs	Orlando	4:00 PM	ET
Sunday	7/19	San Diego	vs	Orange County	8:00 PM	ET
Monday	7/20	Philadelphia	vs	Springfield	12:00 PM	ET
Monday	7/20	Chicago	vs	San Diego	3:00 PM	ET
Monday	7/20	New York	vs	Orange County	7:00 PM	ET
Tuesday	7/21	Orlando	vs	Washington	9:00 AM	ET
Tuesday	7/21	New York	vs	Springfield	12:00 PM	ET
Tuesday	7/21	Philadelphia	vs	Chicago	3:00 PM	ET
Tuesday	7/21	Orange County	vs	Vegas	7:30 PM	ET
Wednesday	7/22	San Diego	vs	New York	9:00 AM	ET
Wednesday	7/22	Chicago	vs	Springfield	3:00 PM	ET
Wednesday	7/22	Vegas	vs	Philadelphia	7:00 PM	ET

*Ryan Harrison (SD), Frances Tiafoe (WAS)*



Thursday	7/23	Springfield	vs	San Diego	11:00 AM	ET	
Thursday	7/23	Orlando	vs	Vegas	3:00 PM	ET	
Thursday	7/23	Orange County	vs	Washington	7:00 PM	ET	
Friday	7/24	New York	vs	Vegas	11:00 AM	ET	
Friday	7/24	Orange County	vs	Philadelphia	3:00 PM	ET	
Friday	7/24	Washington	vs	Chicago	7:00 PM	ET	
Saturday	7/25	Philadelphia	vs	Orlando	9:00 AM	ET	
Saturday	7/25	Orange County	vs	Springfield	12:00 PM	ET	
Saturday	7/25	San Diego	vs	Washington	3:00 PM	ET	
Saturday	7/25	New York	vs	Chicago	7:00 PM	ET	
Sunday	7/26	Springfield	vs	Orlando	9:00 AM	ET	
Sunday	7/26	New York	vs	Washington	12:00 PM	ET	
Sunday	7/26	Vegas	vs	Chicago	3:00 PM	ET	
Sunday	7/26	San Diego	vs	Philadelphia	7:00 PM	ET	
Monday	7/27	Chicago	vs	Orange County	11:00 AM	ET	
Monday	7/27	Springfield	vs	Vegas	3:00 PM	ET	
Monday	7/27	Orlando	vs	San Diego	7:00 PM	ET	
Tuesday	7/28	Washington	vs	Springfield	11:00 AM	ET	
Tuesday	7/28	Philadelphia	vs	San Diego	3:00 PM	ET	
Tuesday	7/28	Orlando	vs	New York	7:00 PM	ET	
Wednesday	7/29	Chicago	vs	Philadelphia	11:00 AM	ET	
Wednesday	7/29	Orange County	vs	New York	3:00 PM	ET	
Wednesday	7/29	Vegas	vs	Washington	6:00 PM	ET	
Thursday	7/30	Philadelphia	vs	New York	9:00 PM	ET	
Thursday	7/30	Springfield	vs	Orange County	12:00 PM	ET	
Thursday	7/30	Washington	vs	Orlando	4:00 PM	ET	
Thursday	7/30	San Diego	vs	Chicago	7:00 PM	ET	
Friday	7/31	No matches scheduled					
Saturday	8/1	Seeds 1-4 & 2-3			2 & 5 PM	ET	<b>WTT SEMIFINALS</b>
Sunday	8/2	SF winners			12:00 PM	ET	<b>WTT FINAL</b>

*(subject to change)*





## MORE ABOUT WORLD TEAMTENNIS

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- **ELITE COMPANY:** In July 2015, World TeamTennis became part of an elite and small list of U.S. pro sports leagues to reach the 40<sup>th</sup> season milestone, joining the NFL, NBA, NHL and MLB.
- **FOUNDED IN THE 1970s ON THE PHILOSOPHY OF GENDER EQUITY:** WTT co-founder Billie Jean King simply says, “If you have ever seen a WTT match you have seen my philosophy of life in action – men and women, competing together, on a team and both genders making equal contributions to the result.”
- **COMPETITIVE, WORLD-CLASS TENNIS:** At a World TeamTennis match, fans will see quality competitive tennis where every point matters, every game counts. For the players, its intense competition and for the fans, it's the opportunity to see some of tennis' best playing together on teams representing their community. The format features cumulative, no-ad scoring so every game counts toward the final score.
- **FAN INTERACTION & ACCESS:** A World TeamTennis match is a unique experience. The crowd is on top of the action. The atmosphere gives the players an opportunity to meet many of the fans and give back to the community that has supported their team for years. Teams host kids clinics each night before matches and children age 16 and under can come on the court after every WTT match and get player autographs. Fans can also keep any balls that are hit into the stands during play.
- **SINGLES & DOUBLES:** WTT matches feature singles, doubles and mixed doubles allowing fans to see professional players in a competitive team environment – all in less than three hours.
- **INNOVATIONS:** World TeamTennis has always been an innovator in the sport, introducing a number of fan-friendly initiatives – *playing let serves, timeouts, service clocks, men and women playing equal roles on a team, substitutions, instant replay, on-court coaching, music between points, names on back of players shirts, letting fans keep balls that are hit into the stands, Extended Play and Supertiebreaker. In 2017, WTT introduced on-player microphones, a first for pro tennis competition.*
- **GIVING BACK:** World TeamTennis has given away more than 300,000 junior tennis racquets in the past decade through clinics, WTT matches, and other youth activities. All WTT teams provide free tennis clinics and PlayDays, delivering a message of access and fitness to hundreds of thousands of youth.
- **BEST SPORTS TEAM EVER?:** The 2011-2013 Washington Kastles teams certainly have to be included in any discussion of top sports teams. The Kastles did not lose a match during the 2011 and 2012 seasons en route to the league championship. The Texas Wild handed the Kastles their first loss in three seasons on July 10, 2013, ending the Kastles winning streak at 34 consecutive matches. Washington’s win streak is the longest in major pro sports league history, surpassing the previous mark of 33 consecutive wins held by the NBA's 1971-72 Lakers. Washington didn’t slow down in 2013, winning their third consecutive title and fourth overall. In 2015, the Kastles set a new league record with their fifth consecutive championship.



## IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

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*World TeamTennis. There are a few things to know about how we play the game.  
It's always about the team. There are nine teams in World TeamTennis. Some of the world's best men and women team up to play singles, doubles and mixed doubles in an exciting and unique professional team tennis competition.  
In WTT, every game counts – literally. Scoring is cumulative and it takes a team to win.  
Here are key terms to know about the WTT experience.*

### **THE TEAMS**

#### ***Franchises***

Nine teams will compete during the 2020 season. The franchises are: Chicago Smash • New York Empire • Orange County Breakers • Orlando Storm • Philadelphia Freedoms • San Diego Aviators • Springfield Lasers • Vegas Rollers • Washington Kastles

### **THE SCHEDULE**

#### ***Regular Season***

All 2020 WTT matches will be contested at The Greenbrier “America’s Resort” in White Sulphur Springs, WV. Each team will play 14 regular season matches. The regular season begins on Sunday, July 12 and concludes on Thursday, July 30.

#### ***Post-season***

The top four teams from WTT’s regular season advance to the semifinals on Friday, Aug. 1. Semifinal winners will compete the next day – Saturday, Aug. 2 – in the WTT Final with the champion claiming the King Trophy.

#### ***Season/Playoff Qualification***

For all players (other than franchise players), a season is defined as either (a) playing in three (3) matches for one team, or (b) playing a total of four (4) matches in one season regardless of the number of teams. To be eligible for Bonus Money or Awards they must appear on the roster for 80% of a team’s matches (11 of 14). All players must participate on their team for three matches during the regular season to qualify for participation in the WTT Final.

### **ON THE COURT**

#### ***Fan Experience***

Fan participation is an important part of any WTT match. Crowds are encouraged to be vocal about great play (while still being respectful of all players) and are allowed to enter/exit the stadium during play without having to wait for a changeover. Often between games, music is played and the DJ fires up the crowd.

#### ***Match***

A match is a contest between two WTT teams, consisting of five sets plus Extended Play (if any) and a Supertiebreaker (if necessary). The sets are men’s and women’s singles, men’s and women’s doubles and mixed doubles.

#### ***Match Order***

The home team coach determines the order of sets and turns in the lineup to the head umpire one hour before match start time. Every match includes a halftime break – either after the second or third set.

#### ***Service Clock***

An on-court service clock counts down 25 seconds from the end of a point to the next serve. The first time violation per set is a warning and additional violations will result in point penalties.

#### ***Substitution***

A coach may substitute one player, per set, per gender at the conclusion of a point. If a player is substituted, he/she may not return to the match during that set.

#### ***Team***

Each team has a coach and at least four players; two men and two women (five or more players if there are Franchise or Wild Card players on the team). Players are permitted to play in a maximum of three sets per match.

*As of 7/21/2020*



### **Timeouts**

As with other professional league team sports, WTT features the use of timeouts during match play. Each team will be allotted two timeouts per set with an additional timeout being awarded to each team if a match goes into Extended Play. Timeouts will be twenty (:20) seconds in length and do not carry over between sets. Only the coach may call a timeout. Coaches or players may enter the court area during these breaks in action.

### **SCORING**

#### ***Keeping Score***

- Scoring is no-ad (the first team to win four points wins the game). Game scoring is 15, 30, 40, game.
- All games, sets and Supertiebreakers are won by a margin of one point.
- Each game counts as one point in the team's cumulative match score.
- The receiver has the choice from which side he/she will receive serve should the game reach three points each. In mixed doubles, the serve is always gender-to-gender at 40-all (deuce).
- Teams change sides after every four games.
- Let serves are played.

#### **Extended Play**

In WTT matches - every point matters, every game counts. That is never more evident than in Extended Play (formerly Overtime). If the team ahead in the cumulative score wins the final game of the last set, then that team is the winner. However, if the trailing team wins the final set, the match is sent into Extended Play and continues until a) the leading team wins one game, or b) the trailing team ties the match score. If the score becomes tied, the match is decided by a Supertiebreaker.

#### **Set**

The first team to reach five games wins a set. If the set is tied at 4-4, a 9-point tiebreaker is played.

#### **Supertiebreaker**

If the match is tied at the conclusion of five sets OR if the trailing team ties the score in Extended Play, a 13-point Supertiebreaker, involving the same fifth set, decides the outcome of the entire match. A coin toss determines the choice of side, server and receiver. Players change sides after six points. The first team to win seven points is awarded a single game and the match.

#### **Tiebreaker**

If a set reaches 4-4, a 9-point tiebreaker is played to decide the winner of the set. The first team to reach five points wins the tiebreaker. Players change sides after four points. The tiebreaker counts as one game and decides the outcome of the set.

### **OFF THE COURT**

**Fans:** World TeamTennis is all about the fans. Fans are encouraged to get involved, get loud and have a great time.



## INNOVATIONS & FIRSTS

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Since its inception in the early 1970s, World TeamTennis has been an innovator in the sports world. Many of WTT's novel rules have been recognized and adopted by others in the industry.

World TeamTennis is the original – the leader in professional team tennis competition. A WTT match is loud, exciting, innovative and intensely competitive tennis from some of the best pros in the sport – all in an electric atmosphere that makes for a great fan experience.

With a fascinating history of firsts, innovations and an emphasis on gender equity, WTT stands out among all professional sports leagues. Here are a few of the reasons why:

### **A League of Firsts & Innovations**

#### **EQUALITY:**

- Professional sports league where men and women have equal roles.

#### **SCORING & ON COURT:**

- In 2018, WTT used the electronic line-calling system Hawk-Eye Live for all matches in team markets. Hawk-Eye Live will make the on-court calls, supported by only two officials – the chair umpire and a review official in the Hawk-Eye booth to monitor foot faults. This will be the most extensive implementation of electronic line-calling in tennis.
- In 2017, WTT introduced on-player microphones, a first for pro tennis competition.
- In 2015, the league introduced an on-court service clock which counts down 25 seconds from the end of a point to the next serve. The first time violation per set is a warning and additional violations will result in point penalties.
- Pro tennis competition to regularly feature no-ad scoring – first to four points wins the game.
- Features on-court coaching.
- Let serves are played.
- Sets are played to five games (nine-point tiebreak played at 4-4).
- Invented the use of Supertiebreaker and Extended Play in tennis.
- Use of instant replay technology in 2005 with the Coaches Challenge.
- As with other professional league team sports, the use of timeouts during match play was added in 2012. Each team is allotted two timeouts per set with an additional timeout being awarded to each team if a match goes into Extended Play. Timeouts will be twenty (:20) seconds in length and do not carry over between sets. Only the coach may call a timeout. Coaches or players may enter the court area during these breaks in action.

#### **FAN EXPERIENCE:**

- WTT encourages fan participation. WTT crowds are encouraged to be vocal about great play (while still being respectful of all players) and are allowed to enter/exit the stadium during play without having to wait for a changeover. Often between games, music is played or a DJ fires up the crowd.
- Tennis fans are allowed to keep balls hit out of play and get them autographed after the match.
- Substitutions are allowed during a WTT match.
- WTT matches have half-times, Extended Play and Supertiebreakers.
- Player names on the back of shirts.
- Played on navy blue-colored courts.



## MILESTONES

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**2020: WTT INTRODUCES FREE AGENCY AND SALARY CAP/EXPANSION TO CHICAGO** – Ahead of the 2020 season, WTT launched a new free agency player recruitment model by which its nine teams constructed their rosters. The WTT Draft was dissolved. The free agency approach allows teams more freedom to assemble their rosters during the WTT recruitment window. Teams also have the first right to protect and sign players who played for them the previous season. Similar to past years, teams signed four full-season players to their roster and could add franchise players at any time. A salary cap for each WTT franchise was put in place to help maintain parity across the league. WTT expanded to nine teams with its addition of the Chicago Smash, led by American star Sloane Stephens.

**2019: WTT EXPANDS TO EIGHT TEAMS** – WTT expanded by two franchises with the Orlando Storm, playing out of the USTA National Campus in Lake Nona, Fla., and Vegas Rollers. The league also moved the WTT Playoffs (semifinals and WTT Final) to the Rollers' home at the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas, where the Springfield Lasers edged the New York Empire, 20-19, to become the eighth team in WTT history to win back-to-back WTT championships – the first team since the Washington Kastles held the WTT crown from 2011-15.

**2019: NEW OWNER/CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD/CEO** – Orange County Breakers owner Eric Davidson became WTT's Chairman of the Board while acquiring a majority ownership share in WTT equal to San Diego Aviators owner Fred Luddy. League founder and tennis legend Billie Jean King remains a co-owner of WTT. Carlos Silva is hired as WTT's new CEO and President in January 2019.

**2018: WTT.tv & ELECTRONIC LINE-CALLING** – The league adds the electronic line-calling system Hawk-Eye Live for all matches in team markets. Hawk-Eye Live will make the on-court calls, supported by only two officials – the chair umpire and a review official in the Hawk-Eye booth to monitor foot faults. This will be the most extensive implementation of electronic line-calling in tennis. For the first time in league history, all 2018 WTT matches were available to view for free to U.S. and international audiences on the league's new live streaming platform, WTT.tv.

**2017: NEW OWNERS** – WTT team owners Mark Ein (Washington Kastles) and Fred Luddy (San Diego Aviators) purchase majority ownership of World TeamTennis from league co-founder Billie Jean King who remains involved as a minority owner of the league and majority owner of the Philadelphia Freedoms franchise. Introduction of on-player microphones, a first for pro tennis competition.

**2016: BACK IN THE BIG APPLE** – WTT returns to New York City with the New York Empire.

**2015: TURNING 40** – World TeamTennis becomes only the fifth U.S. pro sports league to reach the 40<sup>th</sup> season milestone, joining the National Football League, National Basketball Association, National Hockey League and Major League Baseball. WTT also introduces an on-court service clock.

### **2011-2015: THE KASTLES ERA**

- In 2011, the Washington Kastles completed the first perfect season in WTT history (16-0) and won their second WTT championship with a victory over St. Louis Aces.
- The Kastles did it again in 2012. Led by Venus Williams, Washington edged Sacramento in the WTT Final to complete another perfect season and hoist the King Trophy for the third time in its history.
- Before winning their third consecutive and fourth overall championship in 2013, the Kastles became the first league champion to be invited to the White House to meet with the President.
- Washington also rewrote the sports record books during the 2013 season by setting the mark of 34 consecutive wins (2011-2013), the longest streak in major pro sports league history. The previous mark of 33 consecutive wins was held by the NBA's 1971-72 Lakers.



- In 2015, the Kastles set a league record of five consecutive championship titles (2011-15), surpassing the record they shared with the Sacramento Capitals (1997-2000).

**2013: NEW PARTNERS** – Andy Roddick and Venus Williams join the WTT ownership group in May 2013.

**2009: NAVRATILOVA TURNS 20** – The Boston Lobsters' Martina Navratilova becomes the first to play 20 WTT seasons. Kim Clijsters comes out of retirement and makes her WTT debut for St. Louis in July 2009. Less than two months later, she returns to the WTA Tour and wins the U.S. Open women's singles title.

**2005: GRAF, HINGIS HIGHLIGHT 30<sup>th</sup> SEASON** – WTT celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and introduces Instant replay to professional tennis competition. Stefanie Graf makes her return to pro tennis for the first time since 1999 to play WTT. Martina Hingis makes her WTT debut and leads the New York Sportimes to their first title. Hingis lost only one set during the 2005 season and was named MVP of the WTT Final. Her WTT performance spurred the tennis great to make a successful return to the WTA Tour.

**2002: AMBASSADOR AGASSI** – Andre Agassi joined WTT as a player and League ambassador.

**2000: 4-PEAT & ANDY IS A HIT** - Sacramento had an unprecedented four-peat, winning the title from 1997 to 2000. Seven years later, the Capitals becomes the first team in WTT history to win six championships with the 2007 title. A 17-year-old Andy Roddick breaks onto the pro scene and makes his WTT debut playing a full season for the Idaho Sneakers.

**1992: A NEW NAME** - In line with the growing global popularity of the sport, the professional league is rebranded from TeamTennis to World TeamTennis.

**1990: LEGENDS SIGN ON** – WTT CEO/Commissioner Ilana Kloss signs Jimmy Connors and Martina Navratilova to the League's first multi-year marquee player contracts.

**1984: COMMISSIONER KING** - Billie Jean King becomes the first woman commissioner in pro sports history.

**1981: TEAMTENNIS** - Following a brief hiatus, the league returns as TeamTennis.

**1974: FIRST SET** – World TeamTennis, which was founded by Billie Jean King, Larry King, Fred Barman, Jordon Kaiser, Dennis Murphy and Frank Fuhrer, debuts as the inaugural season introduces professional team tennis competition to the sports landscape.

- Based on a concept of gender equity, WTT is also the first professional sports league to feature men and women on the same team. It is also the debut of WTT's unique multi-colored court.
- The Denver Racquets defeat the Philadelphia Freedoms to win the first championship.
- League co-founder Billie Jean King is named as the League's first MVP and is also the first woman to coach a team with male pros as the player-coach of the Freedoms.
- Among the first team owners was the Los Angeles Strings' Jerry Buss, who went on to own the NBA's Los Angeles Lakers. His daughter Jeanie became the team GM in 1981. Robert Kraft, current owner of the NFL's New England Patriots, became owner of the Boston Lobsters in 1975.
- On May 6, 1974, the first World TeamTennis match was played when the Philadelphia Freedoms hosted the Pittsburgh Triangles at the Spectrum. Philadelphia won 31-25.
- On May 9, 1974, WTT becomes the first regularly scheduled tennis serves coverage on HBO when the New York Sets take on the Pittsburgh Triangles.



## WTT FINAL & CHAMPIONS

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2019	<b>Las Vegas, Nev.:</b> Springfield Lasers def. New York Empire, 20-19
2018	<b>Philadelphia, Pa.:</b> Springfield Lasers def. Philadelphia Freedoms, 19-18
2017	<b>Carlsbad, Calif.:</b> Orange County Breakers def. San Diego Aviators 22-18
2016	<b>Forest Hills, N.Y.:</b> San Diego Aviators def. Orange County Breakers 25-14
2015	<b>Washington, DC:</b> Washington Kastles def. Austin Aces 24-18
2014	<b>Springfield, Mo.:</b> Washington Kastles def. Springfield Lasers 25-13
2013	<b>Washington, DC:</b> Washington Kastles def. Springfield Lasers 25-12
2012	<b>Charleston, S.C.:</b> Washington Kastles def. Sacramento Capitals 20-19
2011	<b>Charleston, S.C.:</b> Washington Kastles def. St. Louis Aces 23-19
2010	<b>Kansas City, Mo.:</b> Kansas City Explorers def. New York Sportimes 21-18
2009	<b>Washington, DC:</b> Washington Kastles def. Springfield Lasers 23-20
2008	<b>Sacramento, Calif.:</b> New York Buzz def. Kansas City Explorers 21-18
2007	<b>Sacramento, Calif.:</b> Sacramento Capitals def. New York Buzz, 24-20
2006	<b>Newport Beach, Calif.:</b> Philadelphia Freedoms def. Newport Beach Breakers 21-14
2005	<b>Sacramento, Calif.:</b> New York Sportimes def. Newport Beach Breakers 21-18
2004	<b>Flushing Meadows, N.Y.:</b> Newport Beach Breakers def. Delaware Smash 23-17
2003	<b>Flushing Meadows, N.Y.:</b> Delaware Smash def. Sacramento Capitals 21-14
2002	<b>Flushing Meadows, N.Y.:</b> Sacramento Capitals def. New York Buzz 21-13
2001	<b>Flushing Meadows, N.Y.:</b> Philadelphia Freedoms def. Springfield Lasers 20-18
2000	<b>Flushing Meadows, N.Y.:</b> Sacramento Capitals def. Delaware Smash 21-20
1999	<b>Sacramento, Calif.:</b> Sacramento Capitals def. Springfield Lasers 23-15
1998	<b>Sacramento, Calif.:</b> Sacramento Capitals def. New York OTBzz 30-13
1997	<b>Orlando, Fla.:</b> Sacramento Capitals won title due to regular season standings (final rained out)
1996	<b>Wesley Chapel, Fla.:</b> St. Louis Aces def. Delaware Smash 27-16
1995	<b>Charlotte, N.C.:</b> New Jersey Stars def. Atlanta Thunder 28-20
1994	<b>Sacramento, Calif.:</b> New Jersey Stars def. Idaho Sneakers 28-25
1993	<b>Atlanta, Ga.:</b> Wichita Advantage def. Newport Beach Dukes 26-23
1992	<b>Atlanta, Ga.:</b> Atlanta Thunder def. Newport Beach Dukes 30-17
1991	<b>Atlanta, Ga.:</b> Atlanta Thunder def. Los Angeles Strings 27-16
1990	<b>Los Angeles, Calif.:</b> Los Angeles Strings def. Raleigh Edge 27-16
1989	<b>Sacramento, Calif.:</b> San Antonio Racquets def. Sacramento Capitals 27-25
1988	<b>Charlotte, N.C.:</b> Charlotte Heat def. New Jersey Stars 27-22
1987	<b>Charlotte, N.C.:</b> Charlotte Heat def. San Antonio Racquets 25-20
1986	<b>San Antonio, Texas:</b> San Antonio Racquets def. Sacramento Capitals 25-23
1985	<b>San Antonio, Texas:</b> San Diego Buds def. St. Louis Slims 25-24
1984	<b>Los Angeles, Calif.:</b> San Diego Buds - Season Consisted of One-Week Tournament
1983	<b>Los Angeles, Calif.:</b> Chicago Fyre def. Los Angeles Strings 26-20
1982	Dallas Stars def. Phoenix Sunsets 27-22
1981	Los Angeles Strings - Champion determined by Regular Season Record
1979-80	<i>League Hiatus</i>
1978	<b>Los Angeles, Calif. // Boston, Mass.:</b> Los Angeles Strings def. Boston Lobsters 108-93 (24-21, 30-20, 26-27, 28-25)*
1977	<b>New York, N.Y. // Phoenix, Ariz.:</b> New York Apples def. Phoenix Racquets 55-39 (27-22, 28-17)*
1976	<b>New York, N.Y. // San Francisco, Calif.:</b> New York Sets def. San Francisco Golden Gaters 91-57 (31-23, 29-21, 31-13)*
1975	<b>Pittsburgh, Pa. // San Francisco, Calif.:</b> Pittsburgh Triangles def. San Francisco Golden Gaters 74-65 (25-26, 28-25, 21-14)*
1974	<b>Denver, Colo. // Philadelphia, Pa.:</b> Denver Racquets def. Philadelphia Freedoms 55-48 (27-21, 28-24)*

\* From 1974-1978, championship matches were either best 2 out of 3 matches or 3 out of 5 matches.