



United States Tennis Association
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October 23, 2018

Dear Players,

The USTA, in collaboration with the International Tennis Federation (ITF), is excited to announce that, starting in 2019, American players will have access to considerably more [ITF World Ranking points](#) when competing in men's and women's 35s-85s events in the United States. In the past, the majority of ITF World Ranking points have been available exclusively in Europe. This change will also provide players the opportunity to climb the world rankings without the need for international travel.

Players, with an [ITF IPIN](#), will now get more points as a result of upgrades to the ITF grade assigned to USTA Category I National Championships, also known as Gold Ball tournaments, and 10 Super Category II adult tournaments. Category I National Championships will be upgraded from ITF Grade 2 to ITF Grade A, while 10 Super Category II adult tournaments will now have ITF Grade 1 status.

"Starting in 2019, the ITF is pleased to upgrade key Category I National Championships and Super Category II adult tournaments in the United States to Grade A and Grade 1 status, respectively, in recognition of the proven success of American players on an international level, the volume of players competing in adult tournaments and the high standard of tournament organization and delivery at these events," said Matt Byford, ITF Seniors Tennis Manager.

We are excited to welcome these changes in 2019 as we get ready for another great year. To view the 2019 USTA Adult National Tournament schedules, please visit [USTA.com](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Hughes
USTA Adult Tournaments