

## IX. WTA FINALS AND WTA ELITE TROPHY

The Tour Year culminates with two (2) events, the WTA Finals and the WTA Elite Trophy.

To determine qualification for the WTA Finals and WTA Elite Trophy singles and doubles competitions, the WTA ranks (a) each singles player according to her WTA Ranking as of the Monday after the final regular-season Tournament of the current Tour Year; and (b) each doubles team according to the total ranking points they earn from their best eleven (11) Tournament results as a team during the Tour Year as of the Monday after the final regular-season Tournament of the current Tour Year (collectively, "**Finals Rankings**").

All players who qualify for the WTA Finals or WTA Elite Trophy must comply with the player responsibilities in this Section IX.

### A. WTA FINALS

#### 1. Singles and Doubles Competition Formats

The singles competition is a draw of eight (8) players in a round robin format with two (2) groups of four (4) players with the winner and runner-up from each group qualifying for a single elimination format semifinals and final. The doubles competition is a draw of eight (8) teams in a single elimination format.

#### 2. Qualification; Attendance; Alternates

##### a. Qualified Players – Singles

The top seven (7) players in the Finals Rankings qualify for the WTA Finals (each a "**Finals Singles Qualified Player**"). At its sole discretion and taking into account extraordinary circumstances, the WTA may select the eighth player for participation in the singles competition. If the WTA does not exercise its option to select the eighth player, the eighth player in the Finals Rankings will qualify for the WTA Finals as a Finals Singles Qualified Player.

##### b. Qualified Players – Doubles Teams

The top eight (8) teams in the Finals Rankings qualify for the WTA Finals (each a "**Finals Qualified Team**" and each player a "**Finals Doubles Qualified Player**"). To be eligible, teams must have played together in a minimum of two (2) WTA Tournaments or Grand Slams during the current Tour Year. A Finals Doubles Qualified Player that qualifies with two (2) or more Finals Qualified Teams may choose the Finals Qualified Team with which she participates, and any player with whom she does not choose to participate is ineligible to be a Finals Doubles Qualified Player unless such player qualifies with another Finals Qualified Team.

##### c. Qualification Tie-Break

###### i. Singles

If two (2) or more players are tied for qualification, the following player is the Finals Singles Qualified Player:

(a) The player with the most total points from Grand Slams, Premier Mandatory Tournaments, and Premier 5 Tournaments; or if still tied

(b) The player with the most total points from all Grand Slam, Premier, and International Tournaments; or if still tied

(c) The player with the fewest Tournaments played in the current Tour Year (counting any Mandatory Tournament(s) at which the player qualified for acceptance regardless of whether she actually played at such Mandatory Tournament(s)); or if still tied

(d) The player with the highest point total in her highest-point-earning Tournament result of the current Tour Year or, if still tied, the player with the highest point total in her next highest-point-earning Tournament result of the current Tour Year, and so on.

ii. Doubles

If two (2) or more teams are tied for qualification, the following team is the Finals Qualified Team:

- (a) The team with the most total points as a team from Grand Slams, Premier Mandatory Tournaments, and Premier 5 Tournaments; or if still tied
- (b) The team with the most total points as a team from all Grand Slam, Premier, and International Tournaments; or if still tied
- (c) The team with the fewest Tournaments played as a team in the current Tour Year; or if still tied
- (d) The team with the highest point total in their highest-point-earning Tournament result as a team in the current Tour Year or, if still tied, the team with the highest point total in their next highest-point-earning Tournament result as a team in the current Tour Year, and so on.

d. Mandatory Participation; Penalties

Finals Singles and Doubles Qualified Players are required to attend and compete at the WTA Finals and participate in all mandatory functions. Each Finals Singles and Doubles Qualified Player must be in the WTA Finals city at least three (3) days prior to the start of the singles or doubles competition, as applicable; provided, however, that if she is competing at another WTA Tournament on or after her required day of arrival, she must use best efforts to be in the WTA Finals city no later than the day after she finishes competing at such other WTA Tournament. Any Finals Singles Qualified Player who fails to attend and compete at the WTA Finals must pay a fine of \$125,000 and receives 0 ranking points for the WTA Finals, which must count as one (1) of her best sixteen (16) Tournament results in calculating her WTA Ranking. If a Finals Qualified Team fails to attend and compete at the WTA Finals, the withdrawing Finals Doubles Qualified Player must pay a fine of \$25,000.

If a Finals Singles or Doubles Qualified Player fails to attend and compete at the WTA Finals, the WTA will suspend the full amount of her applicable fine(s) if she participates in promotional activities, including but not limited to media and sponsor activities, autograph sessions, photo opportunities, video news releases, charity activities, and similar activities ("**Finals Make-Up Activities**"), for the benefit of the WTA or the WTA Finals either:

- i. At the current WTA Finals for a minimum of two (2) full days and a minimum of three (3) hours per day ("**On-Site Option**"); or
- ii. Any time prior to the WTA Finals of the following Tour Year over two (2) days for a minimum of three (3) hours per day at the location(s) WTA designates in its sole, reasonable discretion in consultation with the WTA Finals promoter and such player ("**Off-Site Option**").

WTA will designate the details of the Finals Make-Up Activities in its sole, reasonable discretion in consultation with the WTA Finals promoter and such player. Such player is responsible for all costs related to attending the Finals Make-Up Activities, except that for the On-Site Option, she is entitled to one (1) round-trip, first-class airline ticket to the WTA Finals city and one (1) hotel room, on-site meals, and tournament-related ground transportation for each day during which she participates in Finals Make-Up Activities for at least three (3) hours. If such player fails to perform the Finals Make-Up Activities to the WTA's sole, reasonable satisfaction:

- iii. The WTA may reinstate all applicable fine(s) and may collect such fine(s) through any legal means, including from the prize money she earns at any future Tournament beginning (a) immediately after the current WTA Finals for the On-Site Option; or (b) with the WTA Finals of the following Tour Year for the Off-Site Option; and
- iv. She will be suspended from competing in all WTA Tournaments through the next two (2) Premier Tournament weeks, including any International Tournaments in that time period, beginning (a) the first day after the completion of the current WTA Finals for the On-Site Option; (b) with the WTA Finals of the following Tour Year for the Off-Site Option; or (c) on such other date that the WTA CEO determines in his or her sole discretion will prevent the circumvention or perceived circumvention of these Rules.

e. Singles Alternates

After the Finals Singles Qualified Players are set, the next two (2) highest-ranked singles players in the Finals Rankings qualify as alternates for the WTA Finals (“**Finals Alternates**”). If any Finals Singles Qualified Player is unable to compete, Finals Alternates will move into the competition in order of the Finals Rankings, and the WTA may designate additional Finals Alternates according to the above qualification criteria. Finals Alternates are subject to the same obligations and fines as Finals Singles Qualified Players regardless of whether they move into the competition. A Finals Alternate that fails to attend (and, if she moves into the competition, compete in) the WTA Finals is not eligible to play in the WTA Elite Trophy of the current Tour Year.

Finals Alternates must be in the WTA Finals city on the day of the WTA Finals draw ceremony, attend the draw ceremony and all other mandatory functions, and be on site and available to substitute for a maximum of one (1) Final Singles Qualified Player from the start of the WTA Finals through the completion of the round robin matches. If a Finals Alternate has not moved into the competition by the completion of the round robin matches, her WTA Finals obligations will cease and she may depart the WTA Finals city. A Finals Alternate that plays any match(es) will receive a round robin standing, WTA Ranking points, and prize money in accordance with the chart in Section IX.A.7. Each Finals Alternate also will receive per diem for any day(s) that she is required to be on site until her WTA Finals obligations cease.

f. Withdrawal and Notification

Any Finals Singles or Doubles Qualified Player or Finals Alternate withdrawing from the WTA Finals must provide written notice to the WTA and must not make any public announcement concerning her participation until the WTA has confirmed receipt of such notice.

3. Seeding

a. Basis for Seeding

Seeding for Finals Singles Qualified Players and Finals Qualified Teams is according to the Finals Rankings.

b. Seeding Procedures

i. Singles

(a) Place seed 1 in Group A and seed 2 in Group B.

(b) Draw from and place the remaining seeds in pairs as follows:

(i) Seeds 3 and 4 (place 1st drawn seed in Group A and remaining seed in Group B);

(ii) Seeds 5 and 6 (place 1st drawn seed in Group A and remaining seed in Group B); and

(iii) Seeds 7 and 8 (place 1st drawn seed in Group A and remaining seed in Group B).

ii. Doubles

(a) Place seed 1 on line 1 and seed 2 on line 8.

(b) Draw from seeds 3 and 4 and place 1st drawn seed on line 3 and the remaining seed on line 6.

c. Withdrawal of a Seed

i. Prior to the first release of the WTA Finals schedule of play for each competition, respectively:

(a) Singles

(i) If seed 1 or 2 withdraws:

(1) The 3rd seed fills the vacated spot;

(2) The 5th seed fills the 3rd seed’s vacated spot;

(3) The 7th seed fills the 5th seed's vacated spot; and

(4) The next eligible Finals Alternate fills the 7th seed's vacated spot.

(ii) If seed 3 or 4 withdraws:

(1) The 5th seed fills the vacated spot;

(2) The 7th seed fills the 5th seed's vacated spot; and

(3) The next eligible Finals Alternate fills the 7th seed's vacated spot.

(iii) If seed 5 or 6 withdraws:

(1) The 7th seed fills the vacated spot; and

(2) The next eligible Finals Alternate fills the 7th seed's vacated spot.

(iv) If seed 7 or 8 withdraws, the next eligible Finals Alternate fills the vacated spot.

(b) Doubles

(i) If seed 1 or 2 withdraws:

(1) The 3rd seed fills the vacated spot;

(2) The next Finals Qualified Team to be seeded fills the 3rd seed's vacated spot; and

(3) The next eligible team fills the vacated spot.

(ii) If seed 3 or 4 withdraws:

(1) The next Finals Qualified Team to be seeded fills the vacated seed's spot; and

(2) The next eligible team fills the vacated spot

ii. If any Finals Singles Qualified Player or Finals Qualified Team withdraws after the first release of the WTA Finals schedule of play, the next eligible Finals Alternate or team fills the vacated spot.

#### 4. Final Standings of Singles Round Robin Competition

##### a. Final Standings

The first of the following methods that applies determines the final standings of each group in the round robin competition:

i. Greatest number of wins; then

ii. Greatest number of matches played; then

iii. Head-to-head results if only two (2) players are tied; or

iv. If three (3) players are tied:

(a) Highest percentage of sets won; if after the calculation two (2) players remain tied, head-to-head results; then

(b) If after applying (a) all three (3) players remain tied, highest percentage of games won; if after the calculation two (2) players remain tied, head-to-head results; then

(c) If after applying (a) and (b) all three (3) players remain tied, the Finals Rankings.

b. Default, Retirement, and Withdrawal

- i. In determining the final standings of each round robin group, a default, retirement, or withdrawal for which a Finals Alternate is unavailable to replace the withdrawing player is a straight-set win or loss, but games won or lost in such matches do not count in calculating the percentage of games won.
- ii. A player who retires during a round robin match because of illness or injury may continue in the competition if the Tournament Physician approves.
- iii. A player who withdraws from any round robin match is eliminated from the competition and a Finals Alternate will replace her. If no Finals Alternate is available as a replacement, the non-withdrawing player in such match receives a walkover win for such match.

c. Semifinal Seeding

The winner of each round robin group is placed in a different semifinals bracket than the other round robin group winner. The runner-up of each robin group is placed in the semifinal bracket with the winner of the opposite round robin group. The highest-ranked player is placed at the top of the draw.

5. Semifinal/Final Withdrawal

a. Match Format after Withdrawal

If any player withdraws from the semifinals of the singles competition, the next player in the final standings of the withdrawing player's round robin group replaces the withdrawing player in the semifinals and is eligible to advance in the competition.

If any player(s) withdraw(s) from the finals of the singles competition or the semifinals or finals of the doubles competition, any match(es) with any replacement player(s) are 8- or 10-game pro-set exhibitions, and replacement players are not eligible to advance in the competition.

b. Semifinals

On the day of the singles competition semifinals, the 3rd player in the final standings of each round robin group in the singles competition must be on site and ready to replace a semifinalist from her round robin group if that semifinalist is unable to play. On the day of the doubles competition semifinals, the two (2) highest-ranked losing quarterfinalist teams must be on site and ready to play a replacement exhibition match for a semifinalist team that is unable to play.

c. Finals

On the day of the finals, each losing semifinalist player and team must be on site and ready to play a replacement exhibition match for a finalist that is unable to play.

d. Penalty

If a Finals Singles or Doubles Qualified Player who is required to be on site and ready to replace or play a replacement exhibition match for a defaulting semifinalist or finalist is not on site and ready to play, she must pay a fine of 50% of the prize money she earns at the WTA Finals.

e. Prize Money

If a player withdraws from the finals of the singles competition or a team withdraws from the semifinals or finals of the doubles competition, she or they forfeit(s) the following amount of prize money to which she or they otherwise would have been entitled for reaching the finals or semifinals, as applicable:

	Prize Money Forfeited	
Competition	Finals	Semifinals
<b>Singles</b>	\$100,000	N/A
<b>Doubles</b>	\$25,000 (per player)	\$12,500 (per player)

Forfeited prize money will be paid to the replacement player or team and distributed evenly if more than one (1) replacement player or team is required.

## 6. Scoring

The singles competition is the best of three (3) tie-break sets with no rest period. The doubles competition is the best of three (3) sets with standard scoring in the first two (2) sets and, if necessary, a 10-point match tie-break as the third set.

## 7. Prize Money and Ranking Points

The WTA Finals prize money and ranking points for the singles and doubles competitions are:

	Wins	Losses	Singles Points	Singles Prize Money	Doubles Points	Doubles Prize Money
<b>Winner</b>			1500*	\$2,360,000*	1500	\$500,000
<b>Finalist</b>			1080*	\$1,200,000*	1080	\$260,000
<b>Semifinalist</b>			750*	\$650,000*!	750	\$157,500
<b>Quarterfinalist</b>					375	\$81,250
<b>Round Robin</b>	3	0	750	\$610,000		
<b>Round Robin</b>	2	1	625	\$457,000		
<b>Round Robin</b>	2	0	500	\$436,000		
<b>Round Robin</b>	1	2	500	\$304,000		
<b>Round Robin</b>	1	1	375	\$283,000		
<b>Round Robin</b>	1	0	250	\$263,000		
<b>Round Robin</b>	0	3	375	\$151,000		
<b>Round Robin</b>	0	2	250	\$130,000		
<b>Round Robin</b>	0	1	125	\$110,000		

\* = Singles – if undefeated: 375 (125 per match) points and \$151,000 for participation + 125 points and \$153,000 for each round robin win + 330 points and \$590,000 for semifinal win + 420 points and \$1,160,000 for final win.

! = Losing semifinalists earn an additional \$40,000.

Singles participation fees and Finals Alternate fees are prorated as follows:

Matches Played	Singles Participation Fees	Finals Alternate Fees
<b>3</b>	\$151,000	
<b>2</b>	\$130,000	\$109,000
<b>1</b>	\$110,000	\$89,000
<b>0</b>		\$68,000

The ranking points that a Finals Singles Qualified Player or Finals Alternate earns at the WTA Finals count as a bonus Tournament in calculating her WTA Ranking. A Finals Alternate who competes in the singles competitions of both the WTA Finals and the WTA Elite Trophy earns ranking points only from the tournament that provides the highest net increase to her total WTA Ranking points as of the Finals Rankings.

## 8. Media Requirements

At the WTA Finals, players are responsible for all of the standard media, sponsor, and promotional activities in Section IV of this Rulebook, including but not limited to ACES commitments, plus the following media, sponsor, and promotional activities:

### a. Media before the WTA Finals

On or around September 15 of each Tour Year, the WTA will designate four (4) players who are required to participate in a full media day before the WTA Finals. The WTA and each player will agree on the date of her media day. The WTA may designate as many as six (6) additional players who are required to participate in a media activity such as a conference call, internet chat, interview, or similar activity. While these media days and activities are not part of a player's ACES requirements, a player who fails to participate in these media

days or activities must pay a fine in accordance with the Diamond ACES Policy in Section IV.A.6 of this Rulebook.

b. Media Session on the Day Prior to the Start of Play

As part of their ACES commitments, all Finals Singles and Doubles Qualified Players are required to participate in a media availability session for a maximum of one and one half (1.5) hours on the day prior to the start of play.

c. Additional, Mandatory non-ACES Commitments

In addition to ACES commitments:

- i. All Finals Singles and Doubles Qualified Players must attend and participate in their respective WTA Finals official draw ceremonies and official WTA Finals photo opportunities;
- ii. All Finals Singles and Doubles Qualified Players must attend the WTA Finals party if required to be in the WTA Finals city on the day of such party;
- iii. All singles and doubles competition finalists must attend media and sponsor functions immediately following and during the evening after their finals; and
- iv. The singles and doubles competition winners must attend media and sponsor functions on the day following their victories for a minimum of three (3) hours.

d. Fines

Any player who does not attend and participate in each mandatory activity in Sections IX.A.8.b and c above must pay a fine of \$20,000 for each mandatory activity she misses. A player may appeal any such fine no later than twenty-one (21) days after receiving notice of such fine.

## B. WTA ELITE TROPHY

### 1. Singles and Doubles Competition Formats

The singles competition is a draw of twelve (12) players in a round robin format with four (4) groups of three (3) players with the winner from each group qualifying for a single elimination format semifinals and final. The doubles competition is a draw of six (6) teams in a round robin format with two (2) groups of three (3) teams with the winner from each group qualifying for a single elimination format final.

### 2. Qualification; Wild Cards; Attendance; Alternates

#### a. Qualified Players

##### i. Singles

The top eleven (11) players in the Finals Rankings who are not Finals Singles Qualified Players qualify for the WTA Elite Trophy (each an **"Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Player"**). Finals Alternates are eligible, but not required, to attend and compete at the WTA Elite Trophy even if they compete in the WTA Finals. Finals Alternates must confirm their participation in the WTA Elite Trophy by 10:00 a.m. Florida time on the Tuesday of the week prior to the WTA Elite Trophy (**"Prior Tuesday"**). A Finals Alternate who confirms her participation and does not withdraw before 10:00 a.m. Florida time on the Prior Tuesday automatically becomes an Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Player upon completion of the WTA Elite Trophy draw. If any Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Player withdraws before 10:00 a.m. Florida time on the Prior Tuesday, the next-highest-ranked player in the Finals Rankings who is not already a Finals or Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Player becomes an Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Player.

##### ii. Doubles

The following four (4) teams (each an **"Elite Trophy Qualified Team"** and each player an **"Elite Trophy Doubles Qualified Player"**) that enter the WTA Elite Trophy doubles competition by 12:00 p.m. Florida time on the Prior Tuesday qualify for the WTA Elite Trophy (**"Elite Trophy Doubles Entry Process"**):

(a) two (2) teams composed of players that did not compete in the WTA Finals singles (except Finals Alternates) or doubles competitions, using the players' combined doubles rankings as of the Monday after the final regular-season Tournament of the current Tour Year to determine the order of acceptance; and

(b) up to two (2) teams composed of players that did not compete in the WTA Finals singles (except Finals Alternates) or doubles competitions and that include at least one (1) Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Player or Elite Trophy Alternate (as Section IX.B.2.e.i defines that term), using the higher of the players' combined singles or doubles rankings as of the Monday after the final regular-season Tournament of the current Tour Year to determine the order of acceptance.

A player may not use her Special Ranking to enter the doubles competition. If fewer than two (2) teams enter through subsection (b) or if any Elite Trophy Qualified Team entering under subsection (a) withdraws before 12:00 p.m. Florida time on the Prior Tuesday, the team(s) whose players have the next-highest combined doubles rankings as of the Monday after the final regular-season Tournament of the current Tour Year that are not already Finals or Elite Trophy Qualified Teams become Elite Trophy Qualified Teams. If more than two (2) teams enter under subsection (b), any such team that does not become an Elite Trophy Qualified Team receives priority in determining Elite Trophy Alternate Teams (as Section IX.B.2.e.ii defines that term).

#### b. Qualification Tie Break

##### i. Singles

If two (2) or more players are tied for qualification, the following player is the Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Player:

(a) The player with the most total points from Grand Slams, Premier Mandatory Tournaments, and Premier 5 Tournaments; or if still tied



(b) The player with the most total points from all Grand Slam, Premier, and International Tournaments; or if still tied

(c) The player with the fewest Tournaments played in the current Tour Year (counting any Mandatory Tournament(s) at which the player qualified for acceptance regardless of whether she actually played at such Mandatory Tournament(s)); or if still tied

(d) The player with the highest point total in her highest-point-earning Tournament result of the current Tour Year or, if still tied, the player with the highest point total in her next highest-point-earning Tournament result of the current Tour Year, and so on.

ii. Doubles

(a) If two (2) or more teams are tied for qualification under Section IX.B.2.a.ii.(a), the following team is the Elite Trophy Qualified Team:

(i) The team with the most total points as a team from Grand Slams, Premier Mandatory Tournaments, and Premier 5 Tournaments; or if still tied

(ii) The team with the most total points as a team from all Grand Slam, Premier, and International Tournaments; or if still tied

(iii) The team with the fewest Tournaments played as a team in the current Tour Year; or if still tied

(iv) The team with the highest point total in their highest-point-earning Tournament result as a team in the current Tour Year or, if still tied, the team with the highest point total in their next highest-point-earning Tournament result as a team in the current Tour Year, and so on.

(b) Teams entering under Section IX.B.2.a.ii.(b) that are tied receive priority for acceptance in the following order: (i) teams with two (2) Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Players; (ii) teams with one (1) Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Player and one (1) Elite Trophy Alternate; (iii) teams with one (2) Elite Trophy Alternates; (iv) teams with one (1) Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Player and one (1) other player; and (v) teams with one (1) Elite Trophy Alternate and one (1) other player. If two (2) or more teams are tied for qualification after applying these priority procedures, the team with the highest-ranked (as of the Finals Rankings) singles player is the Elite Trophy Qualified Team.

c. Wild Cards

i. Singles

The WTA Elite Trophy promoter (“**Promoter**”) may nominate as a Wild Card one (1) player who did not qualify for the WTA Finals or WTA Elite Trophy. The Promoter must notify such player of and confirm that she will accept her nomination, and the Promoter and such player must provide written confirmation of her acceptance to WTA operations before 10:00 a.m. Florida time on the Prior Tuesday. A player who confirms her Wild Card nomination before 10:00 a.m. Florida time on the Prior Tuesday (“**Elite Trophy Singles Wild Card Player**”) automatically becomes an Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Player at 10:00 a.m. Florida time on the Prior Tuesday. Prior to 10:00 a.m. Florida time on the Prior Tuesday, if an Elite Trophy Singles Wild Card Player (a) becomes an Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Player; or (b) withdraws from the WTA Elite Trophy, the Promoter may replace her with another Elite Trophy Singles Wild Card Player.

If WTA Operations does not receive confirmation of an Elite Trophy Singles Wild Card Player before 10:00 a.m. Florida time on the Prior Tuesday, the next player in the Finals Rankings who did not qualify for the WTA Finals and the WTA Elite Trophy becomes an Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Player.

ii. Doubles

The Promoter may nominate as Wild Cards up to two (2) teams who did not qualify for the WTA Finals or WTA Elite Trophy. The Promoter must notify such team(s) of and confirm that they will accept the nomination(s), and the Promoter and such team(s) must provide written confirmation of their acceptance

to WTA operations before 12:00 p.m. Florida time on the Prior Tuesday. A team who confirms their Wild Card nomination before 12:00 p.m. Florida time on the Prior Tuesday ("**Elite Trophy Wild Card Team**") automatically becomes an Elite Trophy Qualified Team upon completion of the WTA Elite Trophy draw. Prior to the completion of the WTA Elite Trophy draw, if an Elite Trophy Wild Card Team or one of its members (a) becomes an Elite Trophy Qualified Team; or (b) withdraws from the WTA Elite Trophy, the Promoter may replace them with another Elite Trophy Wild Card Team.

If WTA Operations does not receive confirmation of an Elite Trophy Wild Card Team before 12:00 p.m. Florida time on the Prior Tuesday or an Elite Trophy Wild Card Team withdraws after the completion of the WTA Elite Trophy doubles draw, the next eligible Elite Trophy Alternate Team (as Section IX.B.2.e.ii defines that term) becomes an Elite Trophy Qualified Team.

d. Participation; Penalties

i. Singles

All Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Players are required to attend and compete at the WTA Elite Trophy and participate in all mandatory functions. Each Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Player must be in the WTA Elite Trophy city at least two (2) days prior to the start of the singles competition; provided, however, that if she is competing at another WTA Tournament on or after her required day of arrival, she must use best efforts to be in the WTA Elite Trophy city no later than the day after she finishes competing at such other WTA Tournament. Any Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Player who fails to attend and compete at the WTA Elite Trophy must pay a fine of \$50,000 and receives 0 ranking points for the WTA Elite Trophy, which must count as one (1) of her best sixteen (16) Tournament results in calculating her WTA Ranking; except, however, that an Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Player is not required to pay the fine if she fails to attend and compete at the WTA Elite Trophy because an injury or illness causes her absence from Professional Tennis for a minimum of eight (8) consecutive weeks ("**Extended Absence**"). An Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Player who fails to attend and compete because of an Extended Absence that reaches eight (8) consecutive weeks during or after the WTA Elite Trophy and then participates in Professional Tennis (including Exhibition/Non-WTA Events) on or before December 15th of the current Tour Year must pay the fine. An Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Player who fails to attend and compete because of an Extended Absence still receives 0 ranking points for the WTA Elite Trophy, which must count as one (1) of her best sixteen (16) Tournament results in calculating her WTA Ranking.

If an Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Player fails to attend and compete at the WTA Elite Trophy, the WTA will suspend the full amount of her applicable fine(s) if she participates in promotional activities, including but not limited to media and sponsor activities, autograph sessions, photo opportunities, video news releases, charity activities, and similar activities ("**Elite Trophy Make-Up Activities**"), for the benefit of the WTA or the WTA Elite Trophy either:

(a) At the current WTA Elite Trophy for a minimum of two (2) full days and a minimum of three (3) hours per day ("**On-Site Option**"); or

(b) Any time prior to the WTA Elite Trophy of the following Tour Year over two (2) days for a minimum of three (3) hours per day at the location(s) WTA designates in its sole, reasonable discretion in consultation with Promoter and such player ("**Off-Site Option**").

WTA will designate the details of the Elite Trophy Make-Up Activities in its sole, reasonable discretion in consultation with Promoter and such player. Such player is responsible for all costs related to attending the Elite Trophy Make-Up Activities, except that for the On-Site Option, she is entitled to one (1) round-trip, first-class airline ticket to the WTA Elite Trophy city and one (1) hotel room, on-site meals, and tournament-related ground transportation for each day during which she participates in Elite Trophy Make-Up Activities for at least three (3) hours. If such player fails to perform the Elite Trophy Make-Up Activities to the WTA's sole, reasonable satisfaction:

(c) the WTA may reinstate all applicable fine(s) and may collect such fine(s) through any legal means, including from the prize money she earns at any future Tournament beginning (a) immediately after the current WTA Elite Trophy for the On-Site Option; or (b) with the WTA Elite Trophy of the following Tour Year for the Off-Site Option; and

(d) She will be suspended from competing in all WTA Tournaments through the next two (2) Premier Tournament weeks, including any International Tournaments in that time period, beginning (a) the first day after the completion of the current WTA Elite Trophy for the On-Site Option; (b) with the WTA Elite Trophy of the following Tour Year for the Off-Site Option; or (c) on such other date that the WTA CEO determines in his or her sole discretion will prevent the circumvention or perceived circumvention of these Rules.

ii. Doubles

Participation in the WTA Elite Trophy is optional for Elite Trophy Doubles Qualified Players. Each Elite Trophy Doubles Qualified Player must be in the WTA Elite Trophy city at least two (2) days prior to the start of the doubles competition; provided, however, that if she is competing at another WTA Tournament on or after her required day of arrival, she must use best efforts to be in the WTA Elite Trophy city no later than the day after she finishes competing at such other WTA Tournament.

e. Alternates

i. Singles

WTA will notify the top thirty (30) highest-ranked singles players in the Finals Rankings, excluding Finals Singles Qualified Players (**"Singles Eligible Alternate List"**), that if they do not become Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Players, they have the option to be alternates at the WTA Elite Trophy by confirming their acceptance before 10:00 a.m. Florida time on the Prior Tuesday. The two (2) highest-ranked players on the Eligible Alternate List who confirm their acceptance before 10:00 a.m. on the Prior Tuesday and do not become Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Players automatically become the WTA Elite Trophy alternates (each an **"Elite Trophy Alternate"** and collectively the **"Elite Trophy Alternates"**) at 10:00 a.m. on the Prior Tuesday, and any additional players on the Singles Eligible Alternate List who confirm their acceptance are eligible in order of their Finals Rankings to replace any Elite Trophy Alternate that withdraws or becomes an Elite Trophy Qualified Singles Player prior to the start of competition. If the Singles Eligible Alternate List does not produce two (2) Elite Trophy Alternates, the Promoter may nominate up to two (2) Elite Trophy Alternates. Elite Trophy Alternates are subject to the same obligations and fines as Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Players regardless of whether they move into the competition.

Elite Trophy Alternates must be in the WTA Elite Trophy city on the day of the WTA Elite Trophy draw ceremony, attend the draw ceremony and all other mandatory functions, and be on site and available to substitute for a maximum of one (1) Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Player from the start of the WTA Elite Trophy through the completion of the round robin matches. If any Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Player is unable to compete, Elite Trophy Alternates will move into the competition in order of the Finals Rankings. If an Elite Trophy Alternate has not moved into the competition by the completion of the round robin matches, her WTA Elite Trophy obligations will cease and she may depart the WTA Elite Trophy city. An Elite Trophy Alternate that plays any match(es) will receive a round robin standing, WTA Ranking points, and prize money in accordance with the chart in Section IX.B.7. Each Elite Trophy Alternate also will receive per diem for any day(s) that she is required to be on site until her WTA Elite Trophy obligations cease.

ii. Doubles

Any teams participating in the Elite Trophy Doubles Entry Process that do not become Elite Trophy Qualified Teams automatically become the WTA Elite Trophy alternate teams (**"Elite Trophy Alternate Teams"**) at 12:00 p.m. on the Prior Tuesday. Elite Trophy Alternate Teams that include at least one (1) Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Player or Elite Trophy Alternate receive priority in moving into the competition. If any Elite Trophy Qualified Team withdraws before 12:00 p.m. Florida time on the Friday of the week prior to the WTA Elite Trophy (**"Prior Friday"**), the WTA may request that an Elite Trophy Alternate Team substitutes for a maximum of one (1) Elite Trophy Qualified Team in order of, as applicable, (a) the higher of the players' combined singles or doubles rankings; or (b) the players' combined doubles rankings as of the Monday after the final regular-season Tournament of the current Tour Year. If an Elite Trophy Qualified Team withdraws after 12:00 p.m. on the Prior Friday, then the teams that sign up on site at the WTA Elite Trophy may substitute for the withdrawing Elite Trophy Qualified Team in order of the higher of the players' combined singles or doubles rankings as of the Monday after the final regular-season Tournament of the current Tour Year. If no team signs up on site or if the Elite Trophy Doubles Entry

Process does not produce any Elite Trophy Alternate Teams, the Promoter may nominate Elite Trophy Alternate Teams as necessary.

An Elite Trophy Alternate Team that plays any match(es) will receive a round robin standing and prize money in accordance with the chart in Section IX.B.7. Each Elite Trophy Alternate Team also will receive per diem for any day(s) that she is on site until her WTA Elite Trophy obligations cease.

f. Withdrawals and WTA Notification

Any Elite Trophy Singles or Doubles Qualifying Player or Elite Trophy Alternate withdrawing from the WTA Elite Trophy must provide written notice to the WTA and must not make any public announcement concerning her participation until the WTA has confirmed receipt of such notice.

3. Seeding

a. Basis for Seeding

Seeding for Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Players is according to the Finals Rankings. Seeding for Elite Trophy Qualified Teams is according to the players' combined doubles rankings as of the Monday after the final regular-season Tournament of the current Tour Year.

b. Seeding Procedures

i. Singles

- (a) Place seed 1 in Group A, seed 2 in Group B, seed 3 in Group C and seed 4 in Group D.
- (b) Draw from and place the remaining seeds in sets of four (4) as follows:
  - (i) Seeds 5 through 8 (place 1st drawn seed in Group A, 2nd drawn seed in Group B, 3rd drawn seed in Group C, and remaining seed in Group D); and
  - (ii) Seeds 9 through 12 (place 1st drawn seed in Group A, 2nd drawn seed in Group B, 3rd drawn seed in Group C, and remaining seed in Group D).

ii. Doubles

- (a) Place seed 1 in Group A and seed 2 in Group B.
- (b) Draw from and place the remaining seeds in sets of two (2) as follows:
  - (i) Seeds 3 and 4 (place 1st drawn seed in Group A and remaining seed in Group B); and
  - (ii) Seeds 5 and 6 (place 1st drawn seed in Group A and remaining seed in Group B).

c. Withdrawal of a Seed

i. Prior to the first release of the WTA Elite Trophy schedule of play:

(a) Singles

- (i) If any of seeds 1 through 4 withdraws:
  - (1) The 5th seed fills the vacated spot;
  - (2) The 9th seed fills the 5th seed's vacated spot; and
  - (3) The next eligible Elite Trophy Alternate fills the 9th seed's vacated spot.
- (ii) If any of seeds 5 through 8 withdraws:

(1) The 9th seed fills the vacated spot; and

(2) The next eligible Elite Trophy Alternate fills the 9th seed's vacated spot.

(iii) If the withdrawal is from seeds 9 through 12 the next eligible Elite Trophy Alternate will fill the vacated spot.

(b) Doubles

(i) If seed 1 or 2 withdraws:

(1) The 3rd seed fills the vacated spot; and

(2) The next eligible Elite Trophy Alternate Team fills the 3rd seed's vacated spot.

(ii) If any of seeds 3 through 6 withdraws, the next eligible Elite Trophy Alternate Team fills the vacated spot.

ii. After the first release of the WTA Elite Trophy schedule of play:

(a) If any Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Player withdraws, the next eligible Elite Trophy Alternate fills the vacated spot.

(b) If any Elite Trophy Qualified Team withdraws, the next eligible Elite Trophy Alternate Team fills the vacated spot.

#### 4. Final Standings of Round Robin Competition

##### a. Final Standings

The first of the following methods that applies determines the final standings of each group in the round robin competition:

i. Greatest number of wins; then

ii. Greatest number of matches played; then

iii. Head-to-head results if only two (2) players or teams are tied; or

iv. If three (3) players or teams are tied:

(a) Highest percentage of sets won; if after the calculation two (2) players or teams remain tied, head-to-head results; then

(b) If after applying (a) all three (3) players or teams remain tied, highest percentage of games won; if after the calculation two (2) players or teams remain tied, head-to-head results; then

(c) If after applying (a) and (b) all three (3) players or teams remain tied, the Finals Rankings for the singles competition and the highest-ranked team using the higher of the players' combined singles or doubles rankings as of the Monday after the final regular-season Tournament of the current Tour Year for the doubles competition.

##### b. Default, Retirement, and Withdrawal

i. In determining the final standings of each round robin group, a default, retirement, or withdrawal for which an Elite Trophy Alternate or Alternate Team is unavailable to replace the withdrawing player or team is a straight-set win or loss, but games won or lost in such matches do not count in calculating the percentage of games won.

ii. A player or team who retires during a round robin match because of illness or injury may continue in the competition if the Tournament Physician approves.

iii. A player or team who withdraws from any round robin match is eliminated from the competition and an Elite Trophy Alternate or Alternate Team will replace her or them. If no Elite Trophy Alternate or Alternate Team is available as a replacement, the non-withdrawing player or team in such match receives a walkover win for such match.

c. Semifinal and Final Seeding

i. Singles Semifinals

The winners of the round robin competition groups advance to the semifinals and are reseeded according to the Finals Rankings as follows:

(a) Placing the highest-ranked seed on line 1 and the second-highest-ranked seed on line 4; and

(b) Drawing from the remaining seeds and placing the 1st drawn seed on line 2 and the 2nd drawn seed on line 3.

ii. Doubles Finals

The winners of the round robin competition groups advance to the finals and the highest-ranked seed is placed on line 1 and the second-highest-ranked seed is placed on line 2.

5. Semifinal/Final Withdrawal

a. Match Format after Withdrawal

If any player withdraws from the semifinals of the singles competition, the next player in the final standings of the withdrawing player's round robin group replaces the withdrawing player in the semifinals and is eligible to advance in the competition.

If any player(s) or team(s) withdraw(s) from the finals, any match(es) with any replacement player(s) or team(s) are 8- or 10-game pro-set exhibitions, and replacement players and teams are not eligible to advance in the competition.

b. Semifinals

On the day of the semifinals, the 2nd player in the final standings of each round robin group must be on site and ready to replace a semifinalist from her round robin group if that semifinalist is unable to play.

c. Finals

i. Singles

On the day of the finals, each losing semifinalist must be on site and ready to play a replacement exhibition match for a finalist that is unable to play.

ii. Doubles

On the day of the finals, the 2nd team in the final standings of each round robin group must be on site and ready to play a replacement exhibition match for a finalist from their round robin group if that finalist is unable to play.

d. Penalty

If a player who is required to be on site and ready to replace or play a replacement exhibition match for a defaulting semifinalist or finalist is not on site and ready to play, she must pay a fine of 50% of the prize money she earns at the WTA Elite Trophy.

e. Prize Money

If a player withdraws from the finals of the singles competition, she forfeits \$32,000 of the prize money to which she otherwise would have been entitled for reaching the finals. Forfeited prize money will be paid to the replacement player and distributed evenly if more than one (1) replacement player or team is required.

## 6. Scoring

The singles competition is the best of three (3) tie-break sets with no rest period. The doubles competition is the best of three (3) sets with standard scoring in the first two (2) sets and, if necessary, a 10-point match tie-break as the third set.

## 7. Prize Money and Ranking Points

The WTA Elite Trophy prize money and ranking points for the singles competition and prize money for the doubles competition are:

	Wins	Losses	Singles Points	Singles Prize Money	Doubles Prize Money
Winner			700*	\$673,300*	\$47,500**
Finalist			440*	\$372,100*	\$37,135**
Semifinalist			240*	\$212,100*!	N/A
Round Robin	2	0	240	\$195,100	\$26,500
Round Robin	1	1	160	\$118,900	\$21,250
Round Robin	1	0	120	\$103,800	\$21,250
Round Robin	0	2	80	\$42,500	\$16,000
Round Robin	0	1	40	\$27,500	\$16,000

\* = Singles – if undefeated: 80 (40 per match) points and \$42,500 for participation + 80 points and \$76,300 for each round robin win + 200 points and \$160,000 for semifinal win + 260 points and \$318,200 for final win.

! = Losing singles semifinalists earn an additional \$17,000.

\*\* = Doubles – if undefeated: \$16,000 for participation + \$5,250 for each round robin win + \$10,635 for final loss or \$21,000 for final win.

Singles participation fees and Elite Trophy Alternate fees are pro-rated as follows:

Matches Played	Singles Participation Fees	Elite Trophy Alternate Fees
2	\$42,500	
1	\$27,500	\$27,000
0		\$12,000

The WTA Elite Trophy doubles competition does not award ranking points. The ranking points that an Elite Trophy Singles Qualified Player or Elite Trophy Alternate earns at the WTA Elite Trophy are eligible to count in calculating her WTA Ranking. Elite Trophy Singles Wild Card Players and Promoter-named Elite Trophy Alternates do not receive participation ranking points; instead, they receive ranking points net of any participation ranking points only for any match(es) they win. A Finals Alternate who competes in the singles competitions of both the WTA Finals and the WTA Elite Trophy earns ranking points only from the tournament that provides the highest net increase to her total WTA Ranking points as of the Finals Rankings.

## 8. Media Requirements

At the WTA Elite Trophy, players are responsible for all of the standard media, sponsor, and promotional activities in Section IV of this Rulebook, including but not limited to ACES commitments, plus the following media, sponsor, and promotional activities:

### a. Media Day before WTA Elite Trophy

On or around September 15 of each Tour Year, the WTA will designate four (4) players who are required to participate in a full media day before the WTA Elite Trophy. The WTA and each player will agree on the date of her media day. The WTA may designate as many as six (6) additional players who are required to participate in a media activity such as a conference call, internet chat, interview, or similar activity. While these media days and activities are not part of a player's ACES requirements, a player who fails to participate in these media days or activities must pay a fine in accordance with the Diamond ACES Policy in Section IV.A.6 of this Rulebook.

b. Media Session on the Day Prior to the Start of Play

As part of their ACES commitments, all Elite Trophy Singles and Doubles Qualified Players are required to participate in a media availability session for a maximum of one and one half (1.5) hours on the day prior to the start of play.

c. Additional, Mandatory Non-ACES Commitments

In addition to ACES commitments:

- i. All Elite Trophy Singles and Doubles Qualified Players must attend and participate in their respective WTA Elite Trophy official draw ceremonies and official WTA Elite Trophy photo opportunities;
- ii. All Elite Trophy Singles and Doubles Qualified Players must attend the WTA Elite Trophy party if required to be in the WTA Elite Trophy city on the day of such party;
- iii. All singles and doubles competition finalists must attend media and sponsor functions immediately following and during the evening after their finals; and
- iv. The singles and doubles competition winners must attend media and sponsor functions on the day following their victories for a minimum of three (3) hours.

d. Fines

Any player who does not attend and participate in each mandatory activity in Sections IX.B.8.b and c above must pay a fine of \$8,000 for each mandatory activity she misses. A player may appeal any such fine no later than twenty-one (21) days after receiving notice of the fine.