

ITF Tennis Futures Return to Pakistan

December brings cold climes and enjoyment for winter lovers in Islamabad, but this December, the cool breeze will bring another kind of joy and excitement for Tennis lovers! The Tennis fraternity, in particular, and the nation in general, are preparing to witness top-ranked players of the world to exhibit their talent in Islamabad.

Salim Saifullah Khan, President, Pakistan Tennis Federation, was delighted to announce that the ITF Futures are returning to the country after some nine years and, after the successful conduct of successive Davis Cup ties, in February and September, 2017, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) agreed to allocate three Pro-Circuit Tournaments, also called 'Futures', to the PTF, which will be held at Islamabad from 4th to 24th December 2017, as per following schedule.

- ITF Futures- F1 Serena Hotels 04th to 10th December, 2017
- ITF Futures- F2 Kulsum Saifullah Khan 11th to 17th December, 2017
- ITF Futures- F3 Benazir Bhutto Shaheed 18th to 24th December, 2017

The Venue for ITF Futures-F1 and ITF Futures-F2 will be the S. D. Abbas PTF Tennis Complex, Islamabad, and that for ITF Futures-F3 will be the Islamabad Tennis Complex, Embassy Road, Islamabad.

The qualifying round of the F1 will start from 02nd December, with player sign-ins scheduled for the 1st. The main round for the F1 is to start from 4th December, 2017.

The prize money of each Tournament will be \$15,000/- which is a lucrative amount, attracting international players to participate in the events, along with the incentive of ATP ranking points to improve individual players' rankings.

The number of entries from International players is not only very substantial, with well over 200 from around the globe received until the F1 deadline of the 16th, but is also highly impressive with several players ranked in the top 300 in the world. While this promises an awesome level of tennis for our players and spectators, it is to be seen how our best will feature against the world's top level players at home. The main draws in Futures are for 32 players in singles, and 16 pairs in doubles, while the Qualifying round for singles is also for 32 players. Several dozen invitation letters have already been issued by the PTF to overseas players to assist them to obtain Pakistani visas.

The President - PTF, chairing the weekly management meeting on administrative and event operations matters, expressed his gratitude to the International Tennis Federation for awarding the Pro-Circuit Tournaments to Pakistan. He articulated his pleasure on the increase in frequency of international tennis events being allotted to Pakistan.

The President also lauded the PTF team's efforts to help promote the game of tennis, as demonstrated during successful organization of national and international events, and appreciated the support of the Ministry of IPC (Sports), the Government of Pakistan and Law Enforcement Agencies for creating conducive environment in the country for attracting foreign players to various disciplines of sports. He said that hosting such events were without a doubt leading diplomatic initiative, to not only provide the deserved soft image of Pakistan, worldwide, but also a great source of inspiration for the youngsters aspiring to enter professional sports.