

## Pathway to a top 100 WTA Tour ranking

<p>4-5yrs old: Enjoying sport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May not be involved in tennis yet</li> <li>• Family often have involvement in sport either through coaching or participation</li> </ul>
<p>6-7yrs old: Enjoying tennis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likely to have started playing tennis</li> <li>• Average age top 100 WTA players started playing is 6.3 years old</li> <li>• Only 12% of players ranked inside WTA 100 started to play when over 8 years old</li> </ul>
<p>8-10yrs old: Committing to tennis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will start to follow a detailed training programme during this stage</li> <li>• Will be one of many successful junior players playing domestic competitions</li> </ul>
<p>11-14yrs old: U14 success</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will be one of the best under 14 players domestically</li> <li>• Will have success domestically in U16 and U18 events</li> <li>• 21.6% of players who achieve a top 50 U14 Tennis Europe ranking later gain a top 100 WTA ranking</li> <li>• A top 50 U14 Tennis Europe ranking should be considered 'on track' for top 100 WTA, but should not exclude others. For example, 29 out of 100 top 100 WTA players studied did not compete with success on the Tennis Europe U14 tour (success defined as achieving a top 100 Tennis Europe ranking)</li> </ul>
<p>15-17yrs old: International junior</p>	<p>ITF career:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieving an ITF junior ranking inside the top 20 at any stage of a junior career is on track for top 100 WTA – 71.3% of these players gain a top 100 WTA ranking</li> <li>• Achieving an ITF junior ranking of inside the top 50 in the U16 year or younger is on track for top 100 WTA – 58% of these players gain a top 100 WTA ranking</li> </ul> <p>Start of WTA career:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The trend for an early start should be tailored with the importance of making an early impact. Studies of players who achieve top 100 WTA rankings show the following:</li> <li>• Average age of first ranking is 15.8 years old</li> <li>• Number of tournaments played to gain first ranking is 3.62</li> <li>• Level of first ranking is WTA 745</li> <li>• Players who achieve a top 100 WTA ranking play an average of only 9.6 \$10k tournaments in their career</li> </ul>
<p>17yrs +: Rapid WTA emergence</p>	<p>Rapid progress in the three years from a player's first ranking was evident in all top 100 WTA players studied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 90% of players were inside WTA 300 three years after achieving their first ranking</li> <li>• The average ranking of a top 100 WTA player three years after their first ranking was WTA 146</li> </ul> <p>Career peak:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The average age of peak ranking of top 100 WTA players is 23.8 years old</li> </ul>