# HALVING THE TENNIS SEED



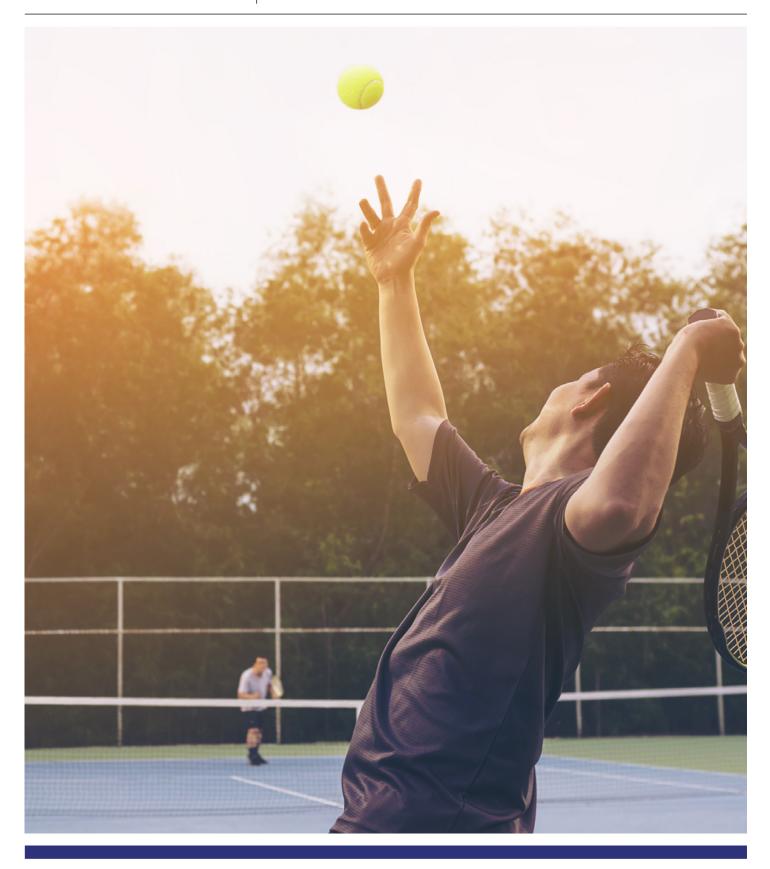


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### 2019 will see the reintroduction of the 16 player seed for the four major tennis Grand Slam tournaments, namely:

The US Open . •

• Wimbledon The Australian Open • The French Open



These changes are part of a range of rule changes being introduced from 2019 onwards that are aimed at spicing up the game, increasing the chances of unpredictability in results, and speeding up gameplay.

#### **REVERTING BACK**

The 32 seed for Grand Slam tournaments was introduced in 2001, primarily as a way of protecting players that favoured clay courts over grass when they played at Wimbledon. In a 32 seed format, the highest ranked players wouldn't have to play an opponent ranked higher than 33 before the third round, while in a 16 seed format they could be pitted against a player ranked 17th in the first round. In theory, at least, this should increase the chances of an early upset and make the game more interesting.

#### AGAINST THE CLOCK

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STRICT TIME LIMITS FOR MEETING AT THE NET, WARMING UP AND BEING READY FOR PLAY WILL BE INTRODUCED, AS WELL AS THE TRIALLING OF A 25 SECOND SERVE CLOCK, AIMED AT REDUCING DELAYS AND SPEEDING UP PLAY.



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