

# HALVING THE TENNIS SEED

SPORT





**AUTHOR:** OTHMAN LOUANJLI

**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.

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.

**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

**AGAINST THE CLOCK**

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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A blurred green ball is shown in motion against a dark background. A bright, glowing trail of light follows the path of the ball, creating a sense of speed and movement. The trail is composed of many small, bright particles that form a continuous line from the ball towards the bottom right of the frame. The overall scene is dynamic and energetic.

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