

Dear Player,

## **Chikungunya outbreak in Reunion – Update**

The ITF Beach Tennis Department and the organisers of the Open International des Brisants have been in regular contact in relation to the status of the chikungunya virus and the risk of infection in Reunion, and continue to closely monitor the situation.

In addition to the advice of relevant health authorities connected to Reunion and the tournament Doctor, ITF has contacted ISOS (a medical services company that is used by ITF to advise on health-related matters / travel) and the ITF Sports Science and Medicine Commission for further advice and guidance to make an informed decision along with the organisers on whether it is appropriate to continue as planned with the scheduled events in Reunion.

We appreciate the concern raised by players but at present the day-to-day activities in Reunion continues with **no guidance or mandate** given from local health authorities that outdoor events (concerts or sporting events), either domestic or international, must be cancelled.

The ITF treats the safety and wellbeing of its participants and other persons in attendance at its events as an utmost priority and due care and attention has been and will continue to be exercised by the ITF in relation to this matter.

### **Status of sporting events**

According to the French Sports Code, the relevant authorities may implement necessary safety measures, but **no specific ban has been issued** for the Open International des Brisants Beach Tennis 2025 at this time.

While considering input received from various sources, a key guideline for the ITF is the position of local health and governmental authorities as any protocol that may be required for the events would have to comply with the position of local Government.

The organisations currently providing information to the ITF and the organisers in Reunion are:

- ARS La Réunion (Regional Health Agency)
- Ministry of Health (France)
- Prefecture of La Réunion
- Sante Publique France

Organisers of both tournaments have taken the following precautionary measures in conjunction with the tournament hotels:

- Making necessary insect repellent available in rooms

Each tournament will further ensure that all players receive mosquito repellent during registration.

Players are reminded to remain vigilant of and comply with the relevant and up-to-date health advice available on the various websites of the organisations listed above, and are specifically reminded to:

- Follow local health recommendations.
- Wear long clothing and use insect repellents to protect against mosquito bites.

ITF Beach Tennis have made the following amendments to assist players in terms of entries for the two upcoming events in Reunion as follows:

- BT200 Saint-Clotilde (30 April – 4 May): Entry Deadline extended to Thursday 24 April.
- Sand Series - Open International des Brisants Beach Tennis (7 to 11 May): Entry Deadline remains as Thursday 24 April.

Players will be permitted to withdraw from those events up until the day prior to the commencement of the Qualifying event without any late withdrawal penalties being enforced and of course if advice from local authorities with respect to outdoor events taking place changes, we will inform players immediately. In the meantime, the withdrawal deadlines will remain as 24 April (BT200) and 1 May (Sand Series) at 14:00 GMT. Players withdrawing after the deadline must follow the correct procedure to avoid any penalties by sending a notification of withdrawal email to the tournament referee and a copy to the ITF Beach Tennis email address at [beach@itftennis.com](mailto:beach@itftennis.com).

ITF and the organisers will continue to be guided by local medical and governmental advice in relation to this issue.

Players are reminded to ensure that necessary travel, medical and personal accident insurance has been put in place for all ITF events in which they are competing, not only the Reunion tournaments.

We look forward to seeing you in Reunion.

Kind regards

**ITF Beach Tennis & Organisers of the Open International des Brisants**