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Saarland welcomes third edition of the ITF Beach Tennis Open Saarlouis

From 21 to 25 August the international beach tennis elite will once again gather in Saarland, Germany, for the third edition of the ITF Beach Tennis Open Saarlouis. With a total prize fund of \$15,000, it is the richest beach tennis tournament in Germany. For five days – one day more than in previous years – sports enthusiasts will have the opportunity to see some of the world's best beach tennis players competing in this modern and dynamic sport. Once again it will be the Kleiner Markt square in the heart of Saarlouis which will host the matches in a unique urban setting. Among the titles up for grabs are those in the different age classes at the DTB German Beach Tennis Championships. The registration phase has already started, so players keen to be part of the action should sign up soon.

Beach tennis in a downtown location – that is something you will find only in Saarlouis, Germany. This small but perfectly formed town in the far west of Germany has developed in recent years to become one of the top international locations for the exciting sport of beach tennis. Highlights in Germany's biggest sandpit – surrounded by cheering fans and with a festival-like atmosphere – are the finals of the DTB German Beach Tennis Championship under the floodlights on Friday and Saturday night as well as the finals of the third ITF \$15,000 tournament on Sunday. Admission is free of charge on all days. Raphael Schäfer, member of the regional parliament for the centre-right CDU and responsible for sporting affairs within his party, is proud of the development the tournament has taken since its inception: "This is the third time that the ITF Beach Tennis Open is taking place here in Saarlouis. It has become a real tradition which we as a town are very proud of. Lots of local people enjoy coming to watch a game in the centre of town before popping out to go shopping or enjoy an ice cream or coffee and then coming back to see another game on centre court. That is the secret to the event's success: the combination of sporting action and urban flair. Shopping and sport are combined into a single experience right in the heart of Saarlouis."

The growing popularity of the DTB German Beach Tennis Championship with its different age classes has led to the organisers adding an extra competition day in 2019. The event will start on Wednesday 21 August with the Men's and Women's Over 40s Doubles. On Sunday 25 August it will be the turn of the best up-and-coming players to showcase their skills as the Under 14s final of the DTB German Beach Tennis Championships will take place immediately before the semi-finals of the third ITF \$15,000 tournament. Further competitions being played this year include the Saarlouis Amateur Cup and Beach Tennis for Kids. From experienced pros to total novices, there is something for everyone. Come along and have a go yourself at this fun, dynamic and rapidly growing sport!

Eva-Maria Schneider, Vice-President of the German Tennis Federation: "I am delighted that the German Beach Tennis Championships are taking place once again in Saarlouis, right in the centre of town on this beautiful market square. The atmosphere here is always special, both for players and spectators – it really is unlike any other tournament in the world. The finals played in the evenings under the floodlights are also a real highlight every year."

Top performances at the ITF Beach Tennis Open Saarlouis are rewarded with attractive prize money and important points for the world rankings, meaning the event is likely to again attract the international elite. Last year the ITF \$15,000 tournament was won by the Italian duo Dorian Beccacioli/Davide Benussi in the Men's category and Maraike Biglmaier/Rafaella Miiller in the Women's category.

The urban concept of the ITF \$15,000 tournament in Saarlouis is a considered revolution in beach tennis, a sport originating from Italy and traditionally played on some of the world's most beautiful beaches. Saarlouis, on the other hand, offers players and fans a unique downtown setting with perfect conditions. Klaus Bouillon, Minister for the Interior and Sporting Affairs at the regional government of Saarland, is the patron of the event once again in 2019 and underlines this unique appeal.

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“This is the third time that the world’s best beach tennis players will gather in Saarlouis. It is a privilege for Saarland to host this event – one of the top international beach tennis tournaments,” explains Bouillon, whose commitment and dedication have played an important role in bringing the event to the Saarland region for three years in a row. “It is the right decision to hold the event here in Saarland for a third time. It is a great spectacle for Saarlouis which we are delighted to support.”

For more information visit:

<https://beachtennis-saarlouis.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/beachtennissaarlouis/>

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