



ITF Beach Tennis Open Saarlouis 2019  
Munich, August 16, 2019  
**Press release**

## **World Champion duo Biglmaier/Müller serves at Saarlouis**

**Beach tennis is booming. With a record number of participants, the ITF Beach Tennis Open in Saarlouis will be presented for the third time from August 21 to 25. At the ITF \$15.000 tournament 32 men's teams and 32 women's teams from all over the world will be competing. An additional 120 teams will play at the DTB German Championships in beach tennis, that will be held at the same time. So, it's clear: The Beach Tennis Open Saarlouis 2019 is not only the most important national beach tennis tournament. It also belongs to the biggest and most important ones in Europe. In terms of the sport, the appearance of the reigning world champions Maraike Biglmaier and Rafaella Müller is in the focus. They of course want to triumph in Saarlouis as well and defend the title after their grand world championship win in Italy. The defending champions in the men's category Dorian Beccaccioli/Davide Benussi from Italy are also participating again.**

### **Beach tennis for everybody in the middle of Saarlouis**

Traditionally the tournament will be played amidst the city center of Saarlouis. The little market town changes into the biggest sandbox of Germany for five days. You will find that kind of enthralling net-duels, party and floodlight atmosphere only in Saarlouis. It's an absolute unique selling proposition. Next to the professional tournament and the DTB German Championships in beach tennis, the Amateur Cup of the city of Saarlouis, beach tennis for kids and beach tennis trainings with pro's are on the program. The entrance is free on all days. It's definitely worth visiting the beach tennis party at Saarlouis. As a special treat, every evening after the official matches the audience gets the chance to try out beach tennis at the open court. So, come and participate. On all days, like usual at the beach there is party atmosphere with music and DJ guaranteed.

### **Well-known names at the women's competitions**

Maraike Biglmaier is one of the stars of the scene. From the very beginning she has been competing in Saarlouis. The 31 years old female player from Berlin participating in about 20 tournaments around the globe a year and knowing the best beaches of the world says, that she loves the urban atmosphere as well as the flood light games on Friday and Saturday evening. Normally the beach tennis events are staged in Pattaya in Thailand, Aruba or St. Marten in the Caribbean, Hermosa Beach in the USA or Itajai at the Brazilian Atlantic coast. It's only a few weeks ago when Biglmaier aside of her partner Rafaella Müller could get the World Championship title in Italy. Now, 8 years after her first serve in deep sand in the year 2011, the woman from Berlin has reached her career high. She was runner-up world champion in the doubles in the year 2015. Last year she could win the runner-up world champion title in the mixed. She is also a three times winner of the biggest tournament in the world on the Caribbean island of Aruba. In Saarlouis the former tennis player (number 38 in the junior's world ranking) will be participating for the third time. The fight for the title will be thrilling, despite the world championship title. The biggest rivals of Biglmaier probably are Sofia Cimatti/Giulia Gasparri from Italy and Flaminia Daina (Italy)/Patricia Diaz (Venezuela). Cimatti and Daina were in the finals of Saarlouis in 2018 before they changed partners.

### **World ranking top players in the men's competitions**

With its enthusiasm for sports, the Saarland has been attracting the protagonists of this trend sport from the first serve on in August 2017. In the men's category the best three of the current world ranking will serve here as well. Dorian Beccaccioli/Davide Benussi from Italy are the defending champions. However, set on number one are their fellow countrymen Alessandro Calbucci/Michele Cappelletti. The finalist from last year and winner of 2017 Nikita Burmakin from Russia, set on number 2 in the world ranking, will be competing in Saarlouis with the Italian Marco Garavini. Highly interesting for Germans will possibly be the appearance of Benjamin Ringlstetter and his brother Manuel. The best German beach tennis players are set on number 9 in Saarlouis and are good for a top ranking.

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### German Championships with 120 teams

The serves will take place in the middle of the historic center of Saarlouis. At the little market the Center Court will be surrounded with grandstands for 600 fans. Additionally, there will be three more beach tennis courts, caterings and a big expo with a lot of exhibitors out of the beach tennis industry. For the event 400 tons of sand must be moved. At the same time, the German Championships with 120 teams in 8 age groups will be held on the compounds of the TSV Ford Steinrausch. An interesting constellation can be seen there in the women's competition: Top favorite Maraike Biglmaier will be competing with her sister Annika Biglmaier. However, in top position are expected Sarah Bolsmann/Laura Kemkes. In the mixed competition the defending champions Maraike Biglmaier/Benjamin Ringlstetter will be hard to beat. In the men's category the Ringlstetter brothers should be safe to be celebrating their fifth German Championship title together, though they must watch out for the combination of Alexander Bailer (number 2 in the German ranking) and Sven Bolsmann.

### The secretary of the Interior Klaus Bouillon is excited

The Saarland is eagerly looking forward to the event. The secretary of Interior and patron Klaus Bouillon says: "I am very happy, that this year again there can be seen world class beach tennis in Saarlouis. It is great to see that this sport is developing and becoming more and more popular. The fact, that the tournament will be held for the third time now, shows the gaining popularity. Also, the number of the competitors, who belong to the best in the world, has been rising constantly since 2017. Furthermore, it is impressive what the city as done to make the competition possible."

The DTB (German Tennis Association) is also impressed by the organization on site and the positive feedback. Eva Maria Schneider, vice president of the DTB says: "Once again the beach tennis world elite is meeting in the center of Saarlouis. For three years now, the tournament with its stunning location and exceptional atmosphere is an attraction. Particularly the combination of German Championships and ITF tournament with the finals taking place under floodlight make it special. I am specially looking forward to the 120 registered teams in 8 competitions at the German Championships. It is not only that number that shows how popular the trend sport beach tennis meanwhile is in Germany."

### The program from Thursday to Sunday

The tournament in Saarlouis starts Tuesday, August 20 with the drawing for the German Championships. The next day, Wednesday August 21, from 4 p.m. on the German Championship games in the men's double 40 and the women's double 40 will take place. From 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. the Amateur Cup of the city of Saarlouis will be on.

On Thursday, August 22, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. the kids take over. No less than 40 students of the Robert-Schumann secondary school have been registered for "beach tennis for kids". The players of the PLAN B beach tennis teams will give tips and show the kids how the young trend sport is been played. At the German Championships the matches for the mixed doubles and mixed doubles 40 are on the program.

Highlight on Friday, August 23 will be the German Championship finals in men's and women's double under floodlight on the evening. Saturday, August 24 starts at 9 a.m. with the first matches of the men's and women's double of the ITF \$ 15.000 tournament Saarlouis. From 8 p.m. on the finals of the mixed German Championships are on the program. Sunday has even more highlights. The youngsters of the under 18 competition of the German Championships will start competing at 9 a.m. At 1 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. the finals of the 15.000 \$ ITF tournament take place.

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