



PRESS RELEASE

12 March 2026

Paolini, Mboko and Svitolina among stars set to light up 2026 Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Qualifiers

Jasmine Paolini will lead defending world champions Italy at the 2026 Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Qualifiers (10-11 April), where 14 nations will battle for a place in the Finals in Shenzhen (22-27 September).

Elina Svitolina (Ukraine) and Victoria Mboko (Canada) are among the other star players set to represent their countries next month, with the chance to play for the coveted Billie Jean King Cup trophy at stake in September.

Paolini leads the Italian team bidding to win a third consecutive BJK Cup title for the first time. The two-time Grand Slam finalist and Olympic doubles champion inspired the Italians to title triumphs in Malaga in 2024 and Shenzhen in 2025.

Other stars named in their nations' squads for the Qualifiers include Belinda Bencic (Switzerland), Iva Jovic (USA) and Linda Noskova (Czechia). Teams can make up to three changes to their squads until one day prior to the event start date.

A record 148 nations entered the competition this year, and 54 nations will compete across the Qualifiers and four Regional Group Events in a bumper week of action beginning on 6 April.

The seven winning nations from the Qualifiers will advance to the Finals in Shenzhen, where they will compete alongside host nation China, P.R.

Teams who lose in the Qualifiers will compete in the 2026 Play-offs in November, alongside the seven best-performing nations from the three Regional Group I events. The seven winners from the Play-offs will advance to the 2027 Qualifiers.

Beginning this year, each Qualifier tie will consist of two singles matches on day one, with the doubles match followed by two reverse singles matches on day two. This marks the first time in the competition's history that live doubles matches will be guaranteed and further aligns the competition's format with the Davis Cup. All live matches in the Qualifiers will be played as best-of-three tiebreak sets.

The players competing for their nations at the four regional group events taking place next month have also been announced this week, with Beatriz Haddad Maia (Brazil), Eva Lys (Germany), Antonia Ruzic (Croatia), Maria Sakkari (Greece), Zeynep Sonmez (Turkiye) and Janice Tjen (Indonesia) among those set to represent their nations.

Click the links below to view the team nominations at each event:

- [Americas Group I](#) (Club Deportivo de Ibagué, Ibagué, Colombia)
- [Asia/Oceania Group I](#) (DLTA Stadium, New Delhi, India)
- [Europe/Africa Group I](#) (Complexo de Tenis do Jamor, Oeiras, Portugal)
- [Europe/Africa Group II](#) (Tennis Association of Republika Srpska, Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

The team nominations for the Qualifiers are:

2026 Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Qualifiers

Italy v Japan

Venue: ASD Colle degli Dei, Velletri (clay, outdoors)

Head-to-head: Italy lead 1-0

Italy

Jasmine Paolini

Elisabetta Cocciaretto

Lucia Bronzetti

Tyra Caterina Grant

Sara Errani

Captain: Tathiana Garbin

Japan

Moyuka Uchijima

Himeno Sakatsume

Nao Hibino

Eri Hozumi

Shuko Aoyama

Captain: Ai Sugiyama

Belgium v USA

Venue: Coretec Dome, Ostend (clay, indoors)

Head-to-head: USA lead 6-2

Belgium

Elise Mertens

Hanne Vandewinkel

Sofia Costoulas

Greet Minnen

Magali Kempen

Captain: Wim Fissette

USA

Iva Jovic

Hailey Baptiste

McCartney Kessler

Nicole Melichar-Martinez

Captain: Lindsay Davenport

Australia v Great Britain

Venue: John Cain Arena, Melbourne (hard, outdoors)

Head-to-head: Australia lead 8-3

Australia

Maya Joint

Kimberly Birrell

Talia Gibson

Storm Hunter

Elen Perez

Captain: Samantha Stosur

Great Britain

Sonay Kartal

Harriet Dart

Mika Stojsavljevic

Jodie Burrage

Captain: Anne Keothavong

Kazakhstan v Canada

Venue: Beeline Arena, Astana (clay, indoors)

Head-to-head: Canada lead 1-0

Kazakhstan

Yulia Putintseva

Zhibek Kulambayeva

Aruzhan Sagandykova

Sonja Zhiyenbayeva

Anna Danilina

Captain: Yuriy Shchukin

Canada

Victoria Mboko

Marina Stakusic

Bianca Andreescu

Kayla Cross

Gabriela Dabrowski

Captain: Marie-Eve Pelletier

Slovenia v Spain

Venue: Tennis Center Portoroz, Portoroz (clay, outdoors)

Head-to-head: First Billie Jean King Cup meeting

Slovenia

Kaja Juvan

Veronika Erjavec

Tamara Zidansek

Dalila Jakupovic

Nika Radisic

Captain: Masa Zec Peskiric

Spain

Cristina Bucsa

Kaitlin Quevedo

Leyre Romero Gormaz

Guiomar Maristany Zuleta de Reales

Sara Sorribes Tormo

Captain: Carla Suarez Navarro

Switzerland v Czechia

Venue: Swiss Tennis Arena, Biel (hard, indoors)

Head-to-head: Czechia lead 8-3

Switzerland

Belinda Bencic

Viktorija Golubic

Rebeka Masarova

Celine Naef

Captain: Heinz Guenthardt

Czechia

Linda Noskova

Marie Bouzkova

Sara Bejlek

Tereza Valentova

Captain: Barbora Strycova

Poland v Ukraine

Venue: PreZero Arena, Gliwice (clay, indoors)

Head-to-head: Ukraine lead 2-1

Poland

Magda Linette
Maja Chwalinska
Linda Klimovicova
Katarzyna Kawa
Captain: Dawid Celt

Ukraine

Elina Svitolina
Marta Kostyuk
Oleksandra Oliynykova
Lyudmyla Kichenok
Nadiia Kichenok
Captain: Ilya Marchenko

For more information and exciting new content, including match action, archive footage, and player features, visit the Billie Jean King Cup website, follow @billiejeankingcup on Instagram, @BJKCup on X and TikTok, or Billie Jean King Cup on Facebook.

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About the Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge™

The Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge is the women's World Cup of Tennis. Previously known as the Fed Cup, it is the largest annual international team competition in women's sport, with a record 148 nations entered in 2026. Global partners of the event include Gainbridge®, e.l.f. Beauty, 1xBet, Microsoft and Mastercard.

About Billie Jean King Cup Ltd

Billie Jean King Cup Limited is a partnership between the International Tennis Federation and TWG Global created to deliver transformative investment and innovation to the Billie Jean King Cup, the women's World Cup of Tennis. Bringing together expertise and experience from the tennis, business, and entertainment industries, our core mission is to grow and leverage the world's most popular annual team competition for women as a platform for positive change.

About the ITF

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) is the world governing body of tennis. In June 2026 it will become World Tennis, following an overwhelming majority vote in favour of the name change from its member national tennis associations at the 2025 ITF Annual General Meeting. Founded in 1913, its purpose is to ensure the long-term growth and sustainability of the sport, delivering tennis for future generations in association with its 214 member National Associations. The ITF oversees the rules and regulations that govern international and national competition. The ITF is responsible for the worldwide development of tennis through its highly regarded global Development Programme, its Science and Technical department which monitors equipment and technology, and its Officiating department which oversees the education and advancement of officials. The ITF organises up to 1850 men's, women's, and junior tournaments on the ITF World Tennis Tour, and manages the ITF junior team competitions, ITF Beach Tennis World Tour, UNIQLO Wheelchair Tennis Tour and the ITF World Tennis Masters Tour, together with the men's and women's World Cup of Tennis, Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge respectively, the two largest annual international team competitions in tennis. The ITF manages the Olympic Tennis Event on behalf of the IOC and the Paralympic Wheelchair Tennis Event on behalf of the IPC and the Qualification Pathways for both events at the Games. For further information please visit www.itftennis.com.

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