



THE OFFICIAL
RULEBOOK
OF THE INTERCOLLEGIATE TENNIS ASSOCIATION



2022-23



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2022-23 SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT RULE CLARIFICATIONS & CHANGES

Rule changes are noted by a gray box on the affected pages.

Page 4 (I.D.4.) – Lineup changes in back to back dual matches: Players/doubles teams cannot move ahead of more than one player/team from the previous match's lineup as played.

Pages 7-8 (I.D.8.) – Minimum Requirements & format: Previous temporary minimum requirements for a dual match to be played (four players and one member of the institutional coaching staff) are being adopted as a permanent rule change. Alternate dual match scoring formats are also included for matches with fewer than six players on one or both rosters.

Page 13 (I.G.12.) and page 43 (II.H.12.) – Service lets: In ALL divisions (and genders), there are no service lets. If the serve hits the net and goes into the proper service box, the ball is in play.

Page 15 (I.I.2.) and page 44 (II.J.2.) – Appeal of first serve fault played as good: A server or server's partner may make a spontaneous reaction before appealing a first serve fault played as good by the receiver.

Pages 15 (I.I.3.) and pages 44-45 (II.J.3.) – Overrules in a one set match: In single set matches (i.e. doubles in a dual match), a player/doubles team will be penalized under the ITA Point Penalty System if overruled more than one time. In matches that consist of more than one set, the schedule of penalties for overrules remains unchanged (penalized under the ITA PPS for more than two overrules).

Page 17 (I.J.4.b.) – Resuming a suspended match: Both coaches must agree a suspended match can be resumed within 48 hours.

Pages 17-18 (I.K.1.a.) and page 46 (II.L.1.a.) – Medical treatment: Aside from changeovers or set breaks, a player may not receive direct medical treatment unless a Medical Timeout is being taken.

Page 18 (I.K.1.c.) and page 46 (II.L.1.c.) – Medical Timeout quantity: In ALL divisions, a player may only receive one Medical Timeout per match.

Page 18-19 (I.K.1.d.) and pages 46-47 (II.L.1.d.) – Concussion Timeout: The ITA is adopting a protocol for a Concussion Timeout. If a possible concussion is suspected due to a blow to the head or trunk or the head or body forcefully impacting the ground, a health care professional has up to 15 minutes to definitely eliminate the possibility of a concussion. If a concussion cannot be definitely eliminated within this timeframe, the player shall be retired. A Concussion Timeout is separate from a Medical Timeout.

2022-23 SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT RULE CLARIFICATIONS & CHANGES

Rule changes are noted by a gray box on the affected pages.

Pages 26-27 (I.M.2.) and page 54 (II.N.2.) – Coach Interference: Language has been added to clarify what may constitute coach interference during play (making officiating calls including but not limited to foot faults, lets and line calls). Coaches may still overrule their own player's out call.

Page 28 (I.M.7.) and page 55 (II.N.7.) – Control of bench players and team personnel: It is the responsibility of the coaching staff to control the behavior of bench players and team personnel.

Pages 30-31 (I.O.1.) and page 58 (II.P.1.) – Player behavior: The section regarding player behavior has been reorganized for clarity.

Page 30 (I.O.1.d) and page 58 (II.P.1.d.) – Bench player interference: If a bench player interferes with the playing of a point (for example calls a ball out or tries to call a let), the result of the point shall stand. A Bench Player Harassment Penalty shall be applied once the point has ended.

Pages 30-31 (I.O.1.f.) – Bench Player Harassment Penalty System: An additional step has been added to the Bench Player Harassment Penalty System. In the instances of third and subsequent violations of bench player behavior expectations, a point penalty shall be assessed against all matches still in progress. This point shall be assessed as soon as possible regardless of the score. This applies to dual matches only.

Page 31 (I.O.2.a.) – Allowable area: The allowable area in a dual match will be established by the home coach and Referee. It is preferred the allowable area is completely separated from spectators and is not located directly behind a court.

Page 34 (I.P.1.a.iii) – Tennis balls: If ball usage rules in I.P.1.a.i/ii. need to be modified due to supply chain issues, both coaches must agree to the modification prior to the start of the dual match.

Page 34 (I.P.1.d.) – Tennis balls: Due to continuing supply chain issues, the protocol applied during COVID regarding the shortage of tennis balls and the use of alternate brands of tennis balls is being adopted as a change for this year.

Page 84 (ITA Table 6) – Penalties for overrules: A new table noting the schedule of penalties for one-set and two- and three-set matches has been included for easy reference.

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FOREWORD

Dear ITA Officials:

Thank you for your commitment to college tennis. Your ongoing efforts are very much appreciated by many — by me, our ITA board and staff, coaches, student-athletes, tournament directors, colleges and universities and fans of the game.

As the 2022-2023 competitive season gets under way, we want to ensure that tennis matches continue to be conducted in a safe and fair manner and that attention to the health and welfare of all involved continues to be coupled with encouragement and reinforcement of long-standing character values of integrity, honesty, and trustworthiness.

Please allow me to use this opportunity, once again, to express my gratitude to our hard-working ITA staff, in particular our ITA Officials Administrator Courtney Potkey, as well as our ITA National Officials Committee and ITA Rules Committee for their individual and collective work in continuing to maintain and improve the competitive experiences of our sport.

Do know that all of us at the ITA remain committed to identifying, training, certifying, evaluating, and retaining a terrific pool of college tennis officials. Please help us in being advocates for identifying new college tennis officials, as together we work to ensure the health and long-term success of our competitive college tennis landscape.

I wish you all the best for another memorable and highly successful college tennis season.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy Russell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Timothy Russell, Ph. D.
Chief Executive Officer

ASSOCIATION (ITA) REGULATIONS

I. TEAM COMPETITION — DUAL MATCHES AND TEAM TOURNAMENTS

A. The Code

USTA Rules & Regulations are in effect in college tennis except where explicitly superseded by ITA, NCAA, NAIA, NJCAA, CCCAA or Conference Rules. The Code is not part of the ITA Rules of Tennis. ***Players shall follow The Code unless there is a specific ITA Rule on point or except to the extent to which an Official assumes some of their responsibilities.***

B. Dual Match Format

1. Order of Play.

- a. *Division I, II, & NAIA.* Three doubles followed by six singles (7 team points). The format is three 6-game set doubles matches with a 7-point tiebreak at 6-all. Doubles matches shall be played to clinch. Doubles will be followed by six best-of-three set singles matches. Singles matches shall be played to completion. (Revised August 2021)
 - i. *Doubles.* If both coaches agree prior to the start of the match, all three doubles matches may be played to completion. The match scoring – one point for doubles – remains the same, even if a team wins all three doubles matches. (Revised August 2021)
 - ii. *Singles – playing to clinch.* If both coaches agree, a team match may be stopped once a winner has been decided. (Revised August 2021)
- b. *Division III.* Three doubles followed by six singles (9 team points). The format is three 8-game set doubles matches with a 7-point tiebreak at 7-all. Doubles will be followed by six best-of-three set singles matches. Singles matches shall be played to completion. (Revised August 2021)
- c. *JUCO.* Three doubles followed by six singles (9 team points). The format is three 8-game set doubles matches with a 7-point tiebreak at 8-all. Doubles will be followed by six best-of-three set singles matches. Singles matches shall be played to completion. (Revised August 2021)
- d. *Other authorized formats – inclement weather.* There are limited scenarios where the format may be adjusted. In the case of inclement weather, the format MAY be adjusted as follows, as long as both coaches agree: Singles (six matches) may be played first with doubles to follow if the team match

score is tied at 3-3. The divisional match scoring as outlined in ITA Regulation I.B.a/b/c. remains the same.

- e. *Multiple Division I matches in one day.* For ITA play and ITA ranking purposes, and in alignment with NCAA DI selection processes, an ITA DI program may NOT play more than two dual matches against other DI programs on any given date of competition. Defaulted, forfeited and nullified matches shall count as matches played, regardless if a ball was struck. Violation of this rule will result in review by the ITA and possible forfeit of matches played that day. (Adopted August 2019)

2. Scoring

a. Dual Match Team Score

- i. *Division I, II & NAIA – seven team points.* The team that wins two of the three doubles matches receives one point. Each singles match is worth one point. Four or more points are required to win the team match.
- ii. *Division III & JUCO – nine team points.* Each doubles and singles match is worth one point for a total of nine points. Five or more points are required to win the team match.
- iii. *Shortened format.* Once the outcome of the team match has been decided, a shortened format shall be played unless both coaches agree otherwise or conference rules supersede. Matches still in the second set shall play a 10-point tiebreak for the third set. Any match already in the third set shall be played to completion. A match that has not started shall consist of two sets with a 10-point tiebreak played at one set all.

b. Game Score

- i. *Division I, II & NAIA.* No-ad scoring will be used for both singles and doubles.
- ii. *Division III & JUCO.* Regular scoring will be used for both singles and doubles.

3. *Constitution of a team match for Small Colleges for ITA Ranking Purposes.* In small college tennis (DII, DIII, NAIA & JUCO), a collegiate team match must consist of six singles and three doubles to be considered for ITA team ranking.

4. *Warm-up – All Divisions.* There is no warm-up in doubles or singles unless a match is played on fewer than six courts. In a match played on fewer than six courts, the second wave of singles matches shall get a 10-minute warm-up between opponents with used tennis

balls. It is mandatory to warm-up with the opponent/opposing doubles team. (Revised August 2020)

5. *Time Between Doubles & Singles.* Singles players must be ready to play within five minutes of completion of the doubles point. With the exception of a previously scheduled special event (such as an awards presentation) occurring between doubles and singles, there are no exceptions for extending the time to start singles play. In the event there is a lineup change, players shall still be ready to play within five minutes of the completion of doubles (or singles if singles is played first). For regulations regarding lineup changes between doubles and singles, please see ITA Regulation I.D.6. (Revised August 2020)

C. Practice Courts

1. *Practice the day before or the morning before the match.* Upon request, the host school, at its expense, shall make a minimum of two practice courts available to the visiting team. The practice courts shall be the same courts that will be used in the match or if not possible due to extenuating circumstances, courts of similar quality and surface shall be secured. Practice courts must be made available:
 - a. For a minimum of two hours the day before the scheduled match; and
 - b. For a minimum of one hour on the morning of the match. The visiting coach must request these arrangements in writing at least one week before the team's arrival. The only exception is if circumstances governing varsity court usage renders compliance impossible. This must be confirmed in writing by the Director of Athletics of the host school. If the visiting school requests to practice two days prior to the match date, the expense will be the responsibility of the visiting team.
2. *Practice immediately before start of match.* In all cases, the visiting team must be permitted to hit on half of the match courts available for a minimum of 30 minutes immediately before the start of the team match.

D. Team Line-ups

1. *Exchange of line-ups and scorebooks.* Coaches shall exchange line-ups one hour before scheduled match start. Line-ups shall be submitted in the school's official ITA Scorebook or on a copy of a line-up page from the scorebook. ITA Scorebooks shall show all team results for the year to date. If a scorebook is not available, coach must provide hard copy or digital access to team year-to-date results. (Revised August 2018)

2. *All physically able and eligible players shall be listed in the line-up.* Coaches shall list **all** players who are able to play in the line-up at their appropriate position. Injured or ill players shall not be listed in the line-up unless they are cleared by an institution's medical staff to play and there is an expectation that they can complete their match. Players ruled ineligible by the institution, conference or governing body shall not be listed in the line-up. (Revised August 2018)
3. *Players must play in order of ability.* The line-up shall always be based on order of ability. In singles, players must compete in order of ability with the best player on the team playing at the No. 1 position, the second best at No. 2, and so on through all positions. This rule shall also apply to doubles play with the strongest doubles team at No. 1, etc.
 - a. A player or doubles team whose results and record show that the player or team is clearly stronger than the players/team listed below that player/team may not be moved down.
 - b. A player or doubles team whose results and record show that the player/team is clearly stronger than the player/teams listed above that player/team must be moved up a position.
 - c. Players and doubles teams whose results and records show them to be of equal ability may alternate between the adjacent positions.
 - d. A player or doubles team shall not be moved down in the line-up because of:
 - i. An injury that has lasted and forced the player out of the line-up for fewer than three weeks (21 days);
 - ii. Disciplinary measures.
4. *Line-up changes in back-to-back dual matches.* In back-to-back dual matches (two consecutive dual matches), the team line-up (as played) may be changed as long as the line-up stays in order of ability. When forming the line-up for the second of two consecutive dual matches, no player (or intact doubles team) can move above any player (or intact doubles team) who was more than one line above them in the previous line-up as played. The movement rule shall apply to singles and/or doubles lineups from dual matches that were not completed due to weather. The segment (doubles or singles) must have started for that segment to apply. The movement rule does not apply from the last match of the fall season to the first match of the spring season. (Revised August 2022)
Note: Removal of players from a line-up or players being added to a line-up (after injury, illness, suspension or ineligibility) may require close review with respect to the one position move rule. A player/

doubles team may only be moved ahead of one player/doubles team from the previous match. For example if a team's singles line-up for match 1 is:

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Player A | 5. Player E |
| 2. Player B | 6. Player F |
| 3. Player C | 7. Player G |
| 4. Player D | |

If player B is injured and NOT in the line-up for match 2, player C SHALL NOT be listed ahead of Player A at #1. Only after Player C completes match 2 at #2, could that player move up to #1.

Allowable line-up for match 2:

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Player A | 4. Player E |
| 2. Player C | 5. Player F |
| 3. Player D | 6. Player G |

Not allowable line-up for match 2:

1. Player C
2. Player A
3. Player D
4. Player E
5. Player F
6. Player G

(Revised August 2018)

5. *Line-up changes once a match has begun.* In a team match, the official start of doubles play is marked when the match begins between any of the three doubles teams. The beginning of singles play is marked when the match begins between any one of the six singles matches. In all divisions, when singles matches are played on fewer than six courts, the players not on the court may still be substituted before the start of their warm-up (e.g., if playing on four courts and the No. 5 player gets sick/injured after the No. 1-No. 4 started play, you may move your No. 6 up to No. 5 and slide the remaining players up). Once a court becomes available, substitutions must be made within two minutes or the lineup remains as originally exchanged prior to the start of the match. If a Referee is present, the lineup change should be communicated to the Referee. If a Referee is not present, the lineup change should be communicated to the opposing Head Coach. Matches must be started in accordance with ITA Regulations I.D.6. and I.F.7. (Revised August 2021)
6. *Removing players from the singles line-up.* For dual match competition, the coach shall submit a line-up listing singles players available to play. If a singles player is not listed, the player may not

be inserted into the line-up at any time. The coach may remove a singles player or players from the initial list within two minutes after the doubles has been completed (or within two minutes of completion of the last singles match, if singles was played first).

- a. If there is no referee, coaches shall exchange their substitutions with each other within two minutes after the doubles (or singles) point. If substitutions are not exchanged within two minutes, the line-ups remain as exchanged at the start of the match.
- b. If the match has a referee, the coaches will communicate lineup changes to the referee within two minutes of the completion of the doubles (or singles) point(s). The referee will then communicate any changes back to the respective coaches. Regardless of whether or not there is a line-up change, players shall be ready to play within 5 minutes of the completion of doubles (or singles if singles is played first).

Each player listed below the removed player and among the top six shall be moved up the appropriate number of spots. If individual matches have begun, and this prevents players from moving up, then the withdrawn player defaults that match. In the case of dual match competition in which singles is played first, a player removed from the singles line-up may play doubles. (Revised August 2020)

7. *Removing players from the doubles line-up.* A coach may remove any player from the doubles line-up. That player may be replaced by making a direct line substitution. A direct line substitution is the removal of one of the two players on a doubles team. That player is replaced by a player not in the top three positions of the doubles line-up. The player being substituted into the match must be listed on the lineup sheet exchanged prior to the start of the match, either in singles or doubles. Once the new player has been inserted, per above, the teams may be reordered to reflect strength. The line-up must remain in order of ability, so therefore the coach shall order the teams to reflect the substitutions. Removal of two players from a doubles team in a doubles line-up (regardless of timing) does not allow for a direct line substitution. Instead, that team would be removed and the teams listed below it would move up (much like when a singles player is removed). If there is no No. 4 team listed, that team would default the No. 3 position. The players removed from the doubles line-up may play in singles. Once the match has officially begun, two players may be substituted for any doubles team (only if the match begins with singles). The teams must still

play in order of ability. If a team has six or fewer healthy players and a player in the doubles line-up is injured/sick prior to the start of the match, the coach may take a player from another doubles team to join the healthy player. One of the healthy doubles teams must stay intact. The teams must still play in order of ability and will default at the No. 3 position. (Revised August 2021)

8. *Team that is short on players.* A team will be required to play a dual match if it has at least four physically able players and one member of the institutional coaching staff (director of tennis, head coach, associate head coach, assistant coach, graduate assistant coach, student assistant coach or volunteer coach). A team appearing with an insufficient number of players shall default matches at the bottom of the line-up (e.g., the team competing with only five players must default the No. 6 singles position and in doubles, at the No. 3 position). If the No. 1 player is not available to compete all players must move up one position. The No. 1 singles match cannot be defaulted. The minimum number of players for a dual-meet match is four physically able players. A team that does not meet this minimum for any reason must default the match. (Revised August 2022)
 - a. If a team does not have four physically able players and one member of the institutional coaching staff, documentation from that team's medical staff and/or administration must be provided stating why the minimum requirement cannot be met in order to avoid a team default for ITA ranking purposes.
 - b. In the event there are less than six players on either/both teams, the following alternate format(s) shall be used:
 - i. 6 vs. 5: Three doubles matches followed by six singles matches shall be played. The team with only five players shall default the No. 3 doubles position as well as the No. 6 singles position. The overall scoring of the match (7 points/9 points) is not altered.
 - ii. 6 vs. 4: Three doubles matches followed by six singles matches shall be played. The team with only four players shall default the No. 3 doubles position as well as the No. 5 and No. 6 singles positions. The overall scoring of the match (7 points/9 points) is not altered.
 - iii. 5 vs. 5: Two doubles matches followed by five singles matches shall be played, with each match worth one point. The dual match team score will be 7 points, regardless of the division competing. Four or more points are required to win the team match.

- iv. 5 vs. 4: Two doubles matches followed by five singles matches shall be played, with each match worth one point. The team with only four players shall default the No. 5 singles position. The dual match team score will be 7 points, regardless of the division competing. Four or more points are required to win the team match.
- v. 4 vs. 4: One doubles match followed by four singles matches shall be played, with each match worth one point. Any two available players may be chosen to form the doubles team. The dual match team score will be 5 points, regardless of the division competing. Three or more points are required to win the team match.

(Adopted August 2022)

9. *Protests concerning unfair line-ups.*

- a. *Protests by coaches participating in match.* If a coach feels that the opponent's line-up as presented is unfair, the coach should notify the designated Referee and opposing coach of the protest. Any coach who wishes to submit a match protest (after the completion of the match) must first inform the opposing coach in writing (by fax or e-mail), with a copy sent at the same time to the ITA office. This is necessary even when the opposing coach and designated Referee were informed of the protest at the time of the match. This written protest must be made within 48 hours of the start of the match. If a match is between two schools from the same conference, the protest must be handled by the conference. In situations where there is a lineup dispute during a match between two schools from the same conference, but that dual match does not count toward conference competition, the conference office may defer to the ITA for handling of the protest. Once a protest has been filed with the ITA Office, it will be sent to an ITA Regional Ranking Committee if it involves teams from the same region, or to the ITA National Ranking Committee if it involves teams from different regions. A protest may also be sent separately to the ITA Ethics and Infractions Committee, if the case warrants it. An ITA Ranking and/or Operating Committee has the right to make a ruling on a protest and, if appropriate, reverse or overturn a result for ITA Ranking purposes. The ITA will then recommend that the NCAA, NAIA, NJCAA or CCCAA committees consider this ruling for postseason

selection/seeding. A coach has the right to appeal a protest ruling made by an ITA Ranking Committee to the National Ranking Committee (for rulings made by Regional Ranking Committees). There are no appeals permitted to rulings made by the National Ranking Committee. (Revised August 2020)

b. *Third Party Protests.* In Divisions I, II, III and NAIA, coaches will be allowed to protest a violation of the ITA “one position move” rule (see ITA Regulation I.D.4.), even if the coach is not directly involved with the match. This means that if a coach is not competing against a team whose line up is in violation, this coach can report this infraction to the ITA (For additional information on this procedure, see the ITA website).

10. *Placement of injured or ill players in line-up.* If a player is injured or ill and cannot play in any part of the line-up for three weeks (21 consecutive days) or longer, the player shall be placed in the line-up based on order of ability. If a player has played the majority of previous singles matches at one position, the player must be placed within two places of that position. **Note:** Removal of players from a line-up or players being added to a line-up (after injury, illness, suspension or ineligibility) may require close review with respect to this rule regarding the return of additional injured or ill players to a line-up. (Revised August 2018)

E. Starting Time & Lateness Penalties

1. *Starting time.* All matches should begin promptly at the specified starting time. The Referee shall make sure that the start of the team match conforms to the time established in the contract unless a different time is agreed upon by both coaches. By mutual agreement of the coaches, individual matches may be delayed by a predetermined period of time to accommodate a player late for a legitimate reason.
2. *Team lateness penalty.* Unless both coaches have agreed to start a match at a later time, the following penalties should be applied to teams that arrive late:
 - a. Under any and all circumstances, if a team is not ready to begin its team match at the specified starting time, each team in the doubles line-up shall begin one game down and shall be deemed to have lost the toss.
 - b. A team that is more than 15 minutes late from the specified starting time will lose the doubles point(s).
 - c. A team that is more than one hour late from the specified start time will default the entire match. (Revised August 2018)

3. *Individual Match Penalties.* The following penalties shall be instituted if a player is late for either a doubles or singles match in a dual match:
 - a. *Game penalties for lateness.* The Referee shall penalize the late player or team one game for each five minutes or fraction thereof of lateness. The late player or team also loses the toss. No more than three games shall be assessed for lateness.
 - b. *Default after 15 minutes.* The Referee shall default a player or doubles team for being 15 minutes late for the starting time of the match.

F. General Rules

1. *Matches between schools from different conferences.* If a dual match is played between teams from different conferences, then ITA rules shall be followed.
2. *Conference rules.* Conference rules shall supersede ITA rules when matches are played between two teams within the same conference.
3. *Written contracts.* Competing schools should sign written contracts for dual matches. These contracts should be initiated by the home team and should include all specified agreements or arrangements, such as practice times and courts, starting time of match, use of indoor facilities, scoring system, match format, balls, etc. The failure of a team to honor the contract shall result in a default of the team match. In situations in which there is no contract but there is clear and incontrovertible evidence that a team match has been agreed to, and one team does not participate, said match will result in a team default of the match. (Revised August 2018)
4. *Bona fide institutional representative.* Each team should be accompanied by a bona fide institutional representative at all matches.
5. *The home institution is responsible for spectator conduct.* The home institution shall make sure that the behavior of the spectators remains fair and non-abusive. Failure to ensure proper behavior shall result in the application of the Crowd Harassment Penalty System (see ITA Regulation I.O.4.) against the offending team and in extreme cases a team default of the match. At a neutral location, each team shall be responsible for the conduct of their respective spectators. (Revised August 2019)
6. *Number of courts available.* The host institution must provide a minimum of three varsity quality courts for outdoor, single gender dual match competition unless both coaches agree otherwise in

- writing. See ITA Regulation III.A. for a definition of varsity quality tennis facility. (Adopted August 2021)
7. *Order of play on fewer than six courts.* If fewer than six courts are being used, start with the number one match and continue starting matches in numerical order. In a match played on fewer than six courts, the second wave of singles matches shall get a 10-minute warm-up between opponents with used tennis balls. (Revised August 2018)
 8. *Moving matches to other courts.* Once the dual match has begun, a match shall remain on the same court until its conclusion, unless both coaches agree to move it to another court. In an ITA national or sanctioned event, the Referee or Games Committee may move matches, if necessary. In all Divisions, the match is considered to have started when the first ball is struck. (Revised August 2020)
 9. *Unfinished matches do not count.* Unfinished individual singles and doubles matches shall not count in any way toward the final team scores. Unfinished or unplayed matches in dual matches do not count toward a player's win/loss record or for rankings.
 10. *Teams withdrawing.* In a dual match, a team shall not cancel a match due to ill or injured players. Unless the match can be postponed to a later date, it will result in a team default for ITA Ranking purposes.
 11. *Failing to play after a dual team tournament has started.* Once a team tournament has started, failure to play a team match shall result in a team default. This loss and any subsequent consolation match losses shall count as ranking losses.
 12. *Consequences of failing to follow ITA rules.* Failure to follow ITA rules in any ITA sanctioned team tournament will cause the loss of the ITA sanction, and the results from such an event will not be considered for ITA ranking purposes.
 13. *Matches between schools from different divisions.* If a dual match is played between teams from different **divisions** (e.g. if a Division I school plays a Division III school), the format and rules of the home team's division shall be followed, unless otherwise specified by written contract.
 14. *Incorrect Opponents.* If a match is started between incorrect opponents, the match should be stopped immediately and restarted with the correct opponent. No points or games played against the wrong opponent shall be counted. If the error is not discovered until any of the affected matches is completed, play shall continue and the matches completed in good faith stand. For line-up rules purposes, all affected players shall be considered

to have played at the position originally submitted by their head coach. (Adopted August 2019)

G. Calls in matches with a Chair Umpire or with no Chair Umpire and no Line Umpires

Many college matches are played without the assistance of a Chair Umpire and Line Umpires. Some matches are officiated by a Chair Umpire or a Roving Umpire. In all these matches, the players have the primary responsibility for making the calls. The following principles apply in these matches.

1. *Players make calls aimed at their side of the court.* Players shall make all calls on shots aimed at their side of the court. An official in direct observation of the court shall not assist the player in making any line call with any kind of verbal or non-verbal signal. An official in direct observation of the court may immediately confirm or correct “out” calls made by a player. (Revised August 2020)
2. *Opponent gets benefit of the doubt.* Whenever a player is in doubt, the call shall be made in favor of the opponent. Balls should be called “out” only when there is a space visible between the ball and the line. A player shall never seek aid from a Chair Umpire, Roving Umpire, spectator, teammate or coach in making a line call.
3. *Disagreement between partners over a call.* A doubles player is obligated to disagree with their partner if an erroneous call is made. When doubles partners disagree on a call, the point goes to the opposing team. The point is never replayed. (Revised August 2022)
4. *Balls that a player does not see.* There are no “unsighted” calls. If a player does not see the opponent’s shot, the player shall call the ball good. A player shall never seek aid from a Chair Umpire, Roving Umpire, spectator, teammate or coach in making a line call. The Chair Umpire and Roving Umpires shall not give assistance on balls that a player does not see.
5. *Out calls must be made immediately.* “Out” calls must be made immediately. The call shall be made before either an opponent has hit the return or the return has gone out of play. If no immediate audible or visible call is made, the ball shall be considered good.
6. *Clay court procedure.* Players may quickly check a mark before making a call on their side of the net.
7. *Correcting an erroneous “out” call – opponent wins point.* A player shall reverse the “out” call if the player realizes that a mistake has been made or if uncertain of the call. The point goes to the opponent. It is never replayed.

8. *Players are obligated to call their own ball "out" if it is clearly out.* Players shall call the ball "out" if it is clearly out. This rule does not apply to a player's first serve. See reference in "The Code" C.13.
9. *How to challenge an opponent's call when an official is not present.* An opponent's call may be challenged by the query: "Are you sure of your call?" No further discussion or delay is permitted. If the player making the call is uncertain, the player loses the point. It is never replayed.
10. *Players shall not cross the net to point out a mark or discuss a problem.* A player shall not cross the net during play to point out a mark or discuss a problem. A player who does shall be penalized under the ITA Point Penalty System.
11. *Touches, invasion of opponent's court, reaching over the net, double bounces and ball striking permanent fixture.* Calls involving a ball touching a player, a player touching the net, a player touching the opponent's court, hitting an opponent's return before it has passed the net and a double bounce must be called by the player committing the infraction. A shot striking a permanent fixture shall be called out by the player(s) toward whom the shot is aimed. An official in direct observation of the court should make these calls immediately. (Revised August 2018)
12. *Service Lets.* In all divisions, there are no service lets. If the serve hits the net and goes into the proper service box, the ball is in play. (Revised August 2022)
13. *Lets.* The Chair Umpire or the Roving Umpire may call a let for a ball that is endangering a player or interruption of play.
14. *Only a coach or player may request an Official on court.* In a match, a coach or player may request assistance from an Official if one is available. In any match, when there is a question of law in dispute, the coach or player may request the Referee. In either scenario, the match shall not be suspended for more than five minutes while an Official or Referee is located.
15. *Foot faults.* A player shall not call a foot fault on an opponent. All foot faults must be called by an Official.
16. *Server shall call score before each point.* The server shall call the score before each point except when there is a Chair Umpire or scorekeeper assigned to the match.
17. *Settling disagreements over the score.* If a disagreement over the score occurs, the methods for settling the dispute in order of preference are:
 - a. Count all points and games agreed upon by the players, with only the disputed points or games being replayed;

- b. Resume play from a score mutually agreeable to the players;
 - c. Use a coin flip.
18. *Hindrance – loud outburst following a perceived winning shot.* A Chair Umpire or Roving Umpire (only if standing at the net post) should immediately call a “hindrance – loss of point” when a player(s) makes a loud noise following a perceived winning shot that the opponent(s) has a play on.

H. Service and Service Returns

1. *No more than 25 seconds between points.* Both the server and receiver must be ready to begin the next point within 25 seconds of when the ball went out of play. Each player has the right to the full 25 seconds to prepare for the next point. (Revised August 2018)
2. *Feinting, changing position and intentional distraction.* A player may feint with the body while the ball is in play. A player may change position at any time, including while the server is tossing the ball. Any movement or sound that is made solely to distract an opponent, including, but not limited to, waving the arms or racquet or stamping the feet, is not allowed. If a player does so, the player shall be warned that if it happens again it is subject to being penalized under the ITA Point Penalty System.
3. *The receiver's partner shall not enter receiver's service box before or during the serve.* If a player does so, the player shall be warned that if it happens again it is subject to being penalized under the ITA Point Penalty System.
4. *Receiver who corrects the fault call to good loses the point.* If the receiver calls a fault and then changes the call to good, the receiver loses the point. (Revised August 2022)
5. *If a receiver is ready, then the receiver's partner is deemed ready.* If the receiver has indicated readiness and the server then serves, the receiver's partner cannot claim a let because of unreadiness. The receiver's indication of being ready signifies that the team is ready.
6. *No-Ad scoring.* When using no-ad scoring, the receiver may not change their side choice on a deciding point if the point is interrupted and replayed for any reason. (Adopted August 2019)

I. Overrules (Adopted August 2020)

1. *Overrule must be immediate.* It is the responsibility of the player to make an initial line call. An official in direct observation of a court shall immediately overrule a player's erroneous “out” and/or “service let” call. The official shall overrule the call only if absolutely certain the call was erroneous. A player shall not directly verbally appeal an opponent's call to an official except in the case of a first

serve fault that is played by the receiver. A player who excessively questions an official about an opponent's line calls may be penalized under the ITA Point Penalty System.

2. *First serve.* The server (or server's partner in doubles) may make a spontaneous reaction to a returned first serve and then immediately stop play and verbally appeal to an official in direct observation of the court if the serve was out. If the official confirms the serve is in, the server loses the point. If the official determines the serve is a fault, the server shall play a second serve and the receiver shall not be penalized with an overrule. (Revised August 2022)
3. *Penalties for being overruled.*
 - a. *One-set matches.* A player/team who has been overruled more than once shall be penalized under the ITA Point Penalty System. If an official has overruled a player or doubles team once, the official shall penalize each subsequent overrule under the ITA Point Penalty System. (Adopted August 2022)
 - b. *Two- and three-set matches.* A player/team who has been overruled more than twice shall be penalized under the ITA Point Penalty System. If an official has overruled a player or doubles team twice, the official shall penalize each subsequent overrule under the ITA Point Penalty System. (Revised August 2022)
4. *Procedure with additional officials on court.* When a match has a far side linesperson or any other on-court officials in addition to a chair umpire, and those additional line umpires are not making calls directly, the Chair Umpire may consult the far side linesperson or other on court official before confirming or overruling the call.
5. *Coach may overrule own player.* A coach may overrule a call made by his or her own player if either of the following conditions are met:
 - a. There is no official present.
 - b. There is an official present but the official chooses not to overrule the player.Any such overrule by the coach shall not count toward the player or team's number of overrules by an official. (Adopted August 2021)

J. Inclement Weather & Extreme Heat

Collegiate tennis is an outdoor sport. All matches shall be played outdoors unless weather or court conditions threaten the health and safety of student athletes or if contracted otherwise for winter month competition. (Revised August 2020)

1. *Determining playable outdoor weather conditions when indoor backup courts are available.* Matches shall be played outdoors unless the projected weather forecast for a minimum of:

- two hours out of a three-hour time period from the scheduled match start time in Division I, II & NAIA
- two hours out of a four-hour time period from the scheduled match start time for Division III and JUCO

according to www.weather.com is:

- a. A high of less than 50°; or
- b. Sustained winds (not including wind gusts) of more than 20 miles per hour.

If the outdoor conditions have changed by the end of the doubles play, it is understood that both coaches and the Referee may agree to move the match indoors. (Revised August 2020)

2. *Decision to move indoors.*
 - a. *Match that has not yet begun.* In the event of inclement weather, a team match must be played indoors if at least three indoor courts are available at a varsity quality tennis facility. (See ITA Regulation III.A. for a definition of varsity quality tennis facility.) The decision to move indoors shall be made 90 minutes before the start of the match if the weather conditions are not forecast to improve. Coaches may agree to set an alternate time to make this decision. This information shall be communicated with the Referee as soon as possible. (Revised August 2020)
 - b. *Match already in progress.* If, due to weather, play is suspended at any point while a dual match is in progress, play must resume outdoors within one hour of the delay, unless coaches agree otherwise. If this is not possible, matches must be moved indoors. If the team match is already in progress but has not been completed and two or fewer matches remain, these matches must be continued until the completion of the team match, even if fewer than three courts are available. Individual match results (doubles or singles) do not count if there is no team match winner due to postponement or suspension. (Revised August 2020)
3. *Match moved indoors stays indoors.* If the match is moved indoors due to inclement weather or darkness, it shall stay indoors until the completion of the match. For in-progress matches, if the delay moving indoors takes more than 15 minutes, players shall be granted a warm-up period of up to 10 minutes with their team. If the delay in play is fewer than 15 minutes, players shall be granted a warm-up period of up to 3 minutes with their team. (Revised August 2019)
4. *Inclement weather and darkness procedures with no indoor backup available.*

- a. *Match that has not yet begun.* If no indoor backup courts are available, teams shall wait for a minimum of two hours before making the decision to cancel or postpone a match, if conditions are forecast to improve. (Revised August 2020)
- b. *Match already in progress.* Teams shall wait for a minimum of two hours to resume play before making the decision to cancel or postpone a match, if conditions are forecast to improve. If both coaches agree that the postponed match can be played within 48 hours from the last postponement, the match shall resume at the point at which it was suspended. If a postponed match cannot be resumed within 48 hours of the last postponement, the match may be rescheduled. In this case, the entire dual match will start anew unless both coaches agree otherwise. (Revised August 2022)
- c. *Suspension of an outdoor match due to weather.* If a match is suspended due to weather for more than 15 minutes, players are then entitled to a warm-up period of up to 10 minutes.

This warm-up shall be done with the players' teammates prior to resuming the suspended match. Matches that are suspended for fewer than 15 minutes do not qualify for a warm-up period. (Adopted August 2021)

5. *Extreme Heat.* If the temperature is 90° or higher according to www.weather.com at the start of the dual match, the players shall be offered a 10-minute rest period between the second and third sets. The Referee can reevaluate the decision prior to the start of singles if conditions have changed. This rest period does not apply to matches playing a 10-point tie break in lieu of a third set. The heat rule shall be reevaluated upon the resumption of a suspended match. (Revised August 2020)
6. *Games Committee may modify inclement weather rules.* In a sanctioned team tournament, the Games Committee may modify the inclement weather rule, if absolutely necessary.

K. Timeouts, Bathroom Visits and Equipment Adjustment

1. *Medical timeout.* The USTA regulation on medical timeouts applies with the following exceptions (these ITA Medical and Bleeding Timeout procedures are also summarized in the back of the book in ITA Table 6 – Medical and Bleeding Timeouts):
 - a. *Treatment on changeover or set break.* In all divisions, a player may be treated on any changeover or set break. This treatment is not considered a medical timeout. Direct treatment by a

trainer at any other time is only allowed if a medical timeout is being taken. (Revised August 2022)

- b. *Bleeding timeouts.* In all divisions, bleeding timeouts follow the USTA Regulation for bleeding timeouts with the exception that players may utilize the ITA PPS should the player begin bleeding from the same area again later in the match. The PPS may not be utilized immediately following a Bleeding Timeout. A Medical Timeout shall NOT be taken to deal with bleeding. A player who receives treatment for bleeding solely within a changeover or set break shall not be charged with a Bleeding Timeout. (Revised August 2020)
- c. *Medical Timeouts – All divisions.* In all divisions, a player may have only one medical timeout. A player who needs an additional medical timeout shall be retired. Once the trainer starts talking to the player or touches the player, the trainer has a maximum of five minutes for diagnosis and treatment. The maximum amount of time for treatment shall be three minutes. (Revised August 2022)

If a Men's Division I player takes a medical timeout, the player shall be assessed one point. This assessed point is not part of the Point Penalty System.

d. *Concussion Timeouts.*

- i. *Concussions.* A concussion is a brain injury that is most commonly caused by a blow to the head or trunk, or by the head or body forcefully impacting the ground. Concussions most commonly occur without loss of consciousness. Typically, there are subtle indications that a concussion has occurred, such as the student-athleteshakinghishead, stumbling, or appearing dazed or stunned.

The following behaviors may be exhibited by a player with a suspected concussion:

- Appears dazed or stunned.
 - Appears confused or incoherent.
 - Shakes head.
 - Stumbles; has to be physically supported by teammates.
 - Moves clumsily or awkwardly.
 - Shows behavior or personality changes.
- ii. If a possible concussion is suspected:
1. Evaluation. Immediately call a concussion timeout. Have the player evaluated immediately by an

appropriate health care professional. An official, coach, teammate or other non-medical personnel should not try to judge the severity of the injury.

2. Time allowed. Once the qualified medical professional begins talking to the player, the medical professional has a maximum of 15 minutes to definitively eliminate the possibility of a concussion. If a concussion cannot be definitively eliminated within 15 minutes, the player shall be retired.

- iii. *Separate from a medical timeout.* Concussion evaluation is separate from a medical timeout. A player shall not be charged with a medical timeout if evaluated for a concussion. Likewise, a Men's Division I player shall not be assessed a point penalty for being evaluated for a concussion.

(Adopted August 2022)

- e. *Coach may assist after obvious injury.* When an obvious injury occurs, a coach may assist and touch the player until the trainer arrives to diagnose and treat the injury.
 - f. *Trainer always available.* A trainer shall always be available to assist the player.
 2. *Bathroom Breaks.* In all divisions, a player must ask an Official to use the bathroom. The Official may refuse this request if the official determines that the player is resorting to gamesmanship.
 - a. *Division I & II.* (Revised January 2019)
 - i. *Bathroom break.* In Divisions I & II, players are allowed one bathroom break during a match. The bathroom break may only occur on a set break and may include up to three (3) minutes additional time for a total of up to five (5) minutes. The Referee will determine the additional time pre-match and notify both head coaches during the pre-match meeting. There shall be no additional "travel time" added to the bathroom break.
 - ii. *Changeover and set break.* Players may use the bathroom during any 90 second changeover or two (2) minute set break with the permission of an Official. Players will only have the specific increment of time for that bathroom visit — no additional time for travel shall be added.

- iii. *Other times.* If a player wishes to use the bathroom during any other time, this is treated as the player's one Medical Timeout (if the player has not already taken their Medical Timeout). The time given for the medical timeout for bathroom usage shall match the total time given for the Bathroom Break (not to exceed 5 minutes). There shall be no additional "travel time" added to this Medical Timeout.
 - iv. *Late return.* Late return from the bathroom for any of the above scenarios will result in Time Violation penalties until the player is ready to play. Time Violations accrued from lateness when returning from a bathroom break or bathroom visit are separate from Time Violations accrued during play. (Adopted August 2019)
 - b. *Division III, NAIA and JUCO.* In Division III, NAIA and JUCO a player may use the bathroom when they have a genuine need. Bathroom breaks should be taken on set breaks or changeovers. Breaks taken at other times should be limited to genuine emergencies. The Referee shall determine "reasonable time" for a bathroom break based upon proximity of toilets to the courts, not to exceed 15 minutes. Lateness past the predetermined "reasonable time" results in Time Violation penalties until the player is ready to play. Time Violations accrued from lateness when returning from a bathroom break or bathroom visit are separate from Time Violations accrued during play. (Revised August 2018)
- 3. *Contact lenses.* Loss of a contact lens is considered an equipment timeout. The Official may give the player up to fifteen minutes to take care of the problem. This is not considered a medical timeout.
- 4. *Foreign objects in the eye.* The Official may give a player who gets dust, an insect or a foreign object in the eye a three minute timeout to take care of the problem. This is not considered a medical timeout.
- 5. *Refusal to give timeout when underlying purpose is gamesmanship.* The Referee or Official may refuse to give players a timeout they are otherwise entitled to receive if the Referee concludes that the player is clearly resorting to gamesmanship.

L. ITA Point Penalty System, Defaults and Unintentional Time Violations

- 1. *Unsportsmanlike conduct is punished under ITA Point Penalty System.* Ethical and sportsmanlike conduct of players must be observed at all times. Inappropriate conduct includes but is not limited to:

- a. Visible or audible obscenity or profanity;
 - b. Racquet abuse;
 - c. Ball abuse;
 - d. Verbal or physical abuse of an Official or player;
 - e. Delay after a medical timeout, treatment at a changeover, being directed to resume play or a time violation;
 - f. Unsportsmanlike conduct. A player who engages in such conduct commits a code violation and is subject to being penalized under the ITA Point Penalty System.
 - i. Being overruled more than allowed according to ITA Regulation I.I.3; and
 - ii. Spitting at or in the direction of an opponent or an Official will be a code violation and possible default. Spitting on the court will be cautioned. The player will be asked to spit off the court or through the fence. If the player continues to spit on the court, it will be a code violation.
2. *Referee may advise players and coaches about the ITA Point Penalty System.* The Referee may issue a general explanation to players and coaches before the match about the ITA Point Penalty System. The Referee may define appropriate court behavior and enumerate specific types of conduct violations and unsportsmanlike conduct in general.
3. *Only Referee, Chair Umpire and Roving Umpires may assess code violations.* Only the Referee, Chair Umpire and Roving Umpires may implement the ITA Point Penalty System, unless both coaches agree otherwise. In a non-Division I match if there is no Official, both coaches must confer and agree before assessing a code violation, unless coaches are coding their own player(s).
4. *Coach assessed penalty.* Coaches may assess a point penalty or default at any time against their own player/team for any inappropriate conduct if either of the following conditions are met:
- a. There is no official present.
 - b. There is an official present but the official chooses not to penalize the player.
- Any such point assessed by the coach shall not be part of the ITA Point Penalty System for that match. (Revised August 2021)
5. *ITA Point Penalty System.* The ITA Point Penalty System, consists of the following:
- a. Point Penalty
 - b. Game Penalty
 - c. Default

The “Warning” is not a part of the ITA Point Penalty System. If the conduct warrants it, the Referee is authorized to default a player/ doubles team without having first given lesser penalties under the ITA PPS. Conduct worthy of an immediate default includes but is not limited to:

- Verbal or visual profanity that is hostile or severe in nature and directed toward an opponent, coach, official or spectator.
- Ethnic, Religious, Racial or Homophobic Slurs.
- Physical contact with an opponent, opposing coach, spectator or official
- If a ball is struck in anger or a racquet is thrown in anger, and the object strikes an individual (e.g. opponent, opposing coach, spectator or official)

(Revised August 2019)

6. *Issuing a Code Violation.* When issuing a Code Violation, the Official must do so before there has been an intervening point and must have directly observed or heard the violation.

There are four separate time segments when a player can commit a code violation:

- a. During the first segment (doubles or singles) of a dual match;
 - b. After the first segment (doubles or singles) of a dual match;
 - c. During the second segment (doubles or singles) of a dual match;
 - d. After the second segment (doubles or singles) of a dual match.
7. *Default.* The designated Referee has the sole power to default players during dual matches and ITA sanctioned team tournaments. Coaches shall have the opportunity to offer an explanation of the situation to the designated Referee. (Revised August 2018)

In team tournaments, the coaches shall have the right to appeal the default to the Tournament Committee. The player shall be defaulted if there is no appeal or if the appeal is denied.

A Chair Umpire or Roving Umpire may give point and game penalties. The Chair Umpire and Roving Umpire shall inform the Referee so that the Referee can stand by in case a default must be given.

8. *Referee imposed penalties.* Only the Referee of a dual match may impose the following:
 - a. Default of a player
 - b. Ejection of a player or team personnel
 - c. Carryover Code Violation Penalties

Note: Any official may assess a Post-Match Code Violation. The Referee must be notified of any Carryover Code Violations and

the Referee will determine when and where to implement the penalty. The Referee may delegate the implementation of point or game Carryover Code Violations to another official. Only the Referee may implement a Default Carryover Code Violation.

- d. Off court violations of the Coach's Code of Conduct Penalties
- e. Ejection of a coach
- f. Ejection of a Designated Player Assistant

(Revised August 2020)

9. *In doubles, code violations are assessed against the team.* In doubles, the players are penalized as a team and not as individual players.
10. *Carryover of code violations after an individual match is over in team competitions.* The following carryover rules apply in team competitions:
 - a. *Penalties assessed during a match do not carry over to the next segment of the dual match.* The ITA Point Penalty System is cumulative throughout any specific segment of a dual match (see ITA regulation I.L.6.), but is also self-contained. All penalties assessed during a specific segment will be erased at the end of that segment. The next segment (whether singles or doubles) will start with a "clean slate."
 - b. *Team matches where doubles is played first, followed by singles.* If a player commits a code violation after the doubles match is complete, the penalty shall be assessed to the highest remaining doubles team still in progress at the start of the next game or immediately in a tiebreak. A carryover default penalty shall be assessed immediately, regardless of the score of the match. If the doubles point has been decided, the carryover penalty shall be assessed at the start of that player's singles match. If that player is not playing in the singles, the carryover penalty shall be assessed to the No. 1 singles player from that team. If a player commits a code violation after the singles match is complete, the penalty shall be assessed to the highest remaining singles player still on the court at the start of the next game or immediately in a tiebreak. A carryover default penalty shall be assessed immediately, regardless of the score of the match.
(Revised August 2019)
 - c. *Team matches where singles is played first, followed by doubles.* If a player commits a code violation after the singles match is complete, the penalty shall be assessed to the highest remaining singles player still on the court at the start of the next game or immediately in a tiebreak. A carryover default

penalty shall be assessed immediately, regardless of the score of the match. If the singles matches have been completed, the carryover penalty shall be assessed at the start of that player's next match. If that player is not playing in doubles, the penalty shall be assessed to the No. 1 doubles team. If a player commits a code violation after the doubles match is complete, the penalty shall be assessed to the highest remaining doubles team still in progress at the start of the next game or immediately in a tiebreak. A carryover default penalty shall be assessed immediately, regardless of the score of the match. (Revised August 2019)

- d. *Doubles Teams.* For the purpose of imposing carryover penalties after a doubles match, the two doubles players remain a team until one or both of them have left the court.
 - e. *Carryover penalties are not part of progressive schedule of penalties for next match.* When a penalty is assessed under the carryover provision, that penalty does not count as part of the progressive schedule of penalties for that match. For example, during a dual match where doubles is played first, Player A commits a code violation after a doubles match, which was the last doubles match on court. Player A is in the singles portion of the dual match, so the penalty will be assessed at the start of Player A's singles match. Player A then commits a code violation during the singles match. The player is assessed a point penalty for that violation.
 - f. *Multiple Offenses.* The Point Penalty System is in effect for carryover purposes. If more than one violation occurs following a player's participation, that player may be subject to a game penalty or default to be applied under the carry over provisions.
 - g. *Loss of toss.* All carryover code violations resulting in a point or game penalty also include loss of toss.
11. *Penalties for overrules.* If any Official has overruled a player or doubles team multiple times in accordance with ITA Regulation I.I.3., the Official shall penalize each appropriate subsequent overrule under the ITA Point Penalty System. Overrules are match specific and do not transfer to their next match (e.g., if a player is overruled three times in doubles, the player starts over with a clean slate in singles). The failure to have a first serve fault appeal upheld is not treated as an overrule. (Revised August 2022)

Coaches may overrule their own player in accordance with ITA Regulation I.I.7. (Revised August 2021)

12. *Penalties for physical contact between teams.* All physical contact between opposing players, opposing coaches, a player and a coach, a player and an Official or a coach and an Official is strictly prohibited. The Referee shall immediately default any player who initiates contact.
- a. *Doubles player is barred from playing singles.* If the offense takes place during or immediately following doubles, the offending player shall be barred from playing singles. Each player listed below the barred player shall be moved up. If a team does not have additional players, the coach shall follow the policy laid out in I.E.8, team that is short on players. Any carryover penalties that were assessed shall be applied (including a carryover default penalty). If the offending player is not in the singles line-up, that player shall be barred from playing doubles in the team's next dual match. (Revised August 2018)
 - b. *Singles player is barred from playing doubles.* In a match where singles is played first, and the offense takes place in singles and the offending player is in the doubles line-up, the player shall be barred from doubles. As a result, that player's coach shall make a direct line substitution to the line-up—and re-order if necessary. If a team does not have additional players, the coach shall follow the policy laid out in ITA Regulation I.D.8, team that is short on players. Any carryover penalties that were assessed shall be applied (including a carryover default penalty). If the offending player is not in the doubles line-up, that player shall be barred from playing singles in the team's next dual match. (Revised August 2018)
 - c. *Physical contact after the completion of the dual match.* ITA carryover penalties do not apply when the physical contact offense occurs following the completion of the dual match. In this instance the Referee shall file a "Post-Match Code Violation" form, which can be found on the ITA website. (Revised August 2018)
 - d. *Physical contact reporting.* All of the above instances of physical contact shall be reported to the ITA Officiating Department by the Referee immediately following the match utilizing the "Post-Match Code Violation" form, which can be found on the ITA website. ITA Staff shall review all reported incidents. (Adopted August 2018)
13. *Time violations.* Time violations occur when a player takes more than 25 seconds between points, takes more than 90 seconds on change overs or takes more than 120 seconds on a set break. A

warning shall be given for the first violation. Subsequent delays shall be penalized by a point loss for each violation, with no accumulation. These violations are not part of the ITA Point Penalty system. Time violations accrued from lateness when returning from a bathroom visit are separate from time violations accrued during play. (Revised August 2019)

14. Loud grunting or outbursts.
 - a. *Player outbursts – adjacent courts.* Following a complaint from any player on an adjacent court, an official who hears a verbal outburst or grunting that is loud enough to disrupt play shall caution the offending player that subsequent outbursts shall be penalized under the ITA Point Penalty System.
 - b. *Player grunting – same court.* Following a complaint from any player on the same court, an official who hears grunting that is loud enough to disrupt play shall caution the offending player that subsequent outbursts shall be penalized under the ITA Point Penalty System.
 - c. *Player outbursts – foreign language.* If a loud outburst is in a language that the official does not understand, the official shall caution the player that further foreign language outbursts that are not understood by the official will be penalized as unsportsmanlike conduct under the ITA Point Penalty System.
15. *Referee shall report defaults to the ITA.* All defaults for misconduct must be reported by the Referee to the ITA Officiating Department utilizing the “Default of a Player” form, which can be found on the ITA website, within 24 hours for review and possible disciplinary action by the ITA Ethics Committee. (Revised August 2018)
16. *Player or coach ejected from match.* A player or coach ejected from a match must leave the tennis venue for the duration of the team match and not be in an area where they are visible or in viewing distance. All ejections must be reported by the Referee to the ITA Officiating Department utilizing the “Ejection of a Player or Coach” form, which can be found on the ITA website, within 24 hours for review and possible disciplinary action by the ITA Ethics Committee. (Revised August 2018)

M. Coaching

1. *When coaching is allowed.* A coach may coach a player any time during the match so long as the coach does not interfere with play. Coaches shall be designated before the doubles matches and may only be re-designated before the singles matches.
2. *Penalties when coach interferes with play.* Coaches shall not interfere with play, which includes making officiating calls, including

but not limited to, foot faults, “out” calls and lets. However, coaches do still have the ability to overrule their own player. If a coach interferes in the play of a point, the coach’s player/team shall lose that point for Coach’s Interference. A Coach’s Code of Conduct penalty may also be assessed by an official if the interference is determined to be egregious. (Revised August 2022)

3. *Who may coach.* Coaching is permitted by the head coach and two designated coaches. Designated coaches may be an associate head coach, assistant coach (graduate and student assistants fall in this category) or volunteer coach. Associate, assistant or volunteer coaches must be on the institutional coaching list for that program. Coaches shall be designated by the head coach to the Referee before the doubles matches and may be re-designated before the singles matches. No more than three coaches may coach at one time during any one segment (doubles or singles) of a match. Designated Player Assistants (see ITA Regulation I.O.3.) are counted in this number. Note: In the absence of a head coach, an assistant coach may be designated as the acting head coach by the institution. (Revised August 2020)
4. *Where coaches may coach.* Coaches are allowed to coach between points and on any breaks of play. Coaches may coach from anywhere on their team’s end of the court, including from outside the fence perimeter. Coaches may coach within the lines of the court so long as play is not delayed. A coach may change courts when the movement will not interrupt or delay play. Delaying play while coaching shall result in a Time Violation.

During the point, the coach’s position and movement shall be limited so as to not distract the players. Coaches may:

- a. sit on either player bench or stand at a net post;
- b. stand on their team’s side of the court between the net post and the service line;
- c. stand on an empty adjacent court on their team’s side of the court, but no closer than the doubles sideline;
- d. stand on an empty adjacent court on the opposing team’s side of the court no closer than the mid-court line.

(Revised August 2018)

5. *Conversations of coach with opposing player banned.* A coach shall not initiate a conversation with the opposing player or in any way get involved with an on-court problem, except at the request of the Chair Umpire, Referee or the player or the coach of the player involved. At no time should a player initiate a conversation with an opposing coach. Violation of these provisions by the coach shall

result in a Coach's Code of Conduct penalty. Violations by the player shall result in the application of the ITA Point Penalty System.

6. *On court problems.* If a coach needs to be consulted due to a problem on the court, it is desirable for the opposing coach to be present.
7. *Control of bench players and team personnel.* Coaches are expected to control the behavior of their players and team personnel at all times. Coaches shall ensure the guidelines for player behavior as outlined in ITA Regulation I.O.2. are followed by bench players and team personnel at all times. Inappropriate behavior will be penalized following the Bench Player Harassment Penalty System (ITA Regulation I.O.1.f.). (Adopted August 2022)
8. *No cheerleading.* Coaches shall not cheerlead. A simple "good shot" or a polite clap is not considered cheerleading.
9. *Electronic communication devices.* Only coaches may use electronic communication devices such as cell phones, smart phones, tablets, etc. for texting and data purposes. Speaking, listening or using any voice-activated features on these devices is not permitted. The use of tablets, video replay or Player Analysis Technology shall not be used during a match for coaching purposes. Players are not allowed to use electronic communication devices at any time. It is permissible for players to wear smartwatches (e.g. Apple Watch, Fitbit, etc.) due to the health and wellness benefits of those devices; HOWEVER, should an Official or Referee observe that a smartwatch is being utilized as an electronic communication device, the official shall notify the player and coach and the smartwatch shall be removed and stored out of sight of the player. (Revised August 2019)

N. Coach's Code of Conduct Penalty System

(Adopted August 2018)

The conduct of all coaches (including the Head Coach, the Assistant Coach or the Volunteer Coach) before, during and after any team competition must be exemplary. Any deviation from this standard shall result in the implementation of the Coach's Code of Conduct Penalty System that assesses the following penalties against the specific coach who commits the offending conduct:

1. *First Violation of the Coach's Code of Conduct.* A point penalty against the coach's player on the court where the offending conduct occurred.
 - a. If the offending conduct occurs off court, then the point penalty shall be assessed by the Referee immediately on the highest match in progress. (Revised August 2019)

- b. If the offending conduct occurs between the doubles and singles matches, then the point penalty shall be assessed by the Referee to the number one singles (or doubles) match at the start of that segment. (Revised August 2019)
 - c. If the Referee assesses the point penalty, there shall be no appeal. If an Official assesses the penalty, the coach may appeal to the Referee whose decision is final.
2. *Second Violation of the Coach's Code of Conduct.* If the coach's improper conduct continues following the point penalty (either as a continuing act that did not stop upon receiving the first penalty or as the result of some new offending conduct by the coach later in the dual match), only the Referee may eject the offending coach immediately from the dual match; this coach shall be barred from coaching for the remainder of the dual match. A second point penalty shall not be assessed in conjunction with the ejection of the coach.

Any offending coach who is ejected by the Referee must immediately (within one minute of being informed of the ejection by the Referee) leave the playing area. The coach may not remain in view of the playing area. If the coach does not leave the playing area, the Referee may declare a default of all of the coach's players or teams whose matches are still in progress or are yet to be played for that dual match. (Revised August 2019)

3. *Reporting ejection.* If the Referee ejects any coach during a dual match, then the Referee must inform the ITA Officiating Department utilizing the "Ejection of a Player or Coach" form, which can be found on the ITA website, within 24 hours of the conclusion of the dual match for review and possible disciplinary action by the ITA Ethics Committee.
4. *Examples of improper conduct.* If any of the following conduct occurs, the offending coach should be issued a Coach's Code of Conduct penalty using the procedures described above. The following examples are provided as guidance for Coaches and Officials in determining what is unacceptable conduct by a Coach:
- a. A Coach may not use any profanity or any obscenity while addressing an official.
 - b. A Coach may not threaten, intimidate or harass an official.
 - c. A Coach may not allude to an Official's pay in any manner while discussing the conduct of the Official during a dual match.
 - d. A Coach may not comment on an Official's physical condition or mental competency.

Nothing in these examples prevents a Coach from disagreeing with an Official's decision or ruling on a question of fact or law, provided the Coach remains professional in all communications with the Official. Even professional communication with an Official may result in a Coach's Code of Conduct penalty if the Coach's communication is unduly prolonged and affects play.

O. Restrictions on Players and Spectators

1. Bench Player Behavior.

- a. *Sportsmanship.* Team members must exhibit exemplary sportsmanship throughout the team event.
- b. *Cheering.* All cheering must be positive and directed at their own team members. There cannot be any remarks made to or about opposing team members. Student-athletes and all team personnel (managers, stringers, strength coaches, trainers, etc.) are prohibited from making any noise during a point and shall refrain from making any direct or indirect comments to opposing players. This includes any noise or comments between first and second serves.
- c. *Harassment.* Heckling, harassment, personal attacks or any negative comments aimed at the officiating crew or the opposition (including but not limited to team members, coaches and their fans) by student-athletes and/or team personnel will not be permitted.
- d. *Interference.* Bench players and team personnel are prohibited from making officiating calls, including but not limited to, foot faults, line calls and lets. If this occurs, a Bench Player Harassment Penalty should be applied once the point has ended.
- e. *Responsibility of control.* Control of bench players and team personnel behavior is the responsibility of the team's coaching staff. Regardless of the coach's actions, if bench players or team personnel violate the behavior expectations, the Bench Player Harassment Penalty System (ITA Regulation I.O.2.f.) shall be applied appropriately by the officiating crew.
- f. *Bench Player Harassment Penalty System:*
 - i. First offense: Official bench warning by Chair Umpire or Referee and notification to the head coach of the offending team.
 - ii. Second offense: Point penalty applied on the court at which the behavior was directed.
 - iii. Third and subsequent offenses: Point penalty applied on all courts still in progress. The penalty shall be

applied as soon as possible regardless of the match score. (Adopted August 2022)

(Revised August 2022)

2. *Allowable Area for Players and Team Personnel.*
 - a. Players are **not** spectators. Non-playing “bench” players and team personnel must remain in the allowable area for bench players and team personnel. The home coach and referee will establish this area at their facility and both head coaches and the Referee shall review this allowable area during the pre-match meeting/line-up exchange. It is preferred that the allowable area is completely separated from spectator seating and is not located behind a court. (Revised August 2022)
 - b. Once an adjacent court opens to any court the bench players are viewing, bench players and team personnel must go to that open court to support their teammates and whenever possible remain on the side of the teammate(s). If an adjacent court is not open to the court the bench players are viewing, bench players and team personnel may remain at their original designated allowable area.
 - c. Players are permitted no closer than the center service line on the adjacent court. The Referee may move the players further away.
 - d. Team members and personnel must sit/stand together as a group when watching a match on the same court.
 - e. All bench players shall wear team uniforms throughout the event to make them distinguishable from the spectators.
3. *Designated Player Assistants (DPAs).* Student athletes who are on an institution’s roster and are not participating in a segment of the dual match may be designated to assist teammates who are playing matches.
 - a. All DPAs must be listed on the institution’s player roster for that specific program.
 - b. The maximum number of coaches and DPAs may not exceed three in any segment of the dual match.
 - c. DPAs may be designated at the start of the dual match and may be re-designated in between segments.
 - d. DPAs must adhere to the parameters outlined in ITA Regulation I.M.
 - i. A point penalty may be assessed by any official if the DPA interferes with the match at any time or violates any of the parameters outlined in ITA Regulation I.M. If a point penalty is assessed, the DPA shall be

- immediately dismissed as a DPA and shall return to the bench player area for the remainder of the dual match. If the Referee assesses the point penalty, there shall be no appeal. If an official assesses the penalty, the player or coach may appeal to the Referee whose decision is final. This player may not be designated as a DPA for the remainder of the dual match. No additional student athletes may become a DPA for the remainder of that segment of the dual match. This player is still eligible to play in a later segment of the dual match if listed in the lineup.
- ii. Dependent upon the nature of the behavior, the DPA may also be ejected by the Referee if the behavior is egregious. See ITA Regulation I.O.2.b. for examples of behavior that would prompt ejection. This list is not exhaustive. This player is not eligible to participate in a later segment of the dual match if listed in the lineup. The coach may remove the player from the lineup and follow the rule regarding lineup changes once a match has begun as stated in ITA Regulation I.D.6 or ITA Regulation I.D.7. A team that is short on players shall follow ITA Regulation I.D.8.

(Adopted August 2020)

4. *Spectator Behavior.* Spectators are to behave with model sportsmanship consistent with the spirit and history of the sport of tennis. Spectators are not allowed to use vulgarity, profanity or make abusive comments toward players and coaches. Spectators are allowed to cheer for their team and for points well-played, however noise that is intended to abuse or distract opponents is not allowed. Artificial noisemakers shall not be used during play. Examples of artificial noisemakers include musical instruments, thundersticks, megaphones, air horns or anything that amplifies sound. It is understood that crowd noise from one court will often occur during play on another court and is part of the dual match environment. Crowd control is the responsibility of the host institution. Officials should first appeal to the host game management for appropriate action when deemed necessary. In the case of no host game management staff, the head coaches are responsible for addressing behavior of their respective fans. An announcement outlining appropriate fan behavior will be made prior to every match (or a policy must be posted or printed and

provided to all entering fans). Alumni, former student-athletes and members of the opposite gender team are considered to be spectators and must remain in spectator areas from the start of the warm-ups to the completion of the last match. The head coach, institutional administrator, event management personnel and officials will be responsible for enforcing penalties when violations of the above policy occur. This penalty system shall be referred to as the Crowd Harassment Penalty System. (Revised August 2020)

- a. Crowd Harassment Penalty System:
 - i. First offense: Warning from event management staff.
 - ii. Second offense: Point penalty and removal from facility.
- b. Where and how to Apply Crowd Harassment penalties:
 - i. Match-specific inappropriate behavior: If the inappropriate behavior is match specific, the point penalty shall be applied to the match on which the behavior occurred.
 - ii. General inappropriate behavior, **not** match-specific: If the inappropriate behavior is generalized and not match specific, the point penalty shall be applied to the highest match still in progress (regardless of whether the dual match is in the doubles or singles portion of the competition).

P. Equipment and Attire

1. Tennis Balls

- a. *Ball usage.*
 - i. *Division I.* In Division I dual matches, three new yellow tennis balls, **USTA/ITF-approved**, shall be used for each doubles set as well as for each set in all singles matches. No new balls shall be given when playing a 10-point match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. (Revised August 2022)
 - ii. *Division II, III, NAIA & JUCO.* In all other Divisions, a minimum of three new yellow tennis balls, **USTA/ITF-approved**, shall be provided for each match. The balls shall be changed at the end of the second set. In Division III and JUCO, it is recommended that four new balls are used in 8-game doubles pro sets. No new balls shall be given when playing a 10-point match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. (Revised August 2022)

- iii. *All Divisions.* Should low tennis ball inventories created by current supply chain issues require the need to modify the ball usage rules stated above, both coaches must agree to those modifications prior to the start of the match. (Adopted August 2022)
- b. *Wilson balls required for ITA Regional, National and All ITA Sanctioned Events.* The Official Tennis Ball of the ITA is the Wilson US Open Extra Duty tennis ball for sea level play and the Wilson US Open High Altitude tennis ball for high altitude play. It shall be used for all ITA Regional and National Championships as well as all ITA sanctioned tournaments.
- c. *Wilson balls recommended for dual matches.* The Official Tennis Ball of the ITA is the Wilson US Open Extra Duty tennis ball for sea level play and the Wilson US Open High Altitude tennis ball for high altitude play. It is highly recommended for all ITA dual match play. Should the host institution wish to utilize a different ball, it shall note the brand and type in the ITA Match contract. (Revised August 2019)
- d. *Tennis ball shortage.* Due to current difficulties surrounding the availability of tennis balls, the ITA Rules Committee recommends reaching out to your dual match opponents prior to the start of the dual match season to confirm the brand and type of tennis ball to be used during competition. Visiting teams with larger inventories of extra duty tennis balls are encouraged to aid home teams with low inventories of extra duty balls (or high altitude balls in high altitude locations). Should current circumstances require the use of a different brand or type (regular duty, etc.) of tennis ball, that ball must be USTA/ITF approved and ample notice should be provided to the visiting institution (minimum of 1 week). (Adopted August 2022)
- e. *Replacement of lost or damaged balls.* The Official shall decide when to replace a lost or damaged ball. If an Official is not available, then both coaches must agree on this decision. Lost or damaged balls shall be replaced with used balls of comparable wear except when a ball is lost or damaged within two games of when new balls were introduced. In this case, a new ball shall be inserted.
- f. *High altitude balls.* High altitude play is defined as play at 4,000 ft above sea level and above. Teams shall utilize a ball designed for high altitude play for dual matches and

tournaments at this altitude and above. Wilson High Altitude Balls are strongly recommended for play at high altitude for ITA sanctioned play.

2. Tennis Attire
 - a. Whenever possible, all ITA competitors should wear their official team uniform during competition, warm-up and the awards ceremonies. If official uniforms are not available, wearing apparel with school emblems or initials is recommended.
 - b. College players' use of all athletic equipment and clothing from a manufacturer or commercial enterprise shall adhere strictly to NCAA rules.

Q. Officials

1. *Home coach is responsible for providing Officials.* The home coach shall have available qualified persons to serve as Officials. In order for an Official to be considered "qualified," the Official must hold a current USTA & ITA certification. To avoid a possible conflict of interest, a student or employee of the college/university should not officiate school matches. Further, all ITA Officials should not officiate any match where they have a conflict of interest (e.g., familial relationship with students, coaches or team personnel).
2. *Officials must possess a current ITA Certification.* The home coach must ensure that all Officials hold a current ITA Certification in order for the match to be considered for ITA Rankings. The Officials' names, along with their ITA Membership Number, for each dual match shall be recorded in the home coach's ITA Scorebook. Failure to use certified Officials may result in the overturning or nullification of the results from the match in question.
3. *Two Officials required for Division I Matches.* Any Division I team wishing to be ranked by the ITA shall provide a certified Official who shall act as the Referee and one other certified Official who shall act as a Roving Official. Failure to do so should be reported immediately to the ITA Office or conference office if it is a conference match. The only exceptions shall be when ITA Officials are not available or when the coaches shall agree in writing before the start of the match that two ITA Officials are not required.
4. *Requests for Officials.* A coach or player may request assistance from an Official if one is available. In any match, when there is a question of law in dispute, the coach or player may request the Referee. In either scenario, the match shall not be suspended for more than five minutes while the Official or Referee is located.

5. *Referee may serve as Chair Umpire.* If no one else is available, the Referee may serve as a Chair Umpire. The Referee continues to serve as Referee to the best of one's ability.
6. *When Referee has only one match under his or her jurisdiction.* Once the Referee has only one match under his or her specific jurisdiction, if requested, the Referee must go into the chair or stand near the net post in order to have a better view of the match.
7. *Uniforms.* Officials shall wear the ITA National Uniform for all ITA dual matches. The ITA uniform shall not be worn at non-collegiate events. (Adopted August 2018)
8. *Referee Reporting.* All player defaults, instances of physical contact, player and coach ejections and post match code violations in ITA Dual matches must be reported in writing to the ITA Officials Department using the appropriate forms, which can be found on the ITA website, within 24 hours of the incident.

R. Trainer

1. *Host school shall provide a certified athletic trainer (ATC).* The host school shall provide the services of a certified athletic trainer, preferably at the match site or at a training facility within a five-minute walk of the match site. If an ATC will not be available for the match, the visiting coach shall be notified in advance. Failure to follow these guidelines shall be reported to the ITA Office or conference office if it is a conference match. (Revised August 2020)
2. *Referee has discretion to determine time allowed to locate trainer.* The Referee shall use discretion in determining the time allotted to locate a trainer if one cannot be found or is not available within five minutes of the injury.

S. Post-Match Considerations

1. *Departure from court within five minutes.* After a dual match, players have five minutes to gather their equipment from the court and leave the immediate playing area.
2. *Complaints and Grievances against Officials.* The appropriate reports below must be used for a complaint against an Official. Any complaint of an Official in a match between two conference teams should also be sent to the conference office. Additionally, behavior occurring at a National Championship should also be sent to the appropriate national governing body.
 - a. *Grievance Against an Official.* If a coach feels that a decision by an Official or the Referee was incorrect and directly affected the result of the team match, the coach should file a written protest utilizing the "Grievance Against an Official" form, which

can be found on the ITA website. Upon receipt of the form, ITA Staff will forward to the appropriate committee for review.

The "Grievance Against an Official" form shall only be used in instances where the decision directly affected the outcome of a match.

- b. *Report of an Official.* If a coach feels that an Official or Referee handled a situation incorrectly at a dual match, the coach should file a written protest utilizing the "Report of an Official" form, which can be found on the ITA website.

The "Report of an Official" form shall be used when the outcome of the match was not directly affected, however the coach feels the ITA rules were not implemented correctly.

- c. *Ethics Complaint Against an Official.* If a coach feels an Official or Referee displayed inappropriate conduct or behavior, on or off court, during a dual match, the coach should file a written protest utilizing the "Ethics Complaint Against an Official" form, which can be found on the ITA website.

(Revised August 2018)

3. *ITA Match Protests.* If a coach believes an ITA dual match was played unfairly, or that the opposing coach did not follow ITA rules, the coach should protest in writing to the ITA. Protest forms and procedures can be found on the ITA website.

T. Post-Match Interviews

In all ITA National Championships the coaches and players shall make themselves available upon request for media interviews within 10 minutes of the completion of their matches. Failure to do so may result in disqualification and/or other ITA-assessed penalties.

U. Eligibility for Collegiate Competition

Only players who are considered eligible for intercollegiate competition at the time of entry:

- By their school; their conference (if any); AND
- By their National governing body (e.g. NCAA or NAIA)

shall be eligible to participate in ITA sanctioned events and regional and national collegiate championships.

Junior players not yet matriculating at a college level and professional players not in school shall not compete in these intercollegiate events.

V. Video Review

PlayFair technology is the only approved form of video review for dual matches. Use of the PlayFair system during regular season, non-conference dual matches shall be specifically addressed in dual match contracts. Use of video review during conference and postseason play

is the decision of each individual conference or governing body (NCAA, NAIA, NJCAA, CCCAA, etc.).

ITA video review policies and procedures shall be utilized for video review matches. A minimum of one ITA Video Review Official shall be used for dual matches (chaired and non-chaired). The Video Review Official shall only handle video review and not other ITA officiating duties, except that an off-court referee may also serve as a Video Review Official. If technology is non-operational on one or more courts at the start of the match, video review shall NOT be utilized unless coaches agree otherwise. If the technology becomes non-operational during the match, the technology shall continue to be used on the remaining courts. (Revised August 2020)

1. PlayFair Policies and Procedures

- a. Players receive 3 challenges per set (includes pro sets and 10 point match tie breaks)
 - i. "Successful" challenges do not count against their total.
 - ii. The PlayFair system will track the challenges (successful, unsuccessful, and number remaining).
- b. Players may utilize one of their challenges in the following scenarios:
 - i. A line call affirmed by official on court.
 - ii. An overrule by official on court.
- c. Challenges MUST be timely. Players shall not use the review process to intentionally slow the pace of play.
- d. If the review process is not timely (within 1.5 minutes), the original call stands. Play should resume immediately.
- e. An official should deny a challenge on a ball that was clearly out.
- f. Only an ITA Video Review Official can overturn a call after reviewing the video. Any video review resulting in the overrule of a player's call will count toward a player's overrule total.
- g. Players & Coaches may NOT approach the kiosk or the video review official (players must remain within the lines of the court during the entire review process; coaches must remain where they were coaching or return to their player's bench).

If, after being cautioned once about approaching the video review official/tablet/kiosk, a player or coach repeats, the official should consider the PPS or Coach's Code of Conduct to deter this conduct.
- h. Players & Coaches should not continue to dispute or discuss the call during the challenge process.

- i. To overturn the call, the Video Review Official must conclude that the video CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES that the challenged call was erroneous (i.e., the Video Review Official is 100% positive that the video shows the original line call or overrule was inaccurate).

It is expected that some video reviews will be inconclusive (particularly if the camera is not on the line); when reviews are inconclusive the call on the court stands.

- j. The review process should not become its own spectacle.
 - i. There should be no arguing or discussion. The review process should be conducted in the most discreet way possible so as to not interrupt other matches.
 - ii. The Video Review Official must make a decision quickly (i.e., the Video Review Official cannot replay the video 10 times to reach a decision).

II. INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION — SINGLES AND DOUBLES TOURNAMENTS

A. The Code

USTA Rules & Regulations are in effect in college tennis except where explicitly superseded by ITA, NCAA, NAIA, NJCAA, CCCAA or Conference Rules. The Code is not part of the ITA Rules of Tennis. Players shall follow The Code unless there is a specific ITA Rule on point or except to the extent to which an Official assumes some of their responsibilities.

B. Scoring and Formats for Individual Play

All ITA Sanctioned individual tournaments shall determine their format of play.

1. *NCAA Division I, II and NAIA*: No-ad scoring shall be used in all ITA, national, regional and sanctioned matches. (Revised August 2019)
2. *NCAA Division III and Junior and Community College*: Regular scoring shall be used in all ITA national, regional, and sanctioned matches, unless the tournament committee decides otherwise.

C. Warm-up

1. *Five minute warm-up under normal conditions*. Players shall have a maximum of five minutes for warm-up before a match. The Chair Umpire or tournament Referee shall time the warm-up. Otherwise the coaches must oversee the warm-up period.
2. *All warm-up serves must be taken before the start of play*. All warm-up serves must be taken before the start of play. If the match is umpired, the Umpire should give a warning when two minutes are left in the warm-up.

3. *Match starts with warm-up.* The official start of a match is marked when the on court warm-up begins between the two opponents (or doubles teams). It is mandatory to warm-up with the opponent/opposing doubles team.

D. Seeding

1. *All ITA sanctioned tournaments shall use the All Factors Method of seeding.* The All Factors Method of seeding is based on the players' chances of winning the tournament as determined by the Tournament Committee. The Tournament Committee shall consider all reasonably available information, including ranking lists, standing lists, recent records, types of surface and head-to-head encounters.
2. *Number of seeds.* The number of players seeded shall equal a power of two (for example, 1, 2, 4, 8, 16 or 32). The maximum ratio of players seeded shall be one to three, except that any draw may have one or two seeds.

E. Starting Time & Lateness Penalties

1. *Starting time.* All players should be ready promptly at the specified starting time. By mutual agreement of the coaches, individual matches may be delayed by a predetermined period of time to accommodate a player late for a legitimate reason.
2. *Default after 15 minutes.* In all ITA events (singles, doubles & team), the Referee, after consultation with the Games Committee, may default a player or team for being 15 minutes late for the starting time of the match.
3. *Game penalties for lateness.* If a court is available, the Referee may penalize the late player or team one game for each five minutes or fraction thereof of lateness. The late player or team also loses the toss. No more than three games shall be assessed for lateness.

F. Rest Periods, Continuous Play and Time Between Matches

1. *No rest periods between second and third sets.* There shall be no rest period between the second and third sets. **Extreme Heat:** If the temperature is 90° at the start of the match, the players shall be offered a 10-minute rest period between the second and third sets.
2. *Rest between matches.* After a match that lasts more than one hour, a player may receive a rest period of up to 45 minutes. After a match that lasts more than one and one half hours, a player may receive a rest period of up to one hour. The Tournament Committee has the discretion to modify these rules.

G. General Rules

1. *Conference rules.* Conference rules shall supersede ITA rules when it is an individual conference tournament.
2. *Bona fide institutional representative.* Each team should be accompanied by a bona fide institutional representative at all matches.
3. *The home institution is responsible for spectator conduct.* The home institution shall make sure that the behavior of the spectators remains fair and non-abusive. Failure to ensure proper behavior shall result in the application of the crowd harassment penalty system (see ITA Regulation II.P.3.) against the offending team and in extreme cases forfeiture of the match. At a neutral location, each team shall be responsible for the conduct of their respective spectators. (Revised August 2019)
4. *Moving matches to other courts.* Once a match has begun, it shall remain on the same court until its conclusion, unless both coaches agree to move it to another court. In an ITA national or sanctioned event, the Referee or Games Committee may move matches, if necessary. In all divisions, the match is considered to have started when the players begin warming up together on the court.
5. *Unfinished matches do not count.* Unfinished or unplayed matches in ITA sanctioned tournaments do not count toward a player's win/loss record or for rankings.
6. *Failing to play after a tournament has started.* Once a tournament has started, failure to play a match shall result in a default. This loss and any subsequent losses do not count toward a player's win/loss record or for rankings. (Revised August 2021)
7. *Consequences of failing to follow ITA rules.* Failure to follow ITA rules in any ITA sanctioned tournament may cause the forfeiture of the ITA sanction, and the results from such an event may not be considered for ITA ranking purposes.

H. Calls in matches with a Chair Umpire or with no Chair Umpire and no Line Umpires

Many college matches are played without the assistance of a Chair Umpire and Line Umpires. Some matches are officiated by a Chair Umpire or a Roving Umpire. In all these matches, the players have the primary responsibility for making the calls. The following principles apply in these matches.

1. *Players make calls aimed at their side of the court.* Players shall make all calls on shots aimed at their side of the court. An official in direct observation of the court shall not assist the player in making any line call with any kind of verbal or non-verbal signal. An official in direct

- observation of the court may immediately confirm or correct “out” calls made by a player. (Revised August 2020)
2. *Opponent gets benefit of the doubt.* Whenever a player is in doubt, the player shall make the call in favor of the opponent. Balls should be called “out” only when there is a space visible between the ball and the line. A player shall never seek aid from a Chair Umpire, Roving Umpire, spectator, teammate or coach in making a line call.
 3. *Disagreement between partners over a call.* A doubles partner is obligated to disagree with the partner if an erroneous call is made. When doubles partners disagree on a call, the point goes to the opposing team. The point is never replayed. (Revised August 2022)
 4. *Balls that a player does not see.* There are no “unsighted” calls. If a player does not see the opponent’s shot, the player shall call the ball good. A player shall never seek aid from a Chair Umpire, Roving Umpire, spectator, teammate or coach in making a line call. The Chair Umpire and Roving Umpires shall not give assistance on balls that a player does not see.
 5. *Out calls must be made immediately.* “Out” calls must be made immediately. The call shall be made before either an opponent has hit the return or the return has gone out of play. If no immediate audible or visible call is made, the ball shall be considered good.
 6. *Clay court procedure.* Players may quickly check a mark before making a call on their side of the net.
 7. *Correcting an erroneous “out” call – opponent wins point.* A player shall reverse the “out” call if the player realizes a mistake has been made or if uncertain of the call. The point goes to the opponent. It is never replayed.
 8. *Players are obligated to call their own ball “out” if it is clearly out.* Players shall call the ball “out” if it is clearly out. This rule does not apply to a player’s first serve. See reference in “The Code” C.13.
 9. *How to challenge an opponent’s call.* An opponent’s call may be challenged by the query: “Are you sure of your call?” No further discussion or delay is permitted. If the player making the call is uncertain, the player loses the point. It is never replayed.
 10. *Players shall not cross the net to point out a mark or discuss a problem.* A player shall not cross the net during play to point out a mark or discuss a problem. A player who does shall be penalized under the ITA Point Penalty System.
 11. *Touches, invasion of opponent’s court, reaching over the net, double bounces and ball striking permanent fixture.* Calls involving a ball touching a player, a player touching the net, a player touching

the opponent's court, hitting an opponent's return before it has passed the net and a double bounce must be called by the player committing the infraction. A shot striking a permanent fixture shall be called out by the player(s) toward whom the shot is aimed. An official in direct observation of the court should make these calls immediately. (Revised August 2018)

12. *Service Lets.* In all divisions, there are no service lets. If the serve hits the net and goes into the proper service box, the ball is in play. (Revised August 2022)
13. *Lets.* The Chair Umpire or the Roving Umpire may call a let for a ball that is endangering a player or interruption of play.
14. *Only a coach or player may request an Official on court.* In a match, a coach or player may request assistance from an Official if one is available. In any match, when there is a question of law in dispute, the coach or player may request the Referee. In either scenario, the match shall not be suspended for more than five minutes while an Official or the Referee is located.
15. *Foot faults.* A player shall not call a foot fault on an opponent. All foot faults must be called by an Official.
16. *Server shall call score before each point.* The server shall call the score before each point except when there is a Chair Umpire or scorekeeper assigned to the match.
17. *Settling disagreements over the score.* If a disagreement over the score occurs, the methods for settling the dispute in order of preference are:
 - a. Count all points and games agreed upon by the players, with only the disputed points or games being replayed;
 - b. Resume play from a score mutually agreeable to the players;
 - c. Use a coin flip.
18. *Hindrance-loud outburst following a perceived winning shot.* A Chair Umpire or Roving Umpire (only if standing at the net post) should immediately call a "hindrance – loss of point" when a player(s) makes a loud noise following a perceived winning shot that the opponent(s) has a play on.

I. Service and Service Returns

1. *No more than 25 seconds between points.* Both the server and receiver must be ready to begin the next point within 25 seconds of when the ball went out of play. Each player has the right to the full 25 seconds to prepare for the next point. (Revised August 2018)
2. *Feinting, changing position and intentional distraction.* A player may feint with the body while the ball is in play. A player may change

position at any time, including while the server is tossing the ball. Any movement or sound that is made solely to distract an opponent, including, but not limited to, waving the arms or racquet or stamping the feet, is not allowed.

3. *The receiver's partner shall not enter receiver's service box before or during the serve.* If a player does so, the player shall be warned that if it happens again it is subject to being penalized under the ITA Point Penalty System.
4. *Receiver who corrects a fault call to good loses the point.* If the receiver calls a fault and then changes the call to good, the receiver loses the point. (Revised August 2022)
5. *If a receiver is ready, then the receiver's partner is deemed ready.* If the receiver has indicated readiness and the server then serves, the receiver's partner cannot claim a let because of unreadiness. The receiver's indication of being ready signifies that the team is ready.
6. *No-Ad scoring.* When using no-ad scoring, the receiver may not change their side choice on a deciding point if the point is replayed for any reason. (Adopted August 2019)

J. Overrules (Adopted August 2020)

1. *Overrule must be immediate.* It is the responsibility of the player to make an initial line call. An official in direct observation of a court shall immediately overrule a player's erroneous "out" call. The official shall overrule the call only if absolutely certain the call was erroneous. A player shall not directly verbally appeal an opponent's call to an official except in the case of a first serve fault that is played by the receiver. A player who excessively questions an official about an opponent's line calls may be penalized under the ITA Point Penalty System.
2. *First serve.* The server (or server's partner in doubles) may make a spontaneous reaction to a returned first serve and then immediately stop play and verbally appeal to an official in direct observation of the court if the serve was out. If the official confirms the serve is in, the server loses the point. If the official determines the serve is a fault, the server shall play a second serve and the receiver shall not be penalized with an overrule. (Revised August 2022)
3. *Penalties for being overruled.*
 - a. *One-set matches.* A player/team who has been overruled more than once shall be penalized under the ITA Point Penalty System. If an official has overruled a player or doubles team once, the official shall penalize each subsequent overrule under the ITA Point Penalty System. (Adopted August 2022)

b. *Two- and three-set matches.* A player/team who has been overruled more than twice shall be penalized under the ITA Point Penalty System. If an official has overruled a player or doubles team twice, the official shall penalize each subsequent overrule under the ITA Point Penalty System. (Revised August 2022)

4. *Procedure with additional officials on court.* When a match has a far side linesperson or other on-court officials in addition to a chair umpire, and those additional line umpires are not making calls directly, the Chair Umpire may consult the far side linesperson or other on court official before confirming or overruling the call.
5. *Coach may overrule own player.* A coach may overrule a call made by his or her own player if either of the following conditions are met:
 - a. There is no official present.
 - b. There is an official present but the official chooses not to overrule the player.

Any such overrule by the coach shall not count toward the player or team's number of overrules by an official. (Adopted August 2021)

K. Inclement Weather & Extreme Heat

Collegiate tennis is an outdoor sport. All ITA sanctioned tournament matches shall be played outdoors unless weather or court conditions threaten the health and safety of student athletes or if contracted otherwise.

1. *Tournament Director, Referee and/or Games Committee determine if matches will be moved indoors.* The Tournament Director, Referee and/or Games Committee will decide if matches shall be played indoors based on current and forecasted weather conditions.
2. *Matches moved indoors stay indoors.* If matches are moved indoors due to inclement weather or darkness, they shall stay indoors until completion.
3. *Extreme Heat.* If the temperature is 90° or higher according to www.weather.com at the start of the match, the players shall be offered a 10-minute rest period between the second and third sets. This rest period does not apply to matches playing a 10-point tie break in lieu of a third set. The heat rule shall be reevaluated upon the resumption of a suspended match. (Revised August 2020)

L. Timeouts, Bathroom Visits and Equipment Adjustment

1. *Medical timeout.* The USTA regulation on medical timeouts applies with the following exceptions (these ITA Medical and Bleeding Timeout procedures are also summarized in the back of the book in ITA Table 6 – Medical and Bleeding Timeouts):

- a. *Treatment on changeover or set break.* In all divisions, a player may be treated on any changeover or set break. This treatment is not considered a medical timeout. Direct treatment by a trainer at any other time is only allowed if a medical timeout is being taken. (Revised August 2022)
- b. *Bleeding timeouts.* In all divisions, bleeding timeouts follow the USTA Regulation for bleeding timeouts with the exception that players may utilize the ITA PPS should the player begin bleeding from the same area again later in the match. The PPS may not be utilized immediately following a Bleeding Timeout. A Medical Timeout shall NOT be taken to deal with bleeding. A player who receives treatment for bleeding solely within a changeover or set break shall not be charged with a Bleeding Timeout. (Revised August 2020)
- c. *Medical timeouts – all divisions.* In all divisions, a player may have only one medical timeout. (An MTO taken during warm-up in individual tournaments counts as the player's one MTO for the match.) A player who needs an additional medical timeout shall be retired. Once the trainer starts talking to the player or touches the player, the trainer has a maximum of five minutes for diagnosis and treatment. The maximum amount of time for treatment shall be three minutes. (Revised August 2022)

If a Men's Division I player takes a medical timeout, the player shall be assessed one point. This assessed point is not part of the Point Penalty System.

- d. *Concussion Timeouts.*
 - i. *Concussions.* A concussion is a brain injury that is most commonly caused by a blow to the head or trunk, or by the head or body forcefully impacting the ground. Concussions most commonly occur without loss of consciousness. Typically, there are subtle indications that a concussion has occurred, such as the student-athlete shaking his head, stumbling, or appearing dazed or stunned.

The following behaviors may be exhibited by a player with a suspected concussion:

 - Appears dazed or stunned.
 - Appears confused or incoherent.
 - Shakes head.
 - Stumbles; has to be physically supported by teammates.

- Moves clumsily or awkwardly.
 - Shows behavior or personality changes.
- ii. If a possible concussion is suspected:
 1. Evaluation. Immediately call a concussion timeout. Have the player evaluated immediately by an appropriate health care professional. An official, coach, teammate or other non-medical personnel should not try to judge the severity of the injury.
 2. Time allowed. Once the trainer begins talking to the player, the trainer has a maximum of 15 minutes to definitively eliminate the possibility of a concussion. If a concussion cannot be definitively eliminated within 15 minutes, the player shall be retired.
 - iii. *Separate from a medical timeout.* Concussion evaluation is separate from a medical timeout. A player shall not be charged with a medical timeout if evaluated for a concussion. Likewise, a Men's Division I player shall not be assessed a point penalty for being evaluated for a concussion.

(Adopted August 2022)

- e. *Coach may assist after obvious injury.* When an obvious injury occurs, a coach may assist and touch the player until the trainer arrives to diagnose and treat the injury.
 - f. *Trainer always available.* A trainer shall always be available to assist the player.
2. *Bathroom breaks.* In all divisions, a player must ask an Official to use the bathroom. The Official may refuse this request if the Official determines that the player is resorting to gamesmanship.
 - a. *Division I & II.* (Revised January 2019)
 - i. *Bathroom break.* In Divisions I & II, players are allowed one bathroom break during a match. The bathroom break may only occur on a set break and may include up to three (3) minutes additional time for a total of up to five (5) minutes. The Referee will determine the additional time pre-match and notify head coaches during the pre-match meeting. There shall be no additional "travel time" added to the bathroom break.
 - ii. *Changeover and set break.* Players may use the bathroom during any 90 second changeover or two (2) minute set break with the permission of an official. Players will only

- have the specific increment of time for that bathroom visit — no additional time for travel shall be added.
- iii. *Other times.* If a player wishes to use the bathroom during any other time, this is treated as the player's one medical timeout (if the player has not already taken his or her medical time out). The time given for the medical timeout for bathroom usage shall match the total time given for the bathroom break (not to exceed 5 minutes). There shall be no additional "travel time" added to this medical time out.
 - iv. *Late return.* Late return from the bathroom for any of the above scenarios will result in time violation penalties until the player is ready to play. Time violations accrued from lateness when returning from a bathroom visit are separate from time violations accrued during play. (Adopted August 2019)
- b. *Division III, NAIA and JUCO.* In Division III, NAIA and JUCO a player may use the bathroom when they have a genuine need. Bathroom breaks should be taken on set breaks or changeovers. Breaks taken at other times should be limited to genuine emergencies. The Referee shall determine "reasonable time" for a bathroom break based upon proximity of toilets to the courts, not to exceed 15 minutes. Lateness past the predetermined "reasonable time" results in Time Violation penalties until the player is ready to play. Time violations accrued from lateness when returning from a bathroom visit are separate from time violations accrued during play. (Revised August 2019)
3. *Contact lenses.* Loss of a contact lens is considered an equipment timeout. The Official may give the player up to fifteen minutes to take care of the problem. This is not considered a medical timeout.
 4. *Foreign objects in the eye.* The Official may give a player who gets dust, an insect or a foreign object in the eye a three minute timeout to take care of the problem. This is not considered a medical timeout.
 5. *Refusal to give timeout when underlying purpose is gamesmanship.* The Referee or Official may refuse to give a player a timeout the player is otherwise entitled to receive if the Referee concludes that the player is clearly resorting to gamesmanship.
 6. *Player who defaults from consolation singles normally may not play doubles later that day.* A player who is defaulted or retires from the consolation singles due to injury or loss of conditioning may not play in the main draw doubles later the same day. The Games

committee may waive this rule if a doctor or on-site official trainer confers with the player and provides written documentation of the injury or loss of condition.

M. ITA Point Penalty System, Defaults and Unintentional Time Violations

1. *Unsportsmanlike conduct is punished under ITA Point Penalty System.* Ethical and sportsmanlike conduct of players must be observed at all times. Inappropriate conduct includes but is not limited to:
 - a. Visible or audible obscenity or profanity;
 - b. Racquet abuse;
 - c. Ball abuse;
 - d. Verbal or physical abuse of an Official or player;
 - e. Delay after a medical timeout, treatment at a changeover, being directed to resume play or a time violation;
 - f. *Unsportsmanlike conduct.* A player who engages in such conduct commits a code violation and is subject to being penalized under the ITA Point Penalty System.
 - i. Being overruled more than allowed according to ITA Regulation I.I.3; and
 - ii. Spitting at or in the direction of an opponent or an Official will be a code violation and possible default. Spitting on the court will be cautioned. The player will be asked to spit off the court or through the fence. If the player continues to spit on the court, it will be a code violation.
2. *Referee may advise players and coaches about the ITA Point Penalty System.* The Referee may issue a general explanation to players and coaches before the match about the ITA Point Penalty System. The Referee may define appropriate court behavior and enumerate specific types of conduct violations and unsportsmanlike conduct in general.
3. *Only Referee, Chair Umpire and Roving Umpires may assess code violations.* Only the Referee, Chair Umpire and Roving Umpires may implement the ITA Point Penalty System, unless both coaches agree otherwise. In a non-Division I match if there is no Official, both coaches must confer and agree before assessing a code violation, unless coaches are coding their own player(s).
4. *Coach assessed penalty.* Coaches may assess a point penalty or default at any time against their own player/team for any inappropriate conduct if either of the following conditions are met:
 - a. There is no official present.
 - b. There is an official present but the official chooses not to penalize the player.

Any such point assessed by the coach shall not be part of the ITA Point Penalty System for that match. (Revised August 2021)

5. *ITA Point Penalty System.* The ITA Point Penalty System, consists of the following:

- a. Point Penalty
- b. Game Penalty
- c. Default

The “Warning” is **not** a part of the ITA Point Penalty System. If the conduct warrants it, the Referee is authorized to default a player/ doubles team without having first given lesser penalties under the ITA PPS. Conduct worthy of an immediate default includes but is not limited to:

- Verbal or visual profanity that is hostile or severe in nature and directed toward an opponent, coach, official, or spectator.
- Ethnic, Religious, Racial, or Homophobic Slurs.
- Physical contact with an opponent, opposing coach, spectator or official
- If a ball is struck in anger or a racquet is thrown in anger, and the object strikes an individual (e.g. opponent, opposing coach, spectator or official)

(Revised August 2020)

6. *Issuing a Code Violation.* When issuing a Code Violation, the Official must do so before there has been an intervening point and must have directly observed or heard the violation.
7. *Default.* The designated Referee has the sole power to default players during ITA sanctioned tournaments. Coaches shall have the opportunity to offer an explanation of the situation to the designated Referee.

A Chair Umpire or Roving Umpire may give point and game penalties. The Chair Umpire or Roving Umpire shall inform the Referee so that the Referee can stand by in case a default must be given. (Revised August 2018)

8. *Referee imposed penalties.* Only the Referee may impose the following:

- a. Default of a player
- b. Ejection of a player or team personnel
- c. Carryover Code Violation Penalties

Note: Any official may assess a Post-Match Code Violation. The Referee must be notified of any Carryover Code Violations and the Referee will determine when and where to implement the penalty. The Referee may delegate the implementation of point

or game Carryover Code Violations to another official. Only the Referee may implement a Default Carryover Code Violation.

- d. Off court violations of the Coach's Code of Conduct
- e. Ejection of a coach
- f. Ejection of a Designated Player Assistant

(Revised August 2020)

9. *In doubles, code violations are assessed against the team.* In doubles, the players are penalized as a team and not as individual players.

10. *ITA Carryover Rules.* The following ITA carryover rules shall be used in national and sanctioned singles and doubles tournaments:

- a. *Penalties assessed during a match do not carry over to next match.* The ITA Point Penalty System is cumulative throughout any individual singles or doubles match, but is also self-contained. All penalties assessed during a match will be erased at the end of the match. The next match (whether singles or doubles) will start with a "clean slate."
- b. *Carry-over of code violations occurring after a match is over to player's next match.* If a player commits a code violation after the singles match is over, the penalty shall be assessed:
 - i. At the start of the player's next singles match (consolation or main draw); but
 - ii. If the player has been eliminated from all singles competitions, then the penalty will be assessed at the start of the player's next doubles match.

If a player commits a code violation after the doubles match is over, the penalty shall be assessed:

- iii. At the start of the next doubles match (consolation or main draw); but
 - iv. If the player has been eliminated from the doubles competition, the penalty will be assessed at the start of the next singles match. (Note that in this case the penalty will be assessed against only the player who committed the violation and not against both team members.)
- c. *Doubles partners are treated as a team.* For the purpose of imposing carryover penalties after a doubles match, the two doubles players remain a team until one or both of them have left the court.
 - d. *Carryover penalties are not part of progressive schedule of penalties for next match.* When a penalty is assessed under the carryover provision, that penalty does not count as part of the progressive schedule of penalties for that match.

For example, Player A, who has just lost, commits a code violation after the singles match. Player A is entitled to play in the singles consolation so the penalty will be assessed at the start of the consolation match. Player A then commits a code violation during the consolation match. The player is assessed a point penalty for that violation.

- e. *Multiple Offenses.* The Point Penalty System is in effect for carryover purposes. If more than one violation occurs following a player's participation, that player may be subject to a game penalty or default to be applied under the carry over provisions.
 - f. *Loss of toss.* All carryover code violations resulting in a point or game penalty also include loss of toss.
 - g. *Singles player who is defaulted may normally play doubles.* A player who is defaulted in singles may play doubles, except when the Referee (or the Referee in consultation with the Tournament Committee in the case of an ITA national or sanctioned event) determine that extraordinary and extreme circumstances (see ITA Regulation II.M.12.) exist which require that the player be barred from playing doubles.
 - h. *Doubles player who is defaulted may normally play singles.* A member of a doubles team that is defaulted may play singles, except when the Referee (or the Referee in consultation with the Tournament Committee in the case of an ITA national or sanctioned event) determine that extraordinary and extreme circumstances (see ITA Regulation II.M.12.) exist which require that the player be barred from playing singles.
11. *Penalties for overrules.* If any Official has overruled a player or doubles team multiple times in accordance with ITA Regulation I.I.3., the Official shall penalize each appropriate subsequent overrule under the ITA Point Penalty System. Overrules are match specific and do not transfer to their next match (e.g., if a player is overruled three times in doubles, the player starts over with a clean slate in singles). The failure to have a first serve fault appeal upheld is not treated as an overrule. (Revised August 2022)
- Coaches may overrule their own player in accordance with ITA Regulation II.J.7. (Revised August 2021)
12. *Physical contact prohibited.* All physical contact between opposing players, opposing coaches, a player and a coach, a player and an Official or a coach and an Official is strictly prohibited. The Referee (or the Referee in consultation with the Tournament Committee in the case of ITA national and sanctioned events) shall immediately default any player who initiates contact.

- a. *Singles player is barred from playing doubles.* If the offense takes place in singles and the offending player is playing doubles, the player shall be barred from doubles. Any carryover penalties that were assessed shall be applied (including a carryover default penalty).
 - b. *Doubles player is barred from playing singles.* If the offense takes place during or immediately following doubles, the offending player shall be barred from playing singles. Any carryover penalties that were assessed shall be applied (including a carryover default penalty). If the offending player is not playing singles, the player shall be barred from playing doubles in the next individual tournament.
 - c. *Physical contact reporting.* All of the above instances of physical contact shall be reported to the ITA Officiating Department by the Referee immediately following the match utilizing the "Post-Match Code Violation" form, which can be found on the ITA website. ITA Staff shall review all reported incidents. (Adopted August 2018)
13. *Time violations.* Time violations occur when a player takes more than 25 seconds between points, takes more than 90 seconds on change overs or takes more than 120 seconds on a set break. A warning shall be given for the first violation. Subsequent delays shall be penalized by a point loss for each violation, with no accumulation. These violations are not part of the ITA Point Penalty system. Time violations accrued from lateness when returning from a bathroom visit are separate from time violations accrued during play. (Revised August 2019)
14. *Loud grunting or outbursts.*
- a. *Player outbursts – adjacent courts.* Following a complaint from any player on an adjacent court, an official who hears a verbal outburst or grunting that is loud enough to disrupt play shall caution the offending player that subsequent outbursts shall be penalized under the ITA Point Penalty System.
 - b. *Player grunting – same court.* Following a complaint from any player on the same court, an official who hears grunting that is loud enough to disrupt play shall call a deliberate hindrance on the offending player (causing the offending player to lose the point in play).
 - c. *Player outbursts – foreign language.* If a loud outburst is in a language that the official does not understand, the official shall caution the player that further foreign language

outbursts that are not understood by the official will be penalized as unsportsmanlike conduct under the ITA Point Penalty System.

15. *Referee at ITA national and sanctioned events may disqualify a player after consultation with the Tournament Committee.* The Referee of ITA national and sanctioned events may disqualify a player after consultation with the Tournament Committee. The Referee is always a member of the Tournament Committee at all ITA national and sanctioned events.
16. *Referee shall report defaults to the ITA.* All defaults for misconduct must be reported by the Referee to the ITA Officiating Department utilizing the "Default of a Player" form, which can be found on the ITA website, within 24 hours for review and possible disciplinary action by the ITA Ethics Committee. (Revised August 2018)
17. *Player or coach ejected from tournament.* A player or coach ejected from a match must leave the tennis venue and is barred from coaching for the remainder of that day of the individual competition. and not be in an area where they are visible or in viewing distance. All ejections must be reported by the Referee to the ITA Officiating Department utilizing the "Ejection of a Player or Coach" form, which can be found on the ITA website, within 24 hours for review and possible disciplinary action by the ITA Ethics Committee. (Revised August 2018)

N. Coaching

1. *When coaching is allowed.* A coach may coach a player any time during the match so long as the coach does not interfere with play.
2. *Penalties when coach interferes with play.* Coaches shall not interfere with play, which includes making officiating calls, including but not limited to, foot faults, "out" calls and lets. However, coaches do still have the ability to overrule their own player. If a coach interferes in the play of a point, the coach's player/team shall lose that point for Coach's Interference. A Coach's Code of Conduct penalty may also be assessed by an official if the interference is determined to be egregious. (Revised August 2022)
3. *Who may coach.* Coaching is permitted by the head coach and two designated coaches. Designated coaches may be an associate head coach, assistant coach (graduate and student assistants fall in this category) or volunteer coach. Associate, assistant or volunteer coaches must be on the institutional coaching list for that program. No more than three coaches may coach at any one time during the tournament. Designated Player Assistants (see ITA

Regulation II.P.2.) are counted in this number. Note: In the absence of a head coach, an assistant coach may be designated as the acting head coach by the institution. (Revised August 2020)

4. *Where coaches may coach.* Coaches are allowed to coach between points and on any breaks of play. Coaches may coach from anywhere on their team's end of the court, including from outside the fence perimeter. Coaches may coach within the lines of the court so long as play is not delayed. A coach may change courts when the movement will not interrupt or delay play. Delaying play while coaching shall result in a Time Violation.

During the point, the coach's position and movement shall be limited so as to not distract the players. Coaches may:

- a. sit on either player bench or stand at a net post;
- b. stand on their team's side of the court between the net post and the service line;
- c. stand on an empty adjacent court on their team's side of the court, but no closer than the doubles sideline;
- d. stand on an empty adjacent court on the opposing team's side of the court no closer than the mid-court line.

(Revised August 2018)

5. *Conversations of coach with opposing player banned.* A coach shall not initiate a conversation with the opposing player or in any way get involved with an on-court problem, except at the request of the Chair Umpire tournament Referee, or the player or the coach of the player involved. At no time should a player initiate a conversation with an opposing coach. Violation of these provisions by the coach shall result in a Coach's Code of Conduct penalty. Violations by the player shall result in the application of the ITA Point Penalty System.
6. *On court problems.* If a coach needs to be consulted due to a problem on the court, it is desirable for the opposing coach to be present.
7. *Control of bench players and team personnel.* Coaches are expected to control the behavior of their players and team personnel at all times. Coaches shall ensure the guidelines for player behavior as outlined in ITA Regulation I.O.2. are followed by bench players and team personnel at all times. Inappropriate behavior will be penalized following the Bench Player Harassment Penalty System (ITA Regulation I.O.1.f.). (Adopted August 2022)
8. *No cheerleading.* Coaches shall not cheerlead. A simple "good shot" or a polite clap is not considered cheerleading.

9. *Electronic communication devices.* Only coaches may use electronic communication devices such as cell phones, smart phones, tablets, etc. for texting and data purposes. Speaking, listening or using any voice-activated features on these devices is not permitted. The use of tablets, video replay or Player Analysis Technology shall not be used during a match for coaching purposes. Players are not allowed to use electronic communication devices at any time. It is permissible for players to wear smartwatches (e.g. Apple Watch, Fitbit, etc.) due to the health and wellness benefits of those devices; HOWEVER, should an official or Referee observe that a smartwatch is being utilized as an electronic communication device, the Official shall notify the player and coach and the smartwatch shall be removed and stored out of sight of the player. (Revised August 2019)

O. Coach's Code of Conduct Penalty System

(Adopted August 2018)

The conduct of all coaches (including the Head Coach, the Assistant Coach or the Volunteer Coach) before, during and after any individual competition must be exemplary. Any deviation from this standard shall result in the implementation of the Coach's Code of Conduct Penalty System which assesses the following penalties against the specific coach who commits the offending conduct:

1. *First Violation of the Coach's Code of Conduct.* A point penalty against the coach's player on the court where the offending conduct occurred.
 - a. If the offending conduct occurs off court, then the point penalty shall be assessed by the Referee immediately on the match furthest in progress. (Revised August 2019)
 - b. If the offending conduct occurs between individual matches, then the point penalty shall be assessed by the Referee to the next match scheduled to be played (it could possibly be assessed on the next date of competition if there are no remaining matches that day). (Revised August 2019)
 - c. If the Referee assesses the point penalty, there shall be no appeal. If an Official assesses the penalty, the coach may appeal to the Referee whose decision is final.
2. *Second Violation of the Coach's Code of Conduct.* If the coach's improper conduct continues following the point penalty (either as a continuing act that did not stop upon receiving the point penalty or as the result of some new offending conduct by the coach later in the individual competition), only the Referee may eject the offending coach immediately from the individual competition

and that coach is barred from coaching for the remainder of that day of the individual competition. The coach shall also be referred to the Games Committee/Tournament Committee of that individual competition for any further disciplinary action that the Games Committee/Tournament Committee deems necessary and appropriate. A second point penalty shall not be assessed in conjunction with the ejection of the coach.

Any offending coach that is ejected by the Referee must immediately (within one minute of being informed of the ejection by the Referee) leave playing area. The coach may not remain in view of the playing area. If the coach does not leave the playing area, the Referee may declare a default of all of the coach's players or teams whose matches are still in progress or are yet to be played for that day of competition. (Revised August 2019)

3. *Reporting ejection.* If the Referee ejects any coach during any day of an individual competition, then the Referee must inform the ITA utilizing the "Ejection of a Player or Coach" form, which can be found on the ITA website, within 24 hours of the conclusion of the individual match for review and possible disciplinary action by the ITA Ethics Committee.
4. *Examples of improper conduct.* If any of the following conduct occurs, the offending coach should be issued a Coach's Code of Conduct penalty using the procedures described above. The following examples are provided as guidance for Coaches and Officials in determining what is unacceptable conduct by a Coach:
 - a. A Coach may not use any profanity or any obscenity while addressing an Official.
 - b. A Coach may not threaten, intimidate or harass an Official.
 - c. A Coach may not allude to an Official's pay in any manner while discussing the conduct of the Official during a dual match.
 - d. A Coach may not comment on an Official's physical condition or mental competency.

Nothing in these examples prevents a Coach from disagreeing with an Official's decision or ruling on a question of fact or law provided the Coach remains professional in all communications with the Official. Even professional communication with an Official may result in a Coach's Code of Conduct penalty if the Coach's communication is unduly prolonged and affects play.

P. Restrictions on Players and Spectators

1. *Bench Player Behavior.*

- a. *Sportsmanship.* Team members must exhibit exemplary sportsmanship throughout the team event.
- b. *Cheering.* All cheering must be positive and directed at their own team members. There cannot be any remarks made to or about opposing team members. Student-athletes and all team personnel (managers, stringers, strength coaches, trainers, etc.) are prohibited from making any noise during a point and shall refrain from making any direct or indirect comments to opposing players. This includes any noise or comments between first and second serves.
- c. *Harassment.* Heckling, harassment, personal attacks or any negative comments aimed at the officiating crew or the opposition (including but not limited to team members, coaches and their fans) by student-athletes and/or team personnel will not be permitted.
- d. *Interference.* Bench players and team personnel are prohibited from making officiating calls, including but not limited to, foot faults, line calls and lets. If this occurs, a Bench Player Harassment Penalty should be applied once the point has ended.
- e. *Responsibility of control.* Control of bench players and team personnel behavior is the responsibility of the team's coaching staff. Regardless of the coach's actions, if bench players or team personnel violate the behavior expectations, the Bench Player Harassment Penalty System (ITA Regulation I.O.2.f.) shall be applied appropriately by the officiating crew.
- f. *Bench Player Harassment Penalty System:*
 - i. First offense: Official bench warning by Chair Umpire or Referee and notification to the head coach of the offending team.
 - ii. Second offense: Point penalty applied on the court at which the behavior was directed.

(Revised August 2022)

2. Designated Player Assistants (DPAs). Student athletes on an institution's roster who are not participating in the tournament or are done for the day in the draw (singles or doubles) in which they will be coaching may be designated to assist teammates playing matches.

- a. All DPAs must be listed on the institution's player roster for that specific program. DPAs may not exceed three at any time during the tournament.
- c. DPAs must adhere to the parameters outlined in ITA Regulation II.N.
 - i. A point penalty may be assessed by any official if the DPA interferes with the match at any time or violates any of the parameters outlined in ITA Regulation II.N. If a point penalty is assessed, the DPA shall be immediately dismissed as a DPA and shall be treated as a bench player for the duration of the event. If the Referee assesses the point penalty, there shall be no appeal. If an Official assesses the penalty, the player or coach may appeal to the Referee whose decision is final. This player may not be designated as a DPA for the remainder of the tournament. No additional student athletes may become a DPA for the remainder of that day of the tournament. This player is still eligible to compete in the tournament if still in any draw.
 - ii. Dependent upon the nature of the behavior, the DPA may also be ejected from the tournament if the behavior is egregious. See ITA Regulation II.P.1.b. for examples of behavior that would prompt ejection. This list is not exhaustive. Only the Referee may eject a DPA, and a point penalty shall still be assessed against the match where the behavior occurred. This player is not eligible to participate in the remainder of the tournament if still in any draw.

(Adopted August 2020)

- 3. *Spectator Behavior.* Spectators are to behave with model sportsmanship consistent with the spirit and history of the sport of tennis. Spectators are NOT allowed to use vulgarity, profanity or make abusive comments toward players and coaches. Spectators are allowed to cheer for their team and for points well-played, however noise that is intended to abuse or distract opponents is not allowed. Artificial noisemakers shall not be used during play. Examples of artificial noisemakers include musical instruments, thundersticks, megaphones, air horns or anything that amplifies sound. It is understood that crowd noise from one court will often occur during play on another court and is part of the dual match environment. Crowd control is the responsibility of the

host institution. Officials should first appeal to the host game management for appropriate action when deemed necessary. In the case of no host game management staff, the head coaches are responsible for addressing behavior of their respective fans. An announcement outlining appropriate fan behavior will be made prior to every match (or a policy must be posted or printed and provided to all entering fans). Alumni, former student-athletes and members of the opposite gender team are considered to be spectators and shall remain in spectator areas from the start of the warm-ups to the completion of the last match. The head coach, institutional administrator, event management personnel and officials will be responsible for enforcing penalties when violations of the above policy occur. This penalty system shall be referred to as the Crowd Harassment Penalty System. (Revised August 2020)

a. Penalty for Violating Policy.

- i. First offense: Warning from event management staff.
- ii. Second offense: Point penalty and removal from facility.

Q. Equipment and Attire

1. Tennis Balls

a. *Ball usage.*

- i. *Division I.* In Division I tournaments, three new yellow tennis balls, USTA/ITF-approved, shall be used for each doubles set as well as for each set in all singles matches. No new balls shall be given when playing a 10-point match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. (Revised August 2022)
- ii. *Division II, III, NAIA & JUCO.* In all other Divisions, a minimum of three new yellow tennis balls, USTA/ITF-approved, shall be provided for each match. The balls shall be changed at the end of the second set. No new balls shall be given when playing a 10-point match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. In Division III and JUCO, it is recommended that four new balls are used in 8-game doubles pro sets. (Revised August 2022)
- iii. *All Divisions.* Should low tennis ball inventories created by current supply chain issues require the need to modify the ball usage rules stated above, both coaches must agree to those modifications prior to the start of the match. (Adopted August 2022)

- b. *Wilson balls required for ITA Regional, National and all ITA Sanctioned Events.* The Official Tennis Ball of the ITA is the Wilson US Open Extra Duty tennis ball for sea level play and the Wilson US Open High Altitude tennis ball for high altitude play. It shall be used for all ITA Regional and National Championships as well as all ITA sanctioned tournaments.
 - c. *Tennis ball shortage.* Due to current difficulties surrounding the availability of tennis balls, the ITA Rules Committee recommends reaching out to your opponents prior to the start of the ITA individual sanctioned tournament season to confirm the brand and type of tennis ball to be used during competition. Visiting teams with larger inventories of extra duty tennis balls are encouraged to aid home teams with low inventories of extra duty balls (or high altitude balls in high altitude locations). Should current circumstances require the use of a different brand or type (regular duty, etc.) of tennis ball at your ITA sanctioned tournament, that ball must be USTA/ITF approved and ample notice should be provided to the visiting institution(s) (minimum of 1 week). (Adopted August 2022)
 - d. *Replacement of lost or damaged balls.* The Official shall decide when to replace a lost or damaged ball. If an Official is not available, then both coaches must agree on this decision. Lost or damaged balls shall be replaced with used balls of comparable wear except when a ball is lost or damaged within two games of when new balls were introduced. In this case, a new ball shall be inserted.
 - e. *High altitude balls.* High altitude play is defined as play at 4000 ft above sea level and above. Tournaments shall utilize a ball designed for high altitude play for matches at this altitude and above. Wilson High Altitude Balls are strongly recommended for play at high altitude for ITA sanctioned play.
2. Tennis Attire
- a. Whenever possible, all ITA competitors should wear their official team uniform during competition, warm-up and the awards ceremonies. If official uniforms are not available, wearing apparel with school emblems or initials is recommended.
 - b. College players' use of all athletic equipment and clothing from a manufacturer or commercial enterprise shall adhere strictly to NCAA rules.

R. Officials

1. *Home coach is responsible for providing Officials.* The home coach shall have available qualified persons to serve as Officials. In order for an Official to be considered "qualified," the Official must hold a current ITA certification. To avoid a possible conflict of interest, a student or employee of the college/university should not officiate school matches. Further, all ITA Officials should not officiate any match where they have a conflict of interest (e.g., familial relationship with students, coaches or team personnel).
2. *Officials must possess a current ITA Certification.* The home coach must ensure that all Officials hold a current ITA Certification in order for the match to be considered for ITA Rankings. The Officials' names, along with their ITA Membership Number, shall be on file with the Tournament Director and Referee. Failure to use certified Officials will result in a \$500 fine issued to the host institution.
3. *Requests for Officials.* A coach or player may request assistance from an Official if one is available. In any match, when there is a question of law in dispute, the coach or player may request the Referee. In either scenario, the match shall not be suspended for more than five minutes while the Official or Referee is located.
4. *Referee may serve as Chair Umpire.* If no one else is available, the Referee may serve as Chair Umpire. The Referee continues to serve as Referee to the best of one's ability.
5. *Uniforms.* Officials shall wear the ITA National Uniform for all ITA Sanctioned tournaments. The ITA uniform shall not be worn at non-collegiate events. (Adopted August 2018)
6. *Referee Reporting.* All player defaults, instances of physical contact, player and coach ejections and post match code violations in ITA Sanctioned tournaments must be reported in writing to the ITA Officials Department using the appropriate forms, which can be found on the ITA website, within 24 hours of the incident.

S. Trainer

1. *Host school shall provide a certified athletic trainer (ATC).* The host school shall provide the services of a certified athletic trainer, preferably at the tournament site or at a training facility within a five-minute walk of the tournament site. If an ATC will not be available at any time during an ITA sanctioned tournament, the participating coaches shall be notified in advance. Failure to follow these guidelines shall be reported to the ITA Office. (Revised August 2020)

2. *Referee has discretion to determine time allowed to locate trainer.* The Referee shall use discretion in determining the time allotted to locate a trainer if one cannot be found or is not available within five minutes of the injury.

T. Post-Match Considerations

1. *Complaints and Grievances against Officials.* The appropriate reports below must be used for a complaint against an Official. Any complaint occurring at a National Championship should also be sent to the appropriate national governing body.

- a. *Grievance Against an Official.* If a coach feels that a decision by an Official or the Referee was incorrect and directly affected the result of an ITA sanctioned tournament match, the coach should file a written protest utilizing the "Grievance Against an Official" form, which can be found on the ITA website. Upon receipt of the form, ITA Staff will forward to the appropriate committee for review.

The "Grievance Against an Official" form shall only be used in instances where the decision directly affected the outcome of a match.

- b. *Report of an Official.* If a coach feels that an Official or Referee handled a situation incorrectly at an ITA sanctioned tournament, the coach should file a written protest utilizing the "Report of an Official" form, which can be found on the ITA website.

The "Report of an Official" form shall be used when the outcome of the match was not directly affected, however the coach feels the ITA rules were not implemented correctly.

- c. *Ethics Complaint Against an Official.* If a coach feels an Official or Referee displayed inappropriate conduct or behavior, on or off court, during an ITA sanctioned tournament, the coach should file a written protest utilizing the "Ethics Complaint Against an Official" form, which can be found on the ITA website.

(Revised August 2018)

U. Post-Match Interviews

In all ITA National Championships the coaches and players shall make themselves available upon request for media interviews within 10 minutes of the completion of their matches. Failure to do so may result in disqualification and/or other ITA-assessed penalties.

V. Eligibility for Collegiate Competition

Only players who are considered eligible for intercollegiate competition at the time of entry:

- By their school; their conference (if any); AND
- By their National governing body (e.g. NCAA or NAIA)

shall be eligible to participate in ITA sanctioned events and regional and national collegiate championships.

Junior players not yet matriculating at a college level and professional players not in school shall not compete in these intercollegiate events.

W. Video Review

PlayFair technology is the only approved form of video review for sanctioned tournaments. If an institution has any courts with PlayFair technology, the sanctioned tournament may be played using video review on the courts with PlayFair technology. ITA video review policies and procedures shall be utilized for video review at sanctioned tournaments. If the tournament is to be played with PlayFair technology, the host institution/tournament director shall notify all participating teams at least two weeks (14 days) in advance. A minimum of one ITA certified Video Review Official shall be used per sanctioned tournament. The Video Review Official shall only handle video review and not other ITA officiating duties. (Adopted August 2019)

1. PlayFair Policies and Procedures
 - a. Players receive 3 challenges per set (includes pro sets and 10 point match tie breaks)
 - i. "Successful" challenges do not count against their total.
 - ii. The PlayFair system will track the challenges (successful, unsuccessful, and number remaining).
 - b. Players may utilize one of their challenges in the following scenarios:
 - i. A line call affirmed by official on court.
 - ii. An overrule by official on court.
 - c. Challenges MUST be timely. Players shall not use the review process to intentionally slow the pace of play.
 - d. If the review process is not timely (within 1.5 minutes), the original call stands. Play should resume immediately.
 - e. An official should deny a challenge on a ball that was clearly out.
 - f. Only an ITA Video Review Official can overturn a call after reviewing the video. Any video review resulting in the overrule of a player's call will count toward a player's overrule total.
 - g. Players & Coaches may NOT approach the kiosk or the video review official (players must remain within the lines of the

court during the entire review process; coaches must remain where they were coaching or return to their player's bench).

If, after being cautioned once about approaching the video review official/tablet/kiosk, a player or coach repeats, the official should consider the PPS or Coach's Code of Conduct to deter this conduct.

- h. Players & Coaches should not continue to dispute or discuss the call during the challenge process.
- i. To overturn the call, the Video Review Official must conclude that the video CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES that the challenged call was erroneous (i.e., the Video Review Official is 100% positive that the video shows the original line call or overrule was inaccurate).

It is expected that some video reviews will be inconclusive (particularly if the camera is not on the line); when reviews are inconclusive the call on the court stands.

- j. The review process should not become its own spectacle.
 - i. There should be no arguing or discussion. The review process should be conducted in the most discreet way possible so as to not interrupt other matches.
 - ii. The Video Review Official must make a decision quickly (i.e., the Video Review Official cannot replay the video 10 times to reach a decision).

III. FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

A. Varsity Quality Tennis Facility

A varsity quality tennis facility is one used exclusively for tennis. The playing surface shall be of hard court construction, designed specifically for tennis and coated with a recognized tennis surface. The only lines on the playing surface shall be standard tennis court lines, including USTA approved 36' and 60' lines within the same color family as the interior court. A multi-purpose recreational facility is not acceptable.

1. *Outdoor facilities.* The playing surface shall extend to the back fence behind each baseline. Each back fence shall be located at least 18 feet behind the baseline of the court and should be at least eight feet high. To ensure proper ball visibility, there should be wind screens on the back fences behind the baselines. Spectator seating behind the court should not be provided where the movement of spectators would distract the players on court.

The distance between the doubles lines of adjacent courts shall be at least 10 feet, provided there is no fence or divider netting between the courts. Where they exist, walls and other fixed objects

shall be padded with shock absorbing material. The padding should extend from the court surface vertically for a minimum of seven feet.

2. *Indoor facilities.* The playing surface shall extend from the backdrop to the backdrop. Each backdrop shall be located at least 18 feet behind the baseline of the court. To ensure proper ball visibility, it is imperative to have adequate contrast between the backdrop, the rear of the court and the tennis ball. Therefore, solid backdrop curtains shall be provided at a reasonable height behind the court. Spectator seating behind the court should not be provided where the movement of spectators would distract the players on court.

The clear height of the finished ceiling shall be at least 18 feet above the court surface at the backdrop curtain, at least 21 feet at the court baselines, and at least 35 feet at the net line.

The distance between the doubles lines of adjacent courts shall be at least 10 feet, provided there is no divider netting between the adjacent courts. The minimum distance from the doubles sideline of a court to a divider net shall be nine feet.

Lighting for indoor tennis shall be glare free and provide visibility of the ball for players and spectators from the time it is tossed in the air by the server along every path it follows, as long as the ball is in play. The average maintained light intensity shall be 75 foot-candles within the Primary Playing Area (PPA), with individual light fixtures placed in locations as specified by USTA guidelines for indoor courts. The uniformity ratio (max./min.) of lighting levels within the PPA of the court shall be between 1.5 to 2.0. All fixtures shall be located outside the doubles sidelines of the tennis courts.

Where they exist, support columns and other fixed objects in the building shall be padded with shock absorbing material. Any fixed object within two feet of an opaque curtain should be padded. The padding should extend from the court surface vertically for a minimum of seven feet.

3. Please note that although facilities designed before Jan. 1, 2012, are not required to adhere to these guidelines, a best effort should be made to meet these guidelines. Any matches played at an indoor or outdoor facility not meeting these standards must be agreed to in writing by both coaches before the start of the match.

(Revised August 2021)

B. What The Host School MUST Provide

The host school shall provide for each match:

1. Officials (Two Officials are required in Division I; Officials are highly recommended in all other divisions.)

2. Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC)
3. Singles sticks
4. Center net straps
5. Scoreboards or scorecards for each court
6. Team match scoreboard/display
7. Water
8. First aid supplies
9. Locker room facilities if requested for the visiting team for showers (visiting team is responsible for towels, supplies).

(Revised August 2018)

IV. ITA SANCTIONED EVENTS

A. General

1. National and Regional Collegiate Championships

National and regional collegiate championships are, by definition, only those tournaments exclusively organized and administered by the ITA, the NCAA, the NCAA Conferences, the NAIA the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) or the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA).

2. ITA Regional Championships

The ITA Regional Championships are administered by ITA throughout the country from September through October.

3. ITA Sanctioned Events

- a. A tournament must be sanctioned by the ITA in order for its results to count for ranking purposes.
- b. A tournament may be sanctioned on any USTA-approved court surface that is used exclusively for tennis.
- c. The Tournament Director is responsible for obtaining the ITA sanction and paying sanction fees.
- d. All ITA sanctioned events must use the official ball of the ITA (Wilson).
- e. It is the responsibility of the Tournament Director to enter match results into the ITA online Results Entry System in order for those results to be eligible for ITA rankings.

4. ITA Tournament Policy—“Sunday Policy”

Participants (team, singles player or doubles team) entered in an ITA national, regional or sanctioned tournament, will be expected to compete on all days of the event, including Saturday and Sunday. There will be no exceptions made for this rule.

B. ITA Games Committee

The Games Committee is comprised of the following individuals at any specific ITA national or sanctioned event:

1. Tournament Director
2. Tournament Chair
3. Head Referee
4. Staff on-site
5. Members of the ITA National Tournament Committee who are present at the event
6. Others designated by the Tournament Chair.

The primary function of the Games Committee is to oversee the running of the tournament event.

V. ITA NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. Entry into and Withdrawal from ITA National Championships

1. A player must not accept entry into the qualifying or main draw of an event if injured and not sure if the player can compete in this event except with the written approval of the ITA office. In this case, if approval is granted, the coach must notify the ITA office by phone, e-mail and/or fax no later than seven days before the start of the event, if the player is still injured and not fully recovered at that point.
2. Once a player (or doubles team) accepts an invitation into the qualifying or main draw of an event, the player cannot withdraw within seven* days prior to the start of the draw in which that player is competing. All withdrawals within this time frame will be subject to any applicable entry fees. In addition, a withdrawal must be deemed 'excusable' by the ITA office in order to avoid penalty. Late withdrawals will only be excused for one of the following reasons:
 - a. Extreme academic circumstances beyond the player's control and attested to by the Dean's office (in this case the ITA office shall be notified in writing by the Dean's office within 24 hours).
 - b. Physical injury or sickness that occurs after the withdrawal deadline; any such medical withdrawal must be made with written documentation from a physician and the athletic department, which must be provided to the ITA office within 24 hours of injury.

*For the pre-qualifying rounds of an ITA National Championship only, a player (or doubles team) cannot be withdrawn within 10 days of the start of the pre-qualifying event.
3. All inexcusable withdrawals will result in:
 - a. A letter of reprimand to the head coach with a copy sent to the school's Athletic Director; and
 - b. A fine to the head coach in the amount of \$500.

B. Entry into and Withdrawal from ITA

Regional Championships

1. A player must not accept entry into the qualifying or main draw of an event if injured and not sure if the player can compete in this event except with the written approval of the ITA Regional Committee. In this case, if approval is granted, the coach must notify the Region Chair and copy the ITA office by phone, e-mail and/or fax no later than seven days before the start of the main draw event, if the player is still injured and not fully recovered at that point.
2. Once a player (or doubles team) accepts an invitation into the qualifying or main draw of an event, the player cannot withdraw within seven days prior to the start of the draw in which that player is competing. All withdrawals within this time frame will be subject to any applicable entry fees, regardless of the reason for withdrawal.

VI. TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

A. Meetings

The host institution is responsible for making arrangements for and scheduling the following meetings, and for notifying the participants in an advance mailing. All meetings should include the chair of the ITA National Tournament Committee, the Tournament Director and the head Referee, whenever possible.

1. *ITA Coaches Meeting.* A mandatory ITA coaches meeting must be held on the eve of all ITA National Championship events to review the tournament format, procedures and any other pertinent information, as well as general ITA business. Attendance will be taken at this meeting and a \$50.00 (fifty dollar) fine payable to the ITA will be assessed to those institutions with no representative (either coach, assistant coach or other bona fide institution representative) present. Failure to comply with the fine will result in disqualification from participation at future ITA national events.
2. *Officials.* A meeting with the Officials should be scheduled to review procedures, scoring system, handling of appeals, etc.

VII. ITA OFFICIALS

A. Requirements for Certification

1. *Testing and training.* Every year, the ITA will announce the requirements for Official's training and certification for the following certification year. Every Official seeking to be certified for the following year must satisfy these requirements.
2. *Work record.* Each Official must work a minimum of five days/events per certification period. One dual match or one day at an individual

event counts as one work record. Work records will count toward the following year's certification. Work records shall be logged electronically by the individual official in the electronic database the ITA uses for officials. It is the individual Official's responsibility to ensure work records are entered by the time certifications are reviewed.

3. *Appeal process.* Appeal procedures are available through the ITA Officiating Department. Any Official has the opportunity to appeal their certification through this process.

B. Officials Code of Conduct

It is understood that each and every Official of the ITA accepts and agrees to follow the ITA Code of Ethics.

ITA Officials shall:

- Be in good physical health. Officials should be able to perform all duties as expected of them without difficulty.
- Be properly certified prior to working any ITA match or assignment.
- Be professional and ethical. ITA Officials shall not abuse their position of authority and trust.
- Not engage in harassment toward any person involved in college tennis including but not limited to players, coaches, spectators or fellow officials.
- Not initiate contact with a player, either physically, verbally or electronically, beyond the duties required as an ITA Official chair or roving official.
- Wear the ITA Uniform at all ITA events. Uniform pieces acquired from sources other than the ITA approved uniform provider are prohibited unless otherwise designated by a conference or tournament.
- Be on time for all assignments.
- Not request specific assignments during an ITA tournament, dual match or event.
- Not accept an ITA assignment and then withdraw from that assignment for a different tennis officiating opportunity unless released by the Referee, Assignor, or Coordinator.
- Not consume alcoholic beverages or drugs while in uniform or at any time on site. Further, all ITA Officials must not be impaired by any substance, legal or otherwise, while performing their officiating duties.
- Not publicly criticize other ITA officials or comment about the performance of any ITA Official, including on any social media platform.
- Not bet or wager on the outcome of any college tennis match.

- Not be interviewed by or speak with the media unless prior approval from the Referee is given.
- Not comment about collegiate tennis matches, specifically or generally, on any form of social media.
- Address all concerns with institutional, conference or ITA rules, as well as concerns with colleagues or officials, through the proper channels, and never through the media, rumor or innuendo.

(Adopted August 2019)

VIII. COACHES CODE OF ETHICS

It is understood that each and every coach member of the ITA accepts and agrees to follow the ITA Code of Ethics. ITA Coaches shall:

- Behave in such a way that they shall bring credit to their profession, and shall exhibit professionalism in all of their words and actions.
- Honor all professional relationships with their colleagues, and shall treat their colleagues with dignity and respect.
- Act in full accordance with institutional, conference and national governing body rules, and shall report any violation of governing body rules.
- Put the welfare of their student-athletes first while maintaining professional relationships with them, and encourage the student-athlete to exhibit good sportsmanship at all times.
- Remember that collegiate tennis players are student-athletes and not make demands upon them that are inconsistent with institutional, conference and national governing body rules, or in any way compromise the student-athletes' academic pursuits.
- Address all concerns with institutional, conference and national governing body rules, as well as all concerns with colleagues or umpires, through the proper channels, and never through the media or rumor or innuendo.
- Be honest and forthright during the recruiting process, and refrain from making negative or derogatory statements about another coach or institution.
- Refrain from employing unfair influence or otherwise taking advantage of individual or collective voting power (conference, region, etc.) or position to further team, conference, or regional representation.
- Treat all match umpires in a professional and respectable manner.

Failure to adhere to the ITA Code of Ethics may jeopardize the coach's standing within the ITA. Violations should be reported in writing to the ITA Ethics Committee.

(Adopted August 2019)

PART 2 — THE CODE

THE PLAYERS' GUIDE TO FAIR PLAY AND THE UNWRITTEN RULES OF TENNIS

The Code is not part of the ITA Rules of Tennis. Players shall follow The Code unless there is a specific ITA Rule on point or except to the extent to which an Official assumes some of their responsibilities. This edition of The Code is an adaptation of the original. The text found in this section was taken from the 2021 Friend At Court. Some changes may have been made to The Code following publication of this rulebook.

PREFACE

When a serve hits a player's partner who is stationed at the net, is it a let, fault, or loss of point? Likewise, what is the ruling when a serve, before touching the ground, hits an opponent who is standing back of the baseline? The answers to these questions are obvious to anyone who knows the fundamentals of tennis, but it is surprising the number of players who don't know these fundamentals. All players have a responsibility to be familiar with the basic rules and customs of tennis. Further, it can be distressing when a player makes a decision in accordance with a rule and the opponent protests with the remark: "Well, I never heard of that rule before!" Ignorance of the rules constitutes a delinquency on the part of a player and often spoils an otherwise good match.

What is written here constitutes the essentials of The Code, a summary of procedures and unwritten rules that custom and tradition dictate all players should follow. No system of rules will cover every specific problem or situation. If players of goodwill follow the principles of The Code, they should always be able to reach an agreement, while at the same time making tennis more fun and a better game for all. The principles set forth in The Code shall apply in cases not specifically covered by the ITA Rules of Tennis.

Before reading this, the following question may come to mind: Since there is a book that contains all the rules of tennis, is there a need for The Code? Isn't it sufficient to know and understand all the rules? There are a number of things not specifically set forth in the rules that are covered by custom and tradition only. For example, if there is doubt on a line call, the opponent gets the benefit of the doubt. This result cannot be found in the rules. Further, custom dictates the standard procedures that players will use in reaching decisions. These are the reasons a code is needed.

—Col. Nick Powel

PRINCIPLES

1. *Courtesy is expected.* Tennis is a game that requires cooperation and courtesy.
2. *Points played in good faith are counted.* All points played in good faith stand. For example, if after losing a point, a player discovers that the net was four inches too high, the point stands. If a point is played from the wrong court, there is no replay. If during a point, a player realizes that a mistake was made at the beginning (for example, service from the wrong court), the player shall continue playing the point. Corrective action may be taken only after a point has been completed. Shaking hands at the end of a match is an acknowledgment by the players that the match is over.

WARM-UP

3. *Warm-up is not practice.* A player should provide the opponent a warm-up of five to ten minutes. If a player declines to warm-up the opponent, the player forfeits the right to a warm-up, and the opponent may warm-up with another person. Some players confuse warm-up and practice. Each player should try to hit shots directly to the opponent. (If partners want to warm each other up while their opponents are warming up, they may do so.)
4. *Warm-up serves are taken before first serve of match.* A player should take all warm-up serves before the first serve of a match. A player who returns serves should return them at a moderate pace in a manner that does not disrupt the server.

MAKING CALLS

5. *Player makes calls on own side of net.* A player calls all shots landing on, or aimed at, the player's side of the net.
6. *Opponent gets benefit of doubt.* A player should always give the opponent the benefit of any doubt. When a match is played without officials, the players are responsible for making decisions, particularly for line calls. There is a subtle difference between player decisions and those of an on-court official. An official impartially resolves a problem involving a call, whereas a player is guided by the principle that any doubt must be resolved in favor of an opponent. A player in attempting to be scrupulously honest on line calls frequently will keep a ball in play that might have been out or that the player discovers too late was out. Even so, the game is much better played this way.
7. *Ball touching any part of line is good.* If any part of a ball touches a line, the ball is good. A ball 99% out is still 100% good. A player shall not call a ball out unless the player clearly sees space between where the ball hits and a line.
8. *Ball that cannot be called out is good.* Any ball that cannot be called out is considered to be good. A player may not claim a let on the basis of not seeing a ball. One of tennis' more infuriating moments occurs after a long

hard rally when a player makes a clean placement and an opponent says: "I'm not sure if it was good or out. Let's play a let." Remember, it is each player's responsibility to call all balls landing on, or aimed at, the player's side of the net. If a ball cannot be called out with certainty, it is good. When a player says an opponent's shot was really out but offers to replay the point to give the opponent a break, it seems clear that the player actually doubted that the ball was out.

9. *Either partner may make calls in doubles.* Although either doubles partner may make a call, the call of a player looking down a line is more likely to be accurate than that of a player looking across a line.
10. *All points are treated same regardless of their importance.* All points in a match should be treated the same. There is no justification for considering a match point differently from a first point.
11. *Requesting opponent's help.* When an opponent's opinion is requested and the opponent gives a positive opinion, it must be accepted. If neither player has an opinion, the ball is considered good. Aid from an opponent is available only on a call that ends a point.
12. *Out calls reversed.* A player who calls a ball out shall reverse the call if the player becomes uncertain or realizes that the ball was good. The point goes to the opponent and is not replayed. However, when a receiver reverses a fault call on a serve that hit the net, the server is entitled to two serves.
13. *Player calls own shots out.* With the exception of the first serve, a player should call out the player's own shots if the player clearly sees the ball out regardless of whether requested to do so by an opponent. The prime objective in making calls is accuracy. All players should cooperate to attain this objective.
14. *Partners' disagreement on calls.* On any call, always give your opponents the call that most benefits them (Code 6). If one partner calls the ball out and the other partner sees the ball good, the ball is good. It is more important to give opponents the benefit of the doubt than to avoid possibly hurting a partner's feelings. The tactful way to achieve the desired result is to tell a partner quietly of the mistake and then let the partner concede the point. If a call is changed from out to good, the principles of Code 12 apply.
15. *Audible or visible calls.* No matter how obvious it is to a player that an opponent's ball is out, the opponent is entitled to a prompt audible or visible out call.
16. *Spectators never make calls.* A player shall not enlist the aid of a spectator in making a call. No spectator has a part in a match.
17. *Prompt calls eliminate two chance option.* A player shall make all calls promptly. A call shall be made either before the player's return shot has gone out of play or before an opponent has had an opportunity to play the return shot. Prompt calls will quickly eliminate the "two chances to win the

point" option that some players practice. To illustrate, a player is advancing to the net for an easy put away and sees a ball from an adjoining court rolling toward the court. The player continues to advance and hits the shot, only to have the supposed easy put away fly over the baseline. The player then claims a let. The claim is not valid because the player forfeited the right to call a let by choosing instead to play the ball. The player took a chance to win or lose and is not entitled to a second chance.

18. *Let called when ball rolls on court.* When a ball from another court enters the playing area, any player on the court affected may call a let as soon as the player becomes aware of the ball. The player loses the right to call a let if the player unreasonably delays in making the call.
19. *Touches, hitting ball before it crosses net, invasion of opponent's court, double hits, and double bounces.* A player shall concede the point when:
 - A ball in play touches that player;
 - That player touches the net or opponent's court while a ball is in play;
 - That player hits a ball before it crosses the net;
 - That player deliberately carries or double hits a ball; or
 - A ball bounces more than once in that player's court.

The opponent is not entitled to make these calls. The principle of giving the opponent the benefit of any doubt applies.

20. *Balls hit through net or into ground.* A player makes the ruling on a ball that the player's opponent hits:
 - Through the net; or
 - Into the ground before it goes over the net.
21. *Making calls on clay courts.* If any part of a ball mark touches a line on a clay court, the ball shall be called good. If only part of the mark on a court can be seen, this means that the missing part is on a line or tape. A player should take a careful second look at any point-ending placement that is close to a line on a clay court. Occasionally a ball will strike the tape, jump, and then leave a full mark behind the line. If a player hears the sound of a ball striking the tape and sees a clean spot on the tape near the mark, the player should give the point to the opponent. A player is not required to show an opponent the mark. The opponent shall not pass the net to inspect a mark.

SERVING

22. *Server's request for third ball.* When a server requests three balls, the receiver shall comply when the third ball is readily available. Distant balls shall be retrieved at the end of a game.
23. *Avoid foot faults.* Players should not foot fault because it violates the ITF Rules of Tennis. It is a foot fault when a foot just touches the line, even when the player does not follow the serve to the net.

24. *Calling foot faults.* The receiver or the receiver's partner may call foot faults only after all reasonable efforts, such as warning the server and attempting to get an official to the court, have failed and the foot fault is so flagrant as to be clearly perceptible from the receiver's side.
25. *Service calls in doubles.* In doubles the receiver's partner should call the service line, and the receiver should call the sideline and the center service line. Nonetheless, either partner may call a ball that either clearly sees.
26. *Service calls by serving team.* Neither the server nor server's partner shall make a fault call on the first service even if they think it is out because the receiver may be giving the server the benefit of the doubt. There is one exception. If the receiver plays a first service that is a fault and does not put the return in play, the server or server's partner may make the fault call. The server and the server's partner shall call out any second serve that either clearly sees out.
27. *Service let calls.* Any player may call a service let. The call shall be made before the return of serve goes out of play or is hit by the server or the server's partner. If the serve is an apparent or near ace, any let shall be called promptly.
28. *Obvious faults.* A player shall not put into play or hit over the net an obvious fault. To do so constitutes rudeness and may even be a form of gamesmanship. On the other hand, if a player does not call a serve a fault and gives the opponent the benefit of a close call, the server is not entitled to replay the point.
29. *Receiver readiness.* The receiver shall play to the reasonable pace of the server. The receiver should make no effort to return a serve when the receiver is not ready. If a player attempts to return a serve (even if it is a "quick" serve), then the receiver (or receiving team) is presumed to be ready.
30. *Delays during service.* When the server's second service motion is interrupted by a ball coming onto the court, the server is entitled to two serves. When there is a delay between the first and second serves:
 - The server gets one serve if the server was the cause of the delay;
 - The server gets two serves if the delay was caused by the receiver or if there was outside interference.

The time it takes to clear a ball that comes onto the court between the first and second serves is not considered sufficient time to warrant the server receiving two serves unless this time is so prolonged as to constitute an interruption. The receiver is the judge of whether the delay is sufficiently prolonged to justify giving the server two serves.

SCORING

31. *Server announces score.* The server shall announce the game score before the first point of a game and the point score before each subsequent point of the game.

32. *Disputes.* Disputes over the score shall be resolved by using one of the following methods, which are listed in the order of preference:
- a. Count all points and games agreed upon by the players and replay only disputed points or games;
 - b. If the players do not agree on which side of the court the disputed point occurred, toss a coin to select the court.
 - c. If the players do not agree on who served a disputed point in a tiebreak, toss a coin to select the server. (A coin toss may also be needed to determine the side in which the point is played and the end from which the server serves.)
 - d. If the players do not agree on who served a disputed game, toss a coin to select the server.
 - e. Play from a score mutually agreeable to all players;
 - f. Spin a racquet or toss a coin.

HINDRANCE ISSUES

33. *Claiming a hindrance.* A player who claims a hindrance must stop play as soon as possible.

34. *Talking when ball is in play.*

- Singles players should not talk during points.
- Talking between doubles partners when the ball is moving toward them is allowed.
- Doubles players should not talk when the ball is moving toward their opponent's court.
- When talking interferes with an opponent's ability to play a ball, it is a hindrance.

For example, if a doubles player hits a weak lob and yells "get back" and the yell distracts an opponent who is about to hit the ball, then the opponent may claim the point based on a deliberate hindrance. If the opponent chooses to play the lob and misses it, the opponent loses the point because the opponent did not make a timely claim of hindrance.

For example, if a player yells after an injury or getting stung by a bee, this is an unintentional hindrance that would entitle the opponent to claim a let.

35. *Body movement.* A player may feint with the body while a ball is in play. A player may change position at any time, including while the server is tossing a ball. Any other movement or any sound that is made solely to distract an opponent, including, but not limited to, waving arms or racquet or stamping feet, is not allowed.

36. *Let due to unintentional hindrance and loss of point due to deliberate hindrance.* A player who is hindered by an opponent's unintentional act or by something else outside the player's control is entitled to a let only if the player could have made the shot had the player not been hindered.

A player's racket coming out of the hand or a shoe coming off is not the basis for either player claiming a let.

A let is never authorized for a hindrance caused by something within a player's control, such as when a player's racket comes out of a hand, when a player's shoe comes off, or when a player trips over the player's own hat. However, if a player's hat falls off during a point, an opponent may immediately call a let due to unintentional hindrance.

Out calls and other noises from spectators are not hindrances and, therefore, are not considered grounds for a player calling a let or claiming the point.

A ringing cell phone is a deliberate hindrance; if an opponent's cell phone rings during a point, the player may immediately stop and claim the point. Another example of a deliberate hindrance occurs when the receiver asks the server to stop discarding the second ball after serving, and the server continues to discard the second ball. Continued discarding of the ball constitutes a deliberate hindrance, entitling the receiver to immediately stop play and claim the point.

37. *Grunting.* A player should avoid grunting and making other loud noises. Grunting and other loud noises may bother not only opponents but also players on adjacent courts. In an extreme case, an opponent or a player on an adjacent court may seek the assistance of an official. Grunting and the making of loud noises that affect the outcome of a point are hindrances. Only an official may rule that these actions are hindrances and order that a let be played or a loss of point, depending on whether an official had previously warned the offending player.
38. *Injury caused by player.* When a player accidentally injures an opponent, the opponent suffers the consequences. Consider the situation where the server's racquet accidentally strikes the receiver and incapacitates the receiver. The receiver is unable to resume play within the time limit. Even though the server caused the injury, the server wins the match by retirement. On the other hand, when a player deliberately injures an opponent and affects the opponent's ability to play, then the opponent wins the match by default. Hitting a ball or throwing a racquet in anger is considered a deliberate act.

WHEN TO CONTACT OFFICIAL

39. *Withdrawing from match or tournament.* A player who has decided not to play a match or a tournament shall notify the Referee immediately.
40. *Stalling.* Stalling violates the continuous play principle of the ITF Rules of Tennis. A player who encounters a problem with stalling should contact an official. The following actions constitute stalling:
- Warming up longer than the allotted time;
 - Playing at about one-third a player's normal pace;

- Taking more than 90 seconds on the odd-game changeover or more than two minutes on the set break.
- Taking longer than the time authorized during a rest period;
- Starting a discussion or argument in order to rest;
- Clearing a missed first service that doesn't need to be cleared; or
- Excessive bouncing of a ball before any serve.

Stalling is subject to penalty under the Point Penalty System.

41. *Requesting officials during play.* While normally a player may not leave the playing area, the player may contact an official for assistance. Some reasons for contacting an official include:

- Stalling;
- Flagrant foot faults;
- Extreme grunting;
- A medical or bleeding timeout;
- A scoring dispute; or
- A pattern of bad calls.

A player may refuse to play until an official responds.

BALL ISSUES

42. *Retrieving stray balls.* Each player is responsible for removing stray balls and other objects from the player's end of the court. Whenever a ball is not in play, a player must honor an opponent's request to remove a ball from the court or from an area outside the court that is reasonably close to the lines. A player shall not go behind an adjacent court to retrieve a ball or ask a player on an adjacent court to return a ball while a point is in play. When a player returns a ball from an adjacent court, the player shall wait until the point is over on the court where the ball is being returned and then return it directly to one of the players, preferably the server.

43. *Catching a ball.* If a player catches a ball in play before it bounces, the player loses the point regardless of where the player is standing.

44. *New balls for third set.* When a tournament specifies new balls for a third set, new balls shall be used unless all players agree otherwise.

MISCELLANEOUS

45. *Clothing and equipment malfunction.* If clothing or equipment, other than a racquet, becomes unusable through circumstances outside the control of a player, play may be suspended for a reasonable period. A player may leave the court after a point is over to correct the problem. If a racquet or string is broken, a player may leave the court to get a replacement, but the player is subject to code violations for delay under the Point Penalty System.

46. *Placement of towels.* Towels are to be placed on the ground outside the net post or at the back fence. Clothing or towels should never be placed on a net.

MISCELLANEOUS

45. Clothing and equipment malfunction. If clothing or equipment, other than a racquet, becomes unusable through circumstances outside the control of a player, play may be suspended for a reasonable period. A player may leave the court after a point is over to correct the problem. If a racquet or string is broken, a player may leave the court to get a replacement, but the player is subject to code violations for delay under the Point Penalty System.
46. Placement of towels. Towels are to be placed on the ground outside the net post or at the back fence. Clothing or towels should never be placed on a net.

PART 3 — TABLES & REFERENCES

ITA TABLE 1: DUAL MATCH FORMATS <i>Note: NCAA, NAIA, NJCAA or Conference rules will supersede ITA rules where applicable</i>	
NCAA Division I, Division II & NAIA	<p>Match: Three doubles followed by six singles; seven team points. Team winning two of three doubles matches will receive one point; each singles match counts as one point.</p> <p>Doubles: No warm-up; 6-game set with No-Ad scoring; first team to win six games by two games with a 7-point tiebreak played at 6-all. As long as coaches agree prior to the start of the match, once the doubles point has been clinched, the remaining doubles match may be played to completion.</p> <p>Singles: No warm-up time; Best of three tiebreak sets with No-Ad scoring; 7-point tiebreak played at 6-all. Once the outcome of the team match has been decided, a shortened format shall be played unless both coaches agree otherwise. Any remaining singles matches that have not started a third set should play a 10-point tiebreak in lieu of a third set.</p>
NCAA Division III	<p>Match: Three doubles followed by six singles; nine team points. Each match (doubles and singles) counts as one point.</p> <p>Doubles: No warm-up; 8-game pro set with regular scoring; 7-point tiebreak played at 7-all.</p> <p>Singles: No warm-up; Best of three tiebreak sets with regular scoring; 7-point tiebreak played at 6-all. Once a team reaches five overall points, any remaining singles matches that have not started a third set should play a 10-point tiebreak in lieu of a third set.</p>
Junior & Community College	<p>Match: Three doubles followed by six singles; nine team points. Each match (doubles and singles) counts as one point.</p> <p>Doubles: No warm-up; 8-game pro set with regular scoring; 7-point tiebreak played at 8-all.</p> <p>Singles: No warm-up; Best of three tiebreak sets with regular scoring; 7-point tiebreak played at 6-all. Once a team reaches five overall points, any remaining singles matches that have not started a third set should play a 10-point tiebreak in lieu of a third set.</p>

**ITA TABLE 2:
POINT PENALTY SYSTEM**

Offense	Penalty Assessed
First	Point Penalty
Second	Game Penalty
Third	Default*
<p>In dual matches, Code Violation penalties in each segment start with a point penalty unless the offense warrants an immediate default.</p> <p><i>*May only be issued by Referee.</i></p>	

**ITA TABLE 3:
DUAL MATCH CARRYOVER CODE PENALTIES**

When code occurs	When Penalty Is Assessed
During Doubles Segment	If there is another doubles match in progress, assess at the start of the next game or immediately in a tiebreak, except that carryover defaults shall be assessed immediately to the highest remaining doubles match still in progress. If doubles play is complete, carryover penalty shall be assessed at the start of that player's singles match. If that player is not playing singles, the carryover penalty shall be assessed to the Number 1 singles player for that team.
During Singles Segment	If there is another singles match in progress, assess at the start of the next game or immediately in a tiebreak, except that carryover defaults shall be assessed immediately to the highest remaining singles match still in progress.
<p><i>In matches where singles is played first, followed by doubles: If a code is committed after a singles match, assess to the highest remaining singles match still in progress at the start of the next game or immediately in a tiebreak, except that carryover defaults shall be assessed immediately to the highest remaining singles match still in progress. If singles matches are completed, carryover shall be assessed at the start of that player's doubles match. If that player is not playing doubles, the penalty shall be assessed to the Number 1 doubles match.</i></p>	

**ITA TABLE 4:
TIME VIOLATIONS**

*Time allowed in ALL divisions:
120 seconds allowed during a set break;
90 seconds allowed during a changeover;
25 seconds allowed between points (server AND receiver
are both allowed this time; there is no "server's pace")*

Violation	Penalty Assessed
First Offense	Warning
Second Offense	Point Penalty
Each Additional Offense*	Point Penalty

Player(s) may not receive back-to-back time violations during play. A second consecutive time violation issued without an intervening point being played shall result in a code violation, delay of game. For time violations returning late from a bathroom visit, please refer to **Table 5: Bathroom Visits.*

**ITA TABLE 5:
BATHROOM VISITS**

Division	Time Allowed
NCAA Division I NCAA Division II	Players are allowed one bathroom break of up to 5 minutes, to be taken at the set break only. Time shall be called at 5 minutes after the previous set ends or when the player returns to the court, whichever comes first. The player then has 30 seconds to put the ball in play before Time Violations are assessed. If a player requests to use the bathroom during another time, they may use their one Medical Timeout to do so or go on their own time.
All Other Divisions	Reasonable time as determined and agreed upon by the Referee and both head coaches.

If a player returns late from a bathroom break or a bathroom visit, then consecutive time violations shall be assessed until the player is ready to play.

**ITA TABLE 6:
PENALTIES FOR OVERRULES IN A MATCH**

Overrule #	One-Set Match	Two- and Three-Set Matches
1 st overrule	Loss of point	Loss of point
2 nd overrule	Loss of point AND Code Violation, Unsportsmanlike Conduct, Point Penalty*	Loss of point
3 rd overrule	Loss of point AND Code Violation, Unsportsmanlike Conduct, Game Penalty*	Loss of point AND Code Violation, Unsportsmanlike Conduct, Point Penalty*
4 th overrule	Loss of point AND Code Violation, Unsportsmanlike Conduct, DEFAULT*	Loss of point AND Code Violation, Unsportsmanlike Conduct, Game Penalty*
5 th overrule	N/A**	Loss of point AND Code Violation, Unsportsmanlike Conduct, DEFAULT*

*Code Violations assessed for other infractions may change when a player is defaulted. **This chart assumes no additional Code Violations have been assessed.**

**Player would have been defaulted prior to being overruled for a 5th time.

ITA TABLE 7: MEDICAL & BLEEDING TREATMENT

MEDICAL TIMEOUT: ALL DIVISIONS

- Player may only receive one Medical Timeout (MTO) for the entire match (an MTO taken during warm-up in individual tournaments counts as the player's one MTO for the match).
- Once the trainer reaches the player and begins talking/treatment, the trainer has a maximum of 5 minutes for treatment and diagnosis. The maximum amount of treatment time shall be 3 minutes.
- A player who needs an additional MTO shall be retired.
- A player may receive treatment on any changeover (no limit).
- A Medical Timeout **may not** be taken to deal with bleeding.
- **Men's Division I ONLY:** Player is assessed a point for receiving an MTO (not part of the progressive PPS).

BLEEDING TREATMENT: ALL DIVISIONS

- A player who is bleeding may not continue until bleeding is stopped.
- Bleeding Timeout must be taken to stop any bleeding for the first time from a specific site. A Medical Timeout **may not** be taken to deal with bleeding.
- Bleeding Timeout begins when player notifies official or acknowledges that there is bleeding.
- Bleeding Timeout ends when bleeding has stopped, playing area has been cleaned up and contaminated items have been removed.
- Treatment within a Bleeding Timeout is limited to 15 minutes. If exceeded and the bleeding has not stopped, player must retire. (A player may not "buy time" with PPS immediately following a Bleeding Timeout)
- If bleeding has stopped but the playing area is not cleaned up, the Referee may move the match or continue cleaning up the court.
- For second bleeding incident from same site, bleeding may be treated but player is subject to penalties for violations of Rule 29 (Continuous Play).

CONCUSSION TIMEOUT: ALL DIVISIONS

- Following a blow to the head or trunk or the head or trunk forcefully impacting the ground, a concussion timeout should be called if a possible concussion is suspected. The player shall be evaluated by a medical professional.
- Up to 15 minutes is allowed for evaluation to rule out a possible concussion
- If a concussion cannot be definitively eliminated within 15 minutes, the player shall be retired.
- A player shall not be charged with a medical timeout if evaluated for a concussion.
- A Men's Division I player shall not be assessed a point when being evaluated for a concussion.

**ITA TABLE 8:
AT A GLANCE – MAJOR DUAL MATCH DIFFERENCES AMONG DIVISIONS**

	Division I	Division II	NAIA	Division III	JUCO
Scoring format		No-Ad		Regular scoring	
Total team points		7		9	
Doubles set		6 game pro-set, tiebreak at 6-all		8 game pro set, tiebreak at 7-all	8 game pro set, tiebreak at 8-all
Service lets			NO		
Medical Timeouts - quantity			1 per match		
Bathroom Breaks		One per match, set break only, up to 5 minutes			Set break preferred, reasonable time as established by Referee

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