

2011 Proposed Updates for ITA Rules
as published in the 2012 Friend at Court

(New verbiage is indicated in **BOLD**)

- ITA Rule II.B.13 (page **255**, 2012 Friend at Court) *Inclement weather*. 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. In the event of inclement weather, **if a team match has not yet begun, it must be played indoors if a minimum of three courts are available** at a varsity quality tennis facility ~~are available~~. (See II.C.1. for the definition of a varsity quality tennis facility). **If the team match is already in progress but has not yet been completed, and two or less matches remain, these matches must be continued until the completion of the team match, even if less than three courts are available.**

- ITA Rule III.A.3 (page **264**, 2012 Friend at Court) *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, paying sanction fees, ensuring that participants' coaches are current, and filing results with the ITA office within five days of the completion of the tournament.
 - d. All ITA sanctioned events must use ~~the Wilson tennis ball~~, the official ball of the ITA (**Wilson**).

- ITA Rule II.K.9.a (page 262, 2012 Friend at Court) *Appeals 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, he 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. 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 **R**anking 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, or ~~NCAA~~ NJCAA 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.

b. Third Party Protests:

Coaches will be allowed to protest a violation of the ITA “1 position move” rule (Rule II.K.4), even if he/she 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, he/she can report this infraction to the ITA (For additional information on this procedure, see the ITA website).

The following information will be provided in the Rules section of the ITA website:

Coaches that have their line-up protested will be made aware of who submitted the protest. The “1 position move” rule is the ONLY rule where a 3rd party protest can be filed.

Third party coaches will have 72 hours from the start of the match to file a written protest to the ITA office. The coach whose line-up is in question will then have 24 hours to submit a written defense statement. Once the protest and defense have been received, the complete set of materials will be sent to the ITA Committee for review. The ITA Regional Rankings Committee will rule on protests within the same region, and the DI Operating Committee will rule on protests on the national level. Protests between 2 schools in the same conference must be sent to the conference office.

If the coach is found to be in violation of this rule, for the first infraction a written letter will be sent from the ITA to the coach and his/her Athletic Director, explaining that they have violated an ITA rule and that the line-up must be reset to what it was prior to the match in violation. The letter will also explain that any further violations of this rule will result in a 6-7-0 default in the team match.

Each coach who is found to be in violation will receive one warning letter that will carry over year after year. Coaches who are responsible for both a men’s and women’s program will only be given one warning letter. For example, if a coach violates this line-up rule with his/her men’s team and receives a warning letter but the following year breaks this same rule coaching his/her women’s team, the women’s match would be defaulted. (Originally discussed in December 2010 Operating Committee Meeting)

ITA Rule II.B.5 (page 254, 2012 Friend at Court) *Limits on numbers of players who may play:* The ~~USTA~~/ITA National Team Indoor Championships limits each team to a maximum of eight players **eligible to participate**.

ITA Rule II.K.6 (page 261, 2012 Friend at Court) *Removing players the team line-up* Before the start of the **For dual-meet competition**, the coach shall submit a **list of all** players available to play **before the match has begun**. For doubles, see Regulation K.6.7. If a singles player is not listed (~~or in the top eight~~), the player may *not* be inserted into the lineup at any time. The coach may remove a singles player or players from the initial list after the doubles has been completed. Each player listed below the removed player **and among the top 6** 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 forfeits that match. **In the case of dual-meet competition where singles is played first, a player removed from the singles line-up may play doubles- Before Championship matches, the coach shall submit** the three doubles teams and eight singles players available to play*. (See also ITA Rule II.A.5 *Men's and Women's Division I (3-6)*)

ITA Rule II.A.5 (page 253, 2012 Friend at Court) *Men's and Women's Division I (3-6)*. The Men's and Women's Division I format is 3-6 with seven team points. Players are given a 10 minute break after their doubles matches. Should there be a last-minute change in the singles line-up, the opposing coach may continue to meet with his players for up to an additional 5 minutes after the line-up change is presented (See also ITA Rule II.K.6 *Removing players the team line-up*)

ITA Rule III.A.5.e (page 265, 2012 Friend at Court 5) *ITA Sanctioned Events*. Complete typed results must be filed with the ITA office, ~~the ITA National Ranking Coordinator, and the ITA Chair of the region in which the sanctioned event took place~~ **within one week of the tournament's completion**.

▪ **IV. ITA NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE EVENTS NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS** (page 265, 2012 Friend at Court)

A. Entry into and Withdrawal from ITA National Championships Intercollegiate Events

1. A player ~~shall~~ **must not accept entry into the qualifying or main draw of an event** if injured and not sure if he/she can ~~play~~ **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 (7) eight** 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**, he/she cannot withdraw within **seven (7)*** days prior to the start of the event. All **withdrawals within this timeframe 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:**
 - i. 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 ~~immediately~~ **within 24 hours**).

ii. 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) must cannot be withdrawn within 10 days of the start of the event.**

3. **All inexcusable withdrawals** ~~Failure to follow these rules~~ will result in:
- a letter of reprimand to the head coach with a copy sent to the school's Athletic Director; and
 - a fine to the head coach in the amount of \$500.

B. Entry into and Withdrawal from ITA Regional Championships ~~Intercollegiate Events~~

1. A player ~~shall~~ **must** not accept entry **into the qualifying or main draw of an event** if injured and not sure if he/she can ~~play~~ **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 tournament office~~ **Region Chair and copy the ITA office** by phone, **e-mail** and/or fax no later than **seven (7)** ~~eight~~ 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**, he/she cannot withdraw within **seven (7)** days prior to the start of the event. All **withdrawals within this timeframe will be subject to any applicable entry fees, regardless of the reason for withdrawal.**
3. **If a player is withdrawn for any reason once the tournament has begun, he/she will receive an unranked loss (his/her opponent will not receive a win unless the warm-up has started).**

~~B. ITA All American Championships (Men and Women)~~

~~C. ITA National Small College Championships (Men and Women)~~

~~When making the draw for each Division, 4 singles players and 4 doubles teams shall be seeded. (See ITA Regulation III.A.4. "The Draw" for additional draw making criteria.)~~

~~D. ITA National Intercollegiate Indoor Championships (Men and Women)~~

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~~USTA/ITA National Team Indoor Championships (Men and Women)~~

~~F. ITA Division III National Team Indoor Championships (Men)~~