



2016-17 OFFICIAL
RULEBOOK

Comments and suggestions regarding this rulebook are welcome. If you have any feedback, please feel free to submit your feedback in writing to our address below.

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FOREWORD

Dear Friends:

Our sport is deeply grounded in a magnificent tradition of rigorous competition and the highest levels of integrity both on and off the court. College tennis celebrates individual performance and teamwork.

The Intercollegiate Tennis Association exists to transform lives through tennis, "Serving college tennis, and returning the leaders of tomorrow!" A goal of the ITA is "to provide national and global leadership within our sport and beyond our sport – throughout higher education and intercollegiate athletics, in college communities, the tennis industry and the world at large."

Throughout history one common trait of outstanding leaders has been honor. It has been asked, "What is left when honor is lost?" Abraham Lincoln once said, "I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to what light I have."

All tennis players recognize that when each and every match is completed there will be but one winning side when it comes to the outcome of the score. While this may be a fact of competitive life, as a sport we can aspire to have all parties to the game share a sense of shared values and real community in knowing that the match was fought in the true spirit of fair play and good sportsmanship.

In the coming season, may all college tennis matches be contested on court demonstrating our individual and collective commitment to this important part of leadership. Leaders model the way.

Love the battle! Remember the words of Marcus Aurelius, who, in his Meditations, said, "If it is not right do not do it; if it is not true do not say it."

Expressed in a more positive way, for our modern age, "Play by the rules, compete with honor and integrity, joy and passion, cherish the opportunity to fight the good fight and relish the memories of another wonderful day on the tennis court."

Thanks to each and all for making our sport a leader when it comes to great sportsmanship!

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

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**PART 1 — INTERCOLLEGIATE TENNIS
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 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. Formats for Team Play – Division I

1. *Three doubles followed by six singles (3-6 Format).* The format is three 6-game pro set doubles matches with a 7-point tiebreak at 6-all. Doubles will be followed by six best-of-three set singles matches.
2. *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.
 - a. After the doubles point has been decided, any remaining doubles match shall be abandoned.
 - b. 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.
3. *Scoring.* No-ad scoring will be used for both doubles and singles matches.
4. *Warm-up.* There is no warm-up in doubles or singles for Division I.
5. *Time between doubles and singles.* In Division I, the singles players must be ready to play within five minutes of the completion of the doubles point. Should there be a last minute change in the singles line-up, the coaches may continue to meet with their players for up to an additional five minutes after the notification of the line-up change is made by the Referee.
6. *Other authorized Division I formats.* There are only two cases where the Division I format may be adjusted:
 - a. *Inclement Weather.* In the case of inclement weather, the Division I 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

Please note: Text in blue in this book represents a new or changed rule.

match scoring — one point each for singles, one point for two doubles matches — remains the same.

- b. *Playing to clinch.* If both coaches agree, a team match may be stopped once a team reaches four points.

C. Formats for Team Play – Division II, III & NAIA

1. *Three doubles followed by six singles (3-6 Format).* The format is three 8-game pro set doubles matches with a 7-point tiebreak at 8-all. Doubles will be followed by six best-of-three set singles matches.
 - a. *Constitution of a team match for Small Colleges for ITA Ranking Purposes.* In small college tennis, a collegiate team match must consist of six singles and three doubles to be considered for ITA team ranking.
2. *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.
 - a. 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.
3. *Scoring.* Regular scoring shall be used in all matches, both doubles and singles.
4. *Warm-up.* Players will receive a five-minute warm-up in doubles and singles.
5. *Time between doubles and singles.*
 - a. In Division II & NAIA, the singles players must be ready to play within ten minutes of the completion of the final doubles point. Should there be a last minute change in the singles line-up, the coaches may continue to meet with their players for up to an additional five minutes after the notification of the line-up change is made by the Referee.
 - b. In Division III, singles players must be ready to play within five minutes of the completion of the final doubles point. Should there be a last minute change in the singles line-up, the coaches may continue to meet with their players for up to an additional five minutes after the notification of the line-up change is made by the Referee.

D. Formats for Team Play – Junior & Community College

1. *Six singles followed by three doubles with nine team points (6-3 Format).* The format is six best-of-three set singles matches

followed by three 8-game pro set doubles matches with a tiebreak at 8-all.

- a. *Constitution of a team match for Small Colleges for ITA Ranking Purposes.* In small college tennis, a collegiate team match must consist of six singles and three doubles to be considered for ITA team ranking.
2. *Nine team points.* Each singles and doubles match is worth one point for a total of nine points. Five or more points are required to win the team match.
 - a. 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.
3. *Scoring.* Regular scoring shall be used in all matches, both singles and doubles.
4. *Warm-up.* Players will receive a five-minute warm-up in doubles and singles.
5. *Time between singles and doubles.* Each player shall be ready to play doubles within 15 minutes after the completion of the singles match, unless both coaches agree otherwise. A coach may request from the Official an additional 15 minutes (for a total of 30 minutes) if extenuating circumstances exist (i.e., length of match, trainer accessibility, etc.). Once all four players are available to begin one of the doubles matches, that match shall be played as soon as possible on whatever court is available, unless both coaches agree to wait until the end of the remaining singles matches.

E. 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.

F. Team Line-ups

1. *Exchange of line-ups and scorebooks.* One hour before the start of the match, the coaches shall simultaneously exchange their complete singles and doubles line-ups. The ITA Scorebooks shall show all team results throughout the year up to that day. If a coach does not have the scorebook, the coach must print off a copy of a line-up page from the ITA website and also provide the opposing coach a hard copy of complete results for the players and team.
2. *All physically able players shall be listed in the line-up.* Coaches shall list **all** players who are able to play in the line-up. Injured, ill, or ineligible who are not cleared to play shall not be listed in the line-up.
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/team listed above that player/team the player or 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 less 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 played regardless of time between matches), the team line-up (as played) may be changed as long as the line-up stays in order of ability. A player or doubles team may be moved one line-up position from the previous match.
5. *Line-up changes once a match has begun.* In a team match, the official start of the doubles play of the match is marked when the on-court warm-up begins (or the match begins if there is no warm-up) between any of the three doubles teams and in singles, when the warm-up begins (or the match if there is no warm-up) between any one of the six singles matches.
 - a. In NCAA Division I, once the first ball is struck in any match, substitutions are not permitted.
 - b. In NCAA Division II, once the warm-up begins in any match (on any number of courts), substitutions are not permitted.
 - c. In all other Divisions: if playing on less 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 while the No. 1-No. 4 are warming up, you may move your No. 6 up to No. 5 and slide the remaining players up.) Matches must be started in accordance to ITA Regulation I.H.6.
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 after the doubles has been completed. 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 forfeits 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.
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. The doubles line-up must still be played in order of ability, therefore the coach shall order the teams to reflect the substitution. 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 line-up must remain in order

of ability, therefore the coach shall order the teams to reflect the substitutions. 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.

8. *Team that is short on players.* A team appearing with an insufficient number of players shall default matches at the bottom of the line-up (i.e., the team competing with only five players must default at 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 forfeited. 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 forfeit the match.
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. 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, or 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 "one position move" rule (ITA Regulation I.F.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).

11. *Placement of injured or ill players in line-up.* If a player is injured or ill and cannot play for three weeks or longer, the coach should use discretion in determining where to place the player in the team line-up. If the player has played the majority of the matches at one position, the player must be placed within two positions up or down to be within a "range." This rule does not apply to the NCAA Championships at the end of the year.

G. 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: Under any and all circumstances, if a team is not ready to begin its team match at the specified starting time, each player on the starting line-up in singles shall begin one game down and shall be deemed to have lost the toss. A team that is more than 15 minutes late from the specified starting time will lose the doubles point(s). A team that is more than one hour late from the specified start time will forfeit the entire match.
3. *Penalties for Lateness.* The following penalties should 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 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.

- b. *Default after 15 minutes.* The Referee may default a player or doubles team for being 15 minutes late for the starting time of the match.

H. 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. 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 default.
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 (ITA Regulation I.N.3.) against the offending team and in extreme cases forfeiture of the match.
6. *Order of play on fewer than six courts.* If fewer than six courts are being used, start the singles with the number one match and continue starting matches in numerical order.
7. *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. The match is considered to have started when the first ball is struck in Men's and Women's Division I matches, or when the players begin warming up together on the court in all other divisions.
8. *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 towards a player's win/loss record or for rankings.

9. *Teams withdrawing.* In a dual team meet, 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 Rankings purposes. In the ITA National Team Indoor Championships or a sanctioned team tournament, any team withdrawing from the event once a written commitment has been made, may only do so because of injuries or academic probation affecting a minimum of three of the starting eight players. The injuries and probation must be attested to by the team doctor and Athletic Director in writing. For the ITA National Team Indoor Championship only, the team withdrawing will be penalized with three defaults for ITA Ranking purposes.
10. *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 default. This loss and any subsequent consolation match losses shall count as ranking losses.
11. *Consequences of failing to follow ITA rules.* Failure to follow ITA rules in any ITA sanctioned team tournament will cause the forfeiture of the ITA sanction, and the results from such an event will not be considered for ITA ranking purposes.
12. *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 II school), the format and rules of the home team's division shall be followed, unless otherwise specified by written contract.
13. *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.
 - a. *Players make calls on their side of the court.* Players shall make all calls on their side of the court. A Chair Umpire or Roving Umpire shall not assist the player in making any call with any kind of verbal or non-verbal signal.
 - b. *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.

- c. *Disagreement between partners over a call.* A doubles partner is obligated to disagree with the partner if an erroneous “out” call is made. When doubles partners disagree on a call, the point goes to the opposing team. The point is never replayed.
- d. *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.
- e. *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.
 - i. *Clay court procedure.* Players may quickly check a mark before making a call on their side of the net.
- f. *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.
- g. *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.
- h. *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.
- i. *Players shall not cross the net to point out a mark or discuss a problem.* A player shall not cross the net to point out a mark or discuss a problem. A player who does shall be penalized under the ITA Point Penalty System.
- j. *Touches, invasion of opponent’s court, reaching over the net, and double bounces.* 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. If there is a Chair Umpire, the Chair Umpire should make these calls. A Roving Umpire who observes the incident may make the call if the Roving Umpire directly observed the incident with or without a verbal appeal from a player.

- k. *Service Lets.* In Men’s Division I, there are no service lets. If the serve hits the net and goes into the service box, the ball is in play. Either player may call a service let if the player does so immediately after the let occurs. A Chair Umpire may call service lets. Requests for lets may not be made after a point is ended. A service let call can be verbally appealed and is treated as an overrule if disallowed.
- l. *Lets.* The Chair Umpire or the Roving Umpire may call a let for a ball that is endangering a player or interruption of play.
- m. *Only a coach or player may request an Official on court. In an unofficiated 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 the Official or Referee is located.*
- n. *Foot faults.* A player shall not call a foot fault on an opponent. All foot faults must be called by an Official.
- o. *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.
- p. *Settling disagreements over the score.* If a disagreement over the score occurs, the methods for settling the dispute in order of preference are:
 - i. Count all points and games agreed upon by the players, with only the disputed points or games being replayed;
 - ii. Resume play from a score mutually agreeable to the players;
 - iii. Use a coin flip.
- q. *Chair Umpire shall not overrule call unless player immediately appeals for overrule.* A Chair Umpire shall not overrule a call unless it is challenged verbally immediately by the opposing player. Coaches may instruct their player to appeal as long as it is done immediately. The Chair Umpire shall not prompt the request for an appeal.

- r. *Overrules by Roving Umpires.* If appealed to, a Roving Umpire may overrule a call if in direct observation of the call.
- s. *Player who has been overruled twice shall thereafter be penalized under the Point Penalty System.* If a Chair Umpire and/or Roving Umpire has overruled a player or doubles team twice, the Umpire shall penalize each subsequent overrule under the ITA Point Penalty System. The failure to have an appeal upheld is not treated as an overrule.
- t. *Excessive appeals for the apparent sake of disrupting play.* An Official shall caution any player making excessive appeals for the apparent sake of disrupting play. Thereafter, if the Official determines that the player is making appeals for the apparent sake of disrupting play, the Official may penalize the player under the ITA Point Penalty System.
- u. *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.

14. Service and Service Returns

- a. *No more than twenty seconds between points.* Both the server and receiver must be ready to begin the next point within twenty seconds of when the ball went out of play. Each player has the right to the full twenty seconds to prepare for the next point.
- b. *Server's appeal of a first serve that receiver calls good.* The server (or server's partner in doubles) may make a first volley or half-volley of the return of an out first serve which was played before appealing to the Chair Umpire or Roving Umpire for an overrule. But if the server (and the server's partner in doubles) remains in the back court, the appeal must be made before hitting the ball.
 - i. If the appeal is granted, the server gets a second serve.
 - ii. If the appeal is not granted, then the point goes to the receiver.

A server whose appeal is denied is not subject to penalty under the ITA Point Penalty System by virtue of the failure of the appeal.

- c. *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. The receiver's partner shall not stand in the 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.

- d. *Receiver who corrects the fault call to good loses the point.* If the receiver returns a ball and simultaneously calls a fault and then changes the call to good, then the receiver loses the point, even if the return is good.
- e. *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.

I. 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 at least three courts are available at a varsity quality tennis facility. (See ITA Regulation III.A. for a definition of varsity quality tennis facility.) If the team match is already in progress but has not yet 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.

1. *Determining playable outdoor weather conditions.* Matches shall be played outdoors unless the projected weather forecast for a minimum of:
 - [two hours out of a three-hour time period in Division I](#)
 - [two hours out of a four-hour time period for all other divisions](#)
 from the start of the match, 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.
 - c. 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. If play is suspended at any other point during the match due

to weather, play must resume outdoors within one hour of the delay. If this is not possible, matches must be moved indoors.

- d. When no indoor back-up is available, the match must be played outdoors. If play is suspended due to weather conditions, it is suggested that play resume within two hours of the delay.
2. *Decision to move indoors shall be made up to one hour before start of match.* The decision to move indoors shall be made up to one hour before the start of the match if the weather conditions are forecasted not to improve.
3. *Matches played indoors.* If a match is moved indoors due to inclement weather, the indoor facility or covered courts must meet the playable outdoor weather conditions stated in ITA Regulation I.I.1.
4. *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.
5. *Games Committee may modify inclement weather rules.* In a sanctioned team tournament, the Games Committee may modify the inclement weather rule, if absolutely necessary.
6. *Inclement weather procedures.* The procedure to follow in the event of darkness, inclement weather, or lack of acceptable indoor facilities shall be reached between coaches before the start of a match, preferably in the original match contract. **If 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.**

J. Timeouts, Bathroom Breaks, and Equipment Adjustment

1. *Medical timeout.* The USTA regulation on medical timeouts, USTA Regulation III.E., applies with the following exceptions (these ITA Medical and Bleeding Timeout procedures are also summarized in the back of the book in ITA Table 7 - 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.
 - b. *Bleeding timeouts.* In all divisions, bleeding timeouts follow the USTA Regulation for bleeding timeouts.

- c. *Women's Division I medical timeouts.* In Women's Division I, a player may have only one medical timeout. (The USTA provision for a medical timeout during the warm-up and a second timeout for the same condition during the match does not apply.) 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.
- d. *Men's Division I medical timeouts.* In Men's Division I, a player may have only one medical timeout. (The USTA provision for a medical timeout during the warm-up and a second timeout for the same condition during the match does not apply.) If a player takes a medical timeout, the player shall be assessed one point. This assessed point is not part of the Point Penalty System. 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 three minutes for diagnosis and treatment.
- e. *Medical timeouts in all other divisions.* In all divisions other than Division I, medical timeouts follow the USTA Regulation for medical timeouts with two exceptions:
 - i. The USTA limit on the number of changeovers and set breaks on which a player may be treated does not apply; and
 - ii. Once the trainer starts talking to the player or touches the player, the trainer has a maximum of five minutes for diagnosis and treatment. (Note the maximum amount of time for treatment is three minutes.)
- f. *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.
- g. *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 Women.* In Division I Women, players are allowed one three-minute bathroom break with a:
 - i. Changeover (for total of four-and-a-half minutes); or

- ii. Set break (for a total of five minutes). Additionally a player may use the bathroom during the 90-second changeover or two-minute set break.

If a player asks to use the bathroom during a time other than a changeover or set break and if that player chooses to use the bathroom, this is treated as the player's one medical timeout. This medical timeout is limited to three minutes plus the agreed upon travel time. (The coaches and Referee shall agree on the travel time before the start of the team match.) If a player uses a bathroom break at a changeover, set break, or as a medical timeout and returns late from that changeover, set break or medical timeout, returning late results in Time Violation penalties until the player is ready to play.

- b. *Division I Men.* A player may use the bathroom only during the 90-second changeover or two-minute set break. There are no bathroom breaks in Men's Division I.

If a player asks to use the bathroom during a time other than a changeover or set break and if that player chooses to use the bathroom, this is treated as the player's one medical timeout and the player using the bathroom shall be assessed one point. This medical timeout is limited to three minutes plus the agreed upon travel time. (The coaches and Referee shall agree on the travel time before the start of the team match.) If a player uses a bathroom break at a changeover, set break, or as a medical timeout and returns late from that changeover, set break or medical timeout, returning late results in Time Violation penalties until the player is ready to play.

- c. *All divisions other than Division I.* All divisions other than Division I follow the USTA Regulation on Toilet Visits.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

K. 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 two times; 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. *ITA Point Penalty System.* The ITA Point Penalty System, consists of the following:
 - a. Point Penalty
 - b. Game Penalty
 - c. DefaultThe "Warning" is **NOT** a part of the ITA Point Penalty System.
- 4. *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.
- 5. *Default.* The designated Referee has the sole power to default players during dual matches and ITA sanctioned tournaments. Before defaulting a player in a dual meet, the Referee shall confer with both coaches and any other Officials. Coaches shall have the opportunity to offer an explanation of the situation to the designated Referee.

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.

6. *Carry-over of code violations after a match is over in team competitions.* The following carry-over rules apply in team competitions:

Code violation after the completion of a match.

- a. *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. If the doubles point has been decided, the carry-over penalty shall be assessed at the start of that player's singles match. If that player is not playing in the singles, the carry-over 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.

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

- i. During the first match (doubles) of the dual meet;
- ii. After the first match (doubles) of the dual meet but before the doubles point has been decided.
- iii. After the first match (doubles) of the dual meet but after the doubles point has been decided. (Applies only to 7-point team format).
- iv. During the second match (singles) of the dual meet;
- v. After the second match (singles) of the dual meet.

- b. *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. If the singles matches have been completed, the carry-over 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.

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

- i. During the first match (singles) of the dual meet;
- ii. After the first match of the dual meet but where singles matches remain in progress;
- iii. During the second match (doubles) of the dual meet;
- iv. After the second match (doubles) of the dual meet but where doubles matches remain in progress.

- c. For the purpose of imposing carry-over penalties after a doubles match, the two doubles players remain a team until one or both of them have left the court.

- d. *Multiple Offenses.* The Point Penalty System is in effect for carry-over 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.

- e. *Loss of toss.* All carry-over code violations resulting in a point or game penalty also include loss of toss.

7. *Time violations.* Time violations occur when a player takes more than 20 seconds between points or takes more than 90 seconds on change overs. 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.

8. *Player who has been overruled twice shall thereafter be penalized under the Point Penalty System.* If any Official has overruled a player or doubles team twice, the Official shall penalize each 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 an appeal upheld is not treated as an overrule.

- a. *Coaches may overrule their own player. Coaches may at any time overrule a call made by their own player/team. Any such overrule by a coach shall not count towards the player or team's number of overrules by an Official.*

9. *Penalties for physical contact between teams.*
- 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 carry-over penalties that were assessed shall be applied (including a carryover default penalty).
 - 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 carry-over 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.
 - Physical contact after the completion of a dual match.* ITA carry-over penalties do not apply when the physical contact offense occurs following the completion of the dual match. In this instance, the Referee should write about the incident to the athletic directors of both institutions, the conference (if a conference match), the coaches of both institutions, and the ITA Ethics and Infractions Committee.

10. *Loud grunting or outbursts.*

- 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.
- 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).
- 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.

11. *Referee shall report defaults to ITA Ethics and Infractions Committee.* In all cases involving a player default, the tournament Referee must write a report of this incident to the ITA Ethics and Infractions Committee. The Committee may contact the Director of Athletics of the player's school.

12. *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, in viewing distance.
13. *Coach assessed penalty.* Coaches may assess a point penalty at any time against their own player/team for any inappropriate conduct. Any such point assessed shall not be part of the ITA Point Penalty System for that match.

L. Coaching

- 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.
- Electronic communication devices.* Use of electronic communication devices such as cell phones, tablets, etc. is prohibited. However, these devices may be used for texting and data purposes only. Speaking, listening or using any voice-activated features on these devices is not permitted.
- Penalties when coach interferes with play.* The purpose of coaching is to offer advice to the player. Coaches shall not in any way distract or annoy the opposing player. If a coach in any way interferes with play or distracts an opposing player at any time, the coach shall receive a direct warning from the Referee or Official. For any subsequent violation, the coach's player, on the court where the violation occurred, shall be assessed a point penalty. Penalties for coaching are not treated as part of the ITA Point Penalty System, and they do not accumulate.
- Who may coach?* Coaching is permitted by the head coach and two designated coaches, who may be an assistant coach and/or a registered volunteer coach and/or player. All assistant coaches and volunteer coaches must be on the institutional coaching list and registered with their respective school. Two coaches may coach on the same court at one time. In the absence of a head coach, an assistant coach may be designated as the acting head coach.
- Where coaches may coach.* A coach may sit or stand near the net post and must stay within the area where the players' chairs or benches are located or should be provided. The coach's movement shall be limited so as to not distract the players. A coach may change courts when the movement will not interrupt play. Coaching is permitted outside the fence perimeter. On an empty adjacent court, coaches may stand at the doubles sideline on

the same side as their own player. On the opponent's side, the coach must remain at midcourt. Coaches may coach within the lines of the court only during a changeover, set break or when changing courts.

6. *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 the Coaches' Code of Conduct Penalty System. Violations by the player shall result in the application of the ITA Point Penalty System.
7. *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.
8. *No cheerleading.* Coaches shall not cheerlead. A simple "good shot" or a polite clap is not considered cheerleading.

M. Coaches' Code of Conduct Penalty System

The conduct of coaches before, during, and after any competition must be exemplary. Any deviation from this standard shall result in the following penalties with the understanding that all coaching penalties are cumulative for the entire coaching staff (Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Volunteer Coach or a player acting as a Coach) and apply to the dual match - singles and doubles):

1. A direct warning from the Referee or Official;
2. If the coach's behavior continues following the warning, the Referee or Official shall immediately assess a point penalty against the coach's player (on the court where the behavior occurred); if the behavior occurs off court, the point shall be assessed immediately on the highest match in progress; if the behavior occurs between the doubles and singles matches, then the penalties shall be assessed on the singles match once it begins; if the Referee assesses the penalty, there shall be no appeal; if an Official assesses the penalty, the coach may appeal to the Referee, whose decision shall be final;
3. If there are any further behavior problems with the coach, the Referee may bar the coach from continuing to coach for the rest of the event; and
4. If the coach continues to coach, the Referee may declare a default of all the coach's players and teams whose matches are still in progress.

If the Referee bars a coach from further coaching or if the Referee declares a default, then the Referee shall write a report to the coach's Athletic Director and send a copy to the ITA Ethics and Infractions Committee.

N. Restrictions on Players and Spectators

1. *Allowable Areas for Players and Team Personnel.*
 - a. Players are permitted no closer than the center service line on the adjacent court. The Referee may move the players further away.
 - b. Players are **NOT** spectators. Non-playing "bench" players and team personnel (managers, stringers, strength coaches, trainers, etc.) must remain in the allowable area for bench players and team personnel, as designated by the referee. The referee and coaches shall discuss and agree to this allowable area during the pre-match meeting/line-up exchange.
 - c. All bench players shall wear team uniforms throughout the event to make them distinguishable from the spectators.
 - d. Team members and personnel, must sit/stand together as a group when watching a match on the same court.
 - e. Once an adjacent court opens, 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, bench players and team personnel may remain at their original location.
2. *Player Behavior.* Team members must exhibit exemplary sportsmanship throughout the team event. Team members shall not harass opposing team members, coaches, their fans or the officiating crew. There cannot be any remarks made to or about opposing team members. Heckling, harassment or personal attacks from student-athletes and/or team personnel will not be permitted while any ball is in play. All cheering must be positive and directed at their own team members. Student-athletes and all team personnel 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. Bench players and team personnel are prohibited from making officiating calls including but not limited to foot faults, line calls and lets. If bench players or team personnel violate the behavior expectations, the team bench will receive an official warning. Subsequent violations will result in point penalties. Point penalties shall be assessed on the court where each violation occurred.

3. *Spectator Behavior.* Spectators are to behave under the same principles/guidelines of other sports (no profanity, vulgarity, abusive comments, etc). 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 and former student-athletes should be considered and treated as spectators and should 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 if violations of the above policy occur.

- a. *Penalty for Violating Policy:*

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

O. Equipment and Attire

1. Tennis Balls

- a. *Ball usage.* In Division I dual matches, three (3) new balls 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. In all other Divisions, a minimum of three new yellow tennis balls, ITF-approved, shall be provided for each match. The balls shall be changed at the end of the second set. In all divisions, four (4) new balls must be used in 8-game doubles pro sets.
- b. *Wilson balls required for ITA national and regional championships and all ITA sanctioned events.* The official tennis ball of the ITA is the Wilson ball. It must be used in all ITA national and regional championships, and all ITA sanctioned events.
- c. *Wilson balls recommended for dual matches.* Whenever possible ITA coaches should use the Wilson tennis ball in all dual matches.
- 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. 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.

P. 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, an 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 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 National Tournament Committee. 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.* In an unofficiated 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 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.

Q. Trainer

1. *Host school shall provide trainer.* The host school shall provide the services of a qualified trainer, preferably at the match site or at a training facility within a five-minute walk of the match site. The NAIA recommends, but does not require, a home team trainer at all home matches.
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.

R. 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. *Appeal of a Referee's decision.* If a coach feels that a decision by the Referee was incorrect and affected the result of the team match and involves a team match played out of conference, the coach should file a written protest with the ITA National Tournament Committee and send copies to the opposing coach, both Athletic Directors, the Referee and, when appropriate, to the conference commissioner. The decision of the ITA Ranking Committee on the appeal shall be binding concerning ITA rankings. The decision shall be communicated to the athletic directors and NCAA Chairs for their consideration.
3. *Protests to ITA National Tournament Committee.* If a coach believes a match was played unfairly, or that the opposing coach did not follow ITA rules, the coach should protest in writing to the ITA National Tournament Committee. Protest forms and procedures can be found on the ITA website.

4. *Home coach shall report scores to local media.* The home coach shall report the scores of the team match to the local media.
5. *Grievances about Officials.* Any grievance related to inappropriate conduct by an Official involving out of conference schools at a dual match or ITA sanctioned tournament (excluding the NCAA, NAIA, NJCAA and CCCAA Championships) should be sent directly to the ITA. (For additional information on this procedure, see the ITA website). Any grievance of an Official in a match between two conference teams, should be sent to the conference office.

S. Post-Match Interviews

In all ITA national championship events, the players shall make themselves available upon request for media interviews within ten minutes of the completion of their matches. Failure to do so may result in the Men's or Women's ITA National Tournament Committee disqualifying the player from the tournament or from the next ITA Collegiate Rankings.

T. 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.

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 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:* No-ad scoring shall be used in all ITA, national, regional and sanctioned matches.
2. *NCAA Divisions II, III, NAIA, and Junior and Community College:* Regular scoring shall be used in all the 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, unless the teams were not able to take their thirty minute warm-up before the start of the team match, in which case a ten minute warm-up is permitted. 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 two 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 ten 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. *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.
 - a. *Players make calls on their side of the court.* Player shall make all calls on their side of the court. A Chair Umpire or Roving Umpire shall not assist the player in making any call with any kind of verbal or non-verbal signal.
 - b. *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.
 - c. *Disagreement between partners over a call.* A doubles partner is obligated to disagree with the partner if an erroneous "out" call is made. When doubles partners disagree on a call, the point goes to the opposing team. The point is never replayed.
 - d. *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.
 - e. *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.

- i. *Clay court procedure.* Players may quickly check a mark before making a call on their side of the net.
- f. *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.
- g. *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.
- h. *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.
- i. *Players shall not cross the net to point out a mark or discuss a problem.* A player shall not cross the net to point out a mark or discuss a problem. A player who does shall be penalized under the ITA Point Penalty System.
- j. *Touches, invasion of opponent's court, reaching over the net, and double bounces.* 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. If there is a Chair Umpire, the Chair Umpire should make these calls. A Roving Umpire who observes the incident may make the call if in direct observance the incident with or without an appeal from a player.
- k. *Service Lets.* In Men's Division I, there are no service lets. If the serve hits the net and goes into the service box, the ball is in play. Either player may call a service let if the player does so immediately after the let occurs. A Chair Umpire may call service lets. Requests for lets may not be made after a point is ended. A service let call can be appealed and is treated as an overrule if disallowed.
- l. *Lets.* The Chair Umpire or the Roving Umpire may call a let for a ball that is endangering a player or interruption of play.
- m. *Only a coach or player may request an Official on court. In an unofficiated 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 the Official or Referee is located.

- n. *Foot faults.* A player shall not call a foot fault on an opponent. All foot faults must be called by an Official.
- o. *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.
- p. *Settling disagreements over the score.* If a disagreement over the score occurs, the methods for settling the dispute in order of preference are:
 - i. Count all points and games agreed upon by the players, with only the disputed points or games being replayed;
 - ii. Resume play from a score mutually agreeable to the players;
 - iii. Use a coin flip.
- q. *Chair Umpire shall not overrule call unless player immediately appeals for overrule.* A Chair Umpire shall not overrule a call unless it is challenged verbally immediately by the opposing player. Coaches may instruct their player to appeal as long as it is done immediately. The Chair Umpire shall not prompt the request for an appeal.
- r. *Overrules by Roving Umpires.* If appealed to, a Roving Umpire may overrule a call if in direct observation of the call.
- s. *Player who has been overruled twice shall thereafter be penalized under the Point Penalty System.* If the Chair Umpire and Roving Umpires have overruled a player or doubles team twice, the Umpire shall penalize each subsequent overrule under the ITA Point Penalty System. The failure to have an appeal upheld is not treated as an overrule.
- t. *Excessive appeals for the apparent sake of disrupting play.* An Official shall caution any player making excessive appeals for the apparent sake of disrupting play. Thereafter, if the Official determines that the player is making appeals for the apparent sake of disrupting play, the Official may penalize the player under the ITA Point Penalty System.
- u. *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.

2. Service and Service Returns

- a. *No more than twenty seconds between points.* Both the server and receiver must be ready to begin the next point within twenty seconds of when the ball went out of play. Each player has the right to the full twenty seconds to prepare for the next point.
- b. *Server's appeal of a first serve that receiver calls good.* The server (or server's partner in doubles) may make a first volley or half-volley of the return of an out first serve which was played before appealing to the Chair Umpire or Roving Umpire for an overrule. But if the server (and the server's partner in doubles) remains in the back court, the appeal must be made before hitting the ball.
 - i. If the appeal is granted, the server gets a second serve.
 - ii. If the appeal is not granted, then the point goes to the receiver.

A server whose appeal is denied is not subject to penalty under the ITA Point Penalty System by virtue of the failure of the appeal.

- c. *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. The receiver's partner shall not stand in the 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.
 - d. *Receiver who corrects a fault call to good loses the point.* If the receiver returns a ball and simultaneously calls a fault and then changes the call to good, then the receiver loses the point, even if the return is good.
 - e. *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
3. *Conference rules.* Conference rules shall supersede ITA rules when it is an individual conference tournament.

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 (ITA Regulation II.L.3) against the offending team and in extreme cases forfeiture of the match.
6. *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. The match is considered to have started when the first ball is struck in Men's and Women's Division I matches, or when the players begin warming up together on the court in all other divisions.
7. *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 ITA sanctioned tournaments do not count towards a player's win/loss record or for rankings.
8. *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 consolation match losses shall count as losses.
9. *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. 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.

1. *Matches played indoors.* If a match is moved indoors due to inclement weather, the indoor facility or covered courts must meet the playable outdoor weather conditions stated in ITA Regulation II.G.1.
2. *Matches moved indoors stay indoors.* If matches are moved indoors due to inclement weather or darkness, they shall stay indoors until completion.

3. *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.

I. Timeouts, Bathroom Breaks, and Equipment Adjustment

1. *Medical timeout.* The USTA regulation on medical timeouts, USTA Regulation III.E., applies with the following exceptions (these ITA Medical and Bleeding Timeout procedures are also summarized in the back of the book in ITA Table 7 - 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.
- b. *Bleeding timeouts.* In all divisions, bleeding timeouts follow the USTA Regulation for bleeding timeouts.
- c. *Women's Division I medical timeouts.* In Women's Division I, a player may have only one medical timeout. (The USTA provision for a medical timeout during the warm-up and a second timeout for the same condition during the match does not apply.) 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.
- d. *Men's Division I medical timeouts.* In Men's Division I, a player may have only one medical timeout. (The USTA provision for a medical timeout during the warm-up and a second timeout for the same condition during the match does not apply.) If a player takes a medical timeout, the player shall be assessed one point. The point assessed is not part of the Point Penalty System. 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 three minutes for diagnosis and treatment.
- e. *Medical timeouts in all other divisions.* In all divisions other than Division I, medical timeouts follow the USTA Regulation for medical timeouts with two exceptions:
 - i. The USTA limit on the number of changeovers and set breaks on which a player may be treated does not apply; and
 - ii. Once the trainer starts talking to the player or touches the player, the trainer has a maximum of five minutes

for diagnosis and treatment. (Note the maximum amount of time for treatment is three minutes.)

- f. *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.
 - g. *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 Women.* In Division I Women, players are allowed one three-minute bathroom break with a:
 - i. Changeover (for total of four-and-a-half minutes); or
 - ii. Set break (for a total of five minutes). Additionally a player may use the bathroom during the 90-second changeover or two-minute set break.

If a player asks to use the bathroom during a time other than a changeover or set break and if that player chooses to use the bathroom, this is treated as the player's one medical timeout. This medical timeout is limited to three minutes plus the agreed upon travel time. (The coaches and Referee shall agree on the travel time before the start of the tournament.) If a player uses a bathroom break at a changeover, set break, or as a medical timeout and returns late from that changeover, set break or medical timeout, returning late results in Time Violation penalties until the player is ready to play.
 - b. *Division I Men.* A player may use the bathroom only during the 90-second changeover or two-minute set break. There are no bathroom breaks in Men's Division I.

If a player asks to use the bathroom during a time other than a changeover or set break and if that player chooses to use the bathroom, this is treated as the player's one medical timeout and the player using the bathroom shall forfeit one point. This medical timeout is limited to three minutes plus the agreed upon travel time. (The coaches and Referee shall agree on the travel time before the start of the tournament.) If a player uses a bathroom break at a changeover, set break, or as a medical timeout and returns late from that changeover, set break or medical timeout, returning late results in Time Violation penalties until the player is ready to play.
 - c. *All divisions other than Division I.* All divisions other than Division I follow the USTA Regulation on Toilet Visits.

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.
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.
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.

J. 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 two times; 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. *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).

3. *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.
4. *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.
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.
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. *ITA Carry-Over Rules.* The following ITA carry-over 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. *Carry-over penalties are not part of progressive schedule of penalties for next match.* When a penalty is assessed under the carry-over 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.
- d. *Multiple Offenses.* The Point Penalty System is in effect for carry-over 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.
- e. *Loss of toss.* All carry-over code violations resulting in a point or game penalty also include loss of toss.
- f. *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.I.11. below) exist which require that the player be barred from playing doubles.
- g. *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.I.11. below) exist which require that the player be barred from playing singles.

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

8. *Time violations.* Time violations occur when a player takes more than 20 seconds between points or takes more than 90 seconds on change overs. 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.
9. *Player who has been overruled twice shall thereafter be penalized under the Point Penalty System.* If any Official has overruled a player or doubles team twice, the Official shall penalize each subsequent overrule under the ITA Point Penalty System. The failure to have an appeal upheld is not treated as an overrule.
- a. *Coaches may at any time overrule a call made by their own player/team. Any such overrule by a coach shall NOT count towards the player or team's number of overrules by an Official.*
10. *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 carry-over 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 carry-over 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.
11. *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.
12. *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.
 13. *Referee shall report defaults to ITA Ethics and Infractions Committee.* In all cases involving a player default, the tournament Referee must write a report of this incident to the ITA Ethics and Infractions Committee. The Committee may contact the Director of Athletics of the player's school.
 14. *Player or coach ejected from tournament.* A player or coach ejected from a tournament must leave the tennis venue for the duration of the tournament and not be in an area where they are visible, in viewing distance.
 15. *Coach assessed penalty.* Coaches may assess a point penalty at any time against their own player/team for any inappropriate conduct. Any such point assessed shall **NOT** be part of the ITA Point Penalty System for that match.

K. 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. *Electronic communication devices.* Use of electronic communication devices such as cell phones, tablets, etc. is prohibited. However, these devices may be used for texting and data purposes only. Speaking, listening or using any voice-activated features on these devices is not permitted.
3. *Penalties when coach interferes with play.* The purpose of coaching is to offer advice to the player. Coaches shall not in any way distract or annoy the opposing player. If a coach in any way interferes with play or distracts an opposing player at any time, the coach

shall receive a direct warning from the Referee or Official. For any subsequent violation, the player, on the court where the violation occurred, shall be assessed a point penalty. Penalties for coaching are not treated as part of the ITA Point Penalty System, and they do not accumulate.

4. *Who may coach?* Coaching is permitted by the head coach and two designated coaches, who may be an assistant coach and/or a registered volunteer coach and/or player. All assistant coaches and volunteer coaches must be on the institutional coaching list and registered with their respective school. Two coaches may coach on the same court at one time. In the absence of a head coach, an assistant coach may be designated as the acting head coach.
5. *Where coaches may coach.* A coach may sit or stand near the net post and must stay within the area where the players' chairs or benches are located or should be provided. The coach's movement shall be limited so as to not distract the players. A coach may change courts when the movement will not interrupt play. Coaching is permitted outside the fence perimeter. On an empty adjacent court, coaches may stand at the doubles sideline on the same side as their own player. On the opponent's side, coaches must remain at midcourt. Coaches may coach within the lines of the court only during a changeover, set break or when changing courts.
6. *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 the Coaches' Code of Conduct Penalty System. Violations by the player shall result in the application of the ITA Point Penalty System.
7. *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.
8. *No cheerleading.* Coaches shall not cheerlead. A simple "good shot" or a polite clap is not considered cheerleading.

L. Coaches' Code of Conduct Penalty System

The conduct of coaches before, during, and after any competition must be exemplary. Any deviation from this standard shall result in the following penalties with the understanding that all coaching penalties are cumulative for the entire coaching staff (Head Coach, Assistant

Coach, Volunteer Coach or a player acting as a Coach) and apply to the dual match - singles and doubles):

1. A direct warning from the Referee or Official;
2. If the coach's behavior continues following the warning, the Referee or Official shall immediately assess a point penalty against the coach's player (on the court where the behavior occurred); if the Referee assesses the penalty, there shall be no appeal; if an Official assesses the penalty, the coach may appeal to the Referee, whose decision shall be final;
3. If there are any further behavior problems with the coach, the Referee may bar the coach from continuing to coach for the rest of the event; and
4. If the coach continues to coach, the Referee may declare a default of all the coach's players and teams whose matches are still in progress.

If the Referee bars a coach from further coaching or if the Referee declares a default, then the Referee shall write a report to the coach's Athletic Director and send a copy to the ITA Ethics and Infractions Committee.

M. Restrictions on Players and Spectators

1. *Allowable Areas for Players and Team Personnel.*
 - a. Players are permitted no closer than the center service line on the adjacent court. The Referee may move the players further away.
 - b. Players are **NOT** spectators. Non-playing "bench" players and team personnel (managers, stringers, strength coaches, trainers, etc.) must remain in the allowable area for bench players and team personnel, as designated by the referee. The referee and coaches shall discuss and agree to this allowable area during the pre-match meeting/line-up exchange.
 - c. All bench players shall wear team uniforms throughout the event to make them distinguishable from the spectators.
 - d. Team members and personnel, must sit/stand together as a group when watching a match on the same court.
 - e. Once an adjacent court opens, 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, bench players and team personnel may remain at their original location.
2. *Player Behavior.* Team members must exhibit exemplary sportsmanship throughout the event. Team members shall

not harass opposing team members, coaches, their fans or the officiating crew. There cannot be any remarks made to or about opposing team members. Heckling, harassment or personal attacks from student-athletes and/or team personnel will not be permitted while any ball is in play. All cheering must be positive and directed at their own team members. Student-athletes and all team personnel 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. Bench players and team personnel are prohibited from making officiating calls including but not limited to foot faults, line calls and lets. If bench players or team personnel violate the behavior expectations, the team bench will receive an official warning. Subsequent violations will result in point penalties. Point penalties shall be assessed on the court where each violation occurred.

3. *Spectator Behavior.* Spectators are to behave under the same principles/guidelines of other sports (no profanity, vulgarity, abusive comments, etc). 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 and former student-athletes should be considered and treated as spectators and should 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 if violations of the above policy occur.
 - a. *Penalty for Violating Policy.*
 - i. First offense: Warning from event management staff.
 - ii. Second offense: Point penalty and removal from facility.

N. Equipment and Attire

1. *Tennis Balls*
 - a. *Ball usage.* For all ITA Division I sanctioned tournaments, three (3) new balls must be used for each set in all matches. No new balls shall be given when playing a 10-point match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. In all other Divisions, a minimum of three

new yellow tennis balls, ITF-approved, shall be provided for each match. The balls shall be changed at the end of the second set. In all divisions, four (4) new balls must be used in 8-game doubles pro sets.

- b. *Wilson balls required for ITA national and regional championships and all ITA sanctioned events.* The official tennis ball of ITA is the Wilson ball. It must be used in all ITA national and regional championships, and all ITA sanctioned events.
- c. *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.
- d. *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.

O. 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, an 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 \$500.00 fine issued to the host institution.

3. *Requests for Officials.* In an unofficiated 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 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.

P. Trainer

1. *Host school shall provide trainer.* The host school shall provide the services of a qualified trainer, preferably at the match site or at a training facility within a five-minute walk of the match site.
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.

Q. Post-Match Interviews

In all ITA national championship events, the players shall make themselves available upon request for media interviews within ten minutes of the completion of their matches. Failure to do so may result in the Men's or Women's ITA National Tournament Committee disqualifying the player from the tournament or from the next ITA Collegiate Rankings.

R. 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.

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.

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 ten (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 (9) 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 (2) feet of an opaque curtain should be padded. The padding should extend from the court surface vertically for a minimum of seven (7) feet.* Please note that although facilities designed before January 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 facility not meeting these standards must be agreed to in writing by both coaches before the start of the match.

B. What The Host School MUST Provide

The host school shall provide for each match:

1. Center net straps;
2. Singles sticks and net measuring sticks (Singles sticks shall be used in all matches where singles will be played on a doubles court);

3. Scoreboards to display the running score for each court;
4. Team scoreboards;
5. ITF-approved championship tennis balls;
6. Water and first aid supplies; and
7. Dressing facilities, if requested by the visiting team (The visiting team is usually responsible for its own towels).

C. What the Host School Shall Provide (When Possible)

When possible, the host school shall provide:

1. Scorekeepers who shall act in an impartial and non-partisan manner;
2. Officials;
3. Trainer services; and
4. Conference rule book (if any).

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 Intercollegiate Tennis Association, the NCAA, the NCAA Conferences, the NAIA or the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).

2. ITA Regional Championships

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

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, paying sanction fees, ensuring that participants' coaches are current ITA members, and filing results with the ITA office within five days of completion of the tournament.
- d. All ITA sanctioned events must use the official ball of the ITA (Wilson).
- e. Complete typed results must be filed with the ITA office within one week of the tournament completion.
- f. The ITA office will notify all regional chairs of tournaments sanctioned in their designated regions and of any infractions which make the tournament results null and void for ITA Ranking purposes.

- g. It is the responsibility of the coach to file the team's and individual player's results with the appropriate regional and national ranking coordinator within the deadline for reporting dates in order for the team and players to be eligible for ITA Ranking consideration. Results from all ITA sanctioned tournaments should also be recorded in the ITA Scorebook.

4. The Draw

In all ITA national and sanctioned events—singles, doubles, and team—it is obligatory, unless impossible to separate players (and teams) within geographical regions in all first-round matches, and also to separate players from the same team in opposite halves, quarters, etc.

5. 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 (7) 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 (7)* 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 ten (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 (7) 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 (7) 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.

B. Ball Change in ITA Division I National Tournaments

For all ITA Division I national tournaments, three (3) new balls must be used for each set in all singles matches and four (4) new balls must be 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.

VII. ITA OFFICIALS

A. Requirements for Certification

1. *Testing and training.* Every year, the ITA will announce the requirements for officials 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 towards 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.

PART 3 — 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 2016 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. 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 racquet 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 racquet 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.

PART 4 — 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	<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 time; 6-game pro set with No-Ad scoring; first team to win six games by two games with a 7-point tiebreak played at 6-all. Once the doubles point has been clinched, any remaining doubles play will be abandoned.</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 II & III NAIA	<p>Match: Three doubles followed by six singles; nine team points. Each match (doubles and singles) counts as one point.</p> <p>Doubles: Five minute warm-up; 8-game pro set with regular scoring; 7-point tiebreak played at 8-all.</p> <p>Singles: Five minute 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: Six singles followed by three doubles; nine team points. Each match (singles and doubles) counts as one point.</p> <p>Doubles: Five minute warm-up; 8-game pro set with regular scoring; 7-point tiebreak played at 8-all.</p> <p>Singles: Five minute 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: TIME BETWEEN DOUBLES & SINGLES (DUAL MATCH)	
Division	Time Allowed
NCAA Division I & III	5 minutes
NCAA Division II & NAIA	10 minutes
Junior/Community College	15 minutes between singles and doubles

ITA TABLE 3: POINT PENALTY SYSTEM	
Offense	Penalty Assessed
First	Point Penalty
Second	Game Penalty
Third	Default*
*May only be issued by Referee.	

ITA TABLE 4: DUAL MATCH CARRY-OVER CODE PENALTIES	
When code occurs	When Penalty Is Assessed
During Doubles Play	If there is another doubles match in progress, assess at the start of the next game or immediately in a tiebreak. If doubles play is complete, carry-over penalty shall be assessed at the start of that player's singles match. If that player is not playing singles, the carry-over penalty shall be assessed to the Number 1 singles player for that team.
During Singles Play	The penalty shall be assessed to the highest remaining singles match still in progress at the start of the next game or immediately in a tiebreak.
<i>In matches where singles is played first, followed by doubles: Codes committed after a singles match shall be assessed to the highest remaining singles match still in progress at the start of the next game or immediately in a tiebreak. If singles matches are completed, carry-over shall be assessed at the start of that player's doubles match. If that player is not playing doubles, penalty shall be assessed to the Number 1 doubles match.</i>	

ITA TABLE 5: TIME VIOLATIONS <i>Time allowed in ALL divisions: 120 seconds allowed during a set break; 90 seconds allowed during a changeover; 20 seconds allowed between points (server AND receiver are both allowed this time; there is no "server's pace")</i>	
Violation	Penalty Assessed
First Offense	Warning
Second Offense	Point Penalty
Each Additional Offense*	Point Penalty
<i>*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 break, please refer to Table 6: Bathroom Breaks.</i>	

ITA TABLE 6: BATHROOM BREAKS	
Division	Time Allowed
NCAA Division I Women*	Players are allowed one extended, 3-minute bathroom break (taken on changeover: total of 4½ minutes allowed; taken on set break: total of five minutes allowed). If a player requests a bathroom break during another time, this is treated as the player's one medical timeout (limited to three minutes plus the agreed upon travel time).
NCAA Division I Men*	Players may only use the bathroom during the 90-second changeover or two-minute set break. If a player requests a bathroom break during another time, this is treated as the player's one medical timeout (limited to three minutes plus the agreed upon travel time). Because this is treated as their one medical timeout, the player must forfeit a point.
All Other Divisions	Reasonable time.
<i>*If a player returns late from an authorized visit to the bathroom (whether extended, used as a medical, or taken on a changeover or set break), consecutive time violations shall be assessed until the player returns.</i>	

ITA TABLE 7: MEDICAL & BLEEDING TIMEOUTS	
MEDICAL TIMEOUTS: NCAA DIVISION I	
Men	Women
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Player may only receive 1 medical timeout for the entire match (USTA provision for one MTO during the warm-up and one MTO during the match does not apply). • Player must forfeit a point for receiving an MTO (not part of the progressive PPS). • Once the trainer reaches the player and begins talking/treatment, the trainer has a maximum of 3 minutes for treatment and diagnosis. • A player who needs an additional MTO shall be retired. • A player may receive treatment on any changeover (no limit). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Player may only receive 1 medical timeout for the entire match (USTA provision for one MTO during the warm-up and one MTO during the match does not apply). • 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).
MEDICAL TIMEOUTS: ALL OTHER DIVISIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Player may receive 1 MTO per medical condition during the warm-up; player may receive 1 MTO per medical condition during 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 may receive treatment on any changeover (no limit). 	
BLEEDING TIMEOUTS: ALL DIVISIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment time begins when player notifies official or acknowledges that there is bleeding. • Treatment time ends when bleeding has stopped, playing area has been cleaned up and someone has disposed of contaminated items. • Maximum amount of treatment time is 15 minutes. • If maximum total time is exceeded and the bleeding has not stopped, player must retire. • If maximum total time is exceeded and the bleeding has stopped but the playing area is not cleaned up, the Referee may move the match or continue cleaning up the court. 	

ITA TABLE 7: AT A GLANCE – MAJOR DUAL MATCH DIFFERENCES AMONG DIVISIONS					
	Division I Men	Division I Women	Division II	Division III	JUCO
Scoring format	No-Ad (singles & doubles)		Regular scoring (singles & doubles)		
Order of match play			Doubles first		Singles first
Total team points	7		9		
Doubles set	First to 6 by 2, tiebreak at 6-all		First to 8 by 2, tiebreak at 8-all		
Warm-up	None		5 minutes		
Break between doubles & singles	5 minutes		10 minutes	5 minutes	10 minutes
Service lets	NO		YES		
Medical Timeouts - quantity	1 per match		1 per injury		
Medical Timeouts - treatment time	3 minutes* (including evaluation) *forefts point		5 minutes; maximum 3 minutes for treatment		

ABOUT THE INTERCOLLEGIATE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

As the governing body of collegiate tennis, the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) promotes both the athletic and academic achievements of the collegiate tennis community. The ITA, which was founded in 1956, is comprised of nearly 1,700 men’s and women’s varsity coaches. These coaches represent over 1,200 institutions. In addition, there are over 1,300 officials certified through the ITA Officiating Department. The ITA administers numerous regional and national championships and the Oracle/ITA College Tennis Rankings for over 20,000 college varsity student-athletes at NCAA Divisions I, II and III, NAIA and Junior College levels. The ITA also has a comprehensive awards program for players and coaches to honor excellence in academics, leadership and sportsmanship. The official ITA web site is www.ITAtennis.com.



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