

Certified Athletic Trainer Protocol for ITA Dual Matches and Tournaments

1. Always introduce yourself before a dual match or tournament to the Head Referee—if covering both teams for a dual match, make sure you also introduce yourself to the visiting head coach . Specify where you will be located, and how (radio, cell, etc.) to best communicate with you.
2. Tennis matches officially begin with the match warm up or in a match with no warm up, when the first ball is struck. Matches continue until the last point is played and the players shake hands. If a player is injured, a medical time out may be taken for Certified Athletic Trainers (ATCs) to treat player injuries.
3. ATC must always take a medical training bag/kit when called to a court.
4. Do not interrupt play on adjacent courts when entering or leaving the injured player’s court. Wait for points to end before crossing any court’s playing area.
5. ITA Medical Timeout (MTO) Rules (*ITA Table 7: Medical & Bleeding Timeouts, p. 63, 2017-18 ITA Rulebook*)

For NCAA Women’s Division I, a player may have only one (1) MTO. A player who needs an additional MTO shall be retired. Once the ATC starts talking to the player or touches the player, the trainer has a maximum of five minutes total for diagnosis and treatment. The maximum amount of time for treatment shall be three minutes. The ATC and referee/chair official should communicate on the commencement of treatment.

In NCAA Men’s Division I, once the trainer starts talking to the player or touches the player, the trainer has a maximum of three minutes for diagnosis and treatment. A player may have only one (1) MTO. If a player takes a MTO, the player shall forfeit one point. Once the trainer starts talking to the player or touches the player, the trainer has a maximum of three minutes total for diagnosis and treatment. The maximum amount of time for treatment shall be three minutes.

In all divisions other than Division I, a player may receive one (1) MTO per medical condition during the warm-up; a player may receive one (1) MTO per medical condition during the match. Once the ATC reaches the player and begins talking/treatment, the ATC has 5 minutes for diagnosis and treatment. The maximum amount of time for treatment shall be three minutes. The ATC and referee/chair official should communicate on the commencement of treatment.

* Cramping in any part of the body is considered a body injury and receives only 1 medical timeout, regardless of additional cramping in different parts of the body.

6. Bleeding Timeouts and Sickness Protocol (*ITA Table 7: Medical & Bleeding Timeouts, p. 63, 2017-18 ITA Rulebook*)

All blood and sickness (vomit, etc.) must be completely cleaned from the court before play can continue. This timeout has a 15 minute limit. Referee has discretion to move the match to another court.

A bleeding injury must be treated promptly, within the 15 minute time limit allowed to completely treat the bleeding and clean the court of any residue and materials.

Subsequent bleeding of the same injury, if not stoppable, will be grounds for the referee to end the match by retiring the bleeding injured player.

7. In all divisions, a player may be treated on any changeover or set break. This treatment is not considered a medical timeout (MTO). Changeover length is 1:30; set break is 2:00.
8. The ATC may stay by the court (not on the court) and may continue to treat the player on changeovers. If it is difficult for an ATC to reach the court on a changeover the referee or chair official may authorize the ATC to remain on the court. In this case, the ATC must remain silent and is not authorized to cheer/encourage the player during or between points.