



## Official ITA Team Match Protest Ruling

Division & Gender: Division I Women Date of Match: 2/24/18

Match: Western Kentucky University vs. Miami University (Ohio)

Team Protesting: Western Kentucky University

Ruling Committee: ITA Women's Division I Ohio Valley Regional Ranking Committee

### Protest Summary:

The ITA Women's Division I Ohio Valley Regional Ranking Committee has thoroughly reviewed the line-up protest statement submitted by Coach Jonatan Berhane (WKU) regarding his match against Miami University (Ohio) on February 24, 2018, as well as the subsequent defense statement submitted by Coach Ricardo Rosas (Miami OH).

The Committee has ruled that Miami University (Ohio) **DID** violate **ITA Rule I.E.3** (*Players must play in order of ability, Page 4 of the 2017-18 ITA Rulebook*) at lines 2-4 singles and awards those lines of play to Western Kentucky. As the awarding of those lines to Western Kentucky leaves both teams shy of the four team points necessary to win a dual match and, as this match was played to clinch and lines 5 and 6 were left unfinished, the committee has decided that as a result of this ruling, there will be "no winner" of the dual match.

The committee wishes to remind all those involved that it is the responsibility of coaches, at all stages of the season, to be continually reviewing their roster and player results to ensure that their lineups are being played in the proper order of ability. A player/doubles team whose results show that the player/doubles team is clearly stronger than the player/doubles team listed above them, must be moved up a position.

As the individual matches in question were played in good faith, the singles match results will be allowed to stand but the overall match score will be adjusted to "no winner." The ITA office will make this adjustment in the ITA Results Entry System. The individual programs involved are instructed to make the appropriate adjustment to their institutional websites.

Please note that decisions made by an ITA Regional Ranking Committee may be appealed to the ITA National Ranking Committee as long as the appeal is submitted soon after notification (there are no appeals for ITA National Ranking Committee decisions). Please also be aware that ITA policy does not permit coaches to contact committee members before or after a protest decision is made to question this decision or ask for additional information.