



**ITA Rules Updates
Effective January 1, 2012**

*Listed below are the ITA Rules updates as decided by the Operating Committee in December 2011.
Updated verbiage is in **bold**.*

ITA Rule I.J.1 When coaching is allowed (Page 250, 2012 Friend at Court)

1. *When coaching is allowed.* A coach may coach a player any time during the match so long as **the coach he** does not interfere with play. Coaches shall be designated before the doubles matches and may only be redesignated before the singles matches.
2. ***Electronic communication devices.*** Use of electronic communication devices (~~e.g. walkie-talkies and cell phones~~)(i.e – **cell phones, iPads, tablets, etc.**) is prohibited; **however, for Division I matches only, use of such devices is permissible for texting and/or data tracking purposes (speaking, listening or using any voice-activated features on such devices is not permitted).**

ITA Rule IV.A.4. Entry into and Withdrawal from ITA National Championships (Page 265, 2012 Friend at Court)

1. A player must not accept entry into the qualifying or main draw of an event if injured and not sure if he/she 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, he/she cannot withdraw within seven (7)* days prior to the start of the event. All withdrawals within this timeframe will be subject to any applicable entry fees. In addition, a withdrawal must be deemed 'excusable' by the ITA office in order to avoid penalty. Late withdrawals will only be excused for one of the following reasons:
 - i. Extreme academic circumstances beyond the player's control and attested to by the Dean's office (in this case the ITA office shall be notified in writing by the Dean's office within 24 hours).
 - ii. Physical injury or sickness that occurs after the withdrawal deadline; any such medical withdrawal must be made with written documentation from a physician and the athletic department, which must be provided to the ITA office within 24 hours of injury.

*For the pre-qualifying rounds of an ITA National Championship only, a player (or doubles team) cannot be withdrawn within 10 days of the start of the event.
3. All inexcusable withdrawals will result in:
 - a letter of reprimand to the head coach with a copy sent to the school's Athletic Director; and
 - a fine to the head coach in the amount of \$500.
4. **If a player is withdrawn for any reason once the tournament has begun, he/she will receive an unranked loss (his/her opponent will not receive a win unless the warm-up has started).**

ITA Rule II.C.1 Varsity quality tennis facility (Page 256, 2012 Friend at Court)

1. 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' (QuickStart Tennis format) 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. The backdrop curtains shall be at least 12 feet high. The walls of the facility shall be at least 16 feet high. The ceiling shall be at least 35 feet high at the net. The distance between the doubles lines of adjacent courts shall be at least 10 feet.~~

The playing surface shall extend from backdrop to backdrop. Each backdrop shall be located a minimum of 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 netline.

The distance between the doubles lines of adjacent courts shall be at least 10 feet, provided there is no divider netting between the adjacent courts. The minimum distance from the doubles sideline of a court to a divider net shall be nine (9) feet.

~~The lighting shall average at least 75 foot candles with individual lights placed in locations as specified by USTA guidelines for indoor courts. Lighting levels shall be uniform over the primary playing area. Visible light sources shall not be located directly over the singles courts.~~

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 footcandles 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 1.7 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 for vertically for a minimum of seven (7) feet.*

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.

***Please note that although pre-existing facilities (designed prior to January 1, 2012) are not required to adhere to these guidelines, a best effort should be made to meet these guidelines.**