DIVISION I CHAMPIONSHIPS & RANKINGS POLICY CHANGES FOR THE 2017-18 ACADEMIC YEAR

The following championships and rankings policy changes were agreed to at the December 2016 meeting of the ITA Division I Operating Committee in Naples, Florida. All policy changes are effective August 1, 2017.

Subcommittee: Team Championships

Kickoff Weekend

- In order to alleviate scheduling issues, dual gender host sites with fewer than 6 courts will be asked to schedule one gender Friday/Saturday and the other Sunday/Monday, depending upon who plays first in the NCAAs that year.

Kickoff Weekend/Team Indoor Championships

- ITA staff will remove language from its manual and participant guide that suggests direct line substitutions only be made in the event a player is “injured or sick.” A player subbed out of the doubles line-up may remain in the singles line-up.

DI Women’s Team Indoor Championships

- Policy/procedure clarification: A direct-line substitution in doubles is not considered a change to the master line-up.

DI Men’s Team Indoor Championships

- The following policies have been added to the line-up protest call procedure:
  - Pre-event lineup protests are not anonymous. Protested coach will be informed via email that “School A” has challenged his lineup along with written protest. Coach will be asked to submit a written defense.
  - On protest conference call, coach(s) who submitted a protest will be allowed to argue their case. The coach who’s lineup is being protested coach will then be allowed to defend his lineup. All coaches involved in protest will then be asked to leave the call and further discussion will be allowed among the remainder of the coaches followed by a vote on the lineup.
  - Quorum required for vote to count is 9 coaches (majority out of the 16 participating coaches)
  - A simple majority is required to overturn a lineup. A vote that ends in a tie will leave the lineup unchanged.
  - No abstentions are allowed.

Subcommittee: Fall Schedule/Championships
Subcommittee: Rules

ITA Fall Championships (Regional Championships, Masters, Men’s & Women’s All American, National Fall Championships)

- Clarification: Once an event has begun, a player is permitted to withdraw due to injury from the singles or doubles draw and remain in the other.
ITA Fall Championships (Regional Championships, Masters, Men’s & Women’s All American, National Fall Championships)

- Lucky losers or alternates can be inserted in the 1st round of prequalifying, qualifying and the main draw at any time during 1st round play. Lucky losers and/or alternates may no longer be inserted into the 1st round of the consolation draw.

Subcommittee: Fall Schedule/Championships

Men’s All American

- The pre-qualifying draw will be limited to 256 players. Players will be selected based on the following factors:
  1. ITA Preseason National Ranking (full list)
  2. UTR Weekly Average as of the week selections are made. Projected averages of players with less than 100% reliability and inactive players will be used.

Subcommittee: Rankings

Ranking Publication Schedule

- The final Oracle/ITA singles and doubles rankings will be published in late November/early December as the final piece to the fall season. Previously, they have been published in early January along with the spring team preseason rankings.
- The ITA will no longer publish Oracle/ITA regional rankings in early January. Regional rankings will only be published in May after the conclusion of the spring season.

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The following championships and rankings policy changes were agreed to at the May 2017 meeting of the ITA Division I Operating Committee in Athens, Georgia. All policy changes are effective August 1, 2017.

Division I Men’s & Women’s Operating Committee

ITA Regional Alignment Review Process

- The ITA office will institute the ITA Regional Alignment Review process that will take place every 5 years beginning in the fall of 2019. The ITA Fall Championships subcommittee would lead an evaluation of current ITA regional alignment and ultimately recommend any changes to the Division I Operating Committee. Competitive balance and the quantity of teams within each region would be key points of interest when leading this evaluation. As part of this process, ITA member programs would be allowed to petition the subcommittee with specific requests to change regions. The subcommittee will seek recommendations from regional committees and the ITA office before providing their final recommendations to the Division I Operating Committee. Requests from individual teams made outside the designated review period will not be accepted. Changes to the ITA regional alignment would take place in the 2020-2021 academic year.

ITA Rule I.F.4 – Line-up changes in back-to-back dual matches...

In back-to-back dual matches (two consecutive dual matches played regardless of the 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. **NEW: This rule does not apply from the last match of the fall season to the first match of the spring season.**
DIVISION II, DIVISION III, NAIA & JUNIOR COLLEGE CHAMPIONSHIPS & RANKINGS POLICY CHANGES FOR THE 2017-18 ACADEMIC YEAR

The following championships and rankings policy changes were agreed to at the December 2016 meeting of the ITA Small College Operating Committee in Naples, Florida. All policy changes are effective August 1, 2017.

ITA Oracle Cup

At-Large Selection for All Divisions: Any player that does not automatically qualify for the Oracle Cup through the Regional Championships but would like to be considered for at-large selection must submit their candidacy through an online form provided by the ITA upon completion of the ITA Regional Championships.

Default Clarification: With three singles and/or doubles matches guaranteed, a singles player or doubles team may default a match due to injury/illness and return to play in a subsequent round.

Rankings

Ranking Publication Schedule

- In all divisions, ITA will continue to publish the end-of-fall, committee-generated singles and doubles national rankings in late November as the “final piece” of the fall season. Only players/doubles teams that competed in the fall shall be considered for these rankings (divisional operating committees should consider if there is a minimum number of matches or wins needed to be considered for ranking). Then, in early January, the ITA will publish a preseason national team ranking (“Preseason Coaches’ Poll”) as a lead-in to the spring season. All teams, regardless of whether they competed in the fall, will be eligible for this ranking.
- Additionally, the team portion of the end-of-fall regional rankings will be removed and conducted in early January to coincide with the “Preseason Coaches’ Poll.”

ITA Region Alignment

- The ITA office will institute the ITA Division II, III, NAIA and Junior College Regional Alignment Review process in the fall of 2017, once the divisional operating committees have been completed. Each divisional operating committee will be asked to lead a comprehensive regional alignment review process. Competitive balance and the quantity of teams within each region would be key points of interest when leading this evaluation. Changes to the ITA regional alignment would take place in the 2018-2019 academic year.

Rules

ITA Rule I.F.4 – Line-up changes in back-to-back dual matches...

In back-to-back dual matches (two consecutive dual matches played regardless of the 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. NEW: This rule does not apply from the last match of the fall season to the first match of the spring season.