



Official ITA Team Match Protest Ruling

Division & Gender: Division I Women Date of Match: 3/11/17

Match: Santa Clara University vs. Western Kentucky University

Teams Protesting: Santa Clara University & Western Kentucky University

Ruling Committee: Division I Women's National Ranking Committee

Protest Summary:

The ITA Women's Division I National Ranking Committee has thoroughly reviewed both line-up protests submitted by Coach Ben Cabell (Santa Clara) and by Coach Jonatan Berhane (Western Kentucky), as well as the subsequent defense statements from both coaches.

The final ruling of the Committee is that Western Kentucky **did** violate **ITA Rule I.F.4** (...*line-up changes in back-to-back dual matches, Page 5*) at lines 2-4 singles by moving Monica Malinen from line 4 to line 2 in back-to-back matches.

The Committee has also ruled that Santa Clara **did not** violate **ITA Rule I.F.3** (...*players must play in order of ability, Page 4*) at lines 1-2 singles.

The committee decided that as a result of Western Kentucky's violation of **ITA Rule I.F.4**, the singles matches in question (lines 2-4) should be awarded to Santa Clara, resulting in a **4-3 win for Santa Clara** (in this situation, the individual matches played would stand for individual singles and doubles ranking purposes). It was also the committee's judgement that a letter of reprimand will be sent to the Western Kentucky head coach in question. The ITA office will make the necessary adjustment in the ITA Results Entry System. Santa Clara and Western Kentucky are asked to make the same adjustment to their schools' athletic websites so as to accurately reflect this ruling.

Please note that decisions made by the ITA National Ranking Committee are final and no appeals will be accepted. 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.