



ITA Protest/Appeals Procedures

DUAL MATCH

1) How and when to file a protest:

Any coach who wishes to submit a match protest to the ITA office must do so using the ITA Team Match Protest online form found on the ITA website (under the "Coaches" tab>Rules). Per ITA regulations, the protesting coach must also inform the opposing coach in writing of their intent to protest. Both schools must be active ITA members and a coach must file an online protest within 48 hours of the start of the match. This is necessary even if the opposing coach and designated referee were informed of the protest at the time of the match. Once the ITA office receives a protest it will ask the opposing coach to submit in writing their side of the situation within 24 hours. When appropriate, the designated referee will also be asked to provide a written explanation. If you have a question about ITA rules and whether or not you can/should protest a match, you should contact the Chairs of the ITA Rules Committee.

Also, please note that if a match is between two schools from the same conference, any protest must be sent directly to and handled by the conference office, and the ITA is not permitted to get involved. The ITA is also not permitted to be involved in any conference or other national governing bodies postseason tournament (i.e. NCAA Championships). No exceptions.

2) Who reviews a protest?

Once a protest has been filed, it will be sent to a) an ITA Regional Ranking Committee if it involves teams from the same region, or b) the ITA National Ranking Committee if it involves teams from different regions. A protest may also be sent separately to the ITA Ethics and Infractions Committee, if the case warrants it. A complete listing of regional and national ranking committees is located on the ITA web site (under the "About ITA" tab>Committees).

3) Additional information:

An ITA Ranking Committee has the right to make a ruling on a protest and, if appropriate, reverse or overturn a result for ITA Ranking purposes. The Committee may also decide that there should be no winner awarded for the match. For Division I, individual match results will count towards ITA Individual Rankings, regardless of whether or not they have been reversed or suspended for the team score because they have been played in good faith (Adopted May 2012, ITA Operating Committee). The ITA will then recommend the NCAA, NAIA or NJCAA committees consider this ruling for postseason selection/seeding. A coach also has the right to appeal a protest ruling made by an ITA Regional Ranking Committee to the National Ranking Committee (there are no appeals for ITA National Committee rulings). A conference ruling cannot be appealed to the ITA. A form to submit match protests is available on the ITA web site (under the "Coaches" tab>Rules).

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.

THIRD PARTY PROTEST

In NCAA Divisions I, II, III and NAIA only, coaches will be allowed to protest a violation of the ITA "1 position move" rule (Rule I.E.4), even if he/she is not directly involved with the match. This means that if a coach is not competing against a team whose line up is in violation, he/she can report this infraction to the ITA. Coaches that have their line-up protested will be made aware of who submitted the protest. The "1 position move" rule is the ONLY rule where a 3rd party protest can be filed. Please see the ITA website for further details on these protest procedures.

ITA NATIONAL TEAM TOURNAMENT

Prior to the start of the event, if the concern involves ranking/tournament selection or a match/player matter, the issue should be presented to the ITA National Ranking & Tournament Committee; or if the concern involves an ethical or behavioral situation, the issue should be presented to the ITA Ethics and Infractions Committee. Once on-site at an ITA national tournament, the first line of recourse is the on-site Tournament/Games Committee. When immediate action is necessary, the Tournament/Games Committee is responsible for reviewing the situation and making all final decisions.

ITA SANCTIONED OR REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

At a Sanctioned or ITA Regional Tournament, the Tournament/Games Committee makes the on-site decision and subsequently notifies the party(ies). All appeals must be made to the Regional Committee. If the matter involves ethical or behavioral situations, it must be presented to the ITA Ethics and Infractions Committee.

GENERAL APPEALS

Appeals may be made on a regional level to the ITA Regional Committee; on a national level to the ITA National Tournament and Rankings Committee; or to the ITA Ethics and Infractions Committee for issues involving ethical or behavioral concerns. There are no appeals for ITA National Committee rulings.



Official ITA Team Match Protest Form

Date of Match: _____

Match: _____ vs _____ Men or Women

Location: _____

Team Protesting: _____

Explanation of protest:

Please submit a detailed explanation of protest with this form when submitting to the ITA office. Include specific line-up positions that are under protest and provide any pertinent information that the adjudicating committee might find beneficial during their deliberations, including past line-ups, player records at a given position, player results against common opponents, etc.

All of Rules Section I.E (Pages 3-7, 2017-2018 ITA Rulebook) should be read to clarify the rules for protesting line-ups.

Protesting coach's name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Protesting coach's signature: _____ Date: _____

Opposing coach's name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Referee's name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Completed forms should be sent to: Cory Brooks, ITA Director of Championships

cbrooks@itatennis.com

Phone: 361-215-3111

Fax: 602-687-6409



Relevant ITA Rules for Line-up Challenges

ITA Rule I.E.2. (pg. 4 of the 2017-18 ITA Rulebook) **All physically able players shall be listed in the line-up.** Coaches shall list **all** players who are able to play in the line-up. Injured, ill, or ineligible who are not cleared to play shall not be listed in the line-up.

ITA Rule I.E.3. (pg. 4 of the 2017-18 ITA Rulebook) **Players must play in order of ability.** The line-up shall always be based on order of ability. In singles, players must compete in order of ability with the best player on the team playing at the No. 1 position, the second best at No. 2, and so on through all positions. This rule shall also apply to doubles play with the strongest doubles team at No. 1, etc.

- a) A player or doubles team whose results and record show that the player or team is clearly stronger than the players/team listed below that player/team may not be moved down.
- b) A player or doubles team whose results and record show that the player/team is clearly stronger than the player/team listed above that player/team the player or team must be moved up a position.
- c) Players and doubles teams whose results and records show them to be of equal ability may alternate between the adjacent positions.
- d) A player or doubles team shall not be moved down in the line-up because of:
 - i. An injury that has lasted and forced the player out of the line-up for less than three weeks (21 days);
 - ii. Disciplinary measures.

ITA Rule I.E.4. (pg. 4 of the 2017-18 ITA Rulebook) **Line-up changes in back-to-back dual matches.** In back-to-back dual matches (two consecutive dual matches played regardless of 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. The movement rule does not apply from the last match of the fall season to the first match of the spring season.

Guidelines for Evaluating Order of Ability

Below are areas of emphasis commonly used to evaluate order of ability in line-ups. It is important to note that evaluating order of ability is ultimately a subjective process. Thorough review of the individuals and doubles teams involved using the suggestions below should assist you in this process.

- Dual Match Performance
 - Winning percentage in dual matches (overall)
 - Winning percentage at specific positions—and number of matches played at each position
 - Strength of opponents
 - W-L record vs. ITA ranked players
 - W-L record of opponents (in general)—this can be accessed on the ITA Results Page: <http://itarankings.itatennis.com/LatestResults.aspx>
 - Common opponents and results
 - Performance in recent matches
 - For “new” or “limited result” doubles teams – review of doubles results with other partners (positions, win-loss record, etc.)
- ITA Ranking – supplemental source for comparison. Large discrepancies in rankings (20+ spots) should be reviewed. Players who played in the fall and had strong results will tend to be ranked a bit higher than players who did not play in the fall or had limited results.
- Universal Tennis Rating – Coaches may cite UTR, a tennis player rating system, in their protests and/or defenses. A player’s UTR includes their last 30 matches played, which MAY include NON-ITA results. Although the ITA doesn’t use UTR to determine order of ability or to make a final decision on a protest, protest committees may review UTR data as a supplemental source for comparison.