



**3rd Party Protests in Division II, III and NAIA Men's and Women's Tennis
for violations of ITA Rule II.K.4 (*Line-up Changes in back-to-back dual matches*) ONLY**

Division III in effect since January 1, 2011
Division II and NAIA in effect since January 1, 2012

3rd Party Protest Policy:

Coaches will be allowed to protest a violation of the ITA "1 position move" rule (Rule II.K.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.

Third party coaches will have 48 hours from the start of the match to file a written protest to the ITA office. The coach whose line-up is in question will then have 24 hours to submit a written defense statement. Once the protest and defense have been received, the complete set of materials will be sent to the ITA Committee for review. The ITA Regional Rankings Committee will rule on protests within the same region, and the Operating Committee will rule on protests on the national level. Protests between 2 schools in the same conference must be sent to the conference office.

If the coach is found to be in violation of this rule, for the first infraction- a written letter will be sent from the ITA to the coach and his/her Athletic Director, explaining that they have violated an ITA rule and that the line-up must be reset to what it was prior to the match in violation. The letter will also explain that any further violations of this rule will result in a 9-0 default in the team match.

Coaches are permitted to report violations of the "1 position move" after 48 hours, but in this case, only a warning letter will be sent to the coach and Athletic Director explaining that the rule has been violated and future violations will result in a 9-0 default.

Each coach who is found to be in violation will receive one warning letter that will carry over year after year. Coaches who are responsible for both a men's and women's program will only be given one warning letter. For example, if a coach violates this line-up rule with his/her men's team and receives a warning letter but the following year breaks this same rule coaching his/her women's team, the women's match would be defaulted.

** Line-ups can be adjusted in between the fall and spring season.