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Dear General Secretary,

Player Analysis Technology (“PAT”)

I write to inform you about an important change to the Rules of Tennis for 2014 (the “Rules”). Technological advances have facilitated the development of a new class of ‘smart’ equipment that allows detailed information about players’ performances to be gathered and displayed in real time. This equipment is collectively known as ‘Player Analysis Technology’ (or ‘PAT’ for short). PAT includes items that the player wears (such as heart-rate monitors) or carries onto court (the racket), as well as devices located around the court (player tracking systems).

In order to ensure that only products that do not threaten the nature of the game can be used during competition, and that all types of PAT are subject to the same regulations, the Rules of Tennis will change from 1 January 2014, such that (i) PAT devices will be permitted for use during competition played under the Rules of Tennis, subject to prior approval by the ITF, and (ii) there shall be no access to the information that they generate during a match by a player, except when play is suspended and when coaching is permitted. In essence, the information generated by PAT (and access to that information) will be treated in the same way as any other ‘coaching’ information. Thus, a cornerstone of tennis – the prohibition of coaching during a match – is protected.

What are the new rules and how have they been developed?

Following a review of the Rules by the ITF Science & Technical Department, a proposal to change the Rules was approved by the Rules of Tennis Committee in June 2013, and ratified by the ITF Annual General Meeting in July. The changes, which will come into effect on 1 January 2014, comprise three core parts:

1. **New Rule 31.** This permits the use of PAT during competition, and requires that all PAT is Approved by the ITF prior to such use. Thus, only Approved PAT may be used during competition, even if it is not actively collecting information.
2. **New Appendix III.** This defines PAT and restricts its use to that in accordance with Rule 30 (Coaching). That is, the information generated by PAT during a match cannot be accessed by a player until the match is completed, except when play is suspended and when coaching is permitted.

Notes: In effect, the information produced by PAT is regarded as coaching information and is, therefore, subject to the same rules as coaching from any other source (e.g. the player’s coach); Summary statistics (but not detailed individualised information, such as physiological data) displayed on screens inside stadia will not be treated as breaching the new rules.

3. **Associated changes to Appendix II (The Racket) and Rule 30 (Coaching).**

ITF Approval of PAT

To support the rule changes described above, the ITF has developed an approval programme, which is similar in concept to the one already operated for tennis balls. This programme, which was introduced in September 2013, is mandatory for all PAT prior to use during competition. The objectives of the PAT approval process are to establish (i) how the PAT works and what information it generates; (ii) how the information is accessed by the player; and (iii) what security measures are in place to prevent unauthorised access to the information.

A section of the ITF Technical website (www.itftennis.com/technical/player-analysis) has been developed to help with approval.

How will (the use of) PAT be policed?

In order to ensure that the use of PAT is policed effectively, the following mechanisms will assist on-site officials in the enforcement of the rules:

1. ITF Approval, as described above.
2. The normal vigilance of the Chair Umpire, Supervisor and Referee will also be employed, as it is for other breaches of the Rules.

Players' use of PAT may breach the rules in one of two ways:

1. The use of non-Approved PAT in any match (whether coaching is permitted or not). The action taken by the Supervisor/Referee will be the same as for the use of any other non-conforming equipment. That is, no later than the end of the match in question, the Supervisor/Referee shall inform the player that further use of the equipment in question is prohibited.
2. Use of Approved PAT at a time when coaching is not permitted (irrespective of whether coaching is permitted at certain times during the match in question). The action taken by the Supervisor/Referee will be the same as normally taken when the coaching rule is breached.

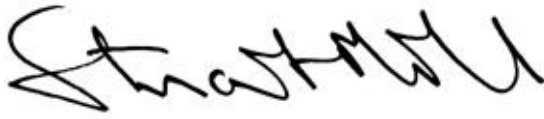
In summary, players may use PAT during competition from 1 January 2014, but any (coaching) information that is generated by PAT during a match may not be accessed by a player during that match unless play is suspended or coaching is permitted, and all equipment defined as PAT must be Approved by the ITF before use.

What should you do now?

It is important that this information is disseminated throughout your organisation and to the tennis clubs within your nation, in order that there is a smooth transition to the new rules in January. I have attached an electronic copy of an awareness poster for you to distribute along with this letter, and a copy of the changes to the Rules. Please forward this letter and the attached documents to the relevant people in your organisation and tennis clubs in your nation, with the request that they distribute and display it appropriately.

If you have any questions about the content of this letter, please contact the ITF: technical@itftennis.com.

Yours sincerely,



Stuart Miller
Executive Director, ITF Science & Technical

Encs: PAT awareness posters
Rules of Tennis 2014

EXTRACT FROM RULES OF TENNIS 2014

Please note that where amendments are made in these Regulations the text is underlined.

30. COACHING

Coaching is considered to be communication, advice or instruction of any kind and by any means to a player.

In team events where there is a team captain sitting on-court, the team captain may coach the player(s) during a set break and when the players change ends at the end of a game, but not when the players change ends after the first game of each set and not during a tie-break game. In all other matches, coaching is not allowed.

Case 1: Is a player allowed to be coached, if the coaching is given by signals in a discreet way?

Decision: No.

Case 2: Is a player allowed to receive coaching when play is suspended?

Decision: Yes.

Case 3: Is a player allowed to receive on-court coaching during a match?

Decision: sanctioning bodies may apply to the ITF to have on-court coaching allowed. In events where on-court coaching is allowed, designated coaches may enter the court and coach their players under procedures decided by the sanctioning body.

31. PLAYER ANALYSIS TECHNOLOGY

Player analysis technology, that is approved for play under the Rules of Tennis, must comply with the specifications in Appendix III.

The International Tennis Federation shall rule on the question of whether any such equipment is approved, or not approved. Such ruling may be taken on its own initiative, or upon application by any party with a bona fide interest therein, including any player, equipment manufacturer or National Association or members thereof. Such rulings and applications shall be made in accordance with the applicable Review and Hearing Procedures of the International Tennis Federation (see Appendix X).

APPENDIX III

PLAYER ANALYSIS TECHNOLOGY

Player analysis technology is equipment that may perform any of the following functions with respect to player performance information:

- A. Recording
- B. Storing
- C. Transmission
- D. Analysis
- E. Communication to player by any kind or means

Player analysis technology may record and/or store information during a match. Such information may only be accessed by a player in accordance with Rule 30.