

Policy for Late Withdrawal and Failure to Complete Required Tournament Events

**Revised August 10, 2017*

Tennis Canada and its provincial partners agreed that upon entering a tournament, a player accepts the responsibility for said tournament. Specifically, once a commitment to playing is made, it is the player's responsibility to follow-through and to compete in the tournament. Thus, the *Late Withdrawals and Failure to Complete Required Tournament Events* National policy has been created and which has been added to the *Rules of the Court*. This will:

- 1) Help protect the integrity of the event and associated rankings
- 2) Protect players who are affected by another player failing to show up or withdrawing from the tournament (e.g. a player who has driven 1 hour to an event and gets there only to realize that his/her opponent has not shown up or has withdrawn)
- 3) Help teach each player the responsibility and the importance of following through on commitments

The following policy is now in effect in all provincial and national junior events at all levels in Canada:

Late Withdrawal and Failure to Complete Required Tournament Events

- a. Withdrawal after the draw has been posted 1.0 LW/FC Point
- b. Failure to complete all required events at a tournament 1.0 LW/FC Point

The LW/FC point schedule is separate from the normal Code of Conduct Point Penalty Schedule, as outlined in the *Rules of the Court*.

Players must withdraw before any draws are posted. A withdrawal before the draws are posted must be accepted and confirmed by the person responsible for managing tournament entries as well as the Tournament Director. If a player withdraws after the draw has been posted or fails to appear for his/her scheduled match, **regardless of the reason**, he/she will receive 1 LW/FC Point. However, if a player fails to appear for a scheduled match without having withdrawn from it (i.e. without having informed the referee and/or Tournament Director), he/she will be assessed 1.5 or 2 suspension points under the normal Code of Conduct (see Cases 6, 7, 8, 9 & 11 below).

In the case of tournaments with multiple events (e.g. Junior Nationals) where an entered player is required to participate in the singles main draw and then the consolation and/or the doubles event, a player who withdraws or retires from the required events of the tournament will be assessed 1 LW/FC Point, **regardless of the reason for failing to complete these events** (see Cases 3-a & b for an exception to this principle). There will be a maximum of 1 LW/FC Point per tournament (e.g. if a player plays in main draw singles but withdraws from both consolation and doubles, 1 LW/FC Point will be assessed).

Retirements:

- A player who retires from any one event and then withdraws or retires from the remaining required events will be assessed 1 LW/FC Point, **regardless of the reason for failing to complete these events**.
- A player who loses his/her main draw singles (including a loss by retirement) and then retires from consolation or doubles will be assessed 1 LW/FC Point.



However, a player who retires during a **main draw singles match*** but then completes the remaining tournament events (if any) will not be penalized under this rule.

Note: This policy is applicable regardless of the reason (i.e. injury, illness, family circumstances, or any other reason). Doctor's notes are not required and will not influence the assessment of penalty points. In the case of injury or illness that causes a player to withdraw from or to fail to complete tournaments scheduled for consecutive weeks, 1 LW/FC Point will be assessed per tournament, but the player may appeal to have the penalty reduced.

Once a player receives a total of 3 LW/FC Points within a 12-month period, he/she will be suspended for 3 months and will not be allowed to compete in any Canadian event (Provincial, National, ITF domestic) within that period. The suspension begins the day following the completion of the tournament in which the third LW/FC Point was assessed.

Players may appeal to their PTA after the third LW/FC Point is received (same process as in the Code of Conduct outlined in Tennis Canada's *Rules of the Court*).

*In the U12/U14 Junior Nationals formats, the flights are considered the singles main draw. A player can retire or withdraw from round robin matches and still play in the flights.

Cases and Decisions:

The following situations apply to Junior provincial and National tournaments in which a player is required to compete in multiple events.

Case 1-a: A player loses in main draw singles and then withdraws from consolation singles.

Case 1-b: A player loses in main draw singles and then retires from consolation singles.

Decision: In both cases, the player will be assessed 1 LW/FC Point for failing to complete all required events in the tournament but will be allowed to compete in doubles.

Case 2-a: A player retires from main draw singles then withdraws from doubles and/or consolation singles.

Case 2-b: A player retires from main draw singles then retires from doubles and/or consolation singles.

Decision: In both cases, the player will be assessed 1 LW/FC Point for failing to complete all required events in the tournament but will be allowed to compete in the third event, if applicable.

Case 3-a: A player retires during a main draw singles match but goes on to compete in consolation singles and/or doubles, completing those events (whether win or lose).

Case 3-b: A player withdraws from main draw singles but goes on to compete in consolation singles and/or doubles, completing those events (whether win or lose).

Decision: In both cases, the player will not be penalized. Despite a retirement during or withdrawal from main draw singles, the player has completed his/her obligation to compete in all required events.

Case 4: A player wins his/her main draw singles match and is scheduled to play a doubles match later in the day. During the rest period between matches the player becomes ill and is unable to play the doubles match.

Decision: The player will be assessed 1 LW/FC Point for withdrawing from the doubles competition, but may continue to play in main draw singles, subject to certification by the athletic therapist that the player is able to compete at full capacity.



Case 5-a: In the U12 or U14 Junior Nationals, a player retires from a round robin match. Is he/she allowed to continue in the round robin competition?

Case 5-b: In the U12 or U14 Junior Nationals, a player is unable to compete in and must therefore withdraw from a round robin match. Is he/she allowed to continue in the round robin competition?

Decision: In both cases the player will be assessed 1 LW/FC Point but, subject to certification by the athletic therapist that the player is able to compete at full capacity, he/she will be allowed to participate in the round robin competition as well as in the flights (main draw) competition.

Case 6: After losing a main draw singles match and a main draw doubles match, a player fails to appear for his/her singles consolation match the following day.

Decision: 15 minutes after the match has been called, the player will be defaulted under the Punctuality rule and will be assessed 1.5 Suspension Points. (NB: this is a normal Code of Conduct issue involving Suspension Points rather than Late Withdrawal/Failure to Compete (LW/FC) points.)

Case 7: A player fails to appear for his/her first match of the tournament. There has been no contact or prior notification from the player that he/she would not be present for the match.

Decision: The player will be considered a 'No-Show' and defaulted 15 minutes after the match has been called. 2 Suspension Points will be assessed for failure to appear. In addition, the player will be defaulted from the remaining events in the tournament. (NB: this is a normal Code of Conduct issue involving Suspension Points rather than Late Withdrawal/Failure to Compete (LW/FC) points.)

Case 8: A player sends an email at 6:30 a.m. to let the referee know he/she was sick during the night and cannot play his/her match. The Referee tries to contact the player, but he/she has left and gone home to another city.

Decision:

A) When an Athletic Therapist is assigned to the tournament: Since the player must be evaluated by the Athletic Therapist before being released from the tournament by the Referee, the player will be assessed 2 Suspension Points for leaving the tournament without a valid reason. (NB: this is a normal Code of Conduct issue involving Suspension Points rather than Late Withdrawal/Failure to Compete (LW/FC) points.)

B) When an Athletic Therapist is not assigned to the tournament: The player will be assessed 1 LW/FC Point for failing to complete all required events in the tournament. Note that it is the player's responsibility to explain the reason for his absence to the Referee.

Case 9: After playing a match over 3 hours long, a player advises the referee that he/she cannot play their next match due to injury. The Referee asks the player to go and see the trainer so that he/she can be evaluated. After the evaluation, the trainer states that the player in question is able to continue the tournament without impairing his/her health. The player decides to leave the tournament despite the trainer's assessment, before having finished the event.

Decision: 2 Suspension Points will be assessed for Failure to complete a scheduled match without a valid reason. (NB: this is a normal Code of Conduct issue involving Suspension Points rather than Late Withdrawal/Failure to Compete (LW/FC) points.)

Case 10: After playing a match over 3 hours long, a player advises the Referee that he/she cannot play their next match due to injury. The Referee asks the player to go and see the trainer so that he/she can be evaluated. After the evaluation, the trainer states that the player in question is not able to continue the tournament and completes the medical certificate. The player leaves the tournament before having finished the event.

Decision: The player will be assessed 1 LW/FC Point for failing to complete all required events in the tournament.



Case 11: A player advises the Referee, after playing his/her match, that they cannot play their next match due to flight reservations that cannot be changed. The player leaves the tournament before having finished the event.

Decision: 2 Suspension Points will be assessed for Failure to complete a scheduled match without a valid reason. Since Travel Policy is posted online and is sent to the provincial associations well ahead of time, this is considered to be a case of Failure to complete a scheduled match without a valid reason. (NB: this is a normal Code of Conduct issue involving Suspension Points rather than Late Withdrawal/Failure to Compete (LW/FC) points.)

Case 12: A player retires in the U18 Championship Final. There are no more matches to be played (this situation applies to any final round matches (3/4 playoffs, Flight finals, consolation finals, doubles finals if not in singles etc)).

Decision: The player will be assessed 1 LW/FC Point for failing to complete all required events in the tournament.

