



# ***RULES OF THE COURT***

## **SUMMARY OF MODIFICATIONS 2020 - 2022**

This is a summary of the changes that have been made in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

### **Rules of Tennis**

The ITF has not made any modifications to the Rules of Tennis themselves in either 2020, 2021 or 2022.

### **Tennis Canada Tournament Regulations**

- Tennis Canada has made a modification to the section of Tournament Regulation 8 (Withdrawals and Substitutions) that specifies the order of priority for choosing Lucky Losers. (2020)
- Tournament Regulation 17 (Toilet Break) has been changed so that both male and female players are only allowed one (1) toilet break in a singles match. (2020)
- Tournament Regulation 20 (Electronic Devices) has been expanded to specify that the use of smart watches and fitness devices

capable of receiving messages are prohibited on-court during a match. (2020)

- Tournament Regulation 23 (Player Images) has been expanded to specify that video recordings can only take place with the consent of all players involved; in the case of Junior players, permission must be granted by a parent, legal guardian or coach. (2022)

## **Code of Conduct**

- In Paragraph 3 (Time Violations), the Time Violation procedure has been modified to align it with ATP, ITF and WTA procedures. After a warning for a first Time Violation, subsequent Time Violations will be penalized as follows:
  - Server: the Time Violation will result in a “fault”.
  - Receiver: the Time Violation will result in a “point penalty”. (2020)
- Paragraph 6 (Suspensions and Suspension Points) has been clarified by the addition of several minor administrative details. (2022)
- Paragraph 8 (Overruling Line Calls in Unofficial Matches) has been modified to align it with ITF procedures by specifying the appropriate procedure for an official who is a) on-court, and b) off-court, and who witnesses a first incorrect call by a player. (2020)

## **Officials: Duties and Responsibilities**

- Section 2 (Chair Umpire Announcements) has been updated to specify that, during the warm-up, “thirty seconds” should be announced when thirty seconds are remaining in the warm-up (2021) and that the match introduction should be made after “two minutes” is announced (2020).

## **Guidelines for Unofficial Matches**

- While not substantively changing the content of this section, the Guidelines have been revised and reorganized.

Modifications and additions are underlined. Only modified portions of a section are shown.

# Tennis Canada Tournament Regulations

## 8. WITHDRAWALS AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Any vacancy created by the withdrawal of a player or team will be treated in the following manner:

### A. Unseeded Players

- a. From the entry deadline until the commencement of the qualifying competition:

Vacancies shall be filled by entered players selected in accordance with their priority on the acceptance list.

- b. After commencement of the qualifying competition:
  - i. Vacancies in the Main Draw may only be filled by Lucky Losers. Losers of the final round of qualifying shall be selected as follows: 1) the order of professionally or nationally ranked players shall be randomly drawn; 2) the order of unranked players shall be randomly drawn. Ties in priority shall be broken by a draw. If additional Lucky Losers are needed, the losers of the previous round(s) of Qualifying shall be selected in the same manner.
  - ii. Vacancies in the Qualifying Draw shall be filled by entered players who have signed-in on-site as Alternates, selected in accordance with their acceptance priority.
- c. If there is no Qualifying competition, Main Draw vacancies shall be filled by entered players who have signed-in on-site as Alternates, in accordance with their priority on the acceptance list. An Alternate player or team may fill a vacancy involving any player or team that has not yet begun to compete (i. e., has not yet begun to play a first round match or, if a bye has been awarded, a second round match).

## 17. TOILET BREAK

A player is allowed to request permission to leave the court for a reasonable time for a toilet break or (for women only) a change of attire break. Toilet breaks *should* be taken on a set break and can be used

for no other purpose. Change of attire breaks (women only) *must* be taken on a set break.

In singles, players are entitled to one (1) break during a match. In all doubles matches, each *team* is entitled to a total of two (2) breaks. If the partners leave the court together, it counts as one (1) of the team's authorised breaks.

Any time a player leaves the court for a toilet break, it is considered to be one of the authorised breaks regardless of whether or not the opponent has left the court. Any toilet break taken after a warm-up has started is considered as one of the authorised breaks.

## **20. ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

A player is not allowed to use any electronic devices (e.g. CD players, mobile phones, etc.) during a match. This includes all smart watches and/or fitness devices capable of receiving messages.

## **23. PLAYER IMAGES**

No images or video recordings of players may be obtained, transmitted, stored or distributed for any commercial purposes.

Video Recording: It is prohibited for any person to obtain, transmit, store or distribute any video recordings of players without the express permission of all players involved. In the case of Junior players (18 years of age and under), such permission must be given by the players' parent, legal guardian or coach.

Before any recording can take place, the person wishing to make a recording must seek the consent of the opponent(s) and/or their parent, legal guardian or coach. All parties involved in the proposed recording must then verbally give their consent to the Supervisor/Referee.

The opponent(s) and/or their parent, guardian or coach may withdraw consent to the recording at any time by notifying the Supervisor/Referee, who will order the recording to cease and the recording to be deleted.

Any authorised recording must not be shared or posted in whole or in part, including online, without the consent of the opponent(s) and/or the parents or legal guardians of all Junior players involved.

# Code of Conduct

## 3. TIME VIOLATIONS

- i. A maximum of twenty-five (25) seconds shall elapse from the moment the ball goes out of play at the end of the point until the time that the ball is struck for the first serve of the next point. If such serve is a fault, then the second serve must be struck by the server without delay.
- ii. When changing ends, a maximum of ninety (90) seconds shall elapse from the moment the ball goes out of play at the end of the game until the time that the ball is struck for the first serve of the next game. If such first serve is a fault, the second serve must be struck by the server without delay. However, after the first game of each set and during a tie-break, play shall be continuous and the players shall change ends without a rest period.
- iii. At the conclusion of each set, regardless of the score, there shall be a set break of a maximum of two minutes (120 seconds) from the moment the ball goes out of play at the end of the set until the time that the first serve is struck for the next set. If such first serve is a fault, the second serve must be struck by the server without delay.
- iv. The receiver shall play to the reasonable pace of the server and shall be ready to receive within a reasonable time of the server being ready to serve.
- v. Any delay in the resumption of play following an authorized rest period between the second and third sets shall subject a player to consecutive Time Violations.
- vi. An emergency toilet break during a game or before the opponent's serve shall subject a player to consecutive Time Violations.

The first violation of this section, as either server or receiver, shall be penalized by a Time Violation - Warning and then each subsequent, but (except in the case of delay in resuming play after an authorized rest period (paragraph v above) or in the case of an emergency toilet break during a game or before the opponent's serve (paragraph vi above)) non-consecutive, violation shall be penalized as follows:

- Server: The Time Violation shall result in a "fault"
- Receiver: The Time Violation shall result in a "point penalty"

## 6. SUSPENSIONS AND SUSPENSION POINTS

### Fourth paragraph:

Each Provincial Association will have the responsibility for maintaining records of the suspension points amassed by players who are resident in that province and for imposing suspensions when the accumulated number of suspension points warrants that a suspension be imposed. The length of the suspension will be determined by the Provincial Association, which shall notify the player by email within 4 business days after the conclusion of the tournament, including the following:

- the length and reason for the suspension
- the player's right to appeal, and the process thereof; and
- a statement that should the player not appeal within 5 business days after receiving notice of the suspension, the suspension will begin 7 business days after the date the notice was communicated.

### Sixth paragraph:

A suspension and/or the length of a suspension may be appealed to the Disciplinary Committee of the player's Provincial Association within a period of 5 business days after the player receives written notice of the suspension. The Disciplinary Committee must hear and rule on the appeal within 5 business days following receipt by the Provincial Association of the player's appeal. The decision of the Disciplinary Committee of that sanctioning body shall be final and there shall be no appeal from its decision. The suspension of a player who is in the process of appealing that suspension will continue to be in effect until either a) the appeal is disposed of in the player's favour (i.e., either overturned or reduced in length) or b) the original period of suspension has run its due course.

## 8. OVERRULING LINE CALLS IN UNOFFICIATED MATCHES

In matches played without a chair umpire, a referee, an assistant referee or a roving umpire, when in direct observation of the court, can correct or overrule clear line call errors made by players.

The *normal* procedure for dealing with overrules is the following:

First overrule against a player:

- Roving Umpire on-court: The call is corrected. The player is advised to be careful of his/her calls (i.e., a "soft warning") and

notified that any further overrules will result in a Code Violation for Unsportsmanlike Conduct.

- Roving Umpire off-court: The Roving Umpire goes on-court and tells the player that his/her call was incorrect. The point is replayed unless it is a point-ending shot, in which case the point will be awarded to the opponent. The player is also advised to be careful of his/her calls (i. e., a “soft warning”) and notified that any further overrules will result in a Code Violation for Unsportsmanlike Conduct.

## Officials: Duties and Responsibilities

### 2. CHAIR UMPIRE ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### A. Warm-up

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| a. “Three minutes”         | - three minutes until warm-up ends                     |
| b. “Two minutes”           | - two minutes until warm-up ends                       |
| c. “One minute”            | - one minute until warm-up ends                        |
| <u>d. “Thirty seconds”</u> | <u>- thirty seconds until warm-up ends</u>             |
| e. “Time”                  | - end of warm-up, direct ball to server’s end of court |
| f. “ ____ to serve, play”  | - immediately prior to server preparing to serve       |

#### B. Player introductions

- a. If the introduction of players is to be made by the Chair Umpire, then after the “two minutes” announcement, say:  
“This is a \_\_\_\_ round match; the best of three/five tie-break sets. To the left of the chair from \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_. To the right of the chair from \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_ won the toss and chose: to receive/to serve/\_\_\_\_ end/to defer choice.”

## Guidelines for Unofficial Matches

(Due to the length of this section it is not reproduced in this summary).