



# ***RULES OF THE COURT 2020***

## **SUMMARY OF MODIFICATIONS**

For 2020, the following changes have been made:

### **Rules of Tennis**

The ITF has not made any modifications to the Rules of Tennis themselves for 2020.

### **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.
- 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.
- 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.

## **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”.
- 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.

## **Officials: Duties and Responsibilities**

- Section 2 (Chair Umpire Announcements) has been updated to specify that the match introduction should be made after “two minutes” is announced.

## **The Code: Guidelines for Unofficial Matches**

- Paragraphs 20 and 21 have been revised to align with ITF procedures for calling touches, foul shots, invasions, double bounces and throughs. Any player on court is allowed to make these calls.

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.

# 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"

## **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**

#### **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.”

## **The Code: Guidelines for Unofficial Matches**

- 20. Touches, hitting ball before it crosses net, invasion of opponent’s court, double hits, and double bounces.** Any player shall promptly make the call if:
- a ball touches a player;
  - a player touches the net;
  - a player touches his opponent’s court;
  - a player hits a ball before it crosses the net;
  - a player deliberately carries or double hits the ball; or
  - the ball bounces more than once.
- 21. Balls hit through the net or into the ground.** Any player shall promptly make the call on a ball that is hit through the net and on a ball that is hit into the ground before it goes over the net.

**TC Note to Paragraphs 20 and 21:** The procedure described above for the situations listed in Paragraphs 20 and 21 is that utilized by the International Tennis Federation in its Player Notice “Matches Played Without A Chair Umpire”, which is in effect in all unofficial matches played in the context of ITF Junior, Senior, Wheelchair and Professional tournaments. The USTA procedure, presented in its version of “The Code” differs from the above.