



Policy for late walkovers and withdrawals from the competition before the end of the event

Updated on February 1st, 2019

Tennis Québec wishes to remind all players that they are responsible for their tournament registrations.

A registration represents a commitment to play in the tournament and all players are therefore required to take part in all compulsory events (consolation, feed-in and/or doubles) until the end of the tournament.

Since the introduction of the new “per-round” national ranking system, Tennis Québec has seen a significant increase in the number of retirements and defaults in its sanctioned tournaments. This means that a very large number of matches have not been played, which has an impact on both the tournament organization and the format of the competitions.

In order to correct this situation, Tennis Québec has implemented a new policy for late withdrawals and withdrawals from the competition before its completion.

This policy will:

- 1) protect the integrity of the tournament and its associated rankings;
- 2) protect the players impacted by the walkover/retirement of their opponents (for example, a player who must make a one-hour trip to the tournament to be informed that their opponent will not be present);
- 3) ensure that players are aware of the importance of respecting their commitments.

This policy will be enforced regardless of the reason for the walkover (injury, illness, personal emergency, etc.). A doctor's note is not required and will not influence the attribution of the default.

Late walkovers and withdrawals from the competition before the end of the event:

- a) Walkover after the draw has been published: 1 default
- b) Withdrawal from the competition before its completion: 1 default
- c) Retirement during a match: 1 default

Defaults are separate from misconduct points and overrule infractions within the Code of Conduct.

Tournament withdrawal procedure:

Players must withdraw from the tournament prior to the publication of the draws in order to avoid being penalized with a default. Withdrawals must be sent in writing to Tennis Québec and the organizer. The withdrawal must be accepted and confirmed by email by Tennis Québec. When a player withdraws after the publication of the draws or does not show up for their match, they will receive one default, regardless of the reason for the withdrawal. The player must notify the tournament director and Tennis Québec prior to the match.

For tournaments containing several events in which a player must participate – i.e. singles main draw, consolation draw and/or doubles draw – a player who withdraws or does not show up for one or all of the tournament's events will be attributed a default **regardless of the reason preventing them from completing the events.**

In most cases, a player can only be attributed one default per tournament. If, for example, the player plays or does not play their main draw singles match, but withdraws from both the consolation and doubles draws, only one default will be attributed, except:

- in the case where a player decides to carry on with their participation in the tournament because they believe that they are physically able to do so, but fails to show up or retires from another tournament match. Then, a second default will be added.

Withdrawal from the main draw:

When tournaments are held over numerous weekends, such as an étape or championship, with a qualifying draw on the first weekend and the main draw on the second weekend, a 10-day period is available for players to withdraw without being given a default:

- Players who are directly placed in the main draw of the tournament can withdraw without a default penalty up to 10 days prior to the start of the main draw.

Once this grace period passes, a default will be attributed regardless of the reason for the withdrawal.

Example: If a player has not played a match in the tournament and withdraws on February 5th (or before) and the main draw is scheduled to begin on February 15th, no default will be attributed.

Retirement:

This situation no longer exists. A player who retires during a match will receive a default **regardless of the reason preventing them from completing their match and of the number of points having already been played.** In order to protect the players, the official can stop a match and force a player to retire should it be deemed necessary.

Walkover without notice:

A walkover without notice occurs when a player does not show up for a match and has not previously notified the officials of their absence (tournament director and Tennis Québec). For sanctioning purposes, the player will be awarded a **disqualification.**

Note: A disqualification will result in a loss of four points on the Player's Permit (which contains a total of 12 points).

Suspension:

A player who accumulates three defaults within a twelve-month period will be suspended for three months and will not be allowed to compete in Canadian tournaments (provincial, national, ITF events). This three-month period begins on the day following the end of the tournament where the player received their third default.

After a third default is attributed, the player may appeal of their suspension with Tennis Québec within 10 days after receiving the suspension notice. Only the third default may be contested and only through a medical certificate obtained after the date of the withdrawal (general practitioner or specialist; documents from physiotherapy, osteopathy, chiropractic, etc. are not recognized). The medical certificate must specify the nature and length of the injury.

Withdrawal due to exceptional reason (mortality):

Although no reason can usually justify a withdrawal after the publication of a tournament draw, Tennis Québec has decided to implement a specific rule in case of a death in the family. This rule makes it possible to overrule a default in the event of the death of a loved one, as follows:

- partner;
- child or a partner's child;
- father, mother or the partner of father, mother;
- brother or sister;
- son-in-law or daughter-in-law,
- grandfather or grandmother;
- grandson or granddaughter
- father, mother, brother or sister of a partner.

The player must inform Tennis Québec of their absence from the tournament by email and specify the name of the deceased, their relationship and the date of death.