

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

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

Registration commits them to playing in the tournament and they therefore are 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.

That has resulted in a large number of unplayed matches, which has an impact on both tournament organization and the format of the competitions.

In order to address this situation, Tennis Québec has established a new policy for late walkovers and withdrawals before the end of events.

This policy will:

- 1) protect the integrity of the tournament and its associated rankings;
- 2) protect the players affected by the walkover/retirement of their opponents (for example, a player who must make a one-hour trip to the tournament – only to learn his opponent will not show);
- 3) Make players aware of the importance of respecting their commitments.

The following policy will apply to all Quebec junior tournaments at all levels, effective September 1, 2015.

Late walkovers and withdrawals from a competition before the end of the events:

- A) Walkover after the draw has been published: one (1) default
- B) Withdrawal from the competition before the end of the events: one (1) default
- C) Retirement during a match: one (1) default

Defaults are separate from misconduct points and the overrule infractions, in terms of the Code of Conduct.

### **Tournament withdrawal procedure:**

A player must withdraw from the tournament prior to the publication of the draws to avoid being penalized for a default. These withdrawals must be accepted and confirmed by Tennis Québec. If a player withdraws after the publication of the draws or does not show up for his match, he will receive one (1) default regardless of the reason for the withdrawal. The player also must notify the tournament director and Tennis Québec.

In the case of 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 receive a default regardless of the reason for not completing the events.

In most cases, a player can only be assessed one default per tournament. If, for example, the player plays or doesn't play his main draw singles match, but withdraws from both the consolation and doubles, he will be assessed only one default except:

-if the player decides to continue in the tournament because he or she believes they are physically able, but fails to show up or retires in another tournament match, a second default will be assessed.

### **Retirement:**

This term no longer exists. A player who retires during a match will receive a default regardless of the reason preventing him from finishing his match, and regardless of the number of points already played.

### **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 his or her 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 (4) points on the Player Licence (which contains a total of 12).

This rule 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 affect the awarding of the default.

A player who has accumulated three (3) defaults within a twelve (12)-month period will be suspended for three (3) months and will not be allowed to compete in Canadian tournaments (provincial, national, ITF events held in Canada). This three (3)- month period begins the day following the end of the tournament for which the player has received his third default.

The player can appeal the assessment of a third default to Tennis Québec.