



RULES OF THE COURT 2008

SUMMARY OF MODIFICATIONS

In 2008, the following changes have been made to the Tennis Canada Rulebook:

- The ITF has slightly modified one Rule (27) and two Appendices (Appendix I: The Ball; Appendix II: The Racket), and has added a new Appendix (Appendix VI: Official 10 and Under Tennis Competition).
- Tennis Canada has added two new Tournament Regulations: Regulation 21 (Match Formats) and Regulation 22 (Round Robin Play).
- Tennis Canada has modified two Regulations of its Code of Conduct: Regulation 2 (The Point Penalty System) and Regulation 6 (Suspensions and Suspension Points).

Modifications and additions are indicated in grey highlighting.

RULES OF TENNIS

27. CORRECTING ERRORS

As a principle, when an error in respect of the Rules of Tennis is discovered, all points previously played shall stand. Errors so discovered shall be corrected as follows:

- a. During a standard game or a tie-break game, if a player serves from the wrong half of the court, this should be corrected as soon as the error is discovered and the server shall serve from the correct half of the court according to the score. A fault that was served before the error was discovered shall stand.
- b. During a standard game or a tie-break game, if the players are at the wrong ends of the court, the error should be corrected as soon as it is discovered and the server shall serve from the correct end of the court according to the score.
- c. If a player serves out of turn during a standard game, the player who was originally due to serve shall serve as soon as the error is discovered. However, if a game is completed before the error is discovered the order of service shall remain as altered. In this case, any ball change to be made after an agreed number of games should be made one game later than originally scheduled. A fault that was served by the opponents(s) before the error was discovered shall not stand.
In doubles, if the partners of one team serve out of turn, a fault that was served before the error was discovered shall stand.
- d. If a player serves out of turn during a tie-break game and the error is discovered after an even number of points have been played, the error is corrected immediately. If the error is discovered after an odd number of points have been played, the order of service shall remain as altered.
A fault that was served by the opponent(s) before the error was discovered shall not stand.
In doubles, if the partners of one team serve out of turn, a fault that was served before the error was discovered shall stand.
- e. During a standard game or a tie-break game in doubles, if there is an error in the order of receiving, this shall remain as altered until the end of the game in which the error is discovered. For the next game in which they are the receivers in that set, the partners shall then resume the original order of receiving.
- f. If in error a tie-break game is started at 6 games all, when it was previously agreed that the set would be an "Advantage set", the

- error shall be corrected immediately if only one point has been played. If the error is discovered after the second point is in play, the set will continue as a “Tie-break set”.
- g. If in error a standard game is started at 6 games all, when it was previously agreed that the set would be a “Tie-break set”, the error shall be corrected immediately if only one point has been played. If the error is discovered after the second point is in play, the set will continue as an “Advantage set” until the score reaches 8 games all (or a higher even number), when a tie-break game shall be played.
 - h. If in error an “Advantage set” or “Tie-break set” is started, when it was previously agreed that the final set would be a deciding match tie-break, the error shall be corrected immediately if only one point has been played. If the error is discovered after the second point is in play, the set will continue either until a player or team wins three games (and therefore the set) or until the score reaches 2 games all, when a deciding match tie-break shall be played. However, if the error is discovered after the second point of the fifth game has started, the set will continue as a “Tie-break set”. (See Appendix IV)
 - i. If the balls are not changed in the correct sequence, the error shall be corrected when the player/team who should have served with new balls is next due to serve a new game. Thereafter the balls shall be changed so that the number of games between ball changes shall be that originally agreed. Balls should not be changed during a game.

APPENDIX I: THE BALL

- a. The ball shall have a uniform outer surface consisting of a fabric cover and shall be white or yellow in colour. If there are any seams they shall be stitchless.
- b. More than one type of ball is specified. The ball shall conform to the requirements shown in the table below.

	TYPE 1 (FAST)	TYPE 2 (MEDIUM)¹	TYPE 3 (SLOW)²	HIGH ALTITUDE³
WEIGHT (MASS)	1.975-2.095 ounces (56.0-59.4 grams)	1.975-2.095 ounces (56.0-59.4 grams)	1.975-2.095 ounces (56.0-59.4 grams)	1.975-2.095 ounces (56.0-59.4 grams)
SIZE	2.575-2.700 inches (6.541-6.858 cm)	2.575-2.700 inches (6.541-6.858 cm)	2.750-2.875 inches (6.985-7.303 cm)	2.575-2.700 inches (6.541-6.858 cm)
REBOUND	53-58 inches (135-147 cm)	53-58 inches (135-147 cm)	53-58 inches (135-147 cm)	48-53 inches (122-135 cm)
FORWARD DEFORMATION⁴	0.195-0.235 inches (0.495-0.597 cm)	0.220-0.290 inches (0.559-0.737 cm)	0.220-0.290 inches (0.559-0.737 cm)	0.220-0.290 inches (0.559-0.737 cm)
RETURN DEFORMATION⁴	0.265-0.360 inches (0.673-0.914 cm)	0.315-0.425 inches (0.800-1.080 cm)	0.315-0.425 inches (0.800-1.080 cm)	0.315-0.425 inches (0.800-1.080 cm)

Notes:

¹ This ball may be pressurised or pressureless. The pressureless ball shall have an internal pressure that is no greater than 1 psi (7 kPa) and may be used for high altitude play above 4,000 feet (1,219 m) above sea level and shall have been acclimatised for 60 days or more at the altitude of the specific tournament.

² This ball is also recommended for high altitude play on any court surface type above 4,000 feet (1,219 m) above sea level.

³ This ball is pressurised and is an additional ball specified for high altitude play above 4,000 feet (1,219 m) above sea level only.

⁴ The deformation shall be the average of a single reading along each of three perpendicular axes. No two individual readings shall differ by more than .030 inches (.076 cm).

- c. All tests for rebound, size and deformation shall be made in accordance with the regulations below.

REGULATIONS FOR MAKING TESTS

- i. Unless otherwise specified all tests shall be made at a temperature of approximately 68° Fahrenheit (20° Celsius) and a relative humidity of approximately 60% and, unless otherwise specified, an atmospheric pressure of approximately 30 inches Hg (102 kPa). All balls shall be removed from their container and kept at the recognised temperature and humidity for 24 hours prior to testing,

and shall be at that temperature and humidity when the test is commenced.

- ii. Other standards may be fixed for localities where the average temperature, humidity or average barometric pressure at which the game is being played differ materially from 68° Fahrenheit (20° Celsius), 60% relative humidity and 30 inches Hg (102 kPa) respectively.

Applications for such adjusted standards may be made by any National Association to the International Tennis Federation and, if approved, shall be adopted for such localities.

- iii. In all tests for diameter, a ring gauge shall be used consisting of a metal plate, preferably non-corrosive, of a uniform thickness of one-eighth of an inch (.318 cm). In the case of Ball Type 1 (fast speed) and Ball Type 2 (medium speed) balls there shall be two circular openings in the plate measuring 2.575 inches (6.541 cm) and 2.700 inches (6.858 cm) in diameter respectively. In the case of Ball Type 3 (slow speed) balls there shall be two circular openings in the plate measuring 2.750 inches (6.985 cm) and 2.875 inches (7.303 cm) in diameter respectively. The inner surface of the gauge shall have a convex profile with a radius of one-sixteenth of an inch (0.159 cm). The ball shall not drop through the smaller opening by its own weight in any orientation and shall drop through the larger opening by its own weight in all orientations.
- iv. In all tests for deformation conducted under Rule 3, the machine designed by Percy Herbert Stevens and patented in Great Britain under Patent No. 230250, together with the subsequent additions and improvements thereto, including the modifications required to take return deformations, shall be employed. Other machines may be specified which give equivalent readings to the Stevens machine and these may be used for testing ball deformation where such machines have been given approval by the International Tennis Federation.
- v. The procedure for carrying out tests is as follows and should take place in the order specified:

- a. Pre-compression – before any ball is tested it shall be steadily compressed by approximately one inch (2.54 cm) on each of three diameters at right angles to one another in succession; this process to be carried out three times (nine compressions in all). All tests are to be completed within two hours of pre-compression.

- b. Weight (mass) test.

- c. Size test (as in paragraph iii. above).
- d. Deformation test – the ball is placed in position on the modified Stevens machine so that neither platen of the machine is in contact with the cover seam. The contact weight is applied, the pointer and the mark brought level, and the dials set to zero. The test weight is placed on the beam in a position that is equivalent to a load of 18 lb (8.2 kg) on the ball, after which the wheel is turned at a uniform speed such that five seconds elapse from the instant the beam leaves its seat until the pointer is brought level with the mark. When turning ceases the reading is recorded (forward deformation). The wheel is turned again until figure ten is reached on the scale (1 inch (2.54 cm) deformation). The wheel is then rotated in the opposite direction at a uniform speed (thus releasing pressure) until the beam pointer again coincides with the mark. After waiting ten seconds, the pointer is adjusted to the mark if necessary. The reading is then recorded (return deformation). This procedure is repeated on each ball across the two diameters at right angles to the initial position and to each other.
- e. Bound test (as above) – the ball is dropped from 100 inches (254 cm) onto a smooth rigid and horizontal surface. Measurements of both drop height and rebound height are to be taken from the surface to the bottom of the ball.

CLASSIFICATION OF COURT PACE

The ITF test method used for determining the pace of a court surface is ITF CS 01/02 (ITF Court Pace Rating) as described in the ITF publication entitled "ITF guide to test methods for tennis court surfaces".

Court surfaces which have an ITF Court Pace Rating of 0 to 29 shall be classified as being Category 1 (slow pace). Examples of court surface types which conform to this classification will include most clay courts and other types of unbound mineral surface.

Court surfaces which have an ITF Court Pace Rating of 30 to 34 shall be classified as being Category 2 (medium-slow pace), while court surfaces with an ITF Court Pace Rating of 35 to 39 shall be classified as being Category 3 (medium pace). Examples of court surface types

which conform to this classification will include most acrylic coated surfaces plus some carpet surfaces.

Court surfaces with an ITF Court Pace Rating of 40 to 44 shall be classified as being Category 4 (medium-fast pace), while court surfaces which have an ITF Court Pace Rating of 45 or more shall be classified as being Category 5 (fast pace). Examples of court surface types which conform to this classification will include most natural grass, artificial grass and some carpet surfaces.

Case 1: Which ball type should be used on which court surface?

Decision: 3 different types of balls are approved for play under the Rules of Tennis, however:

- a. Ball Type 1 (fast speed) is intended for play on slow pace court surfaces*
- b. Ball Type 2 (medium speed) is intended for play on medium-slow, medium and medium-fast pace court surfaces*
- c. Ball Type 3 (slow speed) is intended for play on fast pace court surfaces*

APPENDIX II: THE RACKET

- a. The hitting surface, defined as the main area of the stringing pattern bordered by the points of entry of the strings into the frame or points of contact of the strings with the frame, whichever is the smaller, shall be flat and consist of a pattern of crossed strings connected to a frame and alternately interlaced or bonded where they cross. The stringing pattern must be generally uniform and, in particular, not less dense in the centre than in any other area.
The racket shall be designed and strung such that the playing characteristics are identical on both faces. The racket shall be free of attached objects, protrusions and devices other than those utilised solely and specifically to limit or prevent wear and tear or vibration or, for the frame only, to distribute weight. These objects, protrusions and devices must be reasonable in size and placement for such purposes.
- b. The frame of the racket shall not exceed 29 inches (73.7 cm) in overall length, including the handle. The frame of the racket shall not exceed 12.5 inches (31.7 cm) in overall width. The hitting surface shall not exceed 15.5 inches (39.4 cm) in overall length, and 11.5 inches (29.2 cm) in overall width.

- c. The frame, including the handle, and the strings, shall be free of any device which makes it possible to change materially the shape of the racket, or to change the weight distribution in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the racket which would alter the swing moment of inertia, or to change deliberately any physical property which may affect the performance of the racket during the playing of a point. No energy source that in any way changes or affects the playing characteristics of a racket may be built into or attached to a racket.
- d. The racket must be free of any device that may provide communication, advice or instruction of any kind, audible or visible, to a player during a match.

APPENDIX VI: OFFICIAL 10 AND UNDER TENNIS COMPETITION

(Approved as an experiment until 31 December 2008)

Courts:

In addition to a full sized court, the following court dimensions may be used for official competitive play involving players aged 10 and under:

- A red court shall be a rectangle, between 36 feet (10.97 m) and 42 feet (12.80 m) long, and between 16 feet (4.88 m) and 19 feet (5.79 m) wide. The net shall be 31.5 inches (0.80 m) high at the centre.
- An orange court shall be a rectangle, 60 feet (18.29 m) long, and between 21 feet (6.40 m) and 27 feet (8.23 m) wide. The net shall be between 31.5 inches (0.80 m) and 36.0 inches (0.914 m) high at the centre.

Balls:

The following ball types are recommended for players aged 10 and under:

- A stage 3 (red) or stage 2 (orange) ball is recommended for play on a red court.
- A stage 2 (orange) or stage 1 (green) ball is recommended for play on an orange court.

- A stage 1 (green) ball is recommended for play on a full sized court.

The properties of stage 3, stage 2 and stage 1 balls are described in the ITF publication entitled "ITF approved tennis balls & classified court surfaces".

Scoring methods:

For competition involving players aged 10 and under using stage 3 (red), stage 2 (orange) or stage 1 (green) balls, scoring methods specified in the Rules of Tennis (including the Appendix) can be utilised, in addition to short duration scoring methods involving matches of one match tie-break, best of 3 tie-breaks/match tie-breaks or one set.

TENNIS CANADA TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

REGULATION 21. MATCH FORMATS

In both singles and doubles matches, alternative match formats or scoring methods may be employed in place of the traditional match format (the best of three tie-break sets). The modified match formats or scoring methods may involve No-Ad Scoring, Short Sets, or a Deciding Match Tie-Break, or some combination thereof. (See Appendix IV of the Rules of Tennis for more information on these formats.)

In particular, in doubles matches, the No-Ad / Match Tie-Break format currently employed in professional tennis may be used. In this format, no-ad scoring is to be used throughout the match and when the score reaches one set all a 10 point match tie-break is played in place of a third set in order to decide the match.

In order for any alternative match format or scoring method to be employed in a tournament, its use should normally be stated in advance on the Fact Sheet and/or Entry Form of the tournament. Any national-level tournament wishing to use an alternative match format or scoring method must receive prior approval from Tennis Canada. However, during the course of a tournament that is experiencing or expecting delays due to weather, court availability or other unforeseen circumstances, the Referee, in consultation with the Tournament Director, may decide to modify the announced match and/or scoring formats for one or more events in order to complete the tournament on time. The modified formats may involve No-Ad Scoring, Short Sets, or a Deciding Match Tie-Break, or some combination thereof.

REGULATION 22. ROUND ROBIN COMPETITION

When a Round Robin format is authorized, each player/team in the Round Robin draw shall play every other player/team in the draw.

The player/team who wins the most matches is the winner of the Round Robin draw.

Ties in the results of a Round Robin competition shall be broken as follows:

- a. If two (2) players/teams are tied with the same won-lost record after the completion of the Round Robin, the tie is broken as follows: The winner of the head-to-head match-up of the two (2) players/teams tied.
- b. If three (3) players/teams are tied with the same won-lost record after completion of the Round Robin, the tie is broken as follows:
 - i. The player/team with the higher percentage of total sets won against all other players/teams in the draw.
 - ii. Any tie thereafter will be broken as follows: The player/team with the higher percentage of total games won against all other players/teams in the draw.
 - iii. Any remaining tie with two (2) players/teams thereafter will be decided by the results of the match between the two (2) players/teams involved. Any remaining tie with three (3) players/teams thereafter will be decided by draw.
- c. In applying the tie-break procedures above, the results of matches involving a default or a retirement shall be used in determining the percentage of sets and games won. When a player/team retires or is defaulted, only completed sets count as sets won and only completed games count as games won. A walkover counts as a straight set win or loss for the players/teams involved in the match.

A retiring player/team may still continue in the competition if it is determined by the trainer or tournament doctor that such player/team is able to compete at full capacity.

Any player/team defaulted pursuant to the Code of Conduct during the Round Robin competition (except in the case of violations involving dress or punctuality) shall be defaulted from all other matches in the Round Robin, and may not be declared the winner of the Round Robin.

TENNIS CANADA CODE OF CONDUCT

REGULATION 2. THE POINT PENALTY SYSTEM

The Point Penalty Schedule to be used for the violations set forth above is as follows:

- FIRST OFFENSE..... WARNING
- SECOND OFFENSE..... POINT PENALTY
- THIRD AND EACH
SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE..... GAME PENALTY

However, after the third Code Violation, the Referee shall determine whether each subsequent offense shall constitute a default.

In the case of a serious violation of the Code of Conduct, a player may be subject to an immediate default without going through the individual steps of the Point Penalty System.

In doubles, the Point Penalty Schedule applies to the team rather than to the individual members of the team.

Note: It is not necessary to report "Warnings" (ROM) to the sanctioning Association. Report only the issuance of "Point Penalties", "Game Penalties" and "Defaults".

REGULATION 6. SUSPENSIONS AND SUSPENSION POINTS

As indicated in Article 5 above, serious disciplinary problems or infractions in a tournament may necessitate the submission of a recommendation of the assessment of Suspension Points (SP) to the tournament's sanctioning body (Tennis Canada, in the case of national tournaments; the provincial association, in the case of provincial tournaments).

Forthwith upon receiving the report and recommendation noted in Article 5 above, the sanctioning body shall decide whether or not to assess SP against the player and shall promptly notify the player in writing of its decision. The player may appeal the assessment of SP in writing to the Disciplinary Committee of the sanctioning body within 4 business days of receiving written notification of the assessment from the sanctioning body. The decision of the Disciplinary Committee

of the sanctioning body shall be final and there shall be no appeal from its decision. In the event the player is not a resident of the province in which the infraction took place, the decision shall be immediately reported to the Provincial Association of the place of residence of the player.

Any SP that is assessed will remain in effect for a period of 12 months after the date of the infraction. The assessment of three or more SP within a 12 month period will result in the suspension of the player. If a player accumulates 3 suspension points within a 12 month timeframe, and receives a suspension, those points are not erased until 12 months after each point was received. If, after the end of the suspension period, additional suspension points are received, once again bringing the total to 3 or more suspension points, another suspension period will result.

In assessing player suspensions, Provincial Associations should be cognizant of the age of the player, the circumstances under which the suspension points were issued, and the severity of the infractions. The following table of *suggested* suspension periods is provided as a *guideline*. Provincial Associations may modify these guidelines as they see fit. Infractions that are particularly egregious may warrant longer suspension periods.

Player	1 st suspension	2 nd suspension	3 rd suspension
Junior	2 – 6 weeks	4 – 24 weeks	12+ weeks
Open/Senior	4 – 12 weeks	8 – 24 weeks	24+ weeks

The suspension will be imposed by the Provincial association in which the player resides. The length of the suspension will be determined by that sanctioning body which shall notify the player in writing within **4 business days** by way of Registered Mail, 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 **4 business days after receiving notice of the suspension**, the suspension will begin **10 days** after the date the notice was mailed.

A suspension and/or the length of a suspension may be appealed to the Disciplinary Committee of that sanctioning body within a period of

4 business days after the player receives written notice of the suspension. The Disciplinary Committee must hear and rule on the appeal within 4 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. A player may continue to participate in all sanctioned events following his/her commencement of an appeal, until the appeal has been disposed of, and the decision communicated to the player.

A player suspended by his or her Provincial association will be ineligible to compete in national tournaments during the duration of the suspension. Players suspended by Tennis Canada for offenses in national tournaments will be ineligible to compete in provincial tournaments for the duration of the national suspension. Tennis Canada and each provincial association shall recognize the suspensions imposed by each other. A player suspended by Tennis Canada or by a Provincial association shall thus be ineligible to compete in a sanctioned tournament of Tennis Canada or of any province which has adopted the procedures herein.

Retroactivity. Each Provincial association that adopts these procedures shall recognize any suspension points which had been previously imposed in that province, as well as any suspensions which had been imposed by Tennis Canada or by any of the other provinces which have adopted these procedures.

To enable each sanctioning body to be aware of the suspension status of all players, each sanctioning body shall within five (5) days following the imposition of a suspension, notify the Manager of Officiating for Tennis Canada. The Manager of Officiating shall ensure that information regarding the suspension status of players is available to all sanctioning bodies.

Below is a recommended index of penalties for use in national events. Each province's SP system should not vary from this system.