

Summary of Important Changes for 2012 Edition of *Friend at Court*

ITF Rules of Tennis

[p. 4] A note was added to the end of **Rule 1** stating that recommendations for minimum distances behind the baseline and outside the sidelines can be found in **Appendix VIII**.

[p. 26] **USTA Comment 30.2**, which lists examples of suspensions of play during which coaching is not permitted, has been rewritten. It now includes specific examples of short stoppages of play in which the players remain on court.

[p. 29] A new note at the end of **Appendix I** provides that for a 2-year trial period, the stage 1 green ball may be used for all levels of competition except world ranking professional events, Davis Cup and Fed Cup, Junior tournaments and team events sanctioned by the ITF and affiliated regional associations, ITF Senior circuit and team events, and ITF wheelchair and team events.

The Code

[p. 48] The previous section on foot faults has been divided into two sections:

- **Code § 23**. *Avoid foot faults*; and
- **Code § 24**. *Calling foot faults*.

Additionally the language of **Code § 24** now is identical to the language of **USTA Comment 18.6**.

[p. 49] A principle articulated throughout *The Code* has always been that a player claiming a hindrance must do so as soon as possible. The principle is now clearly stated as new **Code § 33**. *Claiming a hindrance*.

[p. 49] **Code § 34**. *Talking when a ball is in play* has been rewritten and the examples have been expanded.

[p. 49] **Code § 37**. *Grunting* has been rewritten to clarify that only an official may determine that grunting is a hindrance and that the first time it happens the point is replayed and subsequent grunting results in loss of point.

USTA Regulations

[p. 57] A sentence was added to **FAC Comment I.C-2** to clarify that an official may not serve simultaneously as a Referee or Deputy Referee of multiple tournaments unless they are held at the same site.

[p. 65] **USTA Regulation I.G.4.b.** was amended to change the manner in which the USTA notifies Wheelchair players about a change in the letter division in which they play.

[p.71] **USTA Regulation II.A.2.** was amended to:

- Clarify that regardless of size, any draw may have one or two seeds; and
- The maximum number of seeds in Category I USTA National Championships, Super Category II USTA National Tournaments, and Category II USTA National Tournaments in the Adult, Senior, and Family Divisions is controlled by **USTA Regulation X.A.2.b.** and **Table 23** instead of the one-in-three rule of **USTA Regulation II.A.2.**

[p. 72] **USTA Regulation II.A.5.b.** was updated to require use of the All Factors Method of seeding for Category I USTA Adult, Senior, and Family National Championships and Super Category II and Category II USTA Adult, Senior and Family Tournaments. New seeding criteria were approved for use in Adult, Senior, and Family division events, and the changes are reflected in the following USTA Regulations:

- **USTA Regulation II.A.5.b.** [p. 72] generally refers to the new seeding criteria by cross reference to the regulations below.
- **USTA Regulation X.A.2.b.** [p. 165]
- **Table 23** [p. 188]

[p. 83] **USTA Regulation II.B.5.c.** was added to define a voluntary consolation with a format that promotes additional play for divisions in which only some players typically want to play in the consolation.

[p. 105] **Table 11** was updated to:

- Require the same minimum rest between matches after a best-of-three set match regardless of whether:
 - ◆ The match lasted for only two sets;
 - ◆ A Match Tiebreak was played in lieu of a third set, or
 - ◆ A third set was played;
- Clarify that when more than one match format is used, it is the match format for the preceding match that dictates the minimum rest; and
- Describe a new minimum 2-hour rest period in matches if the apparent temperature reaches 90°F as further described in **USTA Regulation III.H.** (pp. 113-114) This provision becomes effective March 19, 2012, but is subject to amendment at the USTA Annual meeting on March 19, 2012.

[p. 106] New **FAC Comments III.D-3** and **III.D-4** give scenarios that illustrate the revised procedure for dealing with the 3-minute rest period in junior divisions that is required immediately before a Match Tiebreak. The comments explain where coaching may occur during the 3-minute rest period and how to address toilet/change of attire break requests.

[pp. 113-114] New **USTA Regulation III.H.** adds an extended minimum rest period of at least two hours if the apparent temperature reaches 90 degrees during a player's singles match when the match format is two standard tiebreak sets or longer. The new regulation defines the term "apparent temperature" and details how and when a Referee should check the apparent temperature during a tournament. This provision becomes effective March 19, 2012, but is subject to amendment at the USTA Annual meeting on March 19, 2012.

[p. 122] The Time Violation section of **Table 15** includes a new bullet point that clarifies that violation of the 3-minute rest period results in a Time Violation instead of a game penalty under **Table 16C**.

[p. 128-129] New **FAC Comment IV.E-1** advises Referees that they should give players the benefit of the doubt when assigning the cause of a player's default, particularly as it relates to defaults for misconduct.

[p. 132] **USTA Regulation VI.C.** was added to require that a QuickStart Tennis format be used in sanctioned tournaments in Boys' and Girls' 10 divisions and to describe the required format.

[p. 136] **FAC Comment VII.A-3** was rewritten because of the change in terminology from a Field Referee to a Site Referee to describe a Deputy Referee in charge of a secondary site or part of a large site.

[pp. 165-166] **USTA Regulations IX.A.2.b.-.c.** were revised to clarify issues concerning certain eligibility requirements for USTA Junior National Championships and Regional Tournaments.

[p. 185] Revised language in **USTA Regulation IX.C.8.e.** clarifies that a doubles partner not responsible for misconduct leading to a default still receives ranking points.

[p. 186] Revised and relocated **USTA Regulation IX.G.** was updated to conform eligibility requirements for ITF international team competition to existing ITF regulations.

[p. 187] The Father (80 & Over)-Son division was added to **USTA Regulation X.A.a.iii.** as a division in which an annual national championship is held.

[p. 188] **USTA Regulation X.A.2.** updated seeding requirements for Category I USTA National Championships, Super Category II USTA National Tournaments, and Category II USTA National Tournaments in the Adult, Senior, and Family divisions, including mandatory use of the All Factors Method. The former maximum ratio of one in three seeds has been replaced with the maximum number of seeds set forth in new **Table 23**.

[p. 190] The Father (80 & Over)-Son division was added to **USTA Regulation X.B.4.** as a division in which national rankings are issued.

[p. 191] The Professional/Adult Open and Adult Open ranking categories were eliminated and replaced with the “Top 500” ranking categories described in **USTA Regulation X.D.1.**

[p. 193] **USTA Regulation X.E.7.** was amended to specify that no more than four tournaments can be used to calculate a player’s national ranking points in the Adult, Senior, and Family divisions. Previously the maximum in the Men’s divisions was five.

[pp. 194-195] **USTA Regulation X.F.** was amended to specify which tournament results count in more than one national ranking division or category, including the new Top 500 ranking categories.