

FRIEND AT COURT

THE USTA HANDBOOK *of* TENNIS RULES *and* REGULATIONS

2005 EDITION



We welcome your comments and suggestions and especially solicit your help in identifying errors in the index. Please feel free to write us c/o USTA Officials Department, 70 West Red Oak Lane, White Plains, NY 10604-3602.

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Foreword

This year's *Friend at Court* brings the fewest substantive changes in recent memory.

The biggest change involves the replacement of several pages of text with seven new tables. The editors believe that complex information can be shown more clearly through the use of tables. With the exception of the Scheduling Guidelines for Junior Divisions and the Guidelines for Seniors 85-90, no substantive changes were intended. The editors solicit reader help in identifying language in the new tables that is confusing or incorrect.

Where substantive changes or changes that the editors want to call to your attention have been made since the last publication of *Friend at Court*, there is a vertical line in the margin.

For amendments that become effective after press time, please refer to the USTA website, www.usta.com.

Friend at Court (FAC) is not a training manual. The gray highlighted areas are a blend of commonly accepted answers to questions about the rules, officiating techniques, and officiating procedures derived from several sources, including the ATP, ITA, ITF, and WTA. If you wish to learn more about accepted procedures, you should attend a USTA-approved training school.

Summary of Important Changes for 2005 Edition of *Friend at Court*

ITF Rules of Tennis

USTA Comment 5.6 was added to clarify that **players change ends after a Set Tiebreak** as explained in **Rule 10**.

USTA Comment 26.3 was revised to clarify that, if the referee notified the players or if the player received more than one **cellular phone call that rings**, the opponent wins the point based on a deliberate hindrance.

USTA Comment 29.2 was added to cross-reference Table 12 and USTA Regulation I.W.10., which permit one or more genuine **toilet or change of attire breaks**.

USTA Comment 29.8 was revised to provide that players are entitled to a **re-warm-up** if a match has been suspended for more than **15 minutes**. Previously they were entitled to a re-warm-up after 10 minutes.

The Code

Code § 22 was revised. When playing on clay courts, a player is not required to show a **ball mark** to an opponent, and no player is allowed to cross the net to inspect a ball mark.

USTA Regulations

The Tournament Committee had sole responsibility for seeding a tournament. The Director of USA Tennis Junior Competition or the Director's designee now has this responsibility for seeding certain tournaments on the National Junior Tournament Schedule. As a result, amendments were made in:

- **Regulation I.C. Tournament Committee;**
- **Regulation I.G.1 Responsibility for Seeding;**
- **Regulation III.A.4.p. Seeding (for USTA National Championships);**
- **Regulation III.A.5.I. Seeding (for USTA National Opens); and**
- **Regulation III.A.6.c. Seeding of the USTA Interscholastic Championships (East/West) and other tournaments on the National Junior Tournament Schedule.**

It had become common practice for an employee of a Sectional Association to **make the draws** for sectional championships and circuit tournaments. This practice was not consistent with USTA Regulations. The regulations were

amended to provide a mechanism for this person to be appointed as a **Deputy Referee**. As a result amendments were made to:

- **Regulation I.C.3. Referee; and**
- **Regulations I.H.2. Draw made by Referee.**

Regulation I.E.2.g. was added to describe eligibility requirements for **grandparent-grandchild** tournaments.

Regulation I.E.2.h. was amended to give the Youth Competition and Training Committee discretion to designate one tournament in the Boys' and Girls' 18 divisions that uses the **ITF birth date rule** (January 1) instead of the USTA rule (1st day of month in which player is born).

Players had always been prohibited from **entering two tournaments that overlapped** without the permission of the tournament committees involved. With the advent of electronic entry through TennisLink and the encouragement of multiple entries into the National Opens, changes in these regulations were required. The following regulations dealing with entry into multiple tournaments, withdrawal from tournaments, and suspension points for multiple entries were amended:

- **Regulation I.E.4.c.;**
- **Regulation I.N.11. Player shall not enter two tournaments at the same time;**
- **Regulation III.A.4.a. Entry (into USTA National Championships);**
- **Regulation III.A.5.a. Entry (into USTA National Opens); and**
- **Regulation III.A.8.b. Suspension Points and Table 14.**

Regulation I.F.2. Entry Form was amended to require additional information on tournament entry forms and any tournament website about any **mandatory dress code** or **player meeting**.

Regulation I.J.12. Scheduling Guidelines was revised. **Tables 2 and 3** were added to better illustrate these guidelines. The only substantive changes were in the addition of more complete guidelines for junior divisions.

Regulation I.N.17.c. Racket abuse and **FAC Comment I.P-1. Racket abuse** were amended to more accurately describe the term "racket abuse."

A new **Table 9 Guidelines for Assessing Penalties** was added.

Under **Regulation III.A.2.ii. Certain aliens** and **Regulation X.D.2.b. Certain aliens** "Aliens with Adjustment Status" are now eligible for a national ranking.

Regulation III.A.5.e. Alternates was added to describe the procedure for prioritizing alternates at USTA National Opens.

Regulation III.A.5.h. Feed-In Championship and third-place playoff was amended to require a **Feed-In Championship** through the quarterfinals instead of the semifinals at the **USTA National Opens**.

Amendments were made to give the Youth Competition and Training Committee responsibility for sanctioning other tournaments on the National Junior Tournament Schedule. Amendments were made to:

- **Regulation V.C.8.a. Submission of bids; and**
- **Regulation V.C.9. Other tournaments on National Junior Tournament Schedule.**

Regulation X.A.9. Players ranked was amended to describe criteria for individual rankings in doubles.

Regulation XII.I. Request for Waiver was added. This regulation sets out the procedure for a player who feels that he or she has been adversely affected by a USTA Regulation to apply for a waiver of the regulation.