



RULES OF THE COURT 2017 **SUMMARY OF MODIFICATIONS**

For 2017, the following changes have been made:

Rules of Tennis

The ITF has not made any modifications to the Rules of Tennis for 2017.

However, Tennis Canada has added Notes to help clarify the meaning of three rules.

- Rule 2 (Permanent Fixtures): A Note has been added indicating that the net dividers separating courts at indoor facilities are considered as permanent fixtures.
- Rule 19 (Service Fault): A Note has been added to specify that that, in doubles, when the server hits his/her partner with a served ball it is a fault.
- Rule 27 (Correcting Errors): A Note has been added to Paragraph b, in order to clarify the point that when players must change ends of the court in order to correct their error of

playing from the wrong ends, the score stands but a service fault does not stand.

Tennis Canada Tournament Regulations

- Tennis Canada has modified Tournament Regulation 21 (Match Formats), specifying that for Senior men and women in the 80 and over age categories, in both singles and doubles, a deciding match tie-break will be played in lieu of a third set.

Code of Conduct

- The Introduction to the Code of Conduct has been modified in order to clarify the point that the Code applies a) to the player's support team as well as to the player; and b) in all places and at all times in the tournament environment (e.g., the entire tennis facility, player restaurant and tournament hotel).

Modifications and additions are underlined.

Rules of Tennis

2. PERMANENT FIXTURES

The permanent fixtures of the court include the backstops and sidestops, the spectators, the stands and seats for spectators, all other fixtures around and above the court, the chair umpire, line umpires, net umpire and ball persons when in their recognised positions.

In a singles match played with a doubles net and singles sticks, the net posts and the part of the net outside the singles sticks are permanent fixtures and are not considered as net posts or part of the net.

TC Note. *The net dividers separating courts at indoor facilities are considered to be permanent fixtures, irrespective of their distance from the doubles sideline.*

19. SERVICE FAULT

The service is a fault if:

- a. The server breaks rules 16, 17 or 18; or
- b. The server misses the ball when trying to hit it; or
- c. The ball served touches a permanent fixture, singles stick or net post before it hits the ground; or
- d. The ball served touches the server or server's partner, or anything the server or server's partner is wearing or carrying.

Case 1: After tossing a ball to serve, the server decides not to hit it and catches it instead. Is this a fault?

Decision: No. A player, who tosses the ball and then decides not to hit it, is allowed to catch the ball with the hand or the racket, or to let the ball bounce.

Case 2: During a singles match played on a court with net posts and singles sticks, the ball served hits a singles stick and then hits the correct service court. Is this a fault?

Decision: Yes.

TC Note: *In doubles, when the server hits his partner with a served ball, it is a fault.*

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.

TC Note: *When players change ends in order to correct their position at the wrong ends of the court, a fault served does not stand. Play will continue according to the score, but with a first serve.*

- 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 V)
- 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.

Tennis Canada Tournament Regulations

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 V 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.

Senior Men's and Women's 80 and over age categories:

In both singles and doubles, if the score reaches one set all a 10 point Deciding Match Tie-Break will be played in lieu of a third set in order to determine the winner of the match. (See Appendix V of the Rules of Tennis for more information on the Deciding Match Tie-Break format.)

Code of Conduct

The provisions of this Section do not alter or amend the provisions of Tennis Canada by-laws.

The Code of Conduct applies to all players in all tournaments and meetings sanctioned or required to be sanctioned by Tennis Canada or by a Provincial Tennis Association. In addition, it also applies to any Player Support Team Member (coach, trainer, manager, agent, medical or para-medical personnel and/or family member, tournament guest, or other similar associate) of a player.

Further, the Code of Conduct applies *in all places* and *at all times* in the tournament environment (e.g., the tennis facility, player restaurant and tournament hotel), not simply on court during a match.

All players have a duty to encourage and to maintain the highest standards of good sportsmanship, courtesy and fair play, and are under an obligation to avoid all unsportsmanlike conduct and any acts or practices which are detrimental to the game.