



Summary of 2020-2021 Rule Changes

- **JUCO Warm-up:** JUCO is eliminating the warm-up between opponents for doubles and singles on matches played on 6 courts. This aligns all divisions under the same warm-up rule in dual matches. (No warm-up between opponents for doubles or singles.)
- **Lineup changes once a match has begun:** The Referee shall be responsible for collecting lineup changes from both coaches as well as communicating those changes to the opposing coaches. Lineup changes must be made within two minutes of the completion of doubles (or within two minutes of singles, if singles was played first). No additional time beyond 5 minutes will be given to any player if there is a lineup change.
- **Match protests concerning two schools from the same conference:** If the match is does not count toward conference competition, the conference office has the option to send the match protest to the ITA for handling of the protest.
- **Determining outdoor playable conditions:** It was clarified that the window for determining playable outdoor weather conditions shall be from the scheduled start time of the match.
- **Inclement weather:** Specific time frames have been established when dealing with inclement weather or darkness.
 - With indoor backup: The decision to move indoors must be made within one hour of the suspension of play. Play shall resume, indoors or outdoors, within one hour.
 - Without indoor backup: Teams shall wait a minimum of two hours from the scheduled match start time before making a decision to cancel or postpone the match if conditions are forecast to improve. When a match in progress is suspended, teams shall wait a minimum of two hours to resume play before making the decision to cancel or postpone a match.
- **Men's Division I Medical Timeout:** Division I Men shall receive up to five minutes for a Medical Timeout, with up to three minutes for treatment. This aligns all divisions to the same MTO timing parameters. Division I Men will still be assessed a point penalty for taking an MTO.
- **Bleeding Timeout:** If a player has already received a BTO for an injury and begins bleeding again from that same area later in the match, the player may use the Point Penalty System to try and stop the bleeding for a second time. The PPS may not be used immediately following a 15-minute bleeding timeout (if the bleeding is not stopped after 15 minutes, the player must retire).
- **Noisemakers:** It has been clarified that noisemakers (defined as musical instruments, thundersticks, megaphones, air horns or anything that amplifies sound) shall not be used during play.
- **Lack of athletic trainer:** If a school will not have a certified athletic trainer (ATC) available for a dual match, the visiting coach shall be notified in advance. Failure to not have an ATC for a match and without prior notification shall be reported to the ITA office.



Summary of 2020-2021 Rule Changes (continued)

- **Heat rule:** The heat rule shall be reevaluated by the Referee at the resumption of a suspended match.
- **Video Review:** The use of PlayFair shall be specified in match contracts. An off-court Referee may also act as a Video Review Official (VRO). If video review technology is not functioning on one or more courts at the start of the match, the system shall not be utilized unless both coaches agree otherwise. If video review technology becomes unavailable at any time during a match in progress, video review shall still be used on the remaining courts where the technology is working properly.
- **Elimination of verbal appeal:** Collegiate tennis is now analogous to a USTA match in terms of overrules; there will no longer be a verbal appeal, except in the case of a first serve fault that is played as good by the receiver. All overrules shall be made immediately by an official in direct observation of the court. Officials may only overrule erroneous “out” and/or “let” calls when they are certain the call was incorrect. A player who continuously questions an official about line call may be penalized under the ITA Point Penalty System. Players who have been overruled more than twice will be penalized under the ITA Point Penalty System for each subsequent overrule.
- **Designated Player Assistants:** Players not playing in a segment of a dual match may be “Designated Player Assistants” (DPAs). These DPAs can assist players on court but are not treated the same as coaches. **[ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ATTACHED]**



Designated Player Assistant (DPAs)

- Student athletes who are on an institution's roster and are not participating in a segment of the dual match may be designated to assist teammates who are playing matches.
- All DPAs must be listed on the institution's player roster for that specific program.
- The maximum number of coaches and DPAs may not exceed three in any segment of the dual match.
- DPAs must adhere to the same parameters outlined in 2019-20 ITA Regulation I.N. at all times.
 - A point penalty may be assessed by an official if the DPA interferes with the match at any time or violates any of the parameters outlined in current ITA Regulation I.N. If a point penalty is assessed, the DPA shall be immediately dismissed as a DPA and shall return to the bench player area. This player may not be designated as a DPA for the remainder of the dual match. No additional student athletes may become a DPA for the remainder of that segment of the dual match.
 - This player is still eligible to play in a later segment of the dual match if they are in the lineup.
 - Dependent upon the nature of the behavior, the DPA may also be ejected by the Referee if the behavior is egregious. See current ITA Regulation I.P.2.b. for examples of behavior that would prompt ejection. This list is not exhaustive.
 - This player is not eligible to participate in a later segment of the dual match if they are in the lineup. The coach shall have the opportunity to replace this player under 2019-20 ITA Regulation I.E.6. 2019-20 ITA Regulation I.E.8. shall be followed if a team is short on players.



COVID-19 Health and Safety

The ITA realizes that with the return of collegiate tennis competition, there are many factors that need to be considered. Each area of the country has been affected differently during this pandemic. Please check with the facility you will be working at to see what safety guidelines and/or requirements they have in place. If you are not willing to adhere to the facility's guidelines, please do not accept the assignment.

We recognize that the guidelines surrounding this pandemic are continuously changing. We will do our best to keep these guidelines up to date in the Documents section of the Zebra Secretary Console on www.zebraweb.org. Please refer to the date in the footer for the most recently updated document.

- The working environment for officials shall be as safe as the environment provided for players, coaches, fans and site management personnel.
- As an independent contractor, you do not have to accept any assignment that makes you uncomfortable, especially pertaining to your personal health. If you choose to decline an assignment, please maintain the professional standard that is expected of ITA officials at all times. Keep in mind that there are many different viewpoints regarding COVID-19, and your assignor may not share your specific concerns. Agree to disagree and keep it professional.
- If you serve as an assignor, please show professionalism and respect when an official declines an assignment because of personal health and/or safety concerns. There may be issues you are unaware of. Thoughtfulness, consideration and professionalism will go a long way in the future relationship of you and fellow officials.
- **If you have even a low grade fever or are feeling unwell, DO NOT OFFICIATE.** Do not put others at risk. Seek medical care as needed. You should be fever-free for a minimum of 10 days before returning to work.
- Pay close attention to your personal hygiene. Wash your hands often. Make sure hand sanitizer is available for your use (it is recommended to keep an extra supply in your bag for your personal use). Do your best to keep your hands away from your face, particularly your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Wear a mask. Wear it properly (covering your nose and mouth). If you choose not to wear a mask, keep in mind that you are accepting a potential health risk by making this decision. If the facility at which you are working requires a mask, this guideline is not optional.
- Maintain six feet of social distancing between players, spectators and fellow officials. Do not make physical contact with players (there should not be any handshakes following a match between players or between players and officials). A nod, tip of the hat, thumbs up or a "good match" verbal exchange should be exchanged between players and officials at the conclusion of a match.
- When possible, try not to share supplies (scoring devices, radios, microphones, etc.) with fellow officials. If supplies are to be shared, sanitize them before you use them.
- Try not to touch the tennis balls. Empty the can directly onto the court and use the empty can and lid to pick up balls if you must pick up any used balls. Each player should retrieve their own balls. If you must send a ball towards a player, kick it instead of picking it up whenever possible. Players should clear the court of the balls after the match is complete. Check with the facility to see what the protocol will be for disposal of tennis balls.
- Plan to bring your own food and water.
- ITA officials are in no way expected to be treated as "virus maintenance workers." Officials will already have extra duties enforcing new playing rules to ensure the safety of participants.

RETURN TO PLAY RECOMMENDATIONS

USTA OFFICIATING

Updated May 28, 2020

The United States Tennis Association (USTA) recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has been affecting different parts of the country in different ways and with different timing. Therefore, we believe safely returning to play will be possible in some cities and states sooner than in others. Before doing so, please review federal, state and local guidelines to make informed decisions as to when play can recommence.

In addition to the Playing Tennis Safely recommendations for players, facilities, and programming issued by the USTA on April 22, 2020, available on tennisindustryunited.com, here are some additional recommendations to consider for USTA Officials as well as facilities utilizing Officials for USTA events.

FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS	ON SITE / PLAY RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>General Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer near all courts and common areas. Ensure any designated Officials area is large enough to provide ability to physically distance. Keep gates open (where possible, and not dangerous) to minimize contact with common surfaces upon entering/exiting the court. Ensure free court entry/exit for Officials and players, unimpeded by spectators. Provide an extra ball for warm-up or a way to sanitize used balls as a replacement if match balls are lost. If providing towels, each Official should receive their own to sit on for the day. <p>On-Court Equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seat players at least 6 feet apart from each other or from the Chair Umpire chair. Seat Line Umpires at least 6 feet apart from each other and appropriately distanced from spectators Sanitize equipment Officials may share, including scoring devices and radios, in between uses, when exchanged, and at the end of the day. Sanitize microphone and Chair Umpire chair between matches. 	<p>General Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider wearing a mask/gloves and wash hands and/or gloves often and after touching items. Avoid touching face, especially after handling on-court equipment Practice proper physical distancing from fellow Officials, players, spectators and tournament staff. Where possible, avoid exchanging supplies with players and fellow Officials. <p>Pre-event Preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check with the host facility ahead of time for any protocols that may apply at that facility. Include the following in your court bag for your personal use: gloves, masks, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes Bring your own water, snacks, and food. Check with event how/what food and water will be provided. <p>Scheduling Matches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stagger match times Use alternate scoring formats to decrease the amount of time on-site per player. Implement various scheduling formats, such as the “followed by” system to minimize crowding near the tournament desk Use remote check-in for matches via text/email. <p>Official’s Report Times/Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stagger report times for Officials. Use technology to communicate rather than hold group meetings. If not possible, conduct meetings in smaller groups based on staggered report time <p>Pre-match Meeting with Players</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice physical distancing and politely remind players if needed Review any special procedures (i.e. do not shake hands at the end of a match, calling score, handling balls, post-match procedures, etc.) <p>During Play</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rovers should move to the center of the court on changeovers even if players are not changing ends. Encourage players to clearly announce the score before each point, game, and set. Practice physical distancing when interacting on-court (Referee coming on court, relieving a fellow Official, Line Umpire reporting information to Chair Umpire, etc.) Pour new balls onto the court and avoid touching used balls. Players should remove used balls from play and discard according to facility guidelines after the match. <p>Post-Match</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer an acknowledgment such as a nod, a thumbs up, or a “good match” instead of shaking players’ hands. Encourage players to collect their own balls and drop off in designated area for used balls Ensure players take all their belongings and discard their trash Radio in scores, when possible, so players do not have to return to the tournament desk. Use technology to receive scores (text or email).

