



2016 Rule Change Summary

Tennis

Change From	Change To
Old Formatting	New Formatting with numerical system for ALL sections See also date change at footer to reflect June 2016
SECTION A — OFFICIAL EVENTS	Added: 2. Official Events 2.7 Unified Team Tennis (See Competition Guide Book for format)
SECTION B — RULES OF COMPETITION 2. Match play a. A match will consist of one of the following. 1) One six game No Ad set with a margin of two games with a 7 point tie-break played at six all. 2) Two out of three short sets. In a short set, the first player/team who wins four games wins that set, provided there is a margin of two games over the opponent(s). If the score reaches four games all, a 7 point tie-break game shall be played. When the score in a match is one set all, one 10 point tie-break game shall be played to decide the match. This tie-break game replaces the deciding final set. Not recommended for athletes with a rating below 3.0. 3) Two out of three six game sets with a margin of two games wins the set, a 7 point tie-break game shall be played to decide the match. This tie-break game replaces the deciding final set. Not recommended for athletes with a rating below 6.0. 4) In the best of 3 set matches there will be a 3 minute rest period prior to the deciding 10 point tie-break	Changed to: 3. RULES OF COMPETITION 3.2 Match play 3.2.1 A match will consist of one of the following. 3.2.1.1 One Tie Break 6 game set using no-ad scoring with a margin of two games with a 7-point tie-break played at six all. 3.2.1.2 Two Tie Break short sets using no-ad scoring with a 10 point match tie break to decide the match. In a short set, the first player/team who wins four games wins that set, provided there is a margin of two games over the opponent(s). If the score reaches four games all, a 7-point tie-break game shall be played. When the score in a match is one set all, one 10-point tie-break game shall be played to decide the match. This tie-break game replaces the deciding final set. Not recommended for athletes with a rating below 3.0. 3.2.1.3 Two tie break 6 game sets using no- ad scoring with a 10 point match tie break to decide the match. In a 6 game set the first player/team who wins 6 games with a margin of two games wins the set. A 7-point tie-break shall be played at six games all. When the score in a



	<p>match is one set all, one 10-point tie-break game shall be played to decide the match. This tie-break game replaces the deciding final set. Not recommended for athletes with a rating below 6.0.</p> <p>3.2.1.4 In the two tie break 4 game or 6 game sets, there will be a three-minute rest period prior to the deciding 10-point tie-break.</p>
<p>SECTION B — RULES OF COMPETITION</p> <p>2. Match play</p> <p>c. One designated Special Olympics coach may sit on court, (off the playing surface, in a chair located at the net post next to the umpire’s chair) and may coach a player when the players change ends at the end of odd game and during the 3 minute rest period prior to the deciding tie-break, but not after the first game of each set and not during a tie-break game.</p>	<p>Changed to:</p> <p>3. RULES OF COMPETITION</p> <p>3.8 Coaching</p> <p>3.8.1 One designated Special Olympics coach may sit on court, (off the playing surface, in a chair located at the net post next to the umpire’s chair) and may coach a player when the players change ends at the end of every odd game and during the three-minute rest period prior to the deciding tie-break, and not during a tie-break game. Changes of ends must be completed within 90 seconds.</p>
<p>Added Unified Team Tennis Competition</p>	<p>3.11 Unified Team Tennis Event</p> <p>3.11.1 Special Olympics Unified Team Tennis program rules are governed by ruling body ITF (International Tennis Federation) and Special Olympics Tennis Rules.</p> <p>3.11.2 Unified Team Composition: Unified Tennis teams are composed of Unified doubles teams. Unified doubles team are comprised of one athlete with intellectual disabilities and one athlete without intellectual disabilities and who have similar skills, as defined by their rating score, and similar age.</p> <p>3.11.3 Individual Rating - All tennis players will be rated on the eight-point Special Olympics Tennis Rating system. When assembling a Unified doubles team, the athlete and Unified partner need to be as closely aligned in ability as possible. Players either should have the same rating (Player A and Player B have a 4 rating) or vary by no more than 1 – 1.5</p>



	<p>points (Player A has a 4 rating and Player B has a 5 rating).</p> <p>3.11.4 Roster Sizes: Unified Team rosters consist of a minimum of 3 Unified doubles and a maximum of 6 Unified doubles teams. (Ex. A Unified Team's 3 doubles pairings should consist of: 1 Level 2, 1 Level 4 and 1 Level 5 if possible).</p> <p>3.11.5 Competition: Competition may be head to head or an Invitational with many teams. During head-to-head competition, both schools, agencies or clubs, field the same number of doubles teams of the same Level and similar rating.</p> <p>3.11.6 Formation of Team Divisions: During competition, Unified Tennis teams are divisioned based on Level and doubles team rating (combined individual rating scores). Tournament Directors pair like level and rating for competition.</p> <p>3.11.7 Scheduling Doubles Matches: When scheduling matches for a competition, doubles teams of similar ability levels and with similar rating scores need to play each other.</p> <p>3.11.8 Use of Designated Tennis Balls and Court Sizes for Competition: The ratings of doubles teams determine what type of tennis ball must be used in competition as well as the size of the court. A doubles team rating score is the combined score of the two players (i.e. Player A is a 4 and Player B is a 5 giving their doubles team a rating score of 9). Following are the requirements:</p> <p>3.11.8.1 Unified Team Level 5: Doubles teams with a <i>combined rating</i> of 10 or higher must use a regulation yellow tennis ball on 78' court.</p> <p>3.11.8.2 Unified Team Level 4: Doubles teams with a <i>combined rating</i> of 6.0 - 9.9 must use a 25% lower compression ball (yellow ball with green dot) and play on a 78' court.</p>
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	<p>3.11.8.3 Unified Team Level 2: Doubles teams with a <i>combined rating</i> of between 3.0 – 5.9 will play their matches on a 42' court (service boxes only) and use a red ball.</p> <p>3.11.9 Substitutions: None are allowed for a doubles team during a match. If either player of a doubles team is unable to complete the match, his/her doubles team will forfeit.</p> <p>3.11.10 Competition Formats: Following are the competition formats to be used which are based on the number of players on both teams. When one team has more players than the opposing team, those additional players compete in an exhibition singles match. <i>Example: Team A has 6 players and Team B has 8 players. Team B's two additional players play a singles exhibition match.</i> Each team has:</p> <p>3.11.10.1 6 players: 3 Doubles scoring matches</p> <p>3.11.10.2 8 players: 4 Doubles scoring matches</p> <p>3.11.10.3 10 players: 5 Doubles scoring matches</p> <p>3.11.10.4 12 players 6 Doubles scoring matches</p> <p>3.11.11 Match Play Format: A match consists of the best 2 out of 3 short sets. The No-Ad scoring system will be used.</p> <p>3.11.11.1 When a rain or time delay occurs, one 6 game may be used instead:</p> <p>3.11.11.1.1 In a 1 set match, the team that wins 6 games by a margin of 2 games wins the set.</p> <p>3.11.11.1.2 At 6 games all, a 10 point tie break is played.</p> <p>3.11.11.1.3 No-Ad scoring will be used.</p>
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<p>Section C – Levels</p> <p>2. Level 2 Match play: Tennis Rating of 2.0-2.9 ITN 10.1 42' Court Red foam ball</p>	<p>4. Levels 4.1 Level 2 Match play Tennis Rating of 2.0 2.9 ITN 10.1 42' Court – Red ball</p>
<p>Section D – Special Olympics Tennis Rating Sheet</p> <p>Tennis Rating of 3.0 – 3.9 Athlete may train in:</p>	<p>5. Special Olympics Tennis Rating Sheet Tennis Rating 3.0-3.9 Athlete should compete in:</p>