

REGULATIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF OFFICAL TOURNAMENTS

APPROVED BY TENNIS IRELAND

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SECTION 1: GENERAL

1.1. GENERAL CONDITIONS

The Rules of Tennis Ireland, the Rules of Tennis and the Regulations hereinafter contained, shall be observed in all Tournaments in respect of which an official permit has been issued by Tennis Ireland.

1.2. DEFINITIONS

Except where otherwise is stated, every reference in these Regulations to the masculine includes the feminine gender, to a competitor or player includes a pair, and to an entry includes the entry of a single competitor or a pair.

1.3. POWERS OF TENNIS IRELAND

If a tournament is in breach of these Regulations it is liable to disciplinary action by the Provincial Branch or Tennis Ireland. This action may include the imposition of a fine, downgrading or refusal of a permit for the Tournament or any other action that the Branch or Tennis Ireland deems appropriate.

1.4. TENNIS IRELAND GRADING SYSTEM

All tournaments that run graded events shall do so in accordance with the regulations herein pertaining to the Tennis Ireland Rating system.

SECTION 2: APPLICATION FOR TOURNAMENT PERMIT

2.1. TOURNAMENT APPLICATION

- 2.1.1. Any affiliated organisations wishing to hold an Official tournament shall make application to the Honorary Secretary of the relevant Provincial Branch no later than 31st August in the preceding year.
- 2.1.2. Such applications shall be on the form duly prescribed for the time being, which form shall be circulated by the Honorary Secretary of Tennis Ireland to each affiliated organisation not later than 31st July
- 2.1.3. As soon as possible after 31st August in each year, the Provincial Branch shall draw up a Provincial schedule of tournaments for the succeeding year and shall forward these to the Honorary Secretary of Tennis Ireland no later than 30th September.
- 2.1.4. By the 31st October the Tennis Ireland Competitions Committee will have reviewed each Provincial Calendar and draw up the National Calendar and sent this to each Provincial Branch for comment.
- 2.1.5. By 15th November each Provincial Branch shall have returned any comments to the Competitions Committee.
- 2.1.6. By 30th November, the Competitions Committee shall arrange for the publication of the tournament Calendar for the succeeding year and shall arrange for the circulation of this list to those affiliated organisations which have applied for such tournaments. At the same time the Provincial Branch will issue official permits to the affiliated organisations which have been granted dates in the succeeding year's calendar.
- 2.1.7. In making application for the holding of a tournament, each affiliated organisation must pay to its Provincial Branch the permit fee for the time being in operation in respect of the category of Tournament which it is proposed to hold.
- 2.1.8. Tennis Ireland shall have power to prohibit the holding of any tournament which has not been sanctioned in the manner herein before described.

SECTION 3: ENTRY FORM, PROSPECTUS AND PRIZE MONEY

An entry form, incorporating a prospectus, shall be issued by the Committee of every Official Tournament, which prospectus shall specify the conditions of the Competition. A copy of the entry form when printed shall be sent forthwith to the Honorary Secretary of the Provincial Branch and, in the case of a Tournament which is being held for the first time, a proof of these documents to such Honorary Secretary for approval by the Provincial Branch prior to its issue to the Public.

3.1. **PROSPECTUS**

The prospectus shall include the following particulars:

- 3.1.1. That the Tournament is sanctioned by Tennis Ireland and will be conducted under the Rules of Tennis and the Rules and Regulations of Tennis Ireland and that the Tennis Ireland Code of Conduct will apply.
- 3.1.2. The names of the Tournament Committee and Referee.
- 3.1.3. The events, amount of entrance fees and the value of the prizes for each Open event subject to Section 3.3.1.
- 3.1.4. The days and dates, in full, and the hours of commencement of play and, where relevant, the earliest date of commencement of play in specific events.
- 3.1.5. The date, time and place of the draw, which will be open to accepted entrants.
- 3.1.6. The number and description of the courts available for use.
- 3.1.7. If the holding of an event is conditional on the size of the entry, the minimum number of such entries required.
- 3.1.8. Restriction as to clothing to be worn. (See also 5.6.)
- 3.1.9. That all competitors are either registered members of the Tennis Ireland Grading system or agree to become so at the tournament.
- 3.1.10.1. That no complaint in connection with the conduct of the Tournament can be entertained by the Committee unless made in writing and lodged with the Tournament Committee within 48 hours of the occurrence of the cause of same and no application for leave to appeal against any decision of the Committee can be entertained by the Provincial Branch unless made in writing and lodged with the Honorary Secretary of the Provincial Branch within ten days of the receipt of that decision.
- 3.1.10.2. For events containing an Irish title, application for leave to appeal should be lodged with the Honorary Secretary of Tennis Ireland within 10 days of the Tournament Committee decision.
- 3.1.11. The ball to be used, which must conform to the Rules of Tennis.
- 3.1.12. The place of receiving, and the date and hour of close, of entries.
- 3.1.13. The location of the tournament.
- 3.1.14. The number and type of sets, and whether Advantage or No Advantage games are to be played, in each event.
- 3.1.15. A tournament which wishes to restrict the number of entries in any of its events must state clearly the method of elimination to be used and, if applicable, the fact that entries will be closed when those numbers have been reached.

3.2. **ENTRY FORM**

An Entry form must be completed and signed by each competitor and include:

Forenames (in full); Family Names; Home Address; Date of Birth (if required); Home Phone; Work Phone; Mobile Phone; Work Fax; Home Fax; email; Tennis Ireland Rating Registration No; Tennis Ireland Rating.

3.3. **PRIZE MONEY AND PAYMENTS TO COMPETITORS**

- 3.3.1. The prize money or value as advertised on the entry form shall be paid out unless some restriction has been specified. Players may only win prize money as divided and advertised in the entry form or prospectus.
- 3.3.2. Singles Prize Fund Distribution will only be made in accordance with the attached schedule.
- 3.3.3. The level of prize money in Junior events shall not exceed the limit for the time being stipulated by the International Tennis Federation.

SECTION 4: POWER & DUTIES OF THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

4.1. TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

- 4.1.1. All details connected with any Tournament shall be settled by the Tournament Committee especially appointed for the purpose of whom, two or such larger number as the Committee may determine, shall form a quorum.
- 4.1.2. The Tournament Committee shall maintain order on the tournament site and shall consult and decide upon any questions arising out of the competition, if summoned for that purpose by the Referee or any two of their number.
- 4.1.3. The Tournament Committee shall consist of at least 5 people. These shall include a Tournament Director, who shall be Chairman, and the Tournament Referee.
- 4.1.4. Tennis Ireland and the Provincial Branches reserve the right to appoint up to three members of any Irish Open, or Provincial, Title Tournament Committee.

4.2. TOURNAMENT ACCOUNTS

The Tournament Committee shall keep separate accounts in respect of each tournament controlled by it, setting out full details of all receipts and expenditure relating to that tournament. Not later than three months from the closing date of any tournament a copy of such accounts shall, if demanded, be rendered to the relevant Provincial Branch, and together with other supporting documents shall be delivered to such Branch for inspection within fourteen days of such demand. If required, full facilities shall be given to such Branch or their nominees to investigate any matters arising out of such accounts.

4.3. REFEREE & UMPIRES

4.3.1. APPOINTMENT OF REFEREE

- 4.3.1.1. The Tournament Committee shall appoint a Referee, who shall be a member of the Committee. Such Referee shall have power, with the consent of the Committee, to appoint a deputy.
- 4.3.1.2. The Committee shall have power to suspend or replace the Referee.
- 4.3.1.3. The Referee and his deputy shall be ineligible to compete in that tournament.

4.3.2. POWERS OF REFEREE

- 4.3.2.1. The Referee or his deputy shall decide any point of law which an Umpire may profess himself unable to decide, or which may be referred to him on appeal from the decision of any Umpire. In all such cases the decision of the Referee shall be final.
- 4.3.2.2. In the absence of an Umpire, the Referee or his deputies may decide a question of fact, if they have witnessed same.
- 4.3.2.3. The Referee or such other member(s) of the Tournaments Committee, so selected for the purpose, shall have power to appoint Umpires and Linespeople.
- 4.3.2.4. The Referee or his deputy shall have power to remove an Umpire or any other court official and to make any necessary replacement but shall report the circumstances to the Tournament Committee as soon as possible. The Court official so removed shall be given an explanation for his replacement.
- 4.3.2.5. The Referee or his authorised deputy may postpone any match or part of a match within the limits of the days sanctioned by Tennis Ireland if, in his opinion, the state of weather or of the light, or the condition of the ground, or other circumstances, render it advisable to so do.

4.3.3. DUTIES OF REFEREE

- 4.3.3.1. A detailed referee's report (see 8.5) shall be sent by the Committee to the relevant Provincial Branch within 3 days of the final date of each tournament or sooner if that Branch so demands. Such report shall be accompanied by a cheque payable to the Provincial Branch in respect of the Tournament Capitation fees collected by the Tournament on behalf of the Branch and Tennis Ireland as part of the entry fees.
- 4.3.3.2. The referee is responsible to the Tournament Committee and Tennis Ireland for the conduct of all matches and players, and the Tournament Committee is responsible for the proper organisation of the tournament generally.

4.3.4. **DUTIES OF UMPIRE**

The decision of an Umpire shall be final upon every question of fact and any Competitor expressing disapproval of it, whether by word or action, will render himself liable sanction under the Code of Conduct; but if any Umpire be in doubt as to a point of law, or if a Competitor appeals against his decision on such point, the Umpire shall submit it to the Referee, whose decision shall be final.

4.4. **TENNIS IRELAND PASS**

Every officer and member of the General Council of Tennis Ireland and the relevant Provincial Branch shall be entitled to free admission to a tournament and to a seat in a stand, if available, upon production of the official pass which shall be issued annually to such officers and councillors.

SECTION 5: RIGHTS & OBLIGATIONS OF COMPETITORS

5.1. **COMPETITORS**

5.1.1. All competitors shall complete and sign an entry form. They shall enclose their entrance fee, including any Tennis Ireland and Provincial Branch Capitation fees, with their entry form.

5.1.2. A player is specifically prohibited from entering or signifying an intention to enter for more than one tournament, match or competition advertised to take place during the same period, except in the case of two events which overlap by no more than two days and then only with the prior written consent of the organiser of both events.

5.1.3. A player whose entry has been accepted shall not withdraw except with the agreement of the Tournament Committee. Any breach of this regulation may result in disciplinary action by Tennis Ireland.

5.1.3.1. A player who informs a tournament of withdrawal because of injury, after the draw has been made, either must produce to the Tournament Committee a Medical Doctor's certificate to substantiate this injury within three days of withdrawal or will be liable to a fine and forfeiture of any prize money.

5.1.3.2. A player who informs a tournament of withdrawal, after the draw has been made, for other than reason of injury will be liable to a fine and forfeiture of any prize money.

5.1.3.3. A player who fails to inform a tournament of withdrawal and does not appear for a match will be liable to an increased fine and forfeiture of any prize money.

5.1.4. Tournaments should not accept phone entries but if they do, a member of the Tournament Committee should complete an entry form at the time, sign it and tell the player they are so doing.

5.2 **FAIR PLAY**

Fair play is much more than playing within the rules. It incorporates the concepts of friendship, respect for others and always playing in the right spirit. Fair play is defined as a way of thinking, not just behaving. It incorporates issues concerned with the elimination of cheating, gamesmanship, doping, violence (both physical and verbal), exploitation, unequal opportunities, excessive commercialisation and corruption.

European Sports Charter and Code of Ethics, Council of Europe 1993

5.3. **CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Tennis Ireland Code of Conduct shall apply at all tournaments. The code is published as 8.4 in these Regulations and shall be prominently displayed at each Official Tournament.

5.4. **DRAW TO BE PUBLIC**

The date, time and place where the Draw for the various level events, is to be made must be stated on the entry form of every Tournament, and competitors shall have a right to be present at the draw.

5.5. **WARM-UP**

There shall be five (5) minutes of warm-up before a match. In the case of a suspended or postponed match, the period of warm-up shall be as follows:

0-10 minutes delay	No warm-up
10 minutes or more but less than 20 minutes	Three (3) minutes of warm-up
20 or more minutes of delay	Five (5) minutes of warm-up

5.6. **CLOTHING**

5.6.1. All players must wear clean and customarily accepted tennis attire and abide by the rules as set out in the published entry form.

5.6.2. Footwear liable to damage the court shall not be permitted.

5.6.3. Advertising on clothing shall be permitted to:

5.6.3.1. **Shirt**

Clothing Manufacturer: One Logo on each sleeve neither of which exceed 19.5 square centimetres.

Main Sponsor of the Tournament: One Logo on any part not to exceed 150 square centimetres.

5.6.3.2. **Shorts or Skirt**

Clothing Manufacturer: Two Logos neither of which shall exceed 13 square centimetres.

Non-clothing Manufacturer: One Logo not to exceed 19.5 square centimetres.

5.6.3.3. **Hat, Headband and Wristband**

Clothing Manufacturer: One Logo without writing not to exceed 13 square centimetres.

5.7. **PLAYER REST & INJURY**

5.7.1. In the event of a player suffering an accident during the match or warm-up, the player will be entitled to receive a one-off three (3) minute Injury Time-Out for that condition so that they can treat themselves or be treated by a Tournament Physician, if one is present. The request for an Injury Time-Out can be made at any time during a match or warm-up but if taken at a changeover, four and a half (4.5) minutes is allowed (to include the 90 second changeover).

5.7.2. A player will only be allowed one Injury Time-Out for any and all cramping conditions.

5.7.3. A player is entitled, preferably at a changeover, to one toilet break per match and for no other purpose,

5.8. **COMPLAINTS**

Any complaints by an individual concerning the conduct of a Tournament must be made in writing to the referee and delivered to him, or sent by post as to reach him, within 48 hours of the occurrence of the cause of the complaint. Before considering the complaint and arriving at any decision, the Tournament Committee shall forward to the alleged offender a notice, in writing, stating the grounds of complaint and giving him an opportunity of being heard. After considering the complaint, the Committee shall cause their decision to be delivered or sent by post to the complainant and the alleged offender within four days after the same shall have been made. Save as provided in 5.7 such decision shall be final and binding on both parties concerned.

5.9. **RIGHT OF APPEAL**

5.9.1. Any person dissatisfied with, or aggrieved by, a decision of the Committee may apply to the relevant Provincial Branch within ten days after the receipt of such decision for leave to appeal against the same, and the Branch shall forthwith give notice of such application to the Committee, and if such leave be granted the appeal shall be heard at such place and time and in such manner as the Branch shall direct.

5.9.2. At Irish Title events, the application to appeal should be sent to the Honorary Secretary of Tennis Ireland.

5.10. **OTHER COMPETITIONS**

In cases where other competitions are played concurrently with an Official Tournament, the latter must take precedence.

SECTION 6: COURTS & BALLS

6.1. COURT SURFACE

At tournaments authorised to be held on a specified surface the Referee may order any match or part of a match to be played on a different surface, if the entry form of the tournament contains a statement that a court(s) with another surface are available and will be used if the condition of the specified courts shall, in the opinion of the referee, render such course necessary.

6.2. COURT EQUIPMENT

For all official tournaments each court used must be equipped at a minimum with:

- 6.2.1. Clearly marked lines that are visible to the players under any conditions in which matches are played.
- 6.2.2. Net posts that conform to the Rules of Tennis and hold the net at 3ft 6ins. (1.07 metres) and allow the net to be raised or lowered.
- 6.2.3. A net that is in good condition, tied to each net post at three points, and has a centre net band that holds the net down to 3ft (0.914 metres) height at its centre.
- 6.2.4. Singles sticks of 3ft 6ins (1.07 metres), if Singles matches are to be played on a court with a Doubles net. These should be not more than 3 inches (7.5 centimetres) square or in diameter. They shall be placed 3ft (0.914 metres) outside the singles court.
- 6.2.5. Fencing, at least 18ft behind each base line, that consistently stops the ball leaving the court area.
- 6.2.6. A measuring stick of 3ft (0.914 metres) shall be available for each court.

6.3. THE BALL

- 6.3.1. All official tournaments will use a ball which conforms to the Rules of Tennis and the specification for the time being approved by the International Tennis Federation.
- 6.3.2. All official tournaments must supply a minimum of three balls per match.
- 6.3.3. Any ball change should be consistent throughout an official tournament.

SECTION 7: THE DRAW

7.1 SEEDING OF THE DRAW

At any Official Tournament, the draw in the Level events may be seeded. Unless Tennis Ireland authorises special arrangements seeding shall be subject to the following:

7.1.1.

With up to 15 entries in an event	2 may be seeded.
With not less than 16 entries in an event	4 may be seeded.
With not less than 32 entries in an event	8 may be seeded.
With not less than 64 entries in an event	16 may be seeded.

- 7.1.2. The entries to be seeded shall be selected by the Committee as being, in their opinion, the best in the event, having taken into account International, National and Provincial Rankings.
- 7.1.3. The seeded entries shall be placed as set out below:
 - 7.1.3.1. Number 1 and 2 shall be place at the top and bottom of the draw respectively.
 - 7.1.3.2. Numbers 3 and 4 shall be drawn by lot, the first person drawn to be placed at the top of the second quarter of the draw and the other at the bottom of the third quarter.

- 7.1.3.3. Numbers 5 and 6, 7 and 8, 9 and 10, 11 and 12, 13 and 14, 15 and 16 (or as many of these as are permitted to be seeded in accordance with 7.1.1. above) shall be drawn by lot in these pairs, the first drawn in each case to be for the top half and the other for the bottom half of the draw.
- 7.1.3.4. Those of numbers 5 – 8 which have been so drawn for the top half shall be placed, by lot, at the top of the second and fourth eights of the draw; and those for the bottom half shall be placed, by lot, at the fifth and seventh eights of the draw.
- 7.1.3.5. Those of numbers 9 – 16 which have been drawn for the top half shall be placed, by lot, at the top of the second, fourth, sixth and eighth sixteenth of the draw; and those for the bottom half shall be placed, by lot, at the bottom of the ninth, eleventh, thirteenth and fifteenth sixteenth of the draw.
- 7.1.4. Seeding will not be official until the draw
- 7.1.5. If two or more of the top eight seeds withdraw more than 48 hours before the start of the event; the Referee shall re-seed and remake the draw.
- 7.1.6. If one of the top eight seeds withdraws more than 48 hours before the start of the tournament, the other seeds can all be promoted and an additional competitor made the final seed.
- 7.1.7. Open events should always be seeded.
- 7.1.8. After the commencement of any event no additions or alterations shall be made to the draw.

7.2. **METHOD OF DRAW**

- 7.2.1. The entries in an event will meet in pairs. When the number of entries is 4, 8, 16, 32, 64 or any higher power of two, they shall meet in pairs, in accordance with the system shown by the diagram set out in 8.1.1.
- 7.2.2. If the number of entries is higher than any of 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, but lower than the next highest number in this sequence there will be byes.
- 7.2.3. The byes shall be in two groups, respectively in the top and bottom halves starting at the top and bottom of the draw, of equal size if the number of byes is even, but otherwise with one more in the bottom half than in the top half (See 8.1.2.).
- 7.2.4. Any seeded players having been already placed in the draw in positions required by section 7.1.3., the unseeded players shall be drawn by lot to fill the remaining places starting at the top of the draw.
- 7.2.5. Tennis Ireland has authorised the placing of seeds further forward called the Rated Draw, as set out in 8.2. The Rated Draw must be used in all Open singles event with 12 or more entries in Official Junior Tournaments.

7.3. **DIVISION OF EVENTS INTO TWO CLASSES**

- 7.3.1. When the entries for any event at an approved Tournament are 32 or more in number, the Committee may divide the event into classes, with separate prizes for each class, subject to the condition that any title attached to the event shall be allocated to Class 1 and that the entry form for the Tournament announces that the Committee reserves the right to avail themselves of the provisions of this Regulation.
- 7.3.2. In all events the entries to be include in Class 1 shall be selected by the Committee as being in their opinion the best in the event, having taken into account International, National & Provincial rankings and “TSB Grades”.

7.4 **SCORE IN A GAME**

The Rules of Tennis recognise two methods to score in a game, the Advantage Game and the No Advantage Game.

7.5 **PLAYING OF ADVANTAGE, TIE BREAK OR SHORT SET**

- 7.4.1. In all level events at official tournaments only tiebreak sets (in accordance with the Rules of Tennis) shall be played.
- 7.4.2. In handicap events at official tournaments, advantage sets shall be played with the exception that, if weather conditions are adverse and only for the purpose of enabling the programme to be completed within the advertised time, the committee may order the best of three short sets or alternatively, one advantage set. A short set is decided when one or other of the players first wins six games.

7.5. **HANDICAP MATCHES**

The provision regarding owed and received odds shall be on the basis set forth in 8.3.

SECTION 8: APPENDICES

8.1. **OFFICIAL DRAW SHEETS (See 8.1.1. & 8.1.2.)**

8.2. **THE RATED DRAW SHEET**

- 8.2.1. The Rated draw is the only approved method by which a tournament can bring the seeds forward in an event.
- 8.2.2. In this method, the seeds are not included in the draw but are drawn in the usual way for specific positions in a later round. (See 8.2.). The main draw is preformed in the normal way in their absence.
- 8.2.3. If a tournament uses the Rated draw the number of seeds can be increased for a lower number of entries as follows:

2 plus entries:	4 seeds
24 plus entries:	8 seeds
48 plus entries:	16 seeds

- 8.2.4. Tournaments will hold two rounds of matches between the beaten Quarter Finalists to decide on fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth places. The first round will be a match between the loser of the top quarter and the loser of the second quarter and a match between the loser of the third quarter and the loser of the bottom quarter. The second round will consist of a match between the winners of these matches and a match between the losers.
- 8.2.5. There will be a match between the losing Semi Finalists to decide on third and fourth places.
- 8.2.6. The Entry Form should inform competitors which events will be played under a Rated draw and that participation in the third to eighth place play off is mandatory.
- 8.2.7. Any query in relation to the wording on an entry form or how to do a Rated draw should be referred to the Competitions Committee of Tennis Ireland.

8.3. **HANDICAP REGULATIONS**

8.3.1. **RECEIVED ODDS**

Odds are received in each group of 6 games of a set in the first place in the earliest possible even game; that is to say, a receiver of one-sixth receives a point in the second game of each group of 6; a receiver of two sixths in the second and fourth games; a receiver of three-sixths in the second, fourth and sixth games.

When the even games are exhausted odds are then received in the earliest possible odd games; that is to say, a receiver of four-sixths receives his points over and above a receiver of three-sixths in the first game of each group of 6 and a receiver of five-sixths in the first and third games. The position in which points are received are shown in the following table:

	1 st Game	2 nd Game	3 rd Game	4 th Game	5 th Game	6 th Game
1/6 of 15		15				
2/6 of 15		15		15		
3/6 of 15		15		15		15
4/6 of 15	15	15		15		15
5/6 of 15	15	15	15	15		15

- 8.3.1.1. A player receiving four-sixths of fifteen receives nothing in the third and fifth games and fifteen in the first, second, fourth and sixth games of a set.
- 8.3.1.2. The table is not carried beyond the sixth game, as in the next and every succeeding six games the odds recur in the same positions.

8.3.1.3. The above odds may be received in addition to other received odds.

Fifteen (e.g. + 15.0) is one point received at the beginning of every game of a set.
Thirty (e.g. + 30.0) is two points received at the beginning of every game of a set.
Forty (e.g. + 40.0) is three points received at the beginning of every game of a set

8.3.2. **OWED ODDS**

Odds are owed in each group of six games of a set, in the first place, in the latest possible odd game. That is to say, an owner of one-sixth owes a point in the fifth game of each group of six; an owner of two-sixths in the fifth and third games; and an owner of three-sixths in the fifth, third and first games.

When the odd games are exhausted; odds are then owed in the latest possible even games. This is to say an owner of four-sixths owes his / hers points, over and above an owner of three-sixths, in the sixth game of each group of six; and an owner of five-sixths, in the sixth and fourth games. The position in which points are owed are shown in the following table:

	1 st Game	2 nd Game	3 rd Game	4 th Game	5 th Game	6 th Game
1/6 of 15					15	
2/6 of 15			15		15	
3/6 of 15	15		15		15	
4/6 of 15	15		15		15	15
5/6 of 15	15		15	15	15	15

8.3.2.1. A player owing two-sixths of fifteen would owe fifteen in the third and fifth games and nothing in the first, second, fourth and sixth games of a set.

8.3.2.2. The table is not carried beyond the sixth game, as in the next and every succeeding six games the odds recur in the same position.

8.3.2.3. The above odds may be owed in addition to other owed odds.

Fifteen (e.g. + 15.0) is one point received at the beginning of every game of a set.
Thirty (e.g. + 30.0) is two points received at the beginning of every game of a set.
Forty (e.g. + 40.0) is three points received at the beginning of every game of a set.

8.4. **CODE OF CONDUCT**

The provision of this Code shall apply to official Tennis Ireland Tournaments and Events.

8.4.1. **CLOTHING**

8.4.1.1. **Unacceptable Attire: -**

Clean and customarily acceptable tennis attire shall be worn and as set out in the Prospectus.

8.4.1.2. **Visible Identification: -**

No visible identification shall be permitted on a player's clothing, products or equipment except as stated in the Regulations.

8.4.2. **ETIQUETTE**

8.4.2.1. **Leaving the court: -**

A player shall not leave the court area during a match (including warm-up) without the permission of the Umpire or Referee.

8.4.2.2. **Failure to complete match: -**

A player must complete a match in progress unless (s)he is reasonably unable to do so.

8.4.2.3. **Ceremonies: -**

A player participating in the finals of a tournament must attend and participate in the finals ceremonies, unless reasonably unable to do so.

8.4.2.4. **Media: -**

Unless injured and physically unable to appear, a player must be available to the Media within 30 minutes of the end of any match, whether the player be winner or loser.

8.4.2.5. **Scoreboard: -**

Players must change the score on a scoreboard, when provided and if nobody else is assigned the task, at each change of the ends. If the scoreboard is placed at either end of the court it will be the responsibility of the player or pair approaching that end after a change of ends to update the score.

8.4.3. **PUNCTUALITY**

8.4.3.1. Players must be ready to play their match at the designated time and / or in accordance with the order of play.

8.4.3.2. Any player not ready to play 15 minutes after his / her match has been called, shall be scratched from the event, unless the Referee, after consideration of all relevant circumstances, decides not so to do.

8.4.4. **CONDUCT**

8.4.4.1. **Best efforts: -**

A player shall use his / her best efforts to win a match.

8.4.4.2. **Unreasonable delays: -**

Play should be continuous and a player shall not unreasonably delay a match for any cause. At all times the Receiver must play to the reasonable pace of the Server and must be ready to receive when the Server is ready to serve.

The time between the ball going out of play at the end of one point to the time the ball is served for the next point shall not exceed 30 seconds. Where ballpersons are used in Official Tournaments, this time shall not exceed 20 seconds.

8.4.4.2.1. When changing ends, a maximum of 90 seconds shall elapse from the moment the ball goes out of play at the end of one game to the time the ball is served for the first point of the next game.

8.4.4.2.2. At the conclusion of each set, there shall be a set break of a maximum of 120 seconds from the moment that the ball goes out of play at the end of the set to the time the ball is first struck for the first point of the next set.

8.4.4.2.3. At the conclusion of the first game in each set, and during a tiebreak, play shall be continuous and players shall change ends without a rest period.

The first violation of this section shall be penalised by a warning and each subsequent violation shall be penalised by the assessment of a point penalty.

8.4.4.3. **Audible Obscenity: -**

Players shall not use an audible obscenity within the precincts of the tournament site.

8.4.4.4. **Coaching: -**

Players shall not receive coaching during a tournament match. Communications of any kind, audible or visible, between a player and any other person shall be construed as coaching.

8.4.4.5. **Visible Obscenity: -**

Players shall not make obscene gestures of any kind within the precincts of the tournament site.

8.4.4.6. **Abuse of Ball: -**

Players shall not violently, dangerously or with anger, hit, kick or throw a tennis ball within the precincts of the tournament site.

8.4.4.7. **Abuse of Rackets or Equipment: -**

Players shall not violently, dangerously or with anger, hit, kick or throw a racket or other equipment within the precincts of the tournament site.

8.4.4.8. **Verbal Abuse: -**

Players shall not at any time verbally abuse any official, opponent, spectator or other person within the precincts of the tournament site.

8.4.4.9. **Physically Abuse: -**

Players shall not at any time physically abuse any official, opponent, spectator or other person within the precincts of the tournament site.

8.4.4.10. **Unsportsmanlike Conduct: -**

Players shall at all time conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and give due regard to the authority of officials and the rights of opponents, spectators and others.

8.4.5. **DISCIPLINE**

8.4.5.1. The Penalty Point Schedule to be used for violations of 8.4.4.4.1. and 8.4.4.3. to 8.4.4.4.100 is:

First Offence	Warning	1 Penalty Point
Second Offence	Point	2 Penalty Points
Third Offence	Game	3 Penalty Points
Fourth Offence	Default	4 Penalty Points

8.4.5.2. The Disciplinary sanctions under the Penalty Point Schedule may differ from one Provincial Branch to another, but it is designed to be an automatic procedure if a player attains or exceeds 4 penalty points in up to 4 separate matches under this schedule.

8.4.5.3. When a penalty has been imposed under the Code of Conduct the offending player will be reported to the relevant Provincial Branch and to Tennis Ireland.

8.4.5.4. The Chair Umpire or Referee in a Tennis Ireland tournament may declare a default for either a single violation of this code or pursuant to the Penalty Point Schedule.

8.4.6. **AGGRAVATED BEHAVIOUR**

8.4.6.1. One violation that is flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a tournament.

8.4.6.2. A series of two or more violations of this code within a 12 month period which singularly do not constitute “Aggravated Behaviour” but when viewed together establish a pattern of conduct that is collectively detrimental or injurious to Tennis Ireland sanctioned tournaments, to be decided upon by the Provincial Council or Discipline Committee of Tennis Ireland.

8.4.6.3. Violations of 8.4.5. shall subject a player to a fine and / or suspension from play in Tennis Ireland sanctioned tournaments or events.

8.4.7. **INTEGRITY OF THE GAME**

8.4.7.1. If a player has at any time behaved in a manner severely damaging to the reputation of the sport, he may be deemed by virtue of such behaviour to have engaged in conduct contrary to the integrity of the Game of Tennis and be in violation of this Section.

8.4.7.2. Violation of 8.4.6. shall subject a player to a fine and / or suspension from play in Tennis Ireland sanctioned tournaments or events.

Guidelines on use of Photographic and Filming Equipment at Official Events and Practice Sessions.

1. Amateurs

Amateur photographers /film / video operators wishing to record an event or practice session should seek accreditation with the event organiser or leader of the practice session and have justifiable reason for wanting to video / photograph children.

During competitions or practice sessions, children must not be photographed or filmed without the permission and the expressed permission of one of their parents or person acting for the parent. A record should be kept of any permission granted.

2. Professionals

Professional photographers /film / video operators wishing to record an event or practice session should seek accreditation with the event organisers by producing their professional identification for the details to be recorded and have justifiable reason for wanting to video / photograph children. A record should be kept of accreditation.

3. Camera Phones

Because camera phones can transmit an image discreetly and remotely, Junior Tournament organisers are advised that they should not be used under any circumstances on Junior Tournament sites.

4. Publication

This information should be published prominently in event programmes and should be announced over the public address system prior to the start of an event.

Recommended wording:

“In line with the recommendations in the Tennis Ireland Code of Ethics, the promoters of this event request that any person wishing to engage in any video, zoom or close range photography should register their details with the organisers. On no account should children be photographed or filmed without their permission and the permission of their parents. Camera phones cannot under any circumstances be used on the tournament site.”

5. Use of video as a coaching aid

Video equipment can be used as a legitimate coaching aid. However, permission should first be obtained from the player and the player's parent / carer.

Anyone concerned about any photography taking place at events or training sessions should contact the organisers and ask them to deal with the matter.