

Code of Behaviour

Tournaments

Weekly Competitions

Effective 26 June 2009



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(Regulations)



2 Weekly Competitions

(Guidelines)



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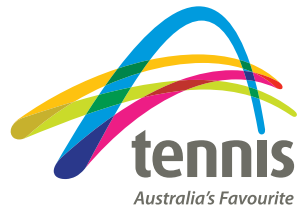
4 Tribunal Guidelines

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Tournaments



1. Statement of intent

These regulations provide the framework for dealing with tournament related breaches of discipline by players, coaches, parents/guardians and spectators who participate in or attend sanctioned tournaments and team events in Australia.

2. Purpose

To preserve the image and integrity of tennis in Australia and to promote sportsmanlike conduct in tournaments by dealing with breaches of discipline in a consistent manner.

3. Definitions

"Australian Tennis Organisation" (ATO) refers to Tennis Australia, Member Associations, affiliated organisations, member affiliated organisations, regional associations and affiliated clubs as defined in the Tennis Australia Member Protection By-Law.

"Tennis Australia" (TA) refers to the governing body for tennis in Australia.

"Member Association" (MA) refers to the governing body for tennis in each state/territory in Australia as defined in the Tennis Australia Constitution.

"Disciplinary Officer" (DO) refers to the person appointed by an Australian Tennis Organisation to administer disciplinary matters.

"Tournament" refers to a sanctioned championship, tournament, team event or challenge match.

"Australian Ranking" (AR) points refers to the points that are allocated (allocation depending upon level of success in the tournament) to players for each Australian Ranking tournament they participate in.

"Team event" is the definition given to a team orientated tournament. Unless otherwise stated, teams represent states and territories of Australia. In some instances New Zealand are invited and therefore will also be represented.

"Weekly competitions" refers to an organised tennis competition which occurs over a series of weeks on a regular basis.

"Official" refers to a referee, assistant referee, court supervisor or chair umpire.

"Precinct" refers to the tournament venue (courts and clubhouse) including its immediate surrounds (e.g. venue car park).

4. Administration

The administration of match and tournament breaches of the Code of Behaviour is the responsibility of the MA in which the tournament was played, with the exception of National Championships, National Teams Championships and ITF/WTA/ATP tournaments, where TA will be the responsible body.

Correspondence with players once an automatic disciplinary action is invoked is the responsibility of the MA in which the player is registered.

Correspondence in relation to any automatic disciplinary action or tribunal hearing may be sent electronically (i.e. email) by the MA to the last known address provided by the player to the tournament, MA or TA. It is the responsibility of the player to provide and maintain a correct electronic address.



5. Application

The Code of Behaviour applies to violations occurring during tournaments in Australia (including ITF, ATP and WTA tournaments held in Australia) or at officially sanctioned activities related to these tournaments. It also applies to instances of unacceptable behaviour (as deemed by TA) that may occur off-precinct during a tournament.

Incidents involving harassment, discrimination, abuse (not verbal abuse within the Code of Behaviour) and vilification (all of which are defined within the Member Protection Policy) may be dealt with pursuant to the TA Member Protection Policy and not these regulations.

6. Interpretation and on-site administration

The tournament director and all officials appointed by the tournament are empowered with the authority of administering these regulations.

All officials appointed by the tournament are empowered with the authority to interpret and determine match offences documented within these regulations, and take appropriate action.

The referee is the final on-site authority regarding the interpretation of match and tournament offences within the Code of Behaviour regulations.

7. Mutual recognition

Any penalty imposed upon a player under this Code of Behaviour will be recognised and respected by all ATOs. A player is not permitted to play any tournaments or weekly competitions during the time of any suspension imposed under this Code of Behaviour.

8. Disciplinary process

Breaches of the Code of Behaviour as detailed in Appendix I will be dealt with in the following manner.

Table 1

Match offences		
<i>Match offence</i>	<i>Immediate penalty (during match)</i>	<i>Disciplinary points attracted</i>
First offence	Code violation	1 disciplinary point
Second offence	Point penalty	2 disciplinary points <i>(inclusive of first offence post match penalty)</i>
Third offence	Match default*	4 disciplinary points <i>(inclusive of first and second offences post match penalties)</i>

*A match default can only be administered by the tournament referee.

The tournament referee, after consultation with any official and taking into account all the facts, may determine that a significant violation warrants an immediate match default without progressing through the above stages. In addition, after consultation with the tournament director it may be determined that the violation also warrants suspension from the remainder of the tournament.

Where any *point penalty* is applied in accordance with these regulations the player shall be notified immediately where a chair umpire is present, or applied within the specific game by the relevant official in the case of non-chair umpired matches.

If the point penalty cannot be issued during the specific game, a code violation second offence will still be issued.

The tournament referee must determine any default situation.

Any penalty awarded during a doubles match pursuant to a violation contained within these regulations shall be a penalty imposed against the team. Any post tournament action in accordance within these regulations will be taken against the individual player.

Table 2

Tournament offences	
Code violation	Penalty
Late withdrawal	1 disciplinary point
No show	2 disciplinary points
Conduct unbecoming	Refer direct to tribunal

Code violation appeals

A player may appeal a specific non-standard code violation (refer to Appendix I) in addition to a no show violation to TA or the appropriate MA within seven days of the sending of the documentation to the player. This appeal will be determined by the designated person/s at either TA or the MA and will only be considered on the basis of relevant and meaningful information. Appeals without a significant base will not be considered.

Note: standard code violations apart from no shows are not appealable.

9. Penalties

Disciplinary points are accumulated as code violations are enforced. When the number of disciplinary points in a 12 month period reaches three (3) or more, automatic disciplinary actions are activated. Diagram 1 outlines the disciplinary point levels and the related disciplinary action, which includes a mixture of suspension and loss of Australian Ranking points.

An individual player's accumulated points automatically drop off their points balance after 12 months from the time the points were added.

The addition and subtraction of disciplinary points from an individual player's points balance occurs monthly in line with the update of the Australian Rankings.

A player, on the payment of \$500, may have their suspension considered by a tribunal. If the player is successful in appealing the suspension, the \$500 payment will be refunded.

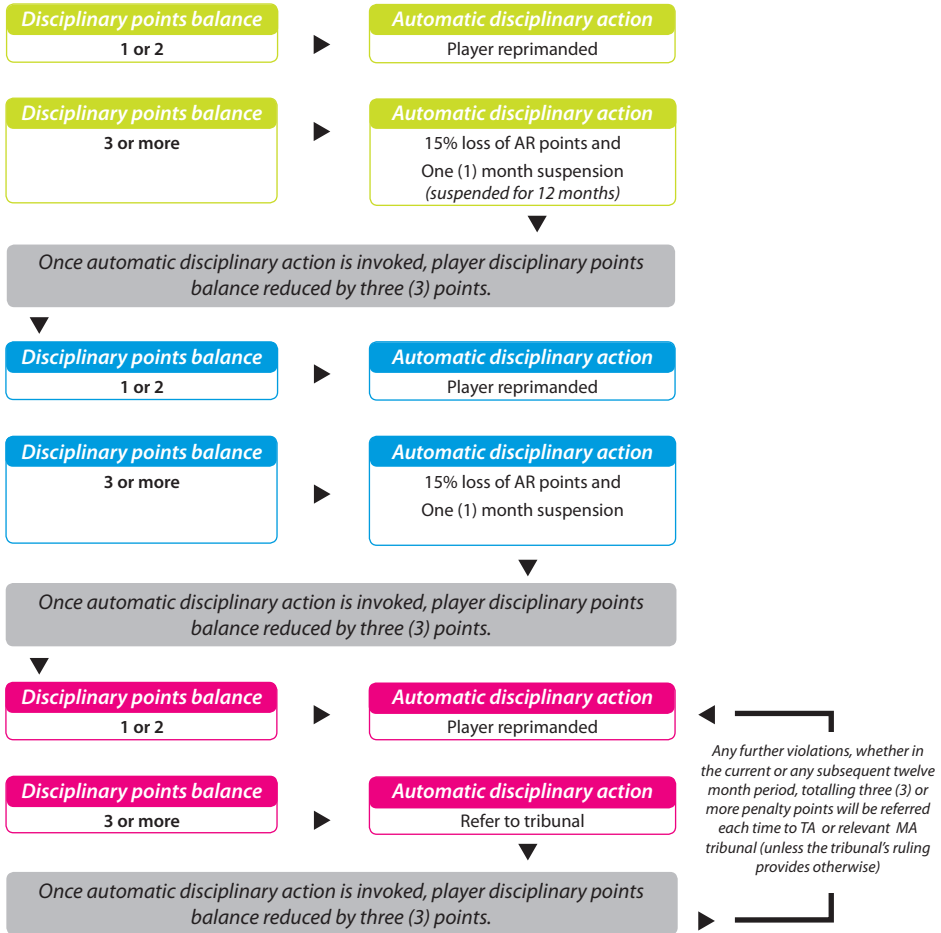
For the purposes of calculation, a player's disciplinary points also include any that have arisen as a result of weekly competition play.

For tribunal guidelines please refer to *Appendix II*.

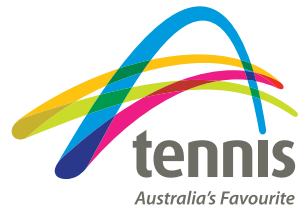


Penalties system

Diagram 1



Note A player who is subject to an immediate default will automatically lose 30 per cent of AR points and will be referred directly to TA or appropriate MA tribunal to determine the suspension period. This will also apply for off court violations under “conduct unbecoming”.



Weekly Competitions



1. *Statement of intent*

These guidelines provide the framework for dealing with breaches of discipline by players, coaches, parents/guardians and spectators who participate in or attend weekly tennis competitions in Australia.

The intent is to provide broad guidelines for weekly competitions that do not have an existing disciplinary process to deal with inappropriate behaviour. For such competitions, these regulations (or part thereof) can be inserted into the Competition By-Laws and used as required.

For weekly competitions that do have an existing disciplinary process, the competition provider can determine the most appropriate use of these regulations.

2. *Purpose*

To preserve the image and integrity of tennis in Australia and to promote sportsmanlike conduct in weekly competitions by dealing with breaches of discipline in a consistent manner.

3. *Definitions*

"Australian Tennis Organisation" (ATO) refers to Tennis Australia, Member Associations, affiliated organisations, member affiliated organisations, regional associations and affiliated clubs as defined in the Tennis Australia Member Protection By-Law.

"Tennis Australia" (TA) refers to the governing body for tennis in Australia.

"Member Association" (MA) refers to the governing body for tennis in each state/territory in Australia as defined in the Tennis Australia Constitution.

"Disciplinary Officer" (DO) refers to the person appointed by an Australian Tennis Organisation to administer disciplinary matters.

"Tournament" refers to a sanctioned championship, tournament, team event or challenge match.

"Australian Ranking (AR) points" refers to the points that are allocated (allocation depending upon level of success in the tournament) to players for each Australian Ranking tournament they participate in.

"Team event" is the definition given to a team orientated tournament. Unless otherwise stated, teams represent states and territories of Australia. In some instances New Zealand are invited and therefore will also be represented.

"Weekly competitions" refers to an organised tennis competition which occurs over a series of weeks on a regular basis.

"Official" refers to a referee, assistant referee, court supervisor or chair umpire.

"Precinct" refers to the tournament venue (courts and clubhouse) including its immediate surrounds (e.g. venue car park).

"Competition manager" refers to the controlling person at a venue where matches pertaining to the competition are being played.

4. *Administration*

Member Associations, in addition to the controlling body of the competition will be responsible for the administration of this policy.

Correspondence with players once an automatic disciplinary action is invoked is the responsibility of the MA in which the player is registered.

Correspondence in relation to any automatic disciplinary action or tribunal hearing may be sent electronically (i.e. email) by the MA to the last known address provided by the player to the tournament, MA or TA. It is the responsibility of the player to provide and maintain a correct electronic address.



5. Application

The Code of Behaviour applies to violations occurring during weekly competitions in Australia or at officially sanctioned related activities.

Incidents involving harassment, discrimination, abuse (not verbal abuse within the Code of Behaviour) and vilification (all of which are defined within the Member Protection Policy) may be dealt with pursuant to the TA Member Protection Policy and not these guidelines.

6. Interpretation and on-site administration

a) Without accredited officials

The competition manager is empowered with the authority of administering these regulations.

b) With accredited officials

The competition manager and all officials appointed by the competition are empowered with the authority of administering these regulations.

All officials appointed by the competition are empowered with the authority to interpret and determine match offences documented within these regulations, and take appropriate action.

The referee is the final on-site authority regarding the interpretation of these regulations.

7. Mutual recognition

Any penalty imposed upon a player under these guidelines will be recognised and respected by all ATOs. A player is not permitted to play any tournaments or weekly competitions during the time of any suspension imposed under these regulations.

8. Disciplinary process

Breaches of the Code of Behaviour as detailed in Appendix I will be dealt with in the following manner.

a) Without accredited officials

A report regarding the player's behaviour is provided to the ATO (i.e. the competition controlling body) by the competition manager.

The ATO must use all possible means to investigate the incident, and then if required, determine an appropriate penalty as outlined in section 8.

b) With accredited officials

Breaches of the Code of Behaviour as detailed in Appendix I of this policy will be dealt with in the following manner.

Table 1

Match offences		
Match offence	Immediate penalty (during match)	Disciplinary points attracted
First offence	Code violation	1 disciplinary point
Second offence	Point penalty	2 disciplinary points <i>(inclusive of first offence post match penalty)</i>
Third offence	Match default*	4 disciplinary points <i>(inclusive of first and second offences post match penalties)</i>

*A match default can only be administered by the competition referee.

The competition referee after consultation with any official(s) and taking into account all the facts may determine that a significant violation warrants an immediate match default without progressing through the above stages. In addition, after consultation with the appropriate person(s), the competition referee may determine that the violation also warrants suspension from other matches on that day.

Any decisions regarding future competition weeks will be made in accordance with the penalties section (below).

Where any point penalty is applied in accordance with these guidelines the player shall be notified immediately where a chair umpire is present, or applied within the specific game by the relevant official in the case of non-chair umpired matches.

If the point penalty cannot be issued during the specific game, a code violation second offence will still be issued.

The competition referee must determine any default situation.

Any penalty awarded during a doubles match pursuant to a violation of these guidelines shall be a penalty imposed against the team. Any post competition action in accordance with these guidelines will be taken against the individual player.

Code violation appeals

A player may appeal a non-standard code violation (refer to Appendix I) to the appropriate ATO within seven days of the sending of the documentation to the player.

This appeal will be determined by the DO of the ATO, and will only be considered on the basis of relevant and meaningful information. Appeals without a significant base will not be considered.

Note: standard code violations are not appealable.

9. Penalties

a) Suspension penalties – without accredited officials

The ATO can, if agreed to by the MA, pass the matter onto the MA for advice and/or sanction.

The ATO, after investigation, may impose disciplinary action and/or suspension as a result of the disciplinary report. Other penalties can also be considered (e.g. non-participation in squads or trials), however a loss of AR points can only be determined by the MA.

All penalties involving a suspension must be reported to the MA.

b) Suspension penalties – with accredited officials

Disciplinary points are accumulated as code violations are enforced. When the number of disciplinary points in a 12 month period reaches three (3) or more, automatic disciplinary actions are activated. Diagram 1 (following page) outlines the disciplinary point levels and the related disciplinary action, which includes a mixture of suspension and loss of Australian Ranking points.

An individual player's accumulated points automatically drop off their points balance after 12 months from the time the points were added.

The addition and subtraction of disciplinary points from an individual player's points balance occurs monthly in line with the update of the Australian Ranking list.

A player, on the payment of \$500, may have their suspension considered by TA or appropriate MA tribunal. If the player is successful in appealing the suspension, the \$500 payment will be refunded.

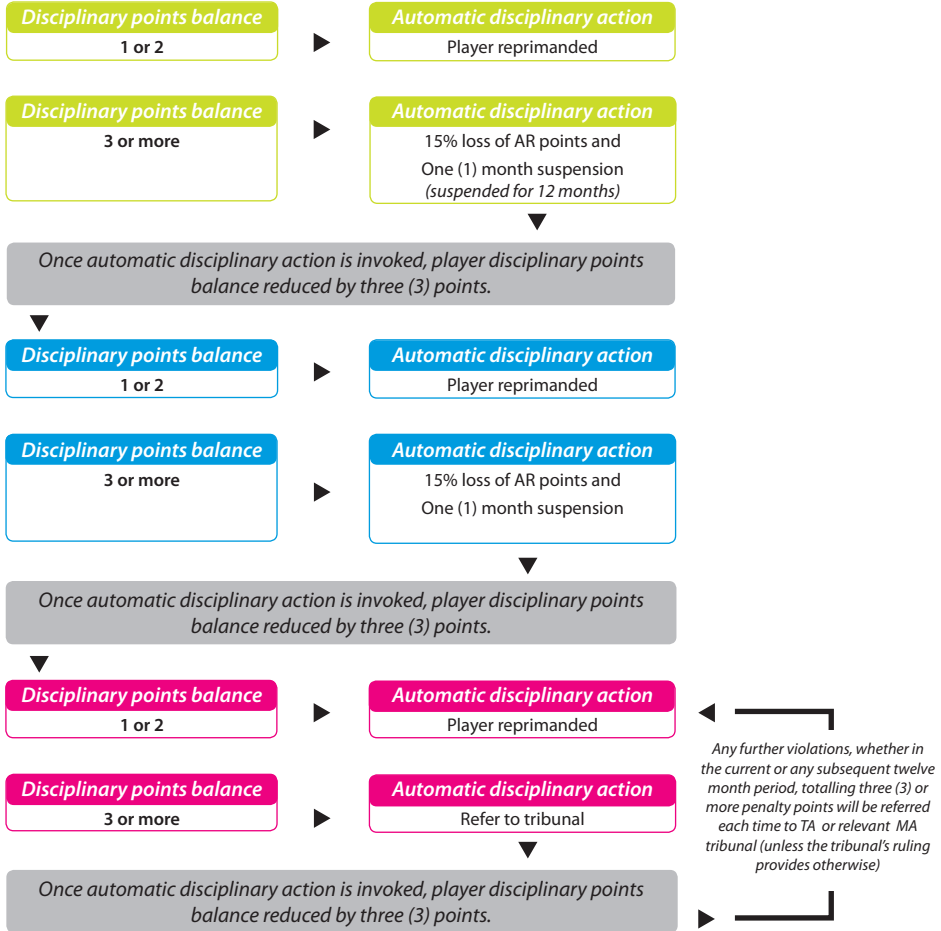
For the purposes of calculation, a player's disciplinary points also include any that have arisen as a result of tournament play.

For tribunal guidelines please refer to *Appendix II*.

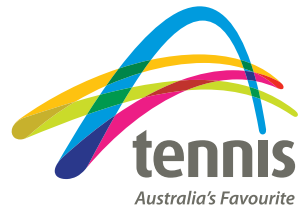


Penalties system

Diagram 1



Note A player who is subject to an immediate default will automatically lose 30 per cent of AR points and will be referred directly to TA or appropriate MA tribunal to determine the suspension period. This will also apply for off court violations under "conduct unbecoming".



Match and Tournament Violations Appendix I



Match & Tournament Violations

Application

This document applies to all tournaments and weekly competitions in Australia and should be utilised in conjunction with the discipline regulations contained in Code of Behaviour – Tournaments, or Code of Behaviour – Weekly Competitions.

The definitions that appear in the Code of Behaviour regulations apply equally to this document.

Standard Code of Behaviour violations

The following violations amount to breaches of the Code of Behaviour.

1. **Commencement of play ('no show')**

A player is not ready to commence play within 15 minutes of his/her match being called. The referee shall designate the official timepiece. This can also be deemed a 'no show'.

2. **Physical abuse**

A player physically abuses any official, opponent, spectator, or other person within the precinct. For the purposes of this rule physical abuse is the unauthorised touching of an official, opponent, spectator or other person.

In certain circumstances the matter may also be referred to the police for further investigation and subsequent possible action.

3. **Verbal abuse**

Players shall not at any time directly or indirectly verbally abuse any official, opponent, sponsor, spectator, or other person within the precincts of the tournament/competition site. For the purpose of this rule, verbal abuse is defined as a statement about an official, opponent, sponsor, spectator or other person that implies dishonesty or is derogatory, insulting, racially or otherwise abusive.

4. **Audible obscenity**

Players shall not use an audible obscenity within the precincts of the tournament/competition site. For the purposes of this rule audible obscenity is defined as the use of words commonly known and understood to be profane and uttered clearly and loudly enough to be heard by the court officials or spectators.

5. **Unsportsmanlike conduct**

A player shall not during any tournament/competition engage in conduct that damages the image and integrity of tennis. Players shall at all times conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and give due regard to the authority of officials and the rights of opponents, spectators and others. For the purposes of this policy, unsportsmanlike conduct is defined as any misconduct by a player, prior to, during or subsequent to a match that is clearly abusive or detrimental to the sport, including, but not limited to blatant cheating, but does not specifically fall within other violation categories.

6. **Unreasonable delays**

A player unreasonably delays a match. A player shall commence the match after the expiration of the established warm-up period. Thereafter, play shall be continuous as provided in the Rules of Tennis and a player shall not unreasonably delay a match for any cause. When a violation is a result of a medical condition, refusal to play or not returning to the court within the allocated time a code violation (delay of game) penalty shall be assessed in accordance with the code schedule. Other delays may be dealt with as a time violation.

7. **Visible obscenity**

A player makes offensive or obscene gestures during any match or within the precinct. For the



purposes of this rule, visible obscenity is defined as the making of signs by a player with his hands, body and/or racquet/balls that commonly have an obscene meaning.

8. Abuse of racquets or equipment

A player violently or with anger, hits, kicks or throws a racquet or other equipment, or in any way unreasonably interferes with any court fixtures and equipment within the precinct. For the purposes of this rule abuse of racquets or equipment is defined as intentionally and violently throwing, destroying or damaging racquets or equipment or intentionally and violently hitting the net, court, umpire's chair or other fixture during or after a match out of anger or frustration.

9. Abuse of balls

Players shall not violently, dangerously or with anger hit, kick or throw a tennis ball within the precinct except in the reasonable pursuit of a point during a match (including warm-up). For the purposes of this rule abuse of balls is defined as intentionally hitting a ball out of the enclosure of the court, hitting a ball dangerously or recklessly within the court or hitting a ball with negligent disregard of the consequences.

10. Leaving the court

A player leaves the court area during a match (including the warm-up) without the permission of an official.

11. Best efforts

A player shall use his/her best efforts to win a match when competing in a tournament/competition. For the purposes of this rule, the referee shall have the authority to penalise a player in accordance with the Code of Behaviour.

12. Coaching

A player receives any type of coaching from any person while a match is in progress, except where special provision is made for a tournament/competition. Communication of any kind, audible or visible between a player and any other person may be construed as coaching. Coaching shall be permitted where there is an off-court break between sets or during interruptions to play caused by bad weather or light where players leave the court. Coaching is not permitted while a court is being serviced at the end of or during a set and players are still on court, or during a toilet break.

13. Failure to complete a match

A player must complete a match in progress unless he/she is reasonably unable to do so. A violation of this section may subject a player to immediate default.

Non-standard Code of Behaviour violations

14. Dress and equipment

A player does not dress and present himself/herself for play in approved tennis attire (see Tennis Australia Dress Regulations). Clean and customarily acceptable attire shall be worn at all times during match play. A player must be given the opportunity to change his/her clothing in order to comply with the dress regulations particularly before a match starts. At the discretion of the relevant official a maximum period of 10 minutes may be allowed in order for a player to change attire. A direction to improve the player's dress before the next tournament/competition day may also be given by the relevant official. Players should not be defaulted from matches due to clothing breaches except in exceptional circumstances but failure to meet dress regulation requests may be reported to TA or the relevant MA via an on-site code violation after the completion of the match.

15. *Conduct unbecoming*

A player who behaves in a manner considered to be detrimental to the best interests of the event and the sport will be deemed to have committed a violation. For the purpose of this rule, a violation may occur at, or away from, the precinct e.g. at a place of accommodation. A relevant report will be provided to the Australian Tennis Organisation with a view to possible referral to a tribunal.

16. *Time violation*

Where a player takes longer than the prescribed time between points, or at the change of ends, the official will determine whether a violation has occurred. If it is determined that a violation has occurred the first violation shall be penalised by a warning and each subsequent violation by a point penalty.

Notwithstanding the previous paragraph, when a time violation is a result of natural loss of physical condition, injury or refusal to play after being ordered to play by an official a penalty will be assessed in accordance with the code violation – unreasonable delays.

17. *Withdrawal from tournament*

Where a player withdraws from a tournament/competition after the advertised date upon which the draw is made, or withdraws from an event during a tournament/competition entered by him/her, except in those cases where a medical certificate or other reasonable cause is provided for non-participation. A player who enters two tournaments and is a late withdrawal from one will be penalised in accordance with the regulations. A breach of this violation will attract the appropriate disciplinary points as stated in the regulations.

18. *Spectator interference*

Where a match is disrupted or interfered with by the action of a spectator who is part of a player's entourage (i.e. parent, family member, coach or friend) the official or tournament director shall first warn (not part of code schedule) the player and the interfering spectator, including advising that any further interference by the spectator may result in:

- a) the match being suspended until the referee determines that the issue is resolved and that play can continue without further interruption*
- b) the ATO (at a later date) refusing the player's entry into future tournaments/competitions pursuant to the procedure set out in the following paragraph.*

It should be noted that a match default is not an available option.

A disruption may result in the ATO formally raising the matter with the interfering spectator and the player. The interfering spectator and player will be advised in writing of the inappropriate behaviour and may be required to participate in a meeting with the ATO to discuss the issue. The object of the meeting will be to educate and counsel the interfering spectator and to act as a final warning. The spectator will be required to give a written undertaking not to attend future matches for a specified period in the case of interference at future tournaments/competitions.

If there is a failure to give, or breach of, the undertaking of a hearing will be conducted by the MA. At the hearing, the player will be given the opportunity to be heard on the issue. The penalty available to the MA is to refuse to accept the player's future tournament entries for a specified period of time. For the avoidance of doubt, this entry refusal will apply nationally.

This may also include a spectator bringing the sport into disrepute during an on-site disruption or dispute.



Tribunal Guidelines Appendix II



Application

This document addresses the process if a player wishes to contest a suspension or the matter requires determination above the automatic provisions within the Code of Behaviour regulations.

The definitions that appear in the Code of Behaviour regulations apply equally to this document.

Guidelines

Tribunal

1. TA and each MA shall appoint a disciplinary officer who will be responsible for the administration of the disciplinary process under the regulations including notifying the player, advising tribunal members and scheduling hearings. The DO will determine whether automatic suspensions apply or whether a matter is referred to a tribunal.
It is not mandatory for an ATO to appoint a DO or establish procedures for dealing with complaints and hearings under these regulations. The ATO may agree to refer all matters to the MA.
 - a) If the matter is regarded as a matter to be determined in accordance with TA's Member Protection Policy, the ATO DO must refer the matter to the relevant body under clause 9.3 of TA's Member Protection Policy.
2. The ATO is responsible for conducting any hearing.
3. The tribunal shall be appointed by the ATO (however described) and shall comprise of the following persons:
 - a) a lawyer, or if after reasonable attempts have been made to obtain one without success, then a person with considerable experience in the legal aspects of a disciplinary tribunal (who shall be chairperson)
 - b) a person with a thorough knowledge of tennis
 - c) one other person of experience and with skills suitable to the function of a disciplinary tribunal.
4. The following cannot be tribunal members:
 - a) a person who is a member of the Board of Directors
 - b) a person who would, by reason of their relationship with the player, or otherwise, be reasonably considered to be other than impartial.
5. All parties shall bear their own costs.
6. Each member of the tribunal shall be indemnified by the ATO appointing the tribunal from any claim or action for loss, damages or costs made against them arising out of or in connection with their function as a member of the tribunal.

Player

7. The player will be notified by the DO in writing (may be via email) to the last known address provided by the player of the following:
 - a) details of the violation(s)
 - b) confirmation that the regulation applies
 - c) the date, time and place of the tribunal hearing giving at least seven days notice, except in the case of weekly competitions where the ATO administering the competition will determine the timing of any tribunal hearing
 - d) the penalties available to the tribunal
 - e) contents of report forms and any other written material provided to the tribunal upon which the tribunal will rely.



It is the responsibility of the player to advise the ATO DO of any change in address details (including email address).

8. The player may be represented at the hearing by any person who is not a legal practitioner so that the tribunal may give leave for the player to be legally represented where it considers it is necessary in accordance with the principles of natural justice. The ATO may be represented by its nominee at the hearing who may be the DO.
9. The tribunal shall hear and determine the alleged offence(s) in whatever manner it considers appropriate in the circumstances (including by way of teleconference or otherwise) provided that it does so in accordance with the principles of natural justice. The purpose of the hearing shall be to determine whether the player is in breach of the relevant regulations. If the tribunal finds the offence(s) proven on the balance of probabilities, it may impose any penalty it deems appropriate.
10. Where a player elects to rely on written submissions only, the tribunal will convene as soon as practicable to determine the matter.
11. If within 30 minutes of the notified time for commencement of the hearing, the player is not present, the tribunal may elect to conduct the hearing in the absence of the player or adjourn the hearing and reconvene at a later date advised to the player.

Outcome

12. The tribunal shall give its decision as soon as practicable after the hearing and will deliver a statement of its written reasons to the DO of the ATO and the player.
13. The tribunal may impose any one or more of the following penalties:
 - a) at its discretion, and where deemed appropriate, a tribunal may decide to specifically identify relevant tournaments/competitions as part of any penalty
 - b) suspend the player for either a specific time or number of events/matches
 - c) order the player to attend a behaviour modification program, and where ordered to do so, the player will present proof of having attended such a program before the player can re-commence playing
 - d) suspend the player from participating in squads, including training, for a specified period of time not exceeding eight months
 - e) remove Australian Ranking points
 - f) impose any other penalty deemed appropriate.
14. Where the tribunal is convened due to spectator interference the tribunal may deny the player entry for a specified period of time to future tournaments/competitions.
15. A tribunal may defer a suspension to be served at a nominated future date based upon the ATO's calendar of tournaments/competitions and the player's intended schedule.
16. If within a four (4) year period from the time of imposition of a penalty, the player appears before a tribunal for subsequent violations of the same or similar nature, the tribunal may take into account the player's prior history and penalise the player accordingly to a maximum of 12 months.
17. After the tribunal, the player must be informed in writing by the ATO of the outcome of the tribunal, including the dates to which any suspension applies. The ATO shall also notify other bodies of any penalty imposed.
18. There shall be no right of appeal. The tribunal's decision will be final and binding on all parties.



National Disciplinary Convener

Wayne Spencer

Email: wspencer@tennis.com.au

Phone: 03 9914 4131

National Disciplinary Administrator

Kathryn Oyeniji

Email: koyeniji@tennis.com.au

Phone: 03 9914 4148

ACT

Lenka Marecek

Email: lmarecek@tennis.com.au

Phone: 02 6160 7800

NSW

Brad Cross

Email: bcross@tennis.com.au

Phone: 02 9024 7600

NT

Mark Pead

Email: mpead@tennis.com.au

Phone: 08 8981 5609

QLD

Cherie Murphy

Email: cmurphy@tennis.com.au

Phone: 07 3120 7900

SA

David Hearne

Email: dhearne@tennis.com.au

Phone: 08 7224 8100

TAS

Alex Jago

Email: ajago@tennis.com.au

Phone: 03 6108 8200

VIC

Jason Simmons

Email: jsimmons@tennis.com.au

Phone: 03 8420 8420

WA

Darren Sturgess

Email: dsturgess@tennis.com.au

Phone: 08 6462 8300

