

R1. Proposed by Adaptive Committee
Marcy Hirshberg, Chair

Part 1. Add new **USTA Regulation XIV.** and new **Table 18 and 19** as follows and re-number all remaining Regulations:

XIV. PARA-STANDING TENNIS

Para-Standing Tennis is for individuals with physical disabilities who can play standing without using a wheelchair. Para-Standing Tennis is played on a 78-foot court using Yellow Ball Tennis. It can also be played on a 78-foot court using Green Ball Tennis, on a 60-foot court using Orange Ball Tennis, and on a 36-foot court using Red Ball Tennis.

A. Eligibility

1. Eligible impairment. The criteria for eligibility to enter Para-Standing Tennis tournaments shall be published in Table 18.

<p align="center"><u>TABLE 18</u> <u>Para-Standing Tennis Eligibility Classifications</u></p> <p align="center"><u>A player, if otherwise eligible, may enter any Para-Standing Division if the player has an eligible impairment that falls into one of four classifications described below as PST1, PST2, PST3, and PST4.</u></p>				
<u>Para-Standing Tennis (PST) Classification</u>	<u>Impairment</u>	<u>Bounces Permitted in PST Tournaments</u>	<u>Bounces Permitted vs. an Able-Bodied Player</u>	<u>Bounces Permitted vs. a Wheelchair Tennis Player in non-Wheelchair Event</u>
<u>PST1</u>	<u>Unilateral upper limb amputee or similar impairment.</u>	<u>One</u>	<u>One</u>	<u>One</u>
<u>PST2</u>	<u>Unilateral below-knee amputee, mild cerebral palsy, or other impairment with similar mobility level.</u>	<u>One</u>	<u>Two</u>	<u>One</u>
<u>PST3</u>	<u>Above-knee or bilateral below-knee amputee, bilateral arm impairment, or moderate to severe cerebral palsy.</u>	<u>Two</u>	<u>Two</u>	<u>Two</u>
<u>PST4</u>	<u>Short stature or other impairment with similar impact on mobility.</u>	<u>Two</u>	<u>Two</u>	<u>Two</u>

FAC Comment XIV.A-1: The International Para-Standing Tennis and Padel Association uses a more detailed system of classifications based on the International Paralympic Committee's eligible disability guidelines. These more detailed classification guidelines may be required for determining eligibility if a Para-Standing Tournament is supported or sanctioned by the ITF.

The system of classifying PST players by the International Para-Standing Tennis and Padel Association and the International Paralympic Committee is subject to review and development based on academic research and the sport's evolving needs. Any changes to the PST classification system may result in an update to this table.

2. Junior Divisions.

- a. Age eligibility. A player, if otherwise eligible, may enter any Junior Para-Standing

Division if the player has not exceeded the maximum age by the last day of the month during which the division is scheduled to start (see **Table 4**).

b. *Net Generation PlayTracker Does Not Apply.* The Net Generation PlayTracker sets the requirements to be met by a player under the age of 11 to compete in Junior Circuit Events and junior ranking tournaments that use a yellow ball. These requirements do not apply to participation in the Para-Standing Tennis tournaments for junior players. However, if a junior Para-Standing Tennis player competes in a non-Para-Standing junior division, the requirements of the Net Generation PlayTracker apply.

3. *Wheelchair Divisions.* A player, if otherwise eligible, who meets a Para-Standing Tennis eligibility requirement, may enter any Wheelchair Division if the player meets the eligibility requirements of that division (See **USTA Regulation I.G.3.d.i.** and **ii.** for eligibility information).

4. *Adult and Family Divisions.* A player, if otherwise eligible, may enter any Adult or Family Division if the player meets the eligibility requirements of that division (See **USTA Regulation I.G.3.a.-c.** for eligibility information).

B. Two-Bounce Rule

The USTA determines the number of bounces of the ball permitted for Para-Standing Tennis players based on their eligibility classifications and will publish the number of bounces permitted in **Table 18**.

When a Para-Standing Tennis player is permitted two bounces, the player must return the ball before it bounces a third time. The second bounce can be either in or out of the court boundaries. When a Para-Standing Tennis player who is permitted two bounces is playing with or against a person permitted only one bounce by **Table 18** or the **ITF Rules of Tennis**, such Para-Standing Tennis Player is allowed two bounces while the other players are allowed only one bounce.

C. Mobility Devices

Any mobility device, such as a prosthetic, crutch, or orthotics, is considered part of the body, and all applicable rules that apply to a player's body, shall apply to the mobility device.

D. Other Provisions

1. *Scheduling guidelines for maximum number of matches in a day.* The Referee shall comply, when reasonable, with the scheduling guidelines in **Table 19**.

2. *Rest between matches.* The Referee shall offer players competing in Para-Standing Tennis tournaments at least the minimum rest between matches specified in **Table 19**.

3. *Rest between sets.* The Referee shall offer players competing in Para-Standing Tennis tournaments at least the minimum rest between sets specified in **Table 19**.

4. *Leaving playing area.* A player's ability to leave the playing area is governed by **USTA Regulation IV.C.5.**, except that a player may leave the court to repair or replace a mobility device (see **USTA Regulation XIV.D.5.**).

5. *Mobility device repair timeout.* A player or team may take one or more timeouts for mobility device repairs during a match. The timeout begins when work begins on the mobility device and does not include time to locate and bring tools or parts to the court. Any cumulative stoppage of play exceeding 15 minutes will result in the loss of a point; any cumulative stoppage of play exceeding 20 minutes will result in a default (see **Table 15**). Any time taken within a 90-second changeover and a 120-second set break to repair a mobility device does not count toward the cumulative time permitted for a mobility device repair timeout. If play resumes after 15 minutes, but before a default, the players are entitled to a re-warm-up of the same duration as the original warm-up. No coaching is allowed during a mobility device repair timeout.

6. *Re-strapping racket and repositioning mobility device on changeover or set break.* When an official determines that there is a need, a reasonable amount of time may be given during a changeover or a set break to re-strap the racket and reposition a mobility device without incurring a penalty. No coaching is allowed during this time.

TABLE 19
A. Guidelines for Maximum Number of Matches Per Day

<u>Match Format</u>	<u>Maximum Matches per Day</u>
• <u>All matches best of 3 Tiebreak sets</u>	<u>3 matches, no more than 2 of which should be singles</u>
• <u>All matches best of 3 Tiebreak sets when Tiebreak played in lieu of 3rd set</u> • <u>All matches Short Sets, including when a Match Tiebreak is played in lieu of 3rd set.</u> • <u>All matches pro sets played to 7, 8, 9 or 10 games</u>	<u>4 matches, no more than 3 of which should be singles</u>
• <u>All matches pro sets played to 6 or fewer games</u>	<u>6 matches, no more than 4 of which should be singles</u>
• <u>Red, Orange, and Green Ball Tennis</u> • <u>When more than one format is used</u> • <u>All other formats</u>	<u>108 games, no more than 81 of which should be singles</u>

If a player enters more than one division these guidelines apply separately to each division.

Completion of suspended matches. When a match is carried over from a preceding day, it is counted as a match for these scheduling guidelines if the player so elects and if 16 or more games of singles or 20 or more games of doubles are required to finish the match.

B. Minimum Rest Between Matches

<u>Match Format</u>	<u>Rest Between Matches</u>
• <u>Best of 3 Tiebreak set matches, including when a Match Tiebreak is played in lieu of 3rd set</u> • <u>Best of 3 Short Set matches, excluding when a Match Tiebreak is played in lieu of a 3rd set</u>	<u>60 minutes*</u>
• <u>Pro set formats</u> • <u>Best of 3 Short Sets when a Match Tiebreak is played in lieu of 3rd set</u>	<u>30 minutes</u>

***Recovery Rule:** The Recovery Rule requires the Referee to offer a player two hours of rest after a singles match that uses a format consisting of the best of 3 tiebreak sets or more if the player's next match is singles. The regulation does not apply to short set matches, matches that play a tiebreak in lieu of a final third set, nor to any indoor match that lasts less than two hours.

C. Time Allowed Between Sets

<u>After 2nd Set in best of 3 Tiebreak set match</u>	<u>After 2nd set when Match Tiebreak is played in lieu of 3rd set</u>
<u>10-minute rest period at option of any player; except that when play is suspended for 10 minutes or more during the 2nd set, there shall be no option for a rest period.</u>	<u>2-minute set break</u>

In Junior divisions, no player shall practice during any rest period between sets. (See USTA Regulation IV.C.7.)

Coaching is not allowed during a 2-minute set break. Coaching is allowed during any 3-minute or 10-minute rest period.

In all non-Junior matches, when play is suspended for 10 minutes or more, any rest period may be taken only after two consecutive sets in a best of 3 set match (three consecutive sets in a best of 5 set match) have been played without interruption. Completion of an unfinished set counts as one set.

This table also applies to short set matches. For rest periods in Net Generation Programs that use modified match formats, see USTA Net Generation Pathway Regulations.

E. Sanctioning

When a Para-Standing Tennis tournament is sanctioned, USTA Regulation XVII.A., G., H., and J. shall apply.

- Sanctions for national tournaments shall be approved by the USTA.
- Sanctions for Section tournaments shall be approved by the applicable Sectional Association.
- Sanctions for District tournaments shall be approved by the applicable District Association.

If the Para-Standing Tennis tournament is sanctioned by the ITF, a more detailed set of disability classification guidelines may be required to determine eligibility of a PST1, PST2, PST3, and PST4 athlete.

F. Para-Standing Tennis Divisions

The sanctioning body that approves the sanction for a sanctioned Para-Standing Tennis tournament, and the organizer of a non-sanctioned Para-Standing Tennis tournament, will determine the divisions in which players will compete.

G. Para-Standing Tennis Rankings

There are no USTA rankings for Para-Standing Divisions.

FAC Comment XIV.F-1: Tournament Committees of Para-Standing Tennis tournaments are encouraged to use International Para-Standing Tennis and Padel Association rankings to select players when draws are limited, and to determine seedings.

Part 2. Amend **Table 15** as follows (p. 111):

TABLE 15	
A. Time Violations	
Time Violations	Penalties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay between points or after warm-up • Violation of the 90-second changeover or 120-second set break provisions • Violation of the 3-minute Rest period 	Violations shall be penalized as follows: First Offense Warning Each additional violation One Point Penalty
Important note: Two consecutive time violations shall not be assessed unless an intervening actual point has been played. Delay after the time violation is treated as a Code Violation.	
B. Wheelchair Repair Delays	
Time Violations	Penalties
Exceeding 15 cumulative minutes for wheelchair repair	One Point Penalty
Exceeding 20 cumulative minutes for wheelchair repair	Default
<u>C. Para-Standing Mobility Device Repair Delays</u>	
<u>Time Violations</u>	<u>Penalties</u>
Exceeding 15 cumulative minutes for mobility device repair.....	One Point Penalty

Exceeding 20 cumulative minutes for mobility device repair.....Default

Part 3. Amend USTA Regulation VI.E. as follows (pp. 122-123):

VI. RED, ORANGE, AND GREEN BALL TENNIS

E. Adult, Family, ~~and Wheelchair~~, and Para-Standing Tennis Divisions May Use Red, Orange, and Green Ball Tennis

Red, Orange, and Green Ball Tennis may be played in Adult, Family, and Wheelchair, and in Para Standing Tennis Divisions.

1. *Racket*. [unchanged]
2. *Scoring*. [unchanged]
3. *Results considered for ranking*. [unchanged]

Effective Date: Immediately.

Rationale: If this call item is adopted, the USTA will be a world leader in embracing Para-Standing Tennis as part of the tennis community. By proposing Para-Standing Tennis as a new USTA Regulation, the USTA is laying the groundwork for its inclusion in our sport, as well as the inclusion of Para-Standing Tennis players in Tennis, such as high school tennis, tournaments, and leagues. Growth in participation of Para Standing Tennis players will contribute to the USTA reaching its goal of 35 million tennis players by 2035.

The proposal will immediately create the framework required for some high school tennis associations to permit Para-Standing Tennis players to compete. High school tennis associations look to the USTA to establish the Rules and Regulations for Tennis. The adoption of this call item will permit players classified with specified impairments to have two bounces, much like is already permitted for wheelchair tennis players because of the inclusion of Wheelchair Tennis in the ITF Rules of Tennis.

Notes to C&R:

1. **USTA Comment 30.2.** If this call item passes, an edit to USTA Comment 30.2 in the ITF Rules of Tennis is needed as follows:

USTA Comment 30.2: Is coaching permitted during a rest period? Yes. Coaching is permitted during a 3-minute or 10-minute rest period. However, with the exception of team events specified in other USTA regulations, coaching is not allowed in the following situations in any USTA sanctioned play:

- A Toilet/Change of Attire Break;
- A 2-minute set break;
- Between points;
- During a change of ends;
- A Medical Timeout;
- Bleeding Timeout;
- A Wheelchair Repair Timeout;
- A Mobility Device repair timeout;
- When a Quad wheelchair player is given additional time to re-strap their racket;
- When a Para-Standing Tennis player is given additional time to re-strap their racket or re-position a Mobility Device;
- When players remain on court for a short stoppage of play such as during slight rain or repair of the net or net strap;

- When a player leaves the court seeking the assistance of the Referee; or
 - When equipment or clothing is being adjusted.
2. **Table 3.** If this Call Item is adopted, an edit to Table 3.D. is required to include:
XIV.D.5. Handles player requests directed to the Referee for a Mobility Device Repair Timeout.
 3. If this Call Item is adopted, a conforming edit is required to **USTA Regulation I.G.3.**, to add Para-Standing to the general category of tournaments.
 4. If this Call Item is adopted, Tiebreak sets, Pro sets and Short sets, should mimic the glossary and be capitalized.
 5. Regardless if this Call Item is adopted, Rest Period is a defined term in the glossary and should be capitalized.
 6. If this Call Item is adopted, a new glossary definition is required for Mobility Device Repair Timeout.
 7. **New Glossary Terms and Edits.** If this Call Item passes, the following edits and additions to the Glossary are needed:

Mobility Device. A mobility device is any mobility aid, such as a prosthetic, crutch or orthotics, used by a Para-Standing Tennis player.

Yellow Ball Tennis. Tennis played with a yellow or white ball as defined in the ITF Rules of Tennis Section 3., and further referenced in Appendix I of the ITF Rules of Tennis.

8. **Reasonable Time.** Reasonable time is a concept that applies to:
 - Toilet/change of attire breaks;
 - Time needed for a Quad wheelchair player to re-strap the racket;
 - Time needed for a Para-Standing Tennis player to re-strap their racket or re-position a mobility device;
 - Time needed to repair or replace clothing or equipment other than a racket, a wheelchair, or a mobility device;
 - Time needed to replace a racket with another racket on court;
 - Time needed to replace a contact lens with a spare that is on court; and
 - Time needed to retrieve balls between points in matches without ball persons.

The Referee generally establishes a reasonable time for toilet/change of attire breaks based on the proximity of the toilets to the court. The time needed to repair or replace clothing or equipment other than a racket, a wheelchair, or a mobility device generally may not exceed 15 minutes.

9. **Para-Standing Tennis.** Para-Standing Tennis is for individuals with physical disabilities who can play standing without using a wheelchair.