

## Proposed Amendments to USTA Regulations

Note: Words underlined are proposed to be added. Deleted text is shown in strikethrough. References are to the 2022 *Friend at Court*, unless otherwise noted.

### **R1. Proposed by Junior Competition Committee Ivan Baron, Chair**

**PASSED**

Amend USTA Regulation IV. and Table 17 as follows (pp. 103-117):

#### **IV. PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONDUCT**

**A. Checking in at Tournament** [unchanged]

**B. Player Responsibilities Under *The Code*** [unchanged]

**C. Standards of Conduct**

1. *General.* [unchanged]

2. *USTA Anti-Doping Program.* [unchanged]

3. *Shoes.* [unchanged]

4. *Warm-up.* [unchanged]

5. *Leaving playing area.* [unchanged]

6. *Leaving tournament area after match is suspended.* [unchanged]

7. *Practice during rest period.* [unchanged]

8. *Removal of official.* [unchanged]

9. *Inspection of ball marks.* [unchanged]

10. *No coaching.* [unchanged]

11. *Unsportsmanlike conduct* ~~*No abuse of by players or officials or person associated with player. A player who enters a sanctioned tournament or match consents to being penalized under the Point Penalty System and the USTA Suspension Point System for any unsportsmanlike conduct, including conduct by a person associated with the player. Persons who are unsportsmanlike may be asked by any member of the Tournament Committee or any official representative of the tournament to desist and/or to leave the tournament site, and must comply.*~~

~~a. No person shall abuse official or player. The Chair Umpire, Referee, and any other official responsible for ensuring that a match is played under conditions that are fair to all players shall make certain that no parent, relative, coach, or other person associated with a player abuses an official or player.~~

~~b. Official may request abusive person to desist or leave tournament area. A player who enters a sanctioned tournament or match consents to being penalized under the Point Penalty System for abusive conduct by a person who appears to be associated with the player. If the official observes the conduct, the official shall suspend play and request that the person desist. If the abuse continues, the official may direct the person to leave the tournament area. In a flagrant case the official may immediately direct the person to leave without requesting the person to desist.~~

~~c. Point Penalty System applies to abuse. If the person refuses to follow the instructions to leave, then the official may penalize the player associated~~

~~with the person under the Point Penalty System. (USTA Regulation IV.D.8. outlines the right to appeal.)~~

12. *Players shall not enter two tournaments at same time.* [unchanged]
13. *Player shall not enter tournament intending to withdraw if player's entry is accepted in another tournament.* [unchanged]
14. *Player shall not enter tournament player cannot finish.* [unchanged]
15. *Player shall not transfer entry.* [unchanged]
16. *Player shall not withdraw from tournament after entries close except for illness, injury, personal circumstance, or previously authorized entry into another tournament.* [unchanged]
17. *Player shall not fail to appear for reasons other than injury, illness, or personal circumstance.* [unchanged]
18. *Player shall not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct.* [unchanged]
19. *Player shall not engage in gambling activity.* [unchanged]
20. *Point Penalty System.* [unchanged]

**D. Point Penalty System**

1. *Mandatory use in any sanctioned tournament.* [unchanged]
2. Purposes of the System. The purposes of the System are to:
  - a. deter unsportsmanlike conduct by a player and persons associated with players;
  - b. ensure compliance with the continuous play rule; and
  - c. ensure on-time appearance for matches.
3. *Code violations for misconduct.* [unchanged]
4. *Time violations.* [unchanged]
5. *Delay between points.* [unchanged]
6. *Officials authorized to impose penalties.* [unchanged]
7. *Flagrant violations.* While the imposition of penalties normally follows the progression of penalties from point to game to default found in Table 14, any flagrantly unsportsmanlike act by a player or person associated with a player may result in immediate default. If an Umpire imposes the default, the player may appeal to the Referee. If the Referee imposes the default, the player may appeal to the Tournament Appeals Committee.
8. *Appeal of penalty to Referee.* [unchanged]
9. *Penalties to be imposed on a doubles team.* [unchanged]
10. *Penalties treated as if points actually played.* [unchanged]
11. *Time delays when each side is responsible.* [unchanged]
12. *Penalties after medical condition develops.* [unchanged]
13. *Penalties imposed between games or before a match.* [unchanged]
14. *Point penalties.* [unchanged]
15. *Timing of imposition of penalties.* [unchanged]
16. *Player may not decline penalty.* [unchanged]
17. *Reporting penalties to Referee.* [unchanged]
18. *Other disciplinary action.* [unchanged]
19. *Announcing score after penalty.* [unchanged]
20. *Lateness.* [unchanged]
21. *Default for failure to arrive on time.* [unchanged]

**E. Defaults and Disqualifications** [unchanged]

**F. USTA Suspension Point System**

1. *Application.* The USTA Suspension Point System applies to sanctioned tournaments, *except that* it does not apply to a Net Generation Program that uses Red Ball Tennis or to a Net Generation Program that uses Orange or Green Ball Tennis *unless* authorized by the Sectional Association that sanctioned the tournament. It applies to conduct by a player and persons associated with a player:
  - During all matches (main draw, compass draw, consolation, qualifying, and doubles);
  - During tournament activities;
  - At tournament facilities;
  - All forms of communication, including online medium or otherwise; and
  - At facilities, such as hotels, dormitories, and homes where players stay.
 Additionally each suspension point assessed at ITF tournaments become one suspension point under the USTA Suspension Point System.
2. *Suspension Points.* [unchanged]
3. *Reporting misconduct.* [unchanged]
4. *Suspension Point administrator.* [unchanged]
5. *Assessing and reporting suspension points.* [unchanged]

TABLE 17 - SUSPENSION POINTS		
Violation		Suspension Points
Code Violations	Each <b>Code Violation</b> (point, game, or default) <i>except that</i> players who receive Code Violations because of delay immediately after a Medical Timeout or because of obvious cramping are not assessed suspension points	2
Defaults*	<b>Default</b> for flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant inappropriate conduct on or off court	8-10*
	<b>Default</b> for refusal to play or continue to play (for reasons other than illness, injury, or personal circumstance)	5
	<b>Default</b> because of an adult discipline	5
	<b>Default</b> for no-show	5
	<b>Default</b> for late arrival	1
	<b>Disqualification</b> for ineligibility	3
*Suspension points for defaults are in addition to points previously assessed for code violations.		
Improper Entry or Withdrawal	Being entered when entries close in two or more sanctioned tournaments scheduled to overlap unless each Tournament Committee approves the <b>multiple entries</b> in writing	4
	<b>Withdrawal</b> from tournament after entries closed for reason other than injury, illness, personal circumstance, or previously authorized entry into another tournament	4
	If a player is <b>concurrently</b> entered in overlapping tournaments without approval and withdraws from one or more tournaments, the player is assessed a total of 4 suspension points for improper withdrawal	
Unsportsmanlike Conduct	Not using <b>best efforts</b> to win	2
	<b>Unsportsmanlike conduct</b> or inappropriate conduct <del>on court</del> <u>by a player or person associated with a player while the player is still in the playing area but not during a match, after a match that if the conduct</u> would have resulted in a code violation had it occurred during the match	2

TABLE 17 - SUSPENSION POINTS		
Violation		Suspension Points
	<b>Unsportsmanlike conduct</b> or inappropriate conduct off court <u>by a player or person associated with a player</u> , regardless of location or medium. This includes, but is not limited to, conduct at tournament sites, tournament activities, hotels or other housing, <u>and all forms of communication, including online medium or otherwise <del>or online</del></u>	5
	<b>Flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct</b> or <b>flagrant inappropriate conduct</b> <u>by a player or person associated with a player</u> , regardless of location or medium. This includes, but is not limited to, conduct at tournament sites, tournament activities, hotels or other housing, <u>and all forms of communication, including online medium or otherwise <del>or online</del></u>	8-10*
Gross Misconduct	<b>Physical violence</b> against another person on or off court by a player, <del>relative, coach, or other</del> person associated with a player	10
	Illegal use or possession of <b>drugs</b>	8
	Possessing or drinking <b>alcoholic beverages</b>	8
	<b>Gambling</b> activity as defined in <b>USTA Regulation IV.C.19</b> .	8
	<b>Destruction of property</b>	8
Player Under Suspension	Playing in any sanctioned tournament while <b>suspended</b> by USTA or one of its Sectional Associations	10
ITF Suspension Points	Each <b>suspension point assessed at ITF tournaments and USTA International Tournaments</b> becomes one suspension point under the USTA Suspension Point System	1

\* The Referee, designee of a Sectional Association that sanctions the tournament, or the applicable Suspension Point administrator shall determine the number of suspension points between 8-10 that shall be assessed based on the seriousness of the conduct.

6. *Notification to play of points assessed.* [unchanged]
7. *Appeal of suspension points.* [unchanged]
8. *Player suspension.* [unchanged]
9. *Written notice of suspension to player and Sectional Association.* [unchanged]
10. *Player may request that suspension start immediately.* [unchanged]
11. *Right to appeal suspension.* [unchanged]
12. *Effective date of suspension.* [unchanged]

**Effective Date:** May 1, 2022

**Rationale:** Unsportsmanlike conduct by persons associated with a player at junior tournaments continues to be problematic and is escalating. The existing USTA Regulations require steps to be taken when unsportsmanlike conduct occurs and is addressed in the Point Penalty System. Additionally, the Suspension Point System does not permit the assessment of penalties (other than suspension points for code violations) when the conduct becomes extreme. This amendment proposes to clarify the authority

granted to individuals authorized as representatives of the tournament to address the behavior of individuals associated with a player by:

- No longer requiring a request to desist and then to leave the tournament site, and only after a person refuses to leave may a code violation be assessed;
- Allowing for a flagrant unsportsmanlike act to result in the default of the player under the Point Penalty System;
- Allowing for an unsportsmanlike act when matches are not on court to result in the assessment of Suspension Points;
- Treating an unsportsmanlike act that would have resulted in a code violation following a match when a player is still on court the same as an unsportsmanlike act during the match; and
- Incorporating in the Regulation that all forms of communication, regardless of the location, time, or medium, is subject to the Point Penalty System.

While the intent of this proposal is to address behaviors of persons associated with junior players, it applies equally to any tournament to which the Suspension Point System applies. While the USTA Junior Competition Committee is the proposer of this Call Item, the Adult Competition Committee, Wheelchair Tennis Committee, and Officials Committee have each reviewed this proposal and have taken straw votes in support of the Call Item.

**C&R Note:** Conforming change will be made to **USTA Regulation VI.C.1.** to change the phrase "persons who appear to be associated with a player" to "person associated with a player", should this Call Item pass.