

RULES OF TENNIS

2021 VARIATIONS TO THE RULES

To enable trials to be conducted on potential changes to the Rules of Tennis, applications may be made by interested parties for variations to the Rules for a limited duration and/or limited events. Applications are considered by the Rules of Tennis Committee, which, if approved, are submitted to the ITF Board of Directors for ratification.

The following variations to the Rules of Tennis were originally granted by the ITF Board of Directors for 2020, but due to the suspension of professional tennis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic the variations have been extended to the 2021 Rules.

Rule 2 – Permanent Fixtures:

- Companies that have obtained ITF Approval for Player Analysis Technology (PAT) equipment may attach those PAT devices to the tennis net post(s), to enable line-calling and player analytics.

Rule 30 – Coaching:

- The WTA may conduct trials of off-court coaching at their events.

Appendix V – Alternative procedures and scoring methods:

- Tennis Australia may conduct a trial of a 10-point tie-break when the score reaches 6-6 in the final set of men's and women's singles and doubles draws, including juniors and wheelchair singles matches, during the Australian Open.
- The All England Lawn Tennis Club may conduct a trial of a final set tie-break when the score reaches 12-12 in all competitions (excluding Wheelchair) during the Wimbledon Championships.

Rules of Beach Tennis, Rule 1: Net height

- The height of the net in all men's competitions (at World Tour Category BT100 and above) shall be 1.8 m.

Rules of Beach Tennis, Appendix III: The Ball

- Beach Tennis tournaments may use Stage 2 tennis balls in alternative colours to those specified in the Rules (e.g. blue and yellow, purple and yellow, purple and orange, purple and green).

In 2020, the ITF Board of Directors granted one additional trial for 2021:

Appendix VII, 10 and under Tennis Competition

- The following net heights may be used for 10 and under tennis competition:
 - For a court designated “red”, a net height of between 23.6 inches (0.600 m) and 25.6 inches (0.650 m) high at the centre.
 - For a court designated “orange”, a net height of between 25.6 inches (0.650 m) and 27.6 inches (0.700 m) high at the centre.
 - For a court designated “green”, i.e. the (full size) court described in Rule 1, a net height of between 27.6 inches (0.700 m) and 31.5 inches (0.800 m) high at the centre.

During this trial period, each National Association shall have the right to decide on the height of the net at the centre, limited to the options given above, for each of the three stages for 10 and under competition.

Upon the conclusion of each trial, the applicant shall provide a report to the Rules of Tennis Committee.

The Rules of Tennis Committee is comprised of representatives of the Grand Slams, ATP, WTA and ITF National Tennis Associations.