



## **2021 COVID-19 ITA RULE MODIFICATIONS**

*The following COVID-19 related ITA rule modifications were approved by the ITA Rules Committee on Monday, January 4, 2021, and will expire at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 season.*

### **I.B.1.a.i. (page 1):**

*Division I Doubles.* After the doubles point has been decided, any remaining doubles match shall be abandoned, **except all three doubles matches may be played to completion if both coaches agree prior to the start of the dual match.**

### **I.B.1.d. (pages 1-2):**

*Other authorized formats.* There are limited scenarios where the format may be adjusted.

- i. *Inclement Weather.* In the case of inclement weather, the format MAY be adjusted as follows, as long as both coaches agree: Singles (six matches) may be played first with doubles to follow if the team match score is tied at 3-3. The divisional match scoring as outlined in ITA Regulation I.B.a/b/c. remains the same.
- ii. *Playing to clinch.* If both coaches agree, a team match may be stopped once a winner has been decided.
- iii. ***Waiver request.* If a dual match must be played under any other format due to COVID-19, a waiver request may be submitted to the ITA Rules Committee for consideration. This waiver request must be received at least 14 days before the match date.**

### **I.B.2.a. (page 2):**

Scoring

- a. **Dual Match Team Score, providing both teams have 6 available players. (See ITA Regulation I.D.8.b. for alternate dual match team scoring when one or both teams are short on players.)**
  - i. Division I, II & NAIA – seven team points. The team that wins two of the three doubles matches receives one point. Each singles match is worth one point. Four or more points are required to win the team match.
  - ii. Division III & JUCO – nine team points. Each doubles and singles match is worth one point for a total of nine points. Five or more points are required to win the team match.
  - iii. Shortened format. Once the outcome of the team match has been decided, a shortened format shall be played unless both coaches agree otherwise or conference rules supersede. Matches still in the second set shall play a 10-point tiebreak for the third set. Any match already in the third set shall be played to completion. A match that has not started shall consist of two sets with a 10-point tiebreak played at one set all.

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**I.B.3. (page 2):**

*Constitution of a team match for Small Colleges for ITA Ranking Purposes.* In small college tennis (DII, DIII, NAIA & JUCO), a collegiate team match must consist of six singles and three doubles to be considered for ITA team ranking, **unless one or both teams are short on players and are playing under the regulations in ITA Regulation I.D.8.b.**

- a. ***Waiver request.*** If a dual match must be played under any other format due to COVID-19, a waiver request may be submitted to the ITA Rules Committee for consideration. This waiver request must be received at least 14 days before the match date.

**I.D.8. (page 7):**

Team that is short on players. A team appearing with an insufficient number of players shall default matches at the bottom of the lineup (e.g., the team competing with only five players must default the No. 6 singles position and in doubles, at the No. 3 position). If the No. 1 player is not available to compete all players must move up one position. The No. 1 singles match cannot be defaulted. The minimum number of players for a dual-meet match is four physically able players.

- a. ***If a team does not have four physically able players, documentation from that team's medical staff and/or administration must be provided stating why the minimum requirement cannot be met in order to avoid a team default for ITA ranking purposes.***
- b. ***In the event there are less than six players on either/both teams, the following alternate format(s) shall be used:***
  - i. ***6 vs. 5:*** Three doubles matches followed by six singles matches shall be played. The team with only five players shall default the #3 doubles position as well as the #6 singles position. The overall scoring of the match (7 points/9 points) is not altered.
  - ii. ***6 vs. 4:*** Three doubles matches followed by six singles matches shall be played. The team with only four players shall default the #3 doubles position as well as the #5 and #6 singles positions. The overall scoring of the match (7 points/9 points) is not altered.
  - iii. ***5 vs. 5:*** Two doubles matches followed by five singles matches shall be played, with each match worth one point. The dual match team score will be 7 points, regardless of the division competing. Four or more points are required to win the team match.
  - iii. ***5 vs. 4:*** Two doubles matches followed by five singles matches shall be played, with each match worth one point. The team with only four players shall default the #5 singles position. The dual match team score will be 7 points, regardless of the division competing. Four or more points are required to win the team match.
  - iv. ***4 vs. 4:*** One doubles match followed by four singles matches shall be played, with each match worth one point. Any two available players may be chosen to form the doubles team. The dual match team score will be 5 points, regardless of the division competing. Three or more points are required to win the team match.

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**I.F.9. (page 10):**

*Teams withdrawing.* In a dual match, a team with at least four physically able players shall not cancel or postpone a match due to ill or injured players, unless both coaches agree. Doing so without mutual agreement will result in a team default for ITA Ranking purposes.

- a. If a team does not have four physically able players, documentation from that team's medical staff and/or administration must be provided stating why the minimum requirement cannot be met in order to avoid a team default for ITA ranking purposes.

**I.F.10. (page 10):**

*Failing to play after a dual team tournament has started.* Once a team tournament has started, if a team has four physically able players then failure to play a team match shall result in a team default. This loss and any subsequent consolation match losses shall count as ranking losses.

- a. If a team does not have four physically able players, documentation from that team's medical staff and/or administration must be provided stating why the minimum requirement cannot be met in order to avoid a team default for ITA ranking purposes.