

TENNIS

2016 GENERAL RULES

The Official Special Olympics sports rules shall govern all Special Olympics tennis competitions. As an international sports program, Special Olympics has created these rules based upon International Tennis Federation (ITF) rules for tennis. ITF rules shall be employed except when they are in conflict with the Special Olympics sports rules. In such cases, the Official Special Olympics sports rules shall apply. For more information, visit www.itftennis.com.

OFFICIAL EVENTS OFFERED

1. Singles
 - a. Tennis competition is not offered at the district level. All tennis athletes are automatically eligible to advance to the State Outdoor Sports Tournament. If the number of tennis participants changes in the future, a determination will be made regarding the number of events offered.

SECTION A – RULES OF COMPETITION

1. Match-Play
 - a. A match will consist of one six-game, no-ad set with a margin of two games with a seven point tie-break played at six all.
 - b. The no-ad scoring system will be used for all match play. The no-ad procedure is simply what the name implies: The first player to win four points wins the game – the seventh point of a game becoming a game point for each player. The receiver has the choice of advantage court or deuce court to which the service is to be delivered on the seventh point. If a no-ad set reaches six games all, a seven point tie-break shall be used. **NOTE:** The score shall be called with conventional terms: love, 15, 30, 40, game. Tie break scoring shall be one, two, three, four, etc.
 - c. A tie-break will be played when the set reaches six games all. Player “A”, having served the first game of the set, serves the first point from the right / deuce court. Player B serves points two and three (ad/left and deuce/right). Player “A” serves points four and five (ad/left and deuce/right). Player “B” serves point six (ad/left) and after they change ends, point seven (deuce/right). “A” serves points eight and nine (ad/left and deuce/right). “B” serves point 10 and 11 (ad/left and deuce/right). “A” serves point 12 (ad/left). The player who reaches seven points with a two point margin during these first 12 points wins the game, set, and match. If the score has reached six points all, the players change ends and continue in the same pattern until one player establishes a margin of two points which gives him the set/match. Note that the players change ends every six points and that the player who serves the last point of one of these six-point segments also serves the first point of the next one (from the deuce/right court).
 - d. A player may receive coaching from a designated Special Olympics coach when the player changes ends at the end of the third, fifth, seventh, ninth, eleventh games, but not after the first game, or when a player changes ends during a tie-break game. The coaching must be brief and not impede the progress of competition. Players will be allowed 90 seconds for a changeover.
 - e. Uniforms/Clothing – Athletes must be neat in their dress and wear proper tennis clothing and soft-soled athletic shoes. No blue jeans, cut-off shorts, loud sports shirts or street shoes are allowed. Athletes wearing improper uniforms will not be allowed to participate.

f. The Service

- 1) The service shall be delivered in the following manner: Immediately before commencing to serve, the server shall stand with both feet at rest behind (i.e. further from the net than) the base-line, and within the imaginary continuations of the center-mark and side-line. The server shall then project the ball by hand into the air in any direction, and before it hits the ground, strike it with the racket and the delivery shall be deemed to have been completed at the moment of the impact of the racket and the ball. A player with the use of only one arm may utilize his racket for the projection. The player may use an underhand or overhand service at their discretion.
- 2) The service is a fault if the athlete misses the ball in attempting to strike it. The ball shall not bounce before being struck or it is a fault. The server receives two attempts to serve a good serve.
- 3) A serve hitting the net and landing in the correct service box is called a let and is replayed.

g. Continuous Play

- 1) As a principle, play should be continuous, from the time the match starts (when the first service of the match is put in play) until the match finishes.
- 2) Between points, a maximum of 20 seconds is allowed. When the players change ends at the end of a game, a maximum of 90 seconds are allowed. However, after the first game of each set and during a tie-break game, play shall be continuous and the players shall change ends without a rest.
- 3) If a tie-break is necessary, there shall be a set break of a maximum of 120 seconds before the tie-break starts.
- 4) The maximum time starts from the moment that one point finishes until the first service is struck for the next point.

h. Additional rules

- 1) A ball landing on a line is considered good.
- 2) A point is called after the ball has touched the ground.
- 3) Touching the ball before the ball touches the ground on a serve awards the point to the server. Only on the serve must the ball bounce before the opponent hits it. If the ball touches any part of the opponents clothing, body or racquet, the point is awarded to the server.
- 4) No cell phones on the courts.
- 5) Athletes should receive a five-minute warm-up on court prior to the start of the match.

Special Olympics Tennis Rating Sheet

Athlete's Name: _____					
Delegation: _____			E. Second Serve		Level
Gender: _____			Double faults are common <input type="checkbox"/>		2
Age: _____			Pushes 2nd serves <input type="checkbox"/>		4
A. Forehand	Level		Hits second serves with control <input type="checkbox"/>		6
Has difficulty hitting FH shots <input type="checkbox"/>	2		Hits second serves with control and depth <input type="checkbox"/>		7
Hits inconsistent weak FH shots <input type="checkbox"/>	3		Hits 2nd serves with spin, control, and depth <input type="checkbox"/>		8
Hits FH shots with little directional control <input type="checkbox"/>	4		F. Return of Serve		Level
Sustains a short rally using FH and BH shots <input type="checkbox"/>	5		Has difficulty returning serve <input type="checkbox"/>		2
Sustains a rally with directional control <input type="checkbox"/>	6		Returns serve occasionally <input type="checkbox"/>		3
Sustains a rally with consistency and depth <input type="checkbox"/>	7		Returns 2nd serve consistently <input type="checkbox"/>		4
Sustains an extended rally <input type="checkbox"/>	8		Returns some 1st serves, returns 2nd serves consistently <input type="checkbox"/>		5
B. Backhand	Level		Returns 1st and 2nd serves consistently <input type="checkbox"/>		6
Has difficulty hitting BH shots <input type="checkbox"/>	2		Aggressive return of 2nd serve; weak return of 1st serve <input type="checkbox"/>		7
Hits inconsistent weak BH shots <input type="checkbox"/>	3		Aggressive return of 1st and 2nd serves <input type="checkbox"/>		8
Hits BH shots with little directional control <input type="checkbox"/>	4		G. Volleys		Level
Has directional control of BH shots, but shots lack depth <input type="checkbox"/>	5		Avoids net <input type="checkbox"/>		2
Returns difficult shots defensively <input type="checkbox"/>	6		Does not hit volleys; avoids net <input type="checkbox"/>		3
Has difficulty with high and hard shots <input type="checkbox"/>	7		Hits inconsistent volleys; avoids net <input type="checkbox"/>		4
Controls FH and BH shots with direction, pace, and depth <input type="checkbox"/>	8		Hits consistent FH volleys; BH volley is inconsistent <input type="checkbox"/>		5
C. Movement	Level		Hits aggressive FH volleys; hits defensive BH volleys <input type="checkbox"/>		6
Stationary position; does not move to ball to hit shots <input type="checkbox"/>	2		Hits aggressive FH and BH volleys <input type="checkbox"/>		8
Moves only 1-2 steps toward ball to hit shots <input type="checkbox"/>	3		Section	Category	Selection
Moves toward ball; but court coverage is poor <input type="checkbox"/>	4		A	Forehand	
Movement allows sufficient court coverage of most shots <input type="checkbox"/>	5		B	Backhand	
Exceptional court coverage <input type="checkbox"/>	6		C	Movement	
Exceptional court coverage and hits defensive lobs and inconsistent overheads <input type="checkbox"/>	7		D	First Serve	
Exceptional court coverage and hits offensive lobs and consistent overheads <input type="checkbox"/>	8		E	Second Serve	
D. First Serve	Level		F	Return of Serve	
1st serve is weak <input type="checkbox"/>	2		G	Volleys	
Hits 1st serves in at a slower pace <input type="checkbox"/>	4		Total of Sections A thru G		
Hits 1st serves with pace <input type="checkbox"/>	6		divided by 7		
Hits 1st serves with pace and control <input type="checkbox"/>	8		*FINAL RATING		

Rater's Name: _____