



Special Olympics Ohio

Tennis Manual

The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Tennis shall govern all Special Olympics competitions. As an international sports program, Special Olympics has created these rules based upon International Tennis Federation (ITF) Rules for tennis found at <http://www.itftennis.com/>. ITF or National Governing Body (NGB) rules shall be employed except when they are in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Tennis or Article I. In such cases, the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Tennis shall apply

Official Events

The range of events is intended to offer competition opportunities for athletes of all abilities. Coaches are responsible for providing training and event selection appropriate to each athlete's skill and interest. The following is a list of official events available in Special Olympics.

- Singles
- Doubles
- Mixed Doubles
- Unified Sports Doubles

Rules of Competition

DIVISIONING

- An athlete shall be divisioned based off rating and final score from the Special Olympics Rating Sheet.
- A Special Olympics Rating Sheet must be submitted for each athlete with the registration package for the event.
- The Special Olympics Rating sheet can be found on the last page of this manual.

MATCH PLAY

- A match will consist of one of the following:
 - o One Tie Break 6 game set using no-ad scoring with a margin of two games with a 7-point tie-break played at six all.
 - o Winner is the first to win 6 games by a margin of 2 games (of course if its 6-5 and the winner of that game is the person with 6 games, they win 7-5)
 - o If tied at 6 games each, play a traditional 7 point tie break game (first to 7 points, win by 2, goes on in perpetuity after 7 points until the someone has a 2 point margin)
- The No-Ad procedure is simply what the name implies: The first player to win four points wins the game, with the seventh point of a game becoming a game point for each player.
- The procedure is the same for singles, doubles, and Unified.

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Created by the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation for the benefit of persons with intellectual disabilities



SINGLE MATCHES

- The receiver has the choice of advantage court or deuce court, the service on the seventh point, is to be delivered to the nominated court.

DOUBLES MATCHES

- The receiving pair has the choice of advantage court or deuce court, the service on the seventh point, is to be delivered to player playing in the nominated court.

MIXED DOUBLES MATCHES

- The player of the same gender as the server shall receive the deciding point. i.e. male to male or female to female.

UNIFIED DOUBLES MATCHES

- The service on the seventh point is to be delivered athlete to athlete or partner to partner.
Score

CALLING

- The score calling may be either in the conventional terms or simple numbers, i.e., "zero, one, two, three, game."

COACHING

- One designated Special Olympics coach may sit on court, (off the playing surface, in a chair located at the net post next to the umpire's chair) and may coach a player when the players change ends at the end of every odd game and during the three-minute rest period prior to the deciding tie-break, and not during a tie-break game. Changes of ends must be completed within 90 seconds.

TIE-BREAKERS

- When two or more athletes or teams have the same final point score, the tie shall be broken as follows:
 - o First: the fewest number of sets lost in all matches
 - o Second: the most games won in all matches
 - o Third: the fewest number of games lost in all matches
 - o Fourth: (other than for teams) head to head results

UNIFIED SPORTS DOUBLES

- Each Unified Sports doubles team shall consist of one player with an intellectual disability and one player without an intellectual disability, who have similar skills as defined by their ITN final number.
- Each team shall determine their own order of service and selection of courts (ad or deuce).