

Dress & Equipment Regulations – Updated March 26th, 2010



Tennis Australia (TA) recognises the need for various Dress Regulations to be adopted for certain levels of events. The following provisions allow for an appropriate dress standard taking into account both event and player educational needs.

a) Non-Competitive Tennis

Dress regulations for non-competitive tennis should generally be free of restrictions in an effort to maximise participation at this level.

b) Club and General Tournament Play

The following conditions may be adopted in whole or in part by the sanctioning body for tournaments, competitions and for general play.

Every competitive player shall dress and present himself/herself for play in clean and customarily acceptable tennis attire. The general appearance of a player is the most important factor at this level, not specific clothing detail.

Coloured recognised tennis type garments and footwear shall be worn, at the discretion of the Referee or controlling body. Clothing items deemed to be “non-tennis articles” such as dress shirts, singlets, football shorts and jumpers, walk shorts, gym shorts and jeans should not be worn by any player while competing in a match. Sleeveless tennis shirts are permitted which are defined as “tennis shirts without sleeves” [i.e. not singlets].

Warm up clothing shall not be worn during the course of a match, except where extreme weather or religious circumstances dictate, at the discretion of the Referee or controlling body.

Suitable footwear for tennis matches shall be worn (depending on the type of surface) at the direction of the Referee (see Page 4, 5).

Players are encouraged to wear headwear, especially at junior events. No writing or logo restrictions apply except where these are obscene or derogatory.

c) AMT & OJT Gold and Below

i) Caps

Players are encouraged to wear protective headwear e.g. caps, hats at all events especially junior tournaments. At this level of event these shall be any headwear deemed by the Referee to be appropriate for Tennis. Any writing, logo or design on the headwear must be “tennis specific.”

i) Team or Club Clothing

Players at these events are permitted to wear any club, team, state or national tennis clothing at the discretion of the Referee provided that any logos comply with the 5 square inch/32.3 square cm size limitations. Clothing which advertises a specific coaching or tennis related business is not permitted except in accordance with the allowable Commercial limitations.

ii) Commercial Standards

Any Commercial identification on clothing must be no more than 3 square inches or 19.5 square cm in size. A maximum of 2 Commercial logos are allowed.

iii) Manufacturers Logos

Players are limited to one manufacturer's identification on each sleeve and 2 forms of identification on the front/back of a shirt. They are also permitted 3 manufacturer's identifications on skirts or shorts. The size of these identifications is not limited.

d) Identification on Clothing & Equipment (AMT & OJT Platinum Only)

i) Shirts, Sweaters, Jackets, Warm up tops

- Sleeves

One (1) commercial (non-manufacturer's) identification for each sleeve, neither of which exceeds three (3) square inches (19.5 square cm) plus one (1) manufacturers' identification on each sleeve, neither of which exceed eight (8) square inches (52 square cm) shall be permitted. If written identification is used within this eight (8) square inches (52 square cm) area on either or both sleeves, such written identification may not exceed four (4) square inches (26 square cm) per sleeve.

- Sleeveless

Female: (Excluding sweater & jacket). The two (2) commercial (non-manufacturer's) identifications, permitted on the sleeves above, neither of which shall exceed three (3) square inches (19.5 square cm) in size, may be placed on the front of the garment.

NB: This section also applies when dresses are worn

Male: The two (2) commercial (non-manufacturer's) identifications permitted on the sleeves above, neither of which shall exceed three (3) square inches (19.5cm), may be placed on the front of the garment.

- Front, Back and Collar (including along the seam on the shoulder)

Total of two (2) manufacturer's identifications, neither of which exceeds two (2) square inches (13 square cm) or one (1) manufacturer's identification, which does not exceed four (4) square inches (26 square cm) shall be permitted.

ii) Skirts or Shorts

Two (2) manufacturer's identifications, neither of which exceeds two (2) square inches (13 square cm), or one (1) manufacturer's identification which does not exceed four (4) square inches (26 square cm) shall be permitted.

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On compression shorts, one (1) manufacturer's identification not to exceed two square inches (13 square cm) and which shall be in addition to the manufacturer's identifications on shorts/skirts shall be permitted.

Note: A dress for the purposes of permissible identification shall be treated as a combination of a skirt and a shirt (dividing dress at waist).

iii) Socks/Shoes

Manufacturer's identifications on each sock and on each shoe shall be permitted. The identifications on the sock(s) on each foot shall be limited to a maximum of two (2) square inches (13 square cm).

iv) Racquet

Manufacturer's identifications on racquet and strings shall be permitted.

v) Hat, Headband or Wristband

One (1) manufacturer's identification not to exceed two (2) square inches (13 square cm) shall be permitted.

vi) Bags, Other Equipment or Paraphernalia

Tennis equipment manufacturer's identifications, on each item plus two (2) separate commercial identifications on one (1) bag, neither of which exceeds four (4) square inches (26 square cm) shall be permitted.

vii) Warm-up Clothing

Players may wear warm-up clothing during the warm-up and during a match provided it complies with the foregoing provisions and provided further that the players obtain approval of the Referee prior to wearing warm-up clothing during a match.

viii) Taping

No taping over of logos/patches shall be allowed.

ix) Team or Club Clothing (OJT Platinum Level Only)

Players at Optus Junior Tour Platinum Tournaments are permitted to wear any club, team, state or national tennis clothing at these events at the discretion of the referee provided that any logos comply with 5 square inch/32.3 square cm size limitations. Clothing which advertises a specific coaching or tennis related business is not permitted except in accordance with the allowable Commercial limitations referred to above.

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e) ITF/ATP/WT A Tournaments

Specific Dress Regulations apply to ITF/ATP/WT A events. When competing at these tournaments players must be aware of the regulations and comply with the strict provisions applied at the events. Details are available via the relevant organisation.

f) General Definitions – Manufacturer / Commercial Identifications

Note: this applies to clothing worn in the warm-up and during the match.

i) Commercial Identifications

Corporate or product identification other than the manufacturer of the item.

ii) Club/Team identification

Clubs are encouraged to introduce team/club identification on players clothing which may exceed standard limitations. This can be placed on any part of a player's shirt, shorts or skirt at most levels.

iii) Club/Team specific sponsorship

Commercial identification related to specific team or club sponsorship is also permitted on the front or back of clothing at most levels.

iv) Manufacturers Identification

The tennis clothing manufacturer is the entity that produces tennis clothing or equipment and therefore brands its clothing /equipment with its name or logo.

v) Size Limitations

The size limitation shall be ascertained by determining the area of the actual patch or other addition to player's clothing without regard to the colour of the same. In determining area, depending on the shape of the patch or other addition, a circle, triangle or rectangle shall be drawn around the same and the size of the patch shall be the area within the circumference of the circle or the perimeter of the triangle or rectangle as the case may be. When a solid colour patch is the same colour as the clothing, then in determining the area, the size of the actual patch shall be based on the size of the identification.

g) Additional General Provisions

i) Shoes

Players are required to wear tennis shoes generally accepted as proper tennis attire. Shoes shall not cause damage to the court other than what is expected during the normal course of a match or practice. Damage to a court may be considered as physical or visible, which may include a shoe that leaves mark beyond what is considered acceptable. The Referee has the authority to determine that a shoe not meet these criteria and may order the player to change.

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ii) Grass Court Shoes

At grass court tournaments no grass court shoes other than those with rubber soles, without heels, ribs, studs or coverings, shall be worn by players.

Shoes with pimples or studs around the outside of the toes shall not be permitted. The foxing around the toes must be smooth.

The Referee has the authority to determine that a tennis shoe's sole does not conform to such customs and standards and can prohibit its use at grass court tournaments.

iii) Clay Court Shoes

Players are required to wear tennis shoes generally accepted for play on clay courts or granular surfaces. The Referee has the authority to determine that a tennis shoe's sole does not conform to such customs and standards and can prohibit its use at clay court tournaments.

Grass court shoes shall not be worn during a match on clay courts.

iv) Changing

Players who do not comply with the dress regulations must be given the opportunity to change or alter their clothing (particularly before a match starts), prior to any action being taken under the Code of Behaviour. At the discretion of the Referee, a maximum period of 10 minutes may be allowed in order for a player to change attire.

The Referee may require a player to change attire during a match, in particular where there is no Chair Umpire. A direction to improve the players dress before the next tournament day may also be given by the Referee or deputy. Players should not be defaulted from matches due to clothing breaches except in exceptional circumstances but failure to meet dress regulations may be reported to the relevant Member Association via an on-site Code Violation after the completion of the match. Please note this code violation does not apply to the three step match code violation system.

v) Tournament Conditions

A condition covering permitted clothing must be included in the Tournament or Competition Conditions. Nevertheless, any player in doubt should consult the Referee or controlling body.

vi) Line Umpires & Ballpersons

• Line Umpires

Line Umpires shall not wear clothing that is white, yellow, or light colours that interfere with the vision of the players.

• Ballpersons

All ballpersons are to wear appropriate coloured uniforms. White or yellow uniforms are not permitted.

Taking into account tournament environment, appropriate colours and styles should be worn by both umpires and ballpersons.