CODE OF BEHAVIOUR:

TOURNAMENTS AND WEEKLY COMPETITIONS

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Tennis Australia (TA) Code of Behaviour: Tournaments and Weekly Competitions

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TOURNAMENTS – REGULATIONS

Tournaments – Regulations

1. Statement of Intent

1.1 These regulations provide the framework for dealing with tournament related breaches of discipline by players, coaches, parents/guardians and spectators who participate in or attend sanctioned tournaments and team events in Australia.

2. Purpose

2.1 To preserve the image and integrity of tennis in Australia and to promote sportsmanlike conduct in tournaments and good behaviours by dealing with breaches of discipline in a consistent manner.

2.2 If anything in this Policy is inconsistent with any Federal, State or Territory law, the relevant Federal, State or Territory law prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.

3. Definitions

"Australian Tennis Organisation" (ATO) refers to Tennis Australia, Member Associations, affiliated organisations, member affiliated organisations, regional associations and affiliated clubs as defined in the Tennis Australia Member Protection By-Law.

"Tennis Australia" (TA) refers to the governing body for tennis in Australia.

"Member Association" (MA) refers to the governing body for tennis in each state/territory in Australia as defined in the Tennis Australia Constitution.

"Disciplinary Officer" (DO) refers to the person appointed by an Australian Tennis Organisation to administer disciplinary matters.

"Tournament" refers to a sanctioned championship, tournament, team event or challenge match.

"Australian Ranking" (AR) points refers to the points that are allocated (allocation depending upon level of success in the tournament) to players for each Australian Ranking tournament they participate in.

"Team event" is the definition given to a team orientated tournament. Unless otherwise stated, teams represent states and territories of Australia. In some instances other Tennis Federations are invited and therefore will also be represented.

"Weekly competitions" refers to an organised tennis competition which occurs over a series of weeks on a regular basis.

"Official" refers to a referee, assistant referee, court supervisor (court monitor*) or chair umpire.

"Precinct" refers to the tournament venue (courts and clubhouse) including its immediate surrounds (eg. venue car park).

***Please note:** a court monitor is not a fully accredited official but may provide tournament/competition assistance and support to court supervisors and referees.

4. Administration

4.1 The administration of match and tournament breaches of the Code of Behaviour is the responsibility of the MA in which the tournament was played, with the exception of National Championships, National Teams Championships and ITF/WTA/ATP tournaments, where TA will be the responsible body.

4.2 Correspondence with players once an automatic disciplinary action is invoked is the responsibility of the MA in which the player is registered. **This includes convening and conducting Tribunal hearings for registered players except in the case of TA controlled specific hearings or appeals.**

4.3 Correspondence in relation to any automatic disciplinary action or a tribunal hearing may be sent electronically (i.e. email) by the MA to the last known address provided by the player to the tournament, MA or TA. It is the responsibility of the player to provide and maintain a correct electronic address.

5. Application

5.1 The Code of Behaviour applies to violations occurring during tournaments in Australia (**including ITF, ATP and WTA tournaments held in Australia**) or at officially sanctioned activities related to these tournaments. In the case of ITF tournaments where an Australian player commits a serious offence including those processed as aggravated behaviour in the ITF Code of Conduct, Tennis Australia may elect to deal with this behaviour under this policy at the same time or subsequent to any ITF process. This matter may be referred directly to a relevant TA tribunal for determination related to Australian domestic tournaments and competitions. It also applies to instances of unacceptable behaviour (as deemed by TA) that may occur off-precinct during a tournament, which will be dealt with as per the TA Disciplinary Policy.

5.2 Incidents involving harassment, discrimination, abuse (not verbal abuse within the Code of Behaviour) and vilification (all of which are defined within the Member Protection Policy) may be dealt with pursuant to the TA Member Protection Policy and not these regulations.

6. Interpretation and On-Site Administration

6.1 The tournament director will assist with the administration of certain areas within the Code of Behaviour including no show processes, late withdrawals, spectator interference and conduct unbecoming reports. These reports will generally refer to situations that occur within the tournament precinct but are probably not on-court matters.

6.2 All accredited officials appointed by the tournament are empowered with the authority to interpret and determine match offences documented within these regulations, and take appropriate action. Court Monitors are not fully accredited officials and will refer any interpretation or determination of match offences to the referee or court supervisor.

6.3 The referee is the final on-site authority regarding the interpretation of match and tournament offences within the Code of Behaviour regulations.

7. Mutual Recognition

Any penalty imposed upon a player under this Code of Behaviour will be recognised and respected by all ATOs. A player is not permitted to play any tournaments or weekly competitions during the time of any suspension imposed under this Code of Behaviour.

8. Disciplinary Process

8.1 Breaches of the Code of Behaviour as detailed in **Appendix I** will be dealt with in the following manner:

Table 1: Match offence

Match offence	Immediate penalty (During match)	Disciplinary points (Attracted post-match)
First offence	Code violation	1 disciplinary point
Second offence	Point penalty	2 disciplinary points (inclusive of first offence)
Third offence	Match default*	4 disciplinary points (Inclusive of first and second offence)

**A match default can only be administered by the tournament referee.*

(a) The tournament referee, after consultation with any official and taking into account all the facts, may determine that a significant violation warrants an immediate match default without progressing through the above stages. In addition, after consultation with the tournament director it may be determined that the violation also warrants suspension from the remainder of the tournament.
(b) Where any point penalty is applied in accordance with these regulations the player shall be notified immediately where a chair umpire is present, or applied within the specific game by the relevant official in the case of non-chair umpired matches.
(c) If the point penalty cannot be issued during the specific game, a code violation second offence will still be issued.
(d) The tournament referee must determine any default situation.
(e) Any penalty awarded during a doubles match pursuant to a violation contained within these regulations shall be a penalty imposed against the team. Any post tournament action in accordance within these regulations will be taken against the individual player.
(f) For on-site code violations reported by any official the referee will determine the relevant penalty which may include default from the remainder of the tournament.

Table 2: Tournament offences

Tournament offences	
Code violation	**Penalty**
Late withdrawal (after first 3)	1 disciplinary point
No show and playing 2 tournaments	2 disciplinary points
Conduct unbecoming	Refer direct to tribunal

Code violation appeals
A player may appeal a specific non-standard code violation (refer to Appendix I) to TA or the appropriate MA within seven days of the sending of the documentation

to the player. This appeal will be determined by the designated person/s at either TA or the MA and will only be considered on the basis of relevant and meaningful information. Appeals without a significant base will not be considered.

Please note: standard code violations are not appealable.

9. Penalties

9.1 Disciplinary points are accumulated as code violations are enforced. When the number of disciplinary points in a 12 month period reaches three (3) or more, automatic disciplinary actions are activated. Diagram 1 outlines the disciplinary point levels and the related disciplinary action, which includes a mixture of suspension and loss of Australian Ranking points. Any 15% or 30% ranking penalty is applied on a monthly basis to the points balance existing at that time. Automatic suspension penalties are applied by the ATO. The dates of this suspension will be determined by the ATO and advised to the relevant player prior to the suspension commencing.

9.2 An individual player's accumulated points automatically drop off their points balance after 12 months from the time the points were added. Code of Behaviour ranking penalties commence in the month following the application of the disciplinary points, subject to any appeal provisions. These penalties are removed after 12 months.

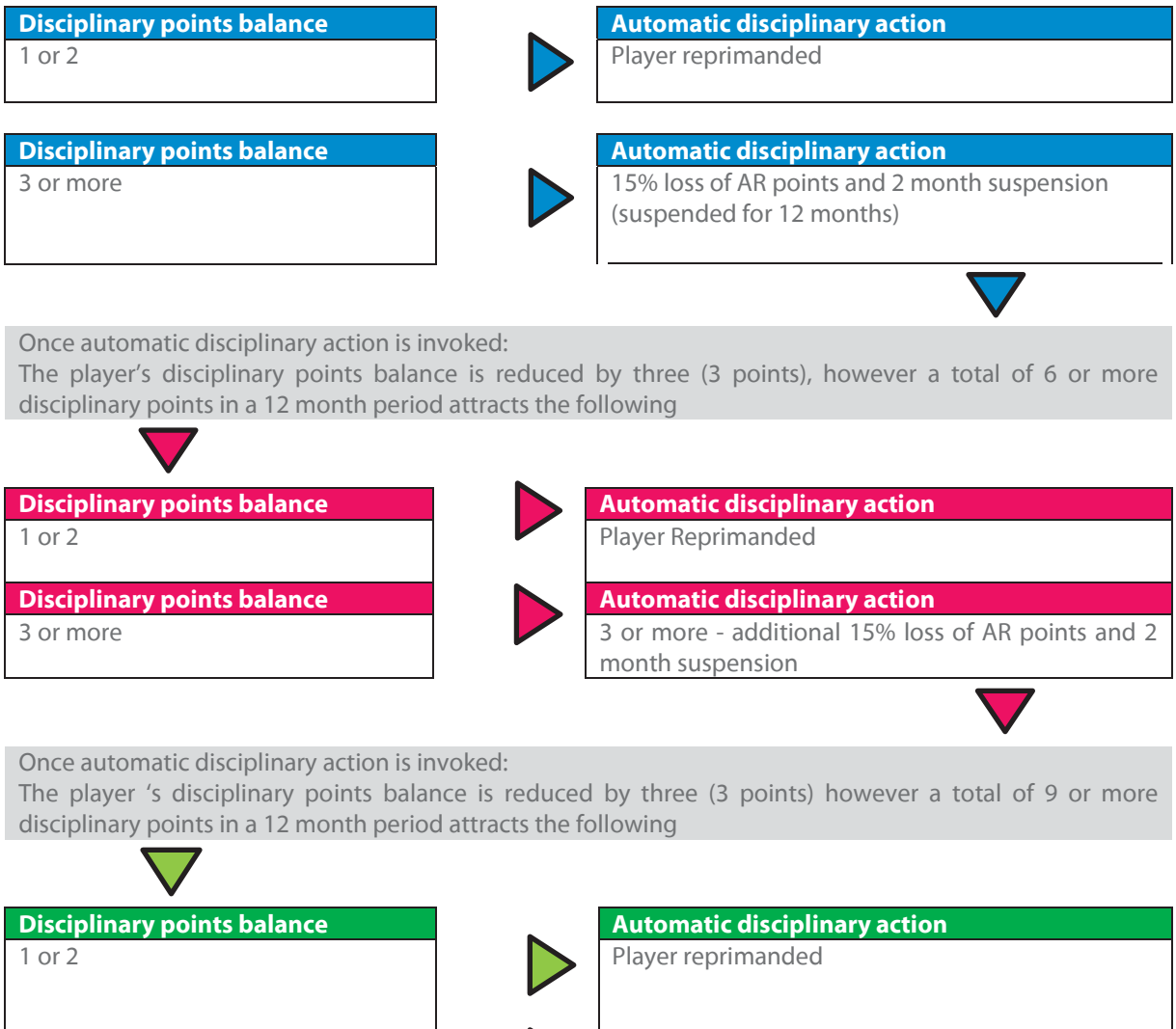
9.3 A player, on the payment of $500, may have their automatic suspension considered by a tribunal. If the player is successful in appealing the suspension, the $500 payment will be refunded.

9.4 For the purposes of calculation, a player's disciplinary points also include any that have arisen as a result of weekly competition play.

9.5 For tribunal guidelines please refer to **Appendix II.**

10. Penalties system – operates on a 12 month rolling basis

Diagram 1:



Please note: A player who is subject to an immediate default will automatically lose 30 per cent of AR points and will be referred directly to TA or appropriate MA tribunal to determine the suspension period. This will also apply for off court violations under "conduct unbecoming".

Where a player has been previously suspended by a tribunal and receives 3 or more disciplinary points in a 12 month period within 2 years of this suspension they will automatically be referred to the relevant tribunal.

WEEKLY COMPETITIONS GUIDELINES

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Weekly Competitions: Guidelines

1. Statement of Intent

1.1 These guidelines provide the framework for dealing with breaches of discipline by players, coaches, parents/guardians and spectators who participate in or attend weekly tennis competitions in Australia.

1.2 The intent is to provide broad guidelines for weekly competitions that do not have an existing disciplinary process to deal with inappropriate behaviour. For such competitions, these regulations (or part thereof) can be inserted into the Competition By-Laws and used as required.

1.3 For weekly competitions that do have an existing disciplinary process, the competition provider can determine the most appropriate use of these regulations.

2. Purpose

2.1 To preserve the image and integrity of tennis in Australia and to promote sportsmanlike conduct in weekly competitions and good behaviours by dealing with breaches of discipline in a consistent manner.

3. Definitions

"Australian Tennis Organisation" (ATO) refers to Tennis Australia, Member Associations, affiliated organisations, member affiliated organisations, regional associations and affiliated clubs as defined in the Tennis Australia Member Protection By-Law.

"Tennis Australia" (TA) refers to the governing body for tennis in Australia.

"Member Association" (MA) refers to the governing body for tennis in each state/territory in Australia as defined in the Tennis Australia Constitution.

"Disciplinary Officer" (DO) refers to the person appointed by an Australian Tennis Organisation to administer disciplinary matters.

"Tournament" refers to a sanctioned championship, tournament, team event or challenge match.

"Australian Ranking (AR) points" refers to the points that are allocated (allocation depending upon level of success in the tournament) to players for each Australian Ranking tournament they participate in.

"Team event" is the definition given to a team orientated tournament. Unless otherwise stated, teams represent states and territories of Australia. In some instances other Tennis Federation/s are invited and therefore will also be represented.

"Weekly competitions" refers to an organised tennis competition which occurs over a series of weeks on a regular basis.

"Official" refers to a referee, assistant referee, court supervisor (*court monitor) or chair umpire.

"Precinct" refers to the tournament venue (courts and clubhouse) including its immediate surrounds (i.e. venue car park).

"Competition manager" refers to the controlling person at a venue where competition matches are being played.

***Please note:** a court monitor is not a fully accredited official but may provide tournament/competition assistance and support to court supervisors and referees.

4. Administration

4.1 Member Associations, in addition to the controlling body of the competition will be responsible for the administration of this policy. Correspondence with players once an automatic disciplinary action is invoked is the responsibility of the MA in which the player is registered.

4.2 Correspondence in relation to any automatic disciplinary action or tribunal hearing may be sent electronically (i.e. email) by the MA to the last known address provided by the player to the competition, MA or TA. It is the responsibility of the player to provide and maintain a correct electronic address.

5. Application

5.1 The Code of Behaviour applies to violations occurring during weekly competitions in Australia or at officially sanctioned related activities.

5.2 Incidents involving harassment, discrimination, abuse (not verbal abuse within the Code of Behaviour) and vilification (all of which are defined within the Member Protection Policy) may be dealt with pursuant to the TA Member Protection Policy and not these guidelines. It also applies to instances of unacceptable behaviour (as deemed by TA) that may occur off-precinct during competitions, which will be dealt with as per the TA Disciplinary Policy.

6. Interpretation and On-Site Administration

6.1 **Without accredited officials:**
The competition manager is empowered with the authority of administering these regulations.

6.2 **With accredited officials:**

(a) The competition manager and all officials appointed by the competition are empowered with the authority of administering these regulations.

(b) All officials appointed by the competition are empowered with the authority to interpret and determine match offences documented within these regulations, and take appropriate action. Court Monitors are not fully accredited officials and will refer any interpretation or determination of match offences to the referee or court supervisor.

(c) The referee is the final on-site authority regarding the interpretation of these regulations.

7. Mutual Recognition

7.1 Any penalty imposed upon a player under these guidelines will be recognised and respected by all ATOs. A player is not permitted to play any tournaments or weekly competitions or sanctioned event during the time of any suspension imposed under these regulations.

8. Disciplinary Process

Breaches of the Code of Behaviour as detailed in Appendix I will be dealt with in the following manner:

8.1 Without accredited officials:

(a) A report regarding the player's behaviour is provided to the ATO (i.e. the competition controlling body) by the competition manager.

(b) The ATO must use all possible means to investigate the incident, and then if required, determine an appropriate penalty as outlined in section 9.

8.2 With accredited officials:

Table 3: Match offence

Match offence	Immediate penalty (During match)	Disciplinary points (Attracted post-match)
First offence	Code violation	1 disciplinary point
Second offence	Point penalty	2 disciplinary points (inclusive of first offence)
Third offence	Match default*	4 disciplinary points (Inclusive of first and second offence)

(a) The competition referee after consultation with any official(s) and taking into account all the facts may determine that a significant violation warrants an immediate match default without progressing through the above stages. In addition, after consultation with the appropriate person(s), the competition referee may determine that the violation also warrants suspension from other matches on that day.

(b) Any decisions regarding future competition weeks will be made in accordance with the penalties section (below).

(c) Where any point penalty is applied in accordance with these guidelines the player shall be notified immediately where a chair umpire is present, or applied within the specific game by the relevant official in the case of non-chair umpired matches.

(d) If the point penalty cannot be issued during the specific game, a code violation second offence will still be issued.

(e) The competition referee must determine any default situation.

(f) Any penalty awarded during a doubles match pursuant to a violation of these guidelines shall be a penalty imposed against the team. Any post competition action in accordance with these guidelines will be taken against the individual player.

(g) For on-site code violations reported by any official the referee will determine the

relevant penalty which may include default from the remainder of the competition.

8.3 Code violation appeals:

(a) A player may appeal a non-standard code violation (refer to Appendix I) to the appropriate ATO within seven days of the sending of the documentation to the player.

(b) This appeal will be determined by the DO of the ATO, and will only be considered on the basis of relevant and meaningful information. Appeals without a significant base will not be considered. Note: standard code violations are not appealable.

9. Penalties

9.1 Suspension penalties – without accredited officials:

(a) The ATO can, if agreed to by the MA, pass the matter onto the MA for advice and/or sanction. The ATO, after investigation, may impose disciplinary action and/or suspension as a result of the disciplinary report.

(b) Other penalties can also be considered (e.g. non-participation in squads or trials), however a loss of AR points can only be determined by the MA. All penalties involving a suspension must be reported to the MA.

9.2 Suspension penalties – with accredited officials:

(a) Disciplinary points are accumulated as code violations are enforced. When the number of disciplinary points in a 12 month period reaches three (3) or more, automatic disciplinary actions are activated. Diagram 1 outlines the disciplinary point levels and the related disciplinary action, which includes a mixture of suspension and loss of Australian Ranking points. Any 15 % or 30 % ranking penalty is applied on a monthly basis to the points balance existing at that time. Automatic suspension penalties are applied by the ATO. The dates of this suspension will be determined by the ATO and advised to the relevant player prior to the suspension commencing.

(b) An individual player's accumulated points automatically drop off their points balance after 12 months from the time the points were added. Code of Behaviour ranking penalties commence in the month following the application of disciplinary points, subject to any appeal provisions. These penalties are removed after 12 months.

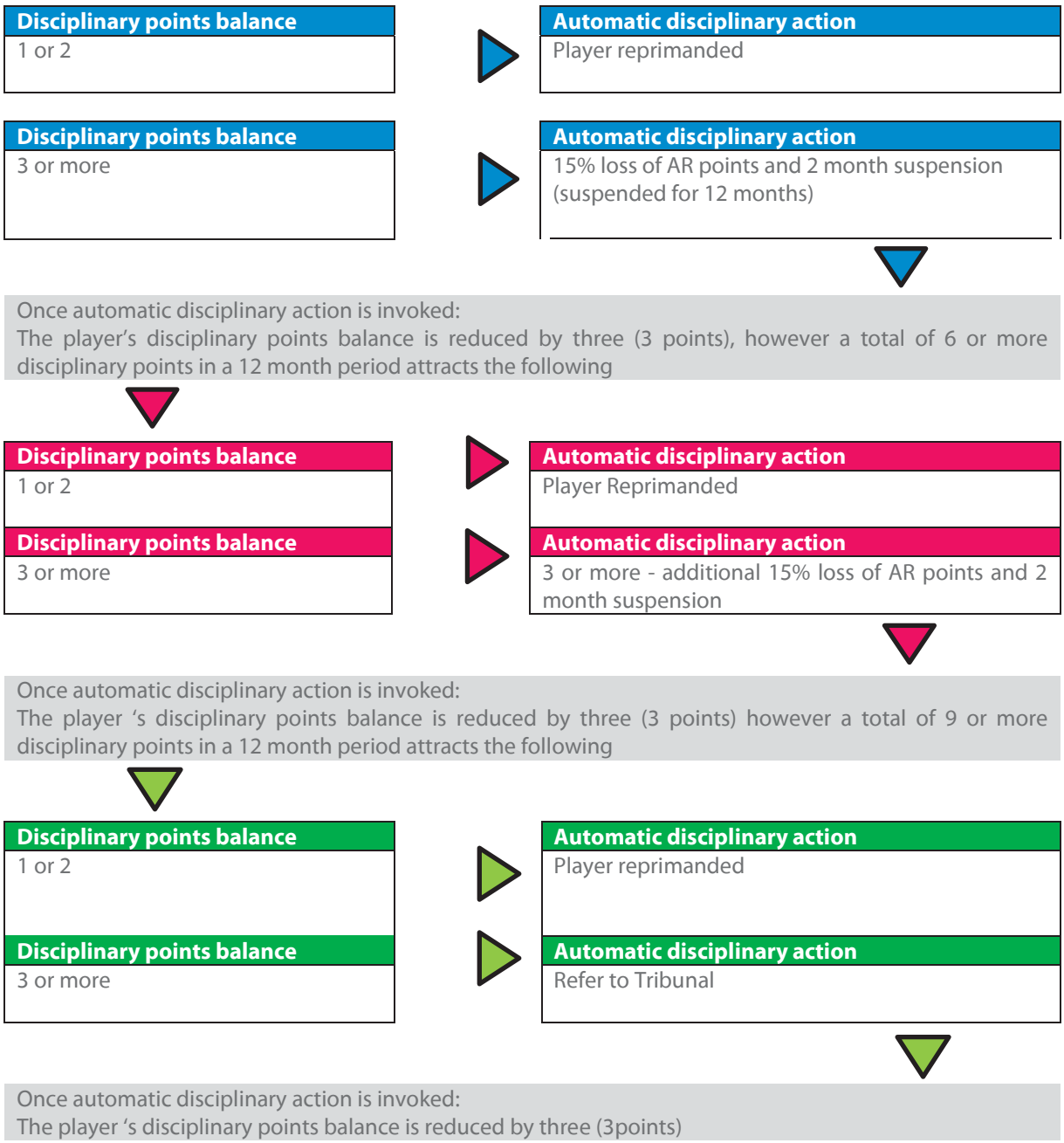
(c) A player, on the payment of $500, may have their automatic suspension considered by TA or appropriate MA tribunal. If the player is successful in appealing the suspension, the $500 payment will be refunded.

(d) For the purposes of calculation, a player's disciplinary points also include any that have arisen as a result of tournament play.

For tribunal guidelines please refer to Appendix II.

10. Penalties system – operates on a 12 month rolling basis

Diagram 2:



Please note: A player who is subject to an immediate default will automatically lose 30 per cent of AR points and will be referred directly to TA or appropriate MA tribunal to determine the suspension period. This will also apply for off court violations under "conduct unbecoming".

Where a player has been previously suspended by a tribunal and receives 3 or more disciplinary points in a 12 month period within 2 years of this suspension they will automatically be referred to the relevant tribunal.

APPENDIX I: MATCH AND TOURNAMENT VIOLATIONS

Appendix I: Match and Tournament Violations

1. Application

1.1 This document applies to all tournaments and weekly competitions in Australia and should be utilised in conjunction with the discipline regulations contained in Code of Behaviour – Tournaments, or Code of Behaviour – Weekly Competitions. The definitions that appear in the Code of Behaviour regulations apply equally to this document.

The referee may apply any of the code violations in 2 below for situations that occur off court depending on the number of occasions they offend and specific severity.

Penalties may include:

- Code Violation 1st Offence
- Code Violation 2nd Offence
- Code Violation default

This may also include incidences of conduct unbecoming in 3 below.

Court monitors are not fully accredited officials and will refer any code violations that they observe to either the court supervisor or referee for further action.

2. Standard Code of Behaviour violations

The following violations amount to breaches of the Code of Behaviour:

2.1 **Commencement of play ('no show')**
A player is not ready to commence play within 15 minutes of his/her match being called. The referee shall designate the official timepiece. This can also be deemed a 'no show'.

2.2 **Physical abuse**
(a) A player physically abuses any official, opponent, spectator, or other person within the precinct. For the purposes of this rule physical abuse is the unauthorised touching of an official, opponent, and spectator or other person.
(b) In certain circumstances the matter may also be referred to the police for further investigation and subsequent possible action.

2.3 **Verbal abuse**
Players shall not at any time directly or indirectly verbally abuse any official, opponent, sponsor, spectator, or other person within the precincts of the tournament/competition site. For the purpose of this rule, verbal abuse is defined as a statement about an official, opponent, sponsor, spectator or other person that implies dishonesty or is derogatory, insulting, racially or otherwise abusive.

2.4 **Audible obscenity**
Players shall not use an audible obscenity within the precincts of the tournament/competition site. For the purposes of this rule audible obscenity is defined as the use of words commonly known and understood to be profane and uttered clearly and loudly enough to be heard by the court officials or spectators.

2.5 Unsportsmanlike conduct

(a) A player shall not during any tournament/competition engage in conduct that damages the image and integrity of tennis. Players shall at all times conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and give due regard to the authority of officials and the rights of opponents, spectators and others. For the purposes of this policy, unsportsmanlike conduct is defined as any misconduct by a player, prior to, during or subsequent to a match that is clearly abusive or detrimental to the sport, including, but not limited to blatant cheating, but does not specifically fall within other violation categories.

(b) Without limiting the foregoing any conduct that is disrespectful or offensive to a players opponent/s, or to Officials, Tournament Directors or competition managers, tournament staff, spectators or players on other courts is deemed to be Unsportsmanlike Conduct under this section 2. This may include failure to return the ball appropriately to the server, inappropriate or unsportsmanlike comments or gestures (on court or on-site at a Tournament or within the precinct), sledging, intimidating, threatening or abusive acts or omissions([whether verbal, in writing or otherwise}, overt celebrations consistently directed at opponents, excessive noise disrupting the Tournament Precinct, or any other unsportsmanlike acts or omissions that are inconsistent with commonly understood tennis etiquette.

2.6 Line Calling

Where a player has a point awarded to their opponent due to an incorrect line call by that player on a non-clay court (in accordance with Rules for Matches Played without a Chair Umpire) a Code Violation may be applied at the discretion of the relevant Official in addition to the loss of the point. Where a player is consistently making incorrect calls on a clay court resulting in numerous ball mark inspections a Code Violation may be imposed (in addition to the loss of a point) at the discretion of the relevant Official. Additionally where a player is constantly showing the incorrect ball mark in order to justify line calls a Code Violation may also be applied at the discretion of the relevant Official. Any of the line calling situations described above that attract a Code Violation will be deemed to be Unsportsmanlike Conduct under this section 2.

2.7 Unreasonable delays

A player unreasonably delays a match. A player shall commence the match after the expiration of the established warm-up period. Thereafter, play shall be continuous as provided in the Rules of Tennis and a player shall not unreasonably delay a match for any cause. When a violation is a result of a medical condition, refusal to play or not returning to the court within the allocated time a code violation (delay of game) penalty shall be assessed in accordance with the code schedule. Other delays may be dealt with as a time violation.

2.8 Visible obscenity

A player makes offensive or obscene gestures during any match or within the precinct. For the purposes of this rule, visible obscenity is defined as the making of signs by a player with his hands, body and/or racquet/balls that commonly have an obscene meaning.

2.9 Abuse of racquets or equipment

A player violently or with anger, hits, kicks or throws a racquet or other equipment, or in any way unreasonably interferes with any court fixtures and equipment within the precinct. For

the purposes of this rule abuse of racquets or equipment is defined as intentionally and violently throwing, destroying or damaging racquets or equipment or intentionally and violently hitting the net, court, umpire's chair or other fixture during or after a match out of anger or frustration.

2.10 Abuse of balls

(a) Players shall not violently, dangerously or with anger hit, kick or throw a tennis ball within the precinct except in the reasonable pursuit of a point during a match (including warm-up).

(b) For the purposes of this rule abuse of balls is defined as intentionally hitting a ball out of the enclosure of the court, hitting a ball dangerously or recklessly within the court or hitting a ball with negligent disregard of the consequences.

2.11 Leaving the court

A player leaves the court area during a match (including the warm-up) without the permission of an official.

2.12 Best efforts

(a) A player shall use his/her best efforts to win a match when competing in a tournament/competition.

(b) For the purposes of this rule, the referee shall have the authority to penalise a player in accordance with the Code of Behaviour.

2.13 Coaching

A player receives any type of coaching from any person while a match is in progress, except where special provision is made for a tournament/competition. Communication of any kind, audible or visible between a player and any other person may be construed as coaching. Coaching shall be permitted where there is an off-court break between sets or during interruptions to play caused by bad weather or light where players leave the court. Coaching is not permitted while a court is being serviced at the end of or during a set and players are still on court, or during a toilet break.

2.14 Failure to complete a match/a tournament

A player must complete a match in progress or a tournament until his/her elimination from all entered events unless he/she is reasonably unable to do so. A violation of this section may subject a player to immediate default.

2.15 Spectator Interference

(a) A player is deemed to be responsible for the behaviour and conduct of their entourage and support team who attend their matches or attend a Tournament in which they are participating (i.e. parent, family member, coach, trainer or friend).

(b) Where a match is disrupted or interfered with by the action/s of a spectator who is part of a player's entourage (i.e. parent, family member, coach, trainer or friend) the relevant Official may at first instance attempt to address and eliminate any spectator interference at Tournaments/Competitions by discussing the relevant offences or behaviour with the offending person and/or applicable player. This discussion may include a warning to the player and the interfering spectator that any further interference by the spectator may result in:

(i) The match being suspended until the Official determines that the issue is resolved and that play can continue without further disruption or interference;

(ii) A Code Violation being issued in accordance with the provisions below; and/or the ATO [at a later date] refusing the player's entry into future tournaments/competitions pursuant to the procedure set out below.

(c) However, notwithstanding the above, where matches are disrupted or interfered with by the actions of a spectator who is part of a player's entourage (i.e. parent, family member, coach or friend) the Official may also decide in their discretion to, and without having first issued a warning, to impose Code Violation(s) on the relevant player(s) whose entourage that spectator forms part of, in accordance with the standard Code Violation process.

(d) Disruption/Interference is defined as including the following:
   (i) Intimidation threatening or abuse of opponents;
   (ii) Making or causing to be made disrespectful or inappropriate comments or gestures towards Officials, players, Tournament Directors/Staff, competition managers, coaches, other parents and other persons on-site at or involved with a Tournament at a Precinct;
   (iii) Providing inappropriate instructions , comments or direction to a player including both the spectators own player or the opponent , of any type (although this may also be considered as "Coaching" in accordance with section 2.13 above) ; and
   (iv) Any other inappropriate or Unsportsmanlike Conduct (as defined in section 2 above) of any type as determined by the applicable Official.

(e) The Official may also choose to suspend the match until the relevant disruption or interference, or the situation giving rise to that disruption or interference has improved or dissipated sufficiently so as to allow for the match to continue without disruption or interference.

2.16 For the avoidance of any doubt, any Code Violations issued under this section 2 will attract applicable athlete Disciplinary Points in accordance with this Code of Behaviour document.

2.17 In addition to and without limiting the above the Official, Tournament Director or Competition Manager will provide a report regarding the applicable disruption and/or interference to the relevant ATO. In such circumstances, the ATO may elect to take further action against the player in accordance with this Code of Behaviour, such further action which may include any of the following:

(a) Providing written advice to the applicable player regarding the spectator interference in question which outlines possible future consequences of repeat occurrences;

(b) The ATO advising the applicable player and/or spectator in writing of the inappropriate behaviour, and requiring the player and/or spectator to participate in a meeting with the ATO to discuss the issue. The object of the meeting will be to educate and counsel the interfering spectator and to act as a final warning. The spectator may be required to give a written undertaking not to attend future matches for a specified period in the case of interference at future tournaments/competitions; and

(c) Referring the matter to a Tribunal constituted under this Code of Behaviour, in which case the Tribunal may determine whether the player will have future tournament entries refused. The Tribunal may consider all relevant issues, including the severity of the specific interference and/ or disruption, and/or if there has been any failure to comply with previous directions regarding spectator interference or undertakings given by the spectator.

2.18 The ATO may encourage mediation between the parties in an attempt to have the issue resolved. If a resolution is reached at mediation no further action may be taken under this

Code of Behaviour (except by agreement between the parties). This does not prevent action being taken under State or Federal legislation or criminal or civil law. If the matter is not resolved by mediation then it may be referred to a Tribunal as outlined in Appendix II.

2.19 Without limiting any of the above, where a spectator engages in conduct that brings the sport of tennis or a Tournament into ridicule or disrepute, or that may be considered "conduct unbecoming" as that term is used in section 3 below (except that the word "spectator" shall be deemed to be read in place of the word "player") whilst that spectator is on-site at a Tournament, Competition and/or a Precinct;

(a) A Code Violation may be immediately issued by the relevant Official to the player whose entourage that spectator forms part of;

(b) The Official, Tournament Director or Competition Manager will prepare and forward to the ATO a report regarding the spectator's behaviour for further action; and

(c) A player may be suspended from all remaining tournament matches at the discretion of the applicable Official, Tournament Director or Competition Manger.

2.20 Conduct that may be considered as bringing the sport of tennis or a Tournament into ridicule or disrepute, or that may be considered "conduct unbecoming" may be conduct during a match or otherwise on-site at a Tournament or Precinct which may or may not directly interfere with a match i.e. verbal abuse directed at an Official or any other on-site person (including the spectators own player).

3. Non-standard Code of Behaviour violations

3.1 Dress and equipment

A player does not dress and present himself/herself for play in approved tennis attire (see Tennis Australia Dress Regulations). Clean and customarily acceptable attire shall be worn at all times during match play. A player must be given the opportunity to change his/her clothing in order to comply with the dress regulations particularly before a match starts. At the discretion of the relevant official a maximum period of 10 minutes may be allowed in order for a player to change attire. A direction to improve the player's dress before the next tournament/competition day may also be given by the relevant official. Players should not be defaulted from matches due to clothing breaches except in exceptional circumstances but failure to meet dress regulation requests may be reported to TA or the relevant MA via an on-site code violation after the completion of the match.

3.2 Conduct unbecoming

A player who behaves in a manner considered to be detrimental to the best interests of the event and the sport will be deemed to have committed a violation. For the purpose of this rule, a violation may occur at, or away from, the precinct e.g. at a place of accommodation. A relevant report will be provided to the Australian Tennis Organisation with a view to possible referral to a tribunal.

3.3 Time violation

(a) Where a player takes longer than the prescribed time between points, or at the change of ends, the official will determine whether a violation has occurred. If it is determined that a violation has occurred the first violation shall be penalised by a warning and each subsequent violation by a point penalty.

(b) Notwithstanding the previous paragraph, when a time violation is a result of natural loss of physical condition, injury or refusal to play after being ordered to play by an official a

penalty will be assessed in accordance with the code violation – unreasonable delays.

3.4 Late withdrawal from tournament

Where a player withdraws from a tournament/competition after the advertised withdrawal date, it shall be considered a late withdrawal.

An athlete's first three (3) late withdrawal offences within a calendar year are excused, provided the withdrawal is received by the Tournament Referee or Tournament Director (email, fax or post – but not SMS) prior to the start of the relevant first match for that athlete at the tournament.

An athlete will be issued one disciplinary point when a player has incurred their fourth late withdrawal in a calendar year.

3.5 Playing two tournaments

A player is prohibited from playing two tournaments at the same time except with the specific permission of Tennis Australia/MA or in accordance with the Australian Ranking Tournament regulations.

3.6 Social Media

Players are advised that the criticism or other derogatory comments regarding tournaments, administrators, officials, other players, coaches and other stakeholders on social media may be deemed a breach of the Tennis Australia Social Media Policy. Where there is any inconsistency between this Code and the Other TA Policies, those Other TA Policies shall prevail to the extent of such inconsistency.

4. General

4.1 All players must abide by:

(a) Tennis Anti-Corruption Program; and
(b) Tennis Australia Anti-Doping Policy;
(c) Other National policies as amended from time to time.

Tennis Australia Policies are available at:
tennis.com.au/about-tennis-australia/reports-and-policies/policies.

APPENDIX II: TRIBUNAL GUIDELINES

Appendix II: Tribunal Guidelines

1. Application

1.1 This document addresses the process if a player wishes to contest a suspension or the matter requires determination above the automatic provisions within the Code of Behaviour regulations.

1.2 The definitions that appear in the Code of Behaviour regulations apply equally to this document.

2. Guidelines

2.1 Tribunal

(a) TA and each MA shall appoint a disciplinary officer (DO) who will be responsible for the administration of the disciplinary process under the regulations including notifying the player, advising tribunal members and scheduling hearings. The DO will determine whether automatic suspensions apply or whether a matter is referred to a tribunal. It is not mandatory for an ATO to appoint a DO or establish procedures for dealing with complaints and hearings under these regulations. The ATO may agree to refer all matters to the MA.

(b) If the matter is regarded as a matter to be determined in accordance with TA's Member Protection Policy, the ATO DO must refer the matter to the relevant body under clause 9.3 of TA's Member Protection Policy.

(c) The ATO is responsible for conducting any hearing.

(d) The tribunal shall be appointed by the ATO (however described) and shall comprise of the following persons:

  (i) A lawyer, or if after reasonable attempts have been made to obtain one without success, then a person with considerable experience in the legal aspects of a disciplinary tribunal (who shall be chairperson);

  (ii) A person with a thorough knowledge of tennis;

  (iii) One other person of experience and with skills suitable to the function of a disciplinary tribunal.

(e) The following cannot be tribunal members:

  (i) A person who is a member of the Board of Directors;

  (ii) A person who would, by reason of their relationship with the player, or otherwise, be reasonably considered to be other than impartial.

(f) All parties shall bear their own costs.

(g) Each member of the tribunal shall be indemnified by the ATO appointing the tribunal from any claim or action for loss, damages or costs made against them arising out of or in connection with their function as a member of the tribunal.

2.2 Player

(a) The player will be notified by the DO in writing (may be via email) to the last known address provided by the player of the following:
  (i) Details of the violation(s);
  (ii) Confirmation that the regulation applies;
  (iii) The date, time and place of the tribunal hearing giving at least seven days' notice, except in the case of weekly competitions where the ATO administering the competition will determine the timing of any tribunal hearing;
  (iv) The penalties available to the tribunal;
  (v) Contents of report forms and any other written material provided to the tribunal upon which the tribunal will rely.

(b) It is the responsibility of the player to advise the ATO DO of any change in address details (including email address).

(c) The player may be represented at the hearing by any person who is not a legal practitioner so that the tribunal may give leave for the player to be legally represented where it considers it is necessary in accordance with the principles of natural justice. The ATO may be represented by its nominee at the hearing who may be the DO.

(d) The tribunal shall hear and determine the alleged offence(s) in whatever manner it considers appropriate in the circumstances (including by way of teleconference or otherwise) provided that it does so in accordance with the principles of natural justice. The purpose of the hearing shall be to determine whether the player is in breach of the relevant regulations. If the tribunal finds the offence(s) proven on the balance of probabilities, it may impose any penalty it deems appropriate.

(e) Where a player elects to rely on written submissions only, the tribunal will convene as soon as practicable to determine the matter.

(f) If within 30 minutes of the notified time for commencement of the hearing, the player is not present, the tribunal may elect to conduct the hearing in the absence of the player or adjourn the hearing and reconvene at a later date advised to the player.

2.3 Outcome

(a) The tribunal shall give its decision as soon as practicable after the hearing and will deliver a statement of its written reasons to the DO of the ATO and the player.

(b) The tribunal may impose any one or more of the following penalties:
  (i) At its discretion, and where deemed appropriate, a tribunal may decide to specifically identify relevant tournaments/competitions as part of any penalty;
  (ii) Suspend the player for either a specific time or number of events/matches;
  (iii) Order the player to attend a behaviour modification program, and where ordered to do so, the player will present proof of having attended such a program before the player can re-commence playing;
  (iv) Suspend the player from participating in squads, including training, for a specified period of time not exceeding eight months;
  (v) Remove Australian Ranking points;
  (vi) Impose any other penalty deemed appropriate.

(c) Where the tribunal is convened due to spectator interference the tribunal may deny the player entry for a specified period of time to future tournaments/competitions.

(d) A tribunal may defer a suspension to be served at a nominated future date based upon the ATO's calendar of tournaments/competitions and the player's intended schedule.

(e) If within a four (4) year period from the time of imposition of a penalty, the player appears

before a tribunal for subsequent violations of the same or similar nature, the tribunal may take into account the player's prior history and penalise the player accordingly to a maximum of 12 months.

(f) After the tribunal, the player must be informed in writing by the ATO of the outcome of the tribunal, including the dates to which any suspension applies. The ATO shall also notify other bodies of any penalty imposed.

3. *Appeals procedures*

3.1 An appeal may only be lodged:

(a) In the case of appeals from a Tribunal established by an ATO - to an Appeal Tribunal established by TA in accordance with this paragraph 3, in which case an appeal is only validly lodged where:

(i) An appeal notice in the prescribed form is lodged with the applicable Disciplinary Officer of that Member Association within seven (7) days of the Tribunal's decision; and

(ii) The appeal notice is accompanied by a written submission as specified in paragraph 3.2 and an appeal application fee of $500 (in the form of a bank cheque) refundable only at the discretion of the Appeal Tribunal (as defined below) and in circumstances where the offender is successful in overturning the Tribunal's finding of guilt and/or reduces the penalty imposed. The Appeal Tribunal may withhold all or part of the amount to cover the costs of the Appeal Tribunal hearing and deal with those monies and any fines payable by an offender as it considers appropriate (including by donating those monies into the Australian Tennis Foundation).

Appeal Tribunal established by TA, shall be the "Appeal Tribunal" for the purposes of this paragraph 3.

3.2 For all appeals, the Disciplinary Officer of the applicable ATO shall immediately refer the appealed matter to TA's own Disciplinary Officer, and immediately provide to TA's Disciplinary Officer:

(a) The written submissions and appeal application fee referred to in paragraph 3.1 (a) (i); and

(b) All such other information, materials and other assistance requested by TA's Disciplinary Officer in relation to the offence, the Tribunal's initial decision and/or the appeal of that initial decision.

3.3 An appeal against the findings of the Tribunal and/or the imposition of a penalty shall be conducted:

(a) In the case of appeals that proceed under paragraph 3.1 and 3.2 – within 21 days of receipt by TA's Disciplinary Officer of the notice of appeal, although TA shall have the discretion to convene an appeal hearing outside of the 21 day period but only after it has been established that it would be impossible to hear the appeal any earlier.

3.4 The Appeal Tribunal shall:

(a) In the case of appeals that proceed under paragraph 3.1 and 3.2 – a tribunal consisting of three members appointed by TA's Board of Directors who comply with paragraph 2.1, none of which has had a prior involvement in the matter. An Appeal Tribunal Chairman shall be appointed by TA's Board of Directors. The Appeal Tribunal will have the discretion to conduct proceedings at their discretion and in accordance with the powers

described in paragraph 2.1, subject always to the procedures set out in this Policy. A majority decision will determine the matter; and

3.5 In order for a matter to proceed to an appeal, the appellant must establish on the balance of probabilities that it is more likely than not that s/he has an arguable case. This shall be done by written submissions only, lodged pursuant to paragraph 3.2. TA's Disciplinary Officer will have the right of reply to any submissions lodged by the appellant, such submissions in reply which must be lodged with the Appeal Tribunal and served upon the offender within seven (7) days of receipt by TA's Disciplinary Officer of the offender's submissions. The Appeal Tribunal Chairman alone shall determine whether the appellant has sufficiently made out one or more ground/s of appeal within seven (7) days of receiving TA's Disciplinary Officer's submissions. There is no right to appeal against this decision. The Appeal Tribunal Chairman's decision will be conveyed to each of the parties.

3.6 If it is determined by the Appeal Tribunal Chairman on the balance of probabilities that the appellant has an arguable case and the appeal is in relation to penalty only, the matter will proceed by way of written submissions only.

3.7 Each party will be required to submit in writing their arguments with the offender obliged to lodge their written arguments no less than three (3) business days before the matter is scheduled to proceed. A copy of the submissions of the offender will be provided to TA's Disciplinary Officer who will then have a further 48 hours to submit their own reasons.

3.8 If the appeal is against both conviction and penalty, the appeal will proceed according to the procedures set out in paragraph 2 of this Policy (to the extent applicable, as determined by the Appeal Tribunal's Chairman).

3.9 An appeal against conviction is a re-hearing of the matter and the parties may recall any earlier relevant witnesses and may submit fresh evidence, provided that the Appeal Tribunal is satisfied that the new evidence is relevant to the matter. The Appeal Tribunal has the power to dismiss the appeal, grant the appeal, impose any of the penalties provided for in paragraph 2.3, and/or impose a new penalty. The new penalty which may be greater than the penalty handed down by the original Tribunal.

3.10 The determination by the Appeal Tribunal will be final and binding on all parties. No further right of appeal exists within TA, or to an external tribunal or any civil court of law.

3.11 The Disciplinary Officer in each ATO and TA's own Disciplinary Officer will keep a register of all penalties imposed for serious offences.

3.12 If the offender is suspended by the Tribunal, this suspension shall remain in force pending the determination of the matter by way of appeal.

3.13 The Appeal Body has no power to award costs and each party shall bear their own costs in relation to the appeal.

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