



2015/16 Asia-Pacific Tennis League Rules & Regulations

Dated 13/11/2015



CONTENTS

1.	GENERAL	4
2.	DEFINITIONS	4
3.	ATL CONFERENCES	5
4.	ENTRY INTO AN ATL CONFERENCE	5
5.	ORDER OF MERIT NOMINATION	5
6.	WILDCARD PLAYERS	6
7.	MATCH FORMALITIES	6
8.	MATCH FORMAT	7
9.	METHOD OF SCORING MATCHES	8
10.	PLAYER INJURY DURING A MATCH	8
11.	CANCELLATION OF MATCHES	9
12.	CANCELLATION OF ATL CONFERENCE MATCH	9
13.	RECORDING OF RESULTS OF MATCHES	10
14.	DEFAULTS BY TEAMS/PLAYERS	10
15.	PLAYING COURTS	10
16.	MATCH TENNIS BALLS	11
17.	PLAYERS' UNIFORMS	11
18.	ON-COURT COACH	11
19.	ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS FOR THE ATL CONFERENCE FINALS MATCHES	12
20.	ATL CONFERENCE FINALS MATCHES	12
21.	ATL CONFERENCE – TEAM FUNDING	14
22.	ATL CONFERENCE FINALS MATCHES PRIZE MONEY	14
23.	ATL PLAYOFFS	14
24.	ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS TO PLAY IN THE ATL PLAYOFFS	15
25.	ATL PLAYOFF FORMAT	15
26.	ATL PLAYOFF PRIZE MONEY	16
27.	PROTESTS	17
28.	PLAYER AMATEUR STATUS (US COLLEGE PLAYERS)	17
29.	POWER OF THE ATL COMMISSION	17
30.	DISPUTE RESOLUTION	17
31.	INTERPRETATION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS	18
	APPENDIX A – NCAA AMATEUR VS PROFESSIONAL STATUS	19
	APPENDIX B – ATL PLAYOFF CLOTHING REGULATIONS	20
	IDENTIFICATION (AS PER THE '2013 ITF GRAND SLAM REGULATIONS')	20
1.	SHIRT, SWEATER OR JACKET	20
2.	SHORTS/SKIRTS	20
3.	SOCKS/SHOES	20

4.	RACQUET	20
5.	HAT, HEADBAND OR WRISTBAND	21
6.	TENNIS EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURER'S BAG, OTHER EQUIPMENT OR PARAPHERNALIA	21
7.	DRINK CONTAINERS	21
8.	ANOTHER TENNIS, SPORT OR ENTERTAINMENT EVENT	21
9.	GENERAL	21
10.	ATL SPECIFIC ADDITIONS	21
	APPENDIX C – ATL MATCH NOMINATION FORM	22

1. General

- 1.1 The Asia-Pacific Tennis League (ATL) is managed and administered by Tennis Australia Limited (TA).
- 1.2 All participants in the ATL, including players, coaches and officials (Participants) are bound by these rules and regulations, ITF Rules of Play and TA's national policies including, without limitation, the Uniform Tennis Anti-Corruption Program, the TA Code of Behaviour (including its reference to spectator behaviour and interference), the TA Member Protection Policy and the TA Anti-Doping Policy (each a Policy).
- 1.3 In addition all Participants must at all times act in the best interests of the ATL and TA and not at any time engage in conduct which brings or has the potential to bring a participant, the ATL, TA or the sport of tennis into disrepute or which is or would have the tendency to be contrary to or prejudicial to the best interests, image or values of the ATL or TA.

2. Definitions

ATL Commission: The committee administering the ATL which shall have all final decisions in respect of the conduct of the ATL.

ATL Conferences: The two regional conference leagues played as qualifiers for the ATL Playoffs.

ATL Conference Matches: The Matches played in each ATL Conference organised in a round robin format where each ATL Conference team plays each other team in their ATL Conference twice.

ATL Conference Pool: A subset of an ATL Conference comprised of no more than four (4) teams

ATL Conference Finals Matches: The final Matches of each ATL Conference including the Match for first place and the Match for third place.

ATL State Manager: The individual in charge of the ATL Conference in each State responsible for organising the logistics for ATL Conference Matches occurring in their State.

ATL Playoffs: A playoff series played between the winning and runner-up men's and women's teams from each ATL Conference and a prescribed number of wildcard teams assigned at the discretion of TA.

Match: The tie played between two teams.

Organisation: The entity (club/association or MA) which successfully enters a team into the ATL;

Rubber: The individual singles or doubles contest within a Match.

3. ATL Conferences

- 3.1 The ATL will be comprised of two regional ATL Conferences comprised of eight (8) men's teams and eight (8) women's teams.
- 3.2 Each ATL Conference will have two ATL Conference Pools comprised of four (4) men's and four (4) women's teams.
- 3.3 Teams in each ATL Conference Pool will be placed into a round robin draw with each team scheduled to play a Match against each other team twice.
- 3.4 All Matches will be played at the time and court specified in the ATL Conference fixture prepared by the ATL Commission.

4. Entry into an ATL Conference

- 4.1 An entity seeking to enter a team into the ATL must enter into an agreement with TA which outlines the conditions of participation. Each such entity shall be referred to as an "Organisation."
- 4.2 Each Organisation must submit a nomination form to the ATL Commission (ATL Team Season Nomination Form). The form must include the names of the proposed players and specify a team captain, a team coach and a team manager (Team List). Written approval must be obtained from the ATL Commission for an individual to be both team captain and coach.
- 4.3 The ATL Season Nomination Form must also specify a contact person who will be responsible for communicating with the ATL State Manager and ATL Commission on all ATL related issues (Designated Team Contact).
- 4.4 Teams must be comprised of one coach and at least eight (8) but no more than twelve (12) players.
- 4.5 A team entry may not be accepted if the Organisation has outstanding fines or owes other monies to TA or a state/territory Member Association (MA).
- 4.6 The ATL Commission has the sole discretion in the final selection of teams for each ATL Conference.
- 4.7 Subject to this clause 4.7 and clause 6, once a Team List has been submitted, a team may not, in any Match, play a player who is not on their Team List. In exceptional circumstances a team may make a formal application to the ATL Commission for additional players to be added to its Team List. The decision on whether to grant such an exemption is at the total discretion of the ATL Commission.

5. Order of Merit Nomination

- 5.1 Each Organisation must, by 5 October 2015, submit to the ATL Commission for approval a list ranking the Team's players from highest playing standard to lowest (Order of Merit). The ATL Commission may at their absolute discretion, require an alteration to an Order of Merit.

- 5.2 Teams are required to play singles Rubbers in accordance with the Order of Merit approved by the ATL Commission. There are no restrictions in the order of doubles pairings.
- 5.3 No changes to the team Order of Merit shall be made without prior written approval of the ATL Commission. Any request for a change to the Order of Merit must be made in writing to the ATL Commission no later than 48 hours prior to a Match if the Match is being played on a weekday or 72 hours prior to a Match if the Match is being played on a weekend.
- 5.4 Failure to play in the approved Order of Merit will result in forfeiture of that Rubber and any subsequent Rubbers which have been played out of order.

6. Wildcard Players

- 6.1 Organisations may apply to the ATL Commission to play a wildcard player in a Match (a player who is not on their Team List).
- 6.2 Organisations must submit their wildcard player application (and proposed position in the Order of Merit) by no later than 24 hours prior to a Match if the Match is being played on a weekday or 48 hours prior to a Match if the Match is being played on a weekend. The ATL Commission have the right to alter the position of the wildcard's nominated position in the team.
- 6.3 If approved, a wildcard player can participate as a wildcard in any number of Matches for that team. Only one wildcard player can play for a team in each round but a team may have different wildcard players throughout the ATL Conference Matches.
- 6.4 A wildcard player will not be approved if the player is on a Team List of any other ATL team or if the player has participated as a wildcard for any other ATL team.

7. Match Formalities

- 7.1 Each ATL Conference Match is comprised of four (4) singles and two (2) doubles Rubbers.
- 7.2 A maximum of eight (8) players can play in a Match, meaning that four (4) players that have not played any of the singles Rubbers may be brought in to play doubles. A player is only permitted to play in a maximum of one (1) singles Rubber and one (1) doubles Rubber in each Match.
- 7.3 Team coaches/managers are required to fill in the official Match nomination form in the form enclosed as Appendix C (Match Nomination Form) and hand it to the Match referee no later than five (5) minutes prior to the singles Rubbers commencing. All singles players must be nominated in their order for the round, adhering to the Order of Merit rule, with no change to this order permitted during the Match. All doubles players must also be listed on the Match Nomination Form although there is no obligation for these players to play that round. All players must be onsite at the time of nomination.

- 7.4 Doubles pairs do not have to be nominated until the conclusion of the singles Rubbers but all possible players must have been listed on the Match Nomination Form. Teams will have a maximum of five (5) minutes from the conclusion of the final singles Rubber to nominate doubles pairings and their order.

8. Match Format

- 8.1 Unless otherwise approved by the ATL Commission, each Match will be played in the following order:
- | <u>Court 1</u> | <u>Court 2</u> |
|----------------|----------------|
| No. 1 Singles | No. 3 Singles |
| No. 2 Singles | No. 4 Singles |
| No. 1 Doubles | No. 2 Doubles |
- 8.2 The maximum time permitted for a hit-up before commencement of each Rubber is three (3) minutes, including serves from each player. Following the Rubber warm up, players are not permitted to sit down. They may go back to their chair for a drink and conference with their coach but must be ready to play within thirty (30) seconds of the conclusion of the warm-up.
- 8.3 Singles Rubbers will be played as the best of three (3) short sets (first to 4 games) with a short tiebreak (first to five (5) points, sudden death at four (4) points all) played at three (3) games all.
- 8.4 Doubles Rubbers will be played as the best of two (2) short sets (first to four (4) games) with a short tiebreak. A short tiebreak is a tiebreak played as the first to five (5) points, sudden death at 4-4. The player whose turn it is to serve at the commencement of the tiebreak (Player A) will serve two (2) points. The opposing player (Player B) will then serve two (2) points. Player A (or team mate of Player A in doubles) will then serve two (2) points. Player B (or team mate of Player B in doubles) will then serve the following two (2) points. If the score reaches 4-4, Player B (or the team mate of Player B in doubles) will serve the final point of the tiebreak with Player A choosing which side the ball will be served. Players will change ends only after the first four (4) points have been played.
- 8.5 If sets are even at the conclusion of the second set, a short deciding tiebreak (first to five (5) points, sudden death at 4-4) will be played to determine the outcome of the Rubber. This deciding tiebreak will count as one (1) set and one (1) game won for scoring purposes, such as under clauses 9.3, 9.4, 9.5 and 20.1.
- 8.6 All singles and doubles Rubbers will be played using no-ad scoring, with the receiver choosing the service side when the game reaches deuce.
- 8.7 No service lets will be played, meaning if the ball hits the net cord on a serve and lands (bounces) within the correct service box, play will continue. In doubles, if the ball hits the net cord on the serve and lands (bounces) within the correct service box, either player can return the ball (eg; the ball hits the net cord and drops over the net, the non-receiver can move across and return the serve).
- 8.8 When the players change ends at the end of a game and during a tiebreak game, play shall be continuous and the players shall change ends with players having to be ready

to play within 60 seconds of the previous games completion. Players are not permitted to sit down during the change of ends during a set.

- 8.9 At the end of each set there shall be a set break of a maximum of ninety (90) seconds (Set Break). The Set Break maximum time starts from the moment that one point finishes until the first service is struck for the next point. Players are permitted to sit down at the end of a set.
- 8.10 No break is permitted between the conclusion of the first singles Rubbers and the following singles Rubbers. A maximum of five (5) minutes is permitted between the conclusion of the final singles Rubber and the commencement of the warm-up of the doubles Rubbers.
- 8.11 A player will receive one warning for any time violation. Following this warning, each time violation caused by that player will be issued with a point penalty.
- 8.12 If a code violation is issued after the final point of the Match has concluded, this penalty (point, game, set or Rubber) will be transferred to the adjacent court and team member or the following Match for the offenders team (whichever is more immediate).

9. Method of Scoring Matches

- 9.1 For each Rubber win, one (1) point will be awarded to the team winning the Rubber. At the conclusion of the Match, the winning team will be awarded with four (4) bonus points. There is a maximum of ten (10) points available for each Match.
- 9.2 The team with the greater number of completed Rubbers won will be declared the winner of the Match.
- 9.3 If the number of Rubbers won is equal, the team that has won the greater number of completed sets will be declared the winner.
- 9.4 If the number of sets won is equal, then the team with the greater number of completed games won will be declared the winner.
- 9.5 If the number of games won is equal, then the Match shall be a draw and all outstanding points will be shared equally (each team will be awarded five (5) points).
- 9.6 The ATL Conference ladder will be sorted by 'Points Ratio', which is the allocated points, divided by the number of Matches actually played.

10. Player Injury during a Match

- 10.1 If a player is injured and forced to retire from a Rubber, the injured retiring player cannot come back in and play any other Rubber (including doubles) in that Match.
- 10.2 If a team is unable to field a doubles pair due to a player retiring, this Rubber will be forfeited and all points associated with winning a Rubber will be awarded to the non-retiring pair.

11. Cancellation of Matches

- 11.1 Subject to clause 12, where, prior to Match day, the ATL Commission forms the view that due to the extreme weather conditions or for any other reasonable reason, a Match cannot be commenced, each team shall be awarded five (5) points. The ATL Commission will make every effort to make contact with the team captain and/or the team manager and/or the team coach to advise the teams of any abandonment.
- 11.2 All players must attend the courts unless they were notified by the ATL Commission prior to Match day that the Match would not proceed. In the event a player fails to arrive at the venue as required, that player's Rubbers shall be in default, even if the courts are not ready for play.
- 11.3 In the event that the Match referee forms a view that a Match cannot commence, continue, or be completed by reason of inclement weather, or for any other reasonable reason, the Match referee will attempt to relocate the Match to another court (eg; indoor or under lights). If all reasonable efforts to relocate are unsuccessful:
- (a) the teams must wait for 90 minutes;
 - (b) if, after 90 minutes, the Match referee remains of the view that play cannot commence, the Match referee will consult with each team individually to determine whether they want to stand by and wait or abandon the Match;
 - (c) If either team elects to stand by, the teams must stand by;
 - (d) If neither team wants to stand by, clause 11.1 will apply.
- 11.4 Once teams are on stand by, the Match referee will consult with both teams individually every 30 minutes to determine whether they want to stand by and wait or abandon the Match:
- (a) If either team elects to stand by, the teams must stand by;
 - (b) If neither team wants to stand by, clause 11.1 will apply.
- 11.5 If the teams remain on stand by for two and a half hours (not including the initial 90 minutes) the Match referee must abandon the Match and clause 11.1 will apply.
- 11.6 Notwithstanding the above, no Rubber can commence after six hours have elapsed from the scheduled start time of the Match. If at the six hour mark, a Rubber is in play, the Match Referee will determine if the rubber is completed after which they must abandon the Match and clause 11.1 will apply.

12. Cancellation of ATL Conference Match

- 12.1 If an ATL Conference Match is cancelled:
- (i) if the Match has not commenced, the Match referee shall declare a draw and each team shall be awarded five (5) points; or
 - (ii) if the Match has commenced:

A. for each Rubber won, one (1) point will be awarded to the team that won the Rubber; and

B. for any incomplete Rubber, half (0.5) a point will be awarded to each team.

13. Recording of results of Matches

13.1 The referee will record all Matches on the official scoresheet before providing this to the teams to record the results.

13.2 Immediately after the completion of all Rubbers (whether or not a Match result is determined) the official score sheet must be completed and signed by the managers of each team and the Match referee.

13.3 In the event of a Match not being commenced or being incomplete, the score sheet shall be completed as far as practicable and must include each nominated player's name and the score (if any) of each completed or incomplete Rubber as well as the reasons for the Match not being commenced or completed. In the event of a Match not being commenced, the referee will be responsible for the score sheet administration.

13.4 All results are to be entered in the official competition software by ATL State Manager by no later than twelve (12) hours following the Match, unless approved by the ATL Commission.

14. Defaults by teams/players

14.1 Where a team fails to appear for a Match at the scheduled commencement time of the Match, the Match shall be deemed defaulted and the team not in default shall be awarded all Rubbers, sets and games and all the points for the Match.

14.2 Any player not in attendance at the scheduled commencement time of either the singles or doubles Rubber shall have his/her Rubber defaulted unless otherwise determined by the Match referee at his or her absolute discretion. The remaining Rubbers of the Match must be played and shall be commenced as soon as practicable.

14.3 Where a player is defaulted during a Rubber for reasons other than punctuality, that player shall also be defaulted from any further Rubbers that he/she was originally nominated to play in that Match. The result shall be recorded in the same way as a retirement due to injury where all games played shall be retained and the remaining games will be forfeited and credited to the player not in default.

15. Playing Courts

15.1 The ATL State Manager will be responsible for the allocation of courts for Matches.

15.2 Each court for each Rubber of each Match shall be of identical type and surface unless directed by the most senior onsite ATL official.

15.3 The referee may approve additional courts for play if he/she deem it necessary for the completion of a Match whether it is indoor, under lights or change of court surface.

- 15.4 Where Matches are played on red porous or clay like surfaces, it is the responsibility of the team manager to ensure his/her players perform any required maintenance (eg; sweeping) of the courts at the conclusion of each set.

16. Match tennis balls

- 16.1 TA approved tennis balls must be used for all ATL Matches.
- 16.2 Four (4) new balls must be used for each Rubber of each Match. No new balls will be provided during the Match.

17. Players' uniforms

- 17.1 Each player on each team must have a matching tennis uniform including shirt and shorts/skirt/skort or dress (if applicable). Teams are also encouraged to include other clothing items as part of their uniform (such as tracksuits and polo shirts).
- 17.2 Each team must submit team uniforms for approval to the ATL Commission by no later than 11:59pm, Monday 5 October 2015.
- 17.3 Team uniforms are not permitted to be predominantly white, as judged by the ATL Commission.
- 17.4 No player, coach or team manager is permitted on-court if they are not in full team uniform and all squad members must be in team uniform when in attendance at their team's Match (even if they are not playing).
- 17.5 If a team qualifies to participate in the ATL Playoffs, the team's uniform at the ATL Playoffs must be compliant with the Grand Slam clothing regulations (which can be found at <http://itftennis.com/officiating/rulebooks/grand-slams.aspx>) with the only exception being that a team name (excluding any sponsor name) or player names may be printed on the team uniform. Uniforms to be worn at the ATL Playoffs must be submitted for approval to TA no later than 11:59pm, Monday 4 January 2016. Please see Appendix B for the ATL Playoffs Clothing Regulations.

18. On-court coach

- 18.1 Each team can have one (1) on-court coach courtside for each Rubber. The on-court coach must be nominated on the Match Nomination Form and approved by the match referee.
- 18.2 If a team has only one (1) official team coach, a separate player (or approved person as nominated on the Match Nomination Form) from that team may act as the on-court coach for the additional court(s). All coaches and other players filling the coaching role must be in team uniform.
- 18.3 There can only be one (1) nominated on-court coach for each team courtside for each Rubber in progress. However, all players listed on the Match Nomination Form are also permitted to sit courtside, provided they are in full team uniform.
- 18.4 Once courtside, an on-court coach may:

- (a) enter the court during a Rubber either before the commencement of the Rubber, at a change of ends or at the completion of a set;
- (b) provide support and mentoring to his/her player(s); and
- (c) sit courtside next to the player's chair or as directed by an official on a chair or similar whilst a Rubber is in progress.

18.5 The on-court coach may only talk directly to his/her player(s) at the change of ends or the completion of a set (communication at other times shall be subject to the provisions of the TA Code of Behaviour). The on-court coach cannot under any circumstances communicate with the opposing team player(s), the opposing player's on-court coach or any official. Any dispute must be directed to the chair umpire and/or referee (as permitted by the Rules of Tennis) by the players involved in the Rubber in question and the on-court coach may not participate in these discussions.

18.6 On-court coaches will remain subject to the TA Code of Behaviour and may also be awarded an on-site code violation if their behaviour breaches the code. Any violation of the TA Code of Behaviour will result in the penalty being applied to the player on court. If an on-court coach is removed from a Rubber they may be replaced by another on-court coach or player listed on the official Match Nomination Form.

19. Eligibility of players for the ATL Conference Finals Matches

19.1 To be eligible to play in the ATL Conference Finals Matches, a player must have participated in at least two (2) ATL Conference Rubbers for the same team.

19.2 Upon application by an ATL team, the ATL Commission has the power to grant an exemption to rule 19.1. Such a determination is at the absolute discretion of the ATL Commission.

20. ATL Conference Finals Matches

20.1 The top two (2) teams in each ATL Conference Pool at the completion of the ATL Conference Pool Matches will advance to the ATL Conference Finals Matches. If a tie break is needed to determine the top two (2) teams, the following process will apply:

- (a) if teams have the same points ratio then the higher placed team will be the team that has won more Matches;
- (b) if still tied, then the higher placed team will be the team that has a higher percentage of Rubbers won over Rubbers played;
- (c) if still tied, then the higher placed team will be the team that has a higher percentage of sets won over sets played;
- (d) if still tied, then the higher placed team will be the team that has a higher percentage of games won over games played;
- (e) if still tied, then the higher placed team will be the team with higher number of games won;

- (f) if still tied, then the higher placed team will be the team that won the Match between the two teams in the round robin pool Match; and
 - (g) if still equal, the ATL Commission will arrange for a coin toss to take place to determine the placing of teams.
- 20.2 In each ATL Conference, the winner of Pool A will play against the runner up of Pool B and the winner of Pool B will play against the runner up of Pool A (Semi-Final Matches). The winners of the Semi-Final Matches will play against each other in the ATL Conference Final for first place (First Place Match). The losing teams from the Semi-Final Matches will playoff for third place (Third Place Match).
- 20.3 The two (2) teams qualifying for each First Place Match in each ATL Conference will automatically advance to the ATL Playoffs.
- 20.4 If any of the ATL Conference Finals Matches are affected by inclement weather and the Match referee determines (at his or her absolute discretion) that a Match is unable to be completed, the teams are required to return to the same venue by no later than 9:00am the following morning to complete the ATL Conference Finals Match, unless both teams are able to come to an agreement on a different time and/or date and/or venue that is acceptable to the ATL Commission. If the Referee determines (at his or her absolute discretion) that a rescheduled ATL Conference Finals Match is unable to be completed on the revised date:
- (a) in the case of a Semi-Final Match: the highest ranked team from each ATL Conference Pool following the ATL Conference Matches will advance through to the First Place Match;
 - (b) in the case of a First Place Match: any Prize Money payable for the First Place Match will be divided equally between the two teams; and
 - (c) in the case of a Third Place Match: any Prize Money payable for the Third Place Match will be divided equally between the two teams.
- 20.5 In the case that an ATL Conference Finals Match is rescheduled, teams will be able to complete a new Match Nomination Form for any Rubber not commenced. If a Rubber has commenced, no changes are permitted to the participating players.
- 20.6 At the conclusion of the ATL Conference Finals Matches, the ATL Commission will rank the third and fourth placed teams from all ATL Conferences based on the following criteria:
- (a) Finishing position on the ATL Conference ladder;
 - (b) Points ratio as per the ATL Conference table;
 - (c) % of Matches won as per the ATL Conference table;
 - (d) % of Rubbers won as per the ATL Conference table;
 - (e) % of sets won as per the ATL Conference table;

- (f) % of games won as per the ATL Conference table; and
- (g) the strength of a respective ATL Conference (Alternate Conference Teams List).

21. ATL Conference – Team Funding

- 21.1 TA will provide each Organisation with support funding of AUD\$5,000 (excl. GST) prior to the commencement of the ATL season. The funding must be distributed amongst the players on the team. The Organisation may, in its absolute discretion, determine the split of the funding between the players in the team. TA excludes any liability and takes no responsibility for the distribution of team funding within each team. This is at the sole discretion of the Organisation.

22. ATL Conference Finals Matches Prize Money

- 22.1 There is a total of \$20,000 in prize money available for each ATL Conference Finals Match. The prize money will be distributed as follows:

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|----------|
| (a) | Winner of the First Place Match: | \$12,000 |
| (b) | Runner up of the First Place Match: | \$6,000 |
| (c) | Winner of Third Place Match | \$2,000 |

- 22.2 At the conclusion of the ATL Conference Finals Matches, the prize money will be distributed to the Organisation who must distribute at least 60% of the prize money amongst the players. The Organisation may distribute the remaining 40% at its discretion. TA excludes any liability and takes no responsibility for the distribution of prize money within each team. This is at the sole discretion of the Organisation.

23. ATL Playoffs

- 23.1 The ATL Playoffs will be comprised of a maximum of eight (8) men's teams and eight (8) women's teams comprised

- (a) of the teams which qualified for the First Place Match in each ATL Conference; and
- (b) up to four (4) teams from the Asia-Pacific region selected by TA (Invitational Teams).

- 23.2 In the event that the winning and / or runner up teams from an ATL Conference is unable to compete in the ATL Playoffs then third placed team from that ATL Conference will be invited to participate in the ATL Playoffs. If the third placed team from that ATL Conference is unable to compete, then TA may elect to invite the highest ranked team on the Alternate Conference Teams List to compete in the ATL Playoffs (followed by the next best ranked teams if necessary).

- 23.3 In the event that one of the four selected Invitational teams is unable to compete in the ATL Playoffs then TA may elect to invite the highest ranked team on the Alternate Conference Teams List to compete in the ATL Playoffs (followed by the next best ranked teams if necessary).
- 23.4 Eligible, qualified and invited teams are required to complete an official ATL Playoffs Match Nomination Form and return this to TA no later than 5:00pm, Friday 18 December 2015.
- 23.5 Team squads must be comprised of at least five (5) players. There is no prescribed maximum in the number of players that can be nominated.

24. Eligibility of players to play in the ATL Playoffs

- 24.1 Subject to 24.2, a player shall be eligible to play with a team in the ATL Playoffs only if that player has played, or in the case of an incomplete Match or a Match not commenced was nominated to play, at least two (2) conference Round Robin rubbers.
- 24.2 In the case of an Invitational Team, the team members must not have been listed on any originally approved team list of a team that has qualified for the ATL Playoffs, nor have competed as a wildcard for any ATL Conference team that has qualified for the ATL Playoffs to be eligible to play in the ATL Playoffs.
- 24.3 The ATL Commission may allow a player who does not meet the criteria in clauses 24.1 or 24.2 to play in the ATL Playoffs whereby exceptional circumstances are established.
- 24.4 As per the ITF regulations, a player may not compete in the ATL Playoffs while still in the draw of an ITF event. Once a player has been released from the respective ITF event, that player is then eligible to participate in the ATL Playoffs.
- 24.5 Teams are permitted to apply for one (1) wildcard player in the ATL Playoffs. This application must be received by no later than Saturday 23 January 2016. This player may not still be competing in any ITF, ATP or WTA point's event at the time of participation.
- 24.6 The wildcard player may be any player that has not played or been listed on the Team List of a team that has qualified for the ATL Playoffs.

25. ATL Playoff Format

- 25.1 The ATL Playoffs will take place over two (2) days.
- 25.2 All ATL Playoff Matches will be played at the time and court specified in the ATL Playoffs draw prepared by the ATL Commission. No alteration will be made to this without the approval of the Match referee. The Match referee may direct that a team play more ATL Playoff Matches than originally scheduled per day if required due to inclement weather or any other reason deemed necessary by the Match referee.
- 25.3 TA will seed the eight (8) qualifying teams (at its absolute discretion) after which the teams will be placed into a 'Monrad Draw'; with each team scheduled to play at least once each day over the two (2) days of competition. A 'Monrad Draw' ensures that each

team will eventually playoff for first to fourth, equal fifth or equal seventh positions as follows:

- (a) Teams who win the first two (2) rounds will play each other for first and second place;
- (b) Teams who win the first round and lose the second round will play each other for third and fourth place;
- (c) Teams who lose the first round and win the second round will finish equal fifth place; and
- (d) Teams who lose two (2) rounds will finish equal seventh place.

25.4 Subject to 25.5, Match scoring during the ATL Playoffs will be the same as ATL Conferences.

25.5 If two (2) teams have won an equal number of Rubbers, sets and games, then a Shootout will take place to determine the outcome of the Rubber. The team that was nominated as the number one doubles pair on the ATL Playoffs Team Match Nomination Form will compete in the Shootout. The Shootout will commence five (5) minutes after the conclusion of the final doubles Rubber.

25.6 If a Match result has been determined before the commencement or completion of all Rubbers, there is no requirement to play the remaining Rubbers.

26. **ATL Playoff Prize Money**

26.1 The Prize Money for the ATL Playoffs is as follows:

- (a) Winner: \$30,000
- (b) Runner up: \$20,000
- (c) Third Place: \$10,000
- (d) Fourth Place: \$5,000
- (e) Equal Fifth Place: \$2,500 (each team)

26.2 At the conclusion of the ATL Conference Finals Matches, the prize money will be distributed to the Organisation (or in the case of an Invitational Team, to the designated entity contact) who must distribute at least 60% of the prize money amongst the players. The Organisation may distribute the remaining 40% at its discretion. TA excludes any liability and takes no responsibility for the distribution of prize money within each team. This is at the sole discretion of the Organisation.

26.3 In the event that the ATL Playoffs cannot be completed for the reason of inclement weather or any other reason deemed appropriate by the ATL Commission, all unallocated prize money within that section of the draw will be divided between the teams that were eligible to win that prize money. For example, if the Match for first place

is unable to be played; the two teams scheduled to play in that Match will receive 50% of the \$50,000. If the remaining ATL Playoff Matches were played and a result was achieved, those teams would receive their prize money as per the amounts listed above.

27. Protests

- 27.1 The Match referee will act as final on-site authority ensuring that the ATL Conference Matches, ATL Conference Finals Matches and ATL Playoffs are conducted fairly in accordance with these Rules and Regulations as to all matters arising that require immediate resolution on site. No protests will be accepted for on-court or result issues.
- 27.2 Should a team wish to dispute any matter relating to an ATL Match, this must be received in writing to the ATL Conference Manager no later than 5pm of the next business day following the Match. This will then be forwarded to the ATL Commission for review. The ATL Commission must adjudicate upon any dispute referred to it for determination within fourteen days of the date of request for such adjudication by any party.

28. Player amateur status (US College Players)

- 28.1 Any prospective US college player must declare themselves as an amateur to TA and their respective Organisation prior to participating in the ATL. Organisations must ensure that no payments are made to such players and such players must not accept any such funding. Please see Appendix A for further information on the NCAA Amateur Regulations.

29. Power of the ATL Commission

- 29.1 The ATL Commission shall have the widest and most absolute power and discretion relating to the ATL or any matter or thing arising from or in connection with the ATL and without limiting the foregoing it shall have the power and discretion at any time without giving or assigning any reasons therefore to:
- (a) demand from any team any information of any nature relating to any matter or thing arising from any Match;
 - (b) demand the replay of any Match wholly or in part, and to alter or extend the place, day or time for the playing of any Match;
 - (c) suspend or disqualify a player from the ATL as a result of a player's conduct or behaviour arising from or in connection with a Match; and
 - (d) impose penalties whether by fine, suspension or disqualification or by forfeiture of points for any non-compliance or breach of any of these Rules and Regulations including any Policy.

30. Dispute Resolution

Subject to these rules any dispute between Participants must be referred for determination to the ATL Commission in writing and must contain a precise statement of the issue(s) in

dispute, the relevant facts giving rise to the dispute, and be sent to the other party. The ATL Commission must adjudicate upon any dispute referred to it for determination within fourteen days of the date of request for such adjudication by any party.

31. Interpretation of rules and regulations

- 31.1 Any question arising from or in connection with the ATL or as to the interpretation or construction of these Rules and Regulations shall be determined by the ATL Commission in its absolute discretion.
- 31.2 TA may alter or amend these rules and regulations from time to time without prior notice. If updated, every effort will be made to distribute an updated version of the rules and regulations to all teams.

APPENDIX A – NCAA AMATEUR VS PROFESSIONAL STATUS

The ATL is an amateur and semi-professional team competition that offers an opportunity for players to play in a highly competitive and innovative team format. The ATL offers competitive opportunity for professional and amateur players to participate in a team environment.

TA recognises the role that the NCAA and the US inter-collegiate pathway can play in developing young tennis players. To be eligible to participate and represent some US intercollegiate teams that are members of the NCAA, a prospective student-athlete must be certified as an amateur prior to enrolling at a US College. There are three different NCAA divisions, and different eligibility rules apply to each division. Further details are available on NCAA's website.

NCAA's Bylaws on Amateurism (NCAA Bylaws) suggest whether or not the prospective student/athlete has received any payment as a result of participating in the sport is one of the critical factors considered when determining if the prospective student-athlete can be certified as an amateur.

In addition, NCAA Bylaw 12.2.3.2 states *"An individual shall not be eligible for intercollegiate athletics in a sport if the individual ever competed on a professional team (per Bylaw 12.024) in that sport. However, an individual may compete on a tennis . . . team with persons who are competing for cash or a comparable prize, provided the individual does not receive payment of any kind for such participation."*

In light of the NCAA requirements, TA is giving players the option to play in the ATL as either an "amateur" or a "professional". This is not a requirement imposed by the NCAA but we believe that giving each player the ability to make this election will provide ATL players who are interested in a US inter-collegiate pathway with a level of comfort when considering their future options. Accordingly you will need to nominate to play in the ATL as either a "professional" or "amateur" by registering your status with your relative Conference Manager.

ATL players who are registered as "professional" may receive payment as a result of their participation in the ATL. If you do not indicate to your ATL Conference Manager that you are playing as a professional then you will be classified as an "amateur".

ATL players who are registered as "amateur" will not receive any payment from TA as a result of their participation in the ATL and should not accept payment from any other source in connection with their participation in the ATL.

It is the responsibility of each prospective ATL player to ascertain whether they should play in the ATL or register for the ATL as an amateur or a professional player. This is not the responsibility of TA or its MA's.

TA does not decide eligibility status for US inter collegiate teams. However, if TA is asked by the NCAA or a US college to provide information on a prospective athletes' status, we are of the view that evidence that a player has played in the ATL as an amateur, and has not received any payment from TA for that participation may be helpful in establishing their amateur status.

If you are considering a US college pathway, or wish to keep that option open, it is critical that you seek your own professional advice in respect to the operation and effect of the NCAA Bylaws. It is your responsibility to ensure that you comply with the relevant requirements. Please note that TA does not accept any responsibility or liability whatsoever, in respect of an individual player's compliance or non-compliance with the NCAA Bylaws.

APPENDIX B – ATL PLAYOFF CLOTHING REGULATIONS

IDENTIFICATION (AS PER THE '2013 ITF GRAND SLAM REGULATIONS')

No identification shall be permitted on a player or on a player's clothing, products or equipment on court before, during and after a Match or at any press conference or tournament ceremony, except as follows (the Grand Slam Committee (GSC) reserves the right to interpret the following rules so as to give effect to the intent and purposes of these Grand Slam Rules):

1. **Shirt, Sweater or Jacket**

- (a) Sleeves. One (1) commercial (non-manufacturer's) identification for each sleeve, neither of which exceeds three (3) square inches (19.5 sq.cm), plus one (1) manufacturer's identification on each sleeve neither of which exceeds eight (8) square inches (52 sq.cm) shall be permitted. If written identification is used within this eight (8) square inches (52 sq.cm) area on either or both sleeves, such written identification may not exceed four (4) square inches (26 sq.cm) per sleeve.
- (b) Sleeveless: The two (2) commercial (non manufacturer) identifications permitted on the sleeves above, neither of which shall exceed three (3) square inches (19.5 sq.cm), may be placed on the front of the garment.
- (c) Front, Back and Collar. Total of two (2) manufacturer's identifications, neither of which exceeds two (2) square inches (13 sq.cm) or one manufacturer's identification, which does not exceed four (4) square inches (26 sq.cm) shall be permitted.

2. **Shorts/Skirts**

Two (2) manufacturer's identifications, neither of which exceeds two (2) square inches (13 sq.cm) or one manufacturer's identification which does not exceed four (4) square inches (26 sq.cm) shall be permitted. On compression shorts, one (1) manufacturer's identification not to exceed two (2) square inches (13 sq.cm) and which shall be in addition to the manufacturer's identifications on shorts 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).

3. **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 sq.cm).

4. **Racquet**

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

5. **Hat, Headband or Wristband**

One (1) manufacturer's identification, which may include writing as part of the identification, not to exceed two (2) square inches (13 sq.cm) shall be permitted.

6. **Tennis Equipment Manufacturer's Bag, Other Equipment or Paraphernalia**

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

7. **Drink Containers**

Each Grand Slam Tournament will provide drink containers for all participants to use. No other drink containers will be allowed on court unless approved by the Referee.

8. **Another Tennis, Sport or Entertainment Event**

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary hereinabove set forth the identification by use of the name, emblem, logo, trademark, symbol or other description of any tennis circuit, series of tennis events, tennis exhibition, tennis tournament, any other sport or entertainment event is prohibited on all dress or equipment, unless otherwise approved by the GSC.

9. **General**

- (a) In the event the utilisation of any of the foregoing permitted commercial identifications would violate any governmental regulation with respect to television, then the same shall be prohibited.
- (b) For the purposes of this Rule, the manufacturer means the manufacturer of the clothing or equipment in question.
- (c) In addition, the size limitation shall be ascertained by determining the area of the actual patch or other addition to a 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 for the purpose of this Rule 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 will be based on the size of the identification.

10. **ATL Specific Additions**

The exceptions to these rules will be the addition of the ATL logo and the addition of the team logo. These logos must not exceed three (5) square inches (32.3 sq.cm). Players are also allowed the team name and/or player name on the back of the uniform. The player team name and/or player name must be on the back of the garment and must not exceed twelve (12) inches (30.48 cm) in length and three (4) inches (10.16 cm) in height. These will all be in addition to what is currently permitted in the Grand Slam regulations

APPENDIX C – ATL MATCH NOMINATION FORM

Match Nomination Form



Team Name		Round no.	
Manager		Assist. Manager	
On Court Coach			

Singles Order (No change permitted for this round once nominated. Must be submitted by no later than 20 minutes before the scheduled start time):	
No. 1 Singles	
No. 2 Singles	
No. 3 Singles	
No. 4 Singles	

Reserves / Doubles Players (In no particular order)	
No. 1	
No. 2	
No. 3	
No. 4	

Doubles Order (does not have to be nominated until the final singles rubber is complete)	
No. 1 Doubles	
No. 2 Doubles	

Manager Signature _____ **Date** _____

Referee Signature _____

