

What to Expect from Roving Umpires at USTA Tournaments

Officials (Roving umpires, Referees, Chair Umpires) are an integral part of the Tournament team to ensure a positive player experience



Roving Umpires will:

- Promote fair play
- Ensure courts are ready for play
- Answer rules questions (related to matches)
- Help resolve scoring disputes when needed
- Call clear foot faults
- Enforce tournament rules and regulations, such as
 - Assessing penalties for delay or behavior (see Table 14, Point Penalty System)
 - Overruling incorrect line calls that are clear errors (note: umpires may NOT overrule based on a request)
 - Keeping matches moving by timing warmups, changeovers and set breaks, medical & bleeding timeouts, etc.
 - Assessing time violations as needed.
 - Defaulting for cause
- Monitor and control spectators and coaches (who may be asked to leave the area if they are abusive or obstructing play)
- Monitor the weather and safety issues
- Rove multiple courts at a time
- Report Code Violations to the referee or other person authorized to assess suspension points (see Table 17).

Roving Umpires Will NOT:

- Stay on any one court for an extended period of time (they are responsible for multiple courts)
- Call lines (they are not Line Umpires), as opposed to correcting calls made by a player
- Respond to a request to "watch" a court from anyone other than a player

TABLE 14 (p. 109 in 2023 FAC):
POINT PENALTY SYSTEM (PPS)
Code Violations and Penalties

Delay

- Not resuming play within 30 seconds after a medical timeout or bleeding timeout
- Delay caused by obvious cramping (but only if the player has already received a medical timeout for cramping)
- Receipt of evaluation or treatment for one condition on more than two changeovers or set breaks
- Taking more than two medical timeouts during one stoppage of play
- Not resuming play after a changeover or set break during which the player received treatment
- Not playing within 25 seconds of having been directed to resume play, passage of 25 seconds after any time violation
- Delay caused by getting a replacement racket that is not on court, leaving the playing area for an unauthorized reason

Misconduct

- Visible or audible profanity or obscenity, abuse of racket, balls, or equipment
- Verbal or physical abuse of a player or official
- Audible or visible coaching
- Abusive conduct by a player or a person associated with a player (USTA Regulation IV.C.11. refers to this situation)
- Retaliatory calls (obviously bad calls made in retaliation for the opponent's calls) other unsportsmanlike conduct that is abusive or detrimental to the sport
- Failure to follow the instructions of an official
- Violation of any USTA Tournament Regulation (**USTA Regulation IV.C.20.**)

Penalties

Violations shall be penalized as follows:
First Offense Point
Second Offense Game
Third Offense Default

A single flagrant unsportsmanlike act may be penalized by defaulting the player. See **USTA Regulation IV.D.7.**

A game penalty assessed during a set tiebreak results in loss of the set. If assessed during a Match Tiebreak, this results in the loss of the match.

NOTE: Regulations and Tables may be found in Friend at Court. The address for the 2023 document is
<https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/2023-pdfs/2023%20Friend-at-Court.pdf>

Table 17: (pp. 114-115 in 2023 FAC)

Suspension Points

	Violation	Suspension Points
Code Violations	Each code violation (point, game, or default) except that players who receive code violations because of delay immediately after a 2 medical timeout or because of obvious cramping are not assessed suspension points.	2
Defaults*	Default for flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant inappropriate conduct on or off court	8-10*
	Default for refusal to play or continue to play (for reasons other than illness, injury, or personal circumstance)	5
	Default because of an adult discipline	5
	Default for no-show	5
	Default for late arrival	1
	Disqualification for ineligibility	3
	*Suspension points for defaults are in addition to points previously assessed for code violations	
Improper Entry or Withdrawal*	Being entered when entries close in two or more sanctioned tournaments scheduled to overlap unless each Tournament Committee approves the multiple entries in writing	4
	Withdrawal from tournament after entries closed for reason other than injury, illness, personal circumstance, or previously authorized entry into another tournament	4
	If a player is concurrently entered in overlapping tournaments without approval and withdraws from one or more tournaments, the player is assessed a total of 4 suspension points for improper withdrawal	
Unsportsmanlike Conduct	Not using best efforts to win	2
	Unsportsmanlike conduct or inappropriate conduct by a player or person associated with a player while the player is still in the playing area but not during a match, if the conduct would have resulted in a code violation had it occurred during the match	2
	Unsportsmanlike conduct or inappropriate conduct off court by a player or person associated with a player, regardless of location or medium. This includes, but is not limited to, conduct at tournament sites, tournament activities, hotels or other housing, and all forms of communication, including online medium or otherwise	5
	Flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant inappropriate conduct , by a player or person associated with a player, regardless of location or medium. This includes, but is not limited to, conduct at tournament sites, 8-10* tournament activities, hotels or other housing, and all forms of communication, including online medium or otherwise	8-10*
Gross Misconduct	Physical violence against another person on or off court by a player or person associated with a player	10
	Illegal use or possession of drugs	8
	A minor possessing or drinking alcoholic beverages	8
	Gambling activity as defined in USTA Regulation IV.C.19.	8
	Destruction of property	8
Playing under suspension	Playing in any sanctioned tournament while suspended by USTA or one of its Sectional Associations	10
ITF Suspension Points	Each suspension point assessed at ITF tournaments and USTA International Tournaments becomes one suspension point under the USTA Suspension Point System	1
	*The Referee, designee of a Sectional Association that sanctions the tournaments, or the applicable Suspension Point Administrator shall determine the number of suspension points (8 to 10 inclusive) that shall be assessed based on the seriousness of the conduct.	