

FTA

The Football Tennis Association is where the best players of this sport compete in doubles in the worldwide circuit to be number one in the world.

The circuit comprises different categories of tournaments, from Junior Tournament to Big Five, which take place throughout the five continents and which hand out ranking points and money prizes to participants.

TOURNAMENT CATEGORIES

- **Big Five**
- **Mega Star**
- **FTA Tournament**
- **Talents Tournament**
- **Junior Tournament**

These championships are disputed by doubles of 16, 32, 64 or 128.

RANKING

The FTA Tour will publish a general classification after each tournament. The FTA Tour Ranking is the objective method based on particular merits in order to determine access to tournaments as well as to nominate favorites in each one of them.

The FTA Tour, is individually based, that is, it hands out points in each tournament to both team players.

Distribution points in the FTA Tour Ranking

EVENT CATEGORY	W	F	SF	QE	R16	R32	R64	R128
BIG FIVE	2.200	1.200	800	600	400	200	120	30
MEGA STAR	1100	600	400	300	200	100	60	20
FTA TOURNAMENT	500	300	200	150	100	50	30	15
TALENT TOURNAMENT	60	40	30	25	20	10	5	2
JUNIOR TOURNAMENT	45	35	25	20	15	5	2	1

GAMES

Games will last one set, with the same rules as tennis, that is, the team that achieves first 6 games won with a two game difference over the opposing team wins the game. In case the score is 6 games even, then a tie break of 10 points will apply.

GAME SCORE

Normal Game : In a normal game, scores are given in the following manner, and always the score is given first to the team that is serving:

No point - "zero"

First point- "15"

Second point – “30”

Third point – “40”

Fourth point – “game”

If both teams score three points each, the score will be shouted as “deuce”. After “deuce”, the golden point will be disputed, where the team who achieves this point wins the game.

“Tie Break” Game : During Tie Break, the points will be shouted “zero”, “1”, “2”, “3”, etc. The first team who reaches Ten points wins the “game” and the “set”, as long as there is a two point margin with the opponent. If necessary, the Tie-Break will continue until this difference is reached.

The player who starts serving will be one who scored the first point in the Tie Break game. The two following points will be served by the player of the opponent team whose turn it is to serve. After this, each team will serve alternatively two consecutive points until the end of the Tie-Break. The serving rotation within each team will continue in the same order maintained during the set. The changes of sides during a tie break game will be done every 6 points until the tie break game ends.

The team whose turn it is to serve first in the tie break will be the receiver in the first game of the next set.

CHAMPIONSHIP SYSTEMS

All tournaments are played with the same championship system, which in turn maintain the same rules of Tennis, with direct elimination in each phase. The only change that each tournament has is the quantity of participants in each one of these.

RULES OF THE GAME

COURT

The court is formed by a rectangular surface of 6.95 meters long and 3.70 meters wide, which will be divided in the middle by a suspended net held by two posts. This net will be totally suspended so as to fully fill the space between the two posts. Its height in the middle will be of 1.10 mts. And the height in the posts will be no higher than 1.20 mts.

The lines that limit the boundaries of the court are called baselines and the lines that limit the court sides are called lateral lines.

All the court lines will be between 5cm and 10cm wide. All the court lines will be of one color only and must clearly contrast with the surface. All the court measurements will be measured from the exterior part of the lines.

PERMANENT FIXED ACCESSORIES

Permanent fixed accessories of the court are : obstacles or banners placed in the back or the sides of the court, spectators, chairs and tribunes, all other fixed objects around

and over the court, as well as the umpire, line judges, ball boys and staff as long as they are in their assigned places.

SURFACES

There are different types of surfaces permitted for the development of FTA, the two principal ones being :

- Hard surface
- Synthetic grass

TEAMS

Teams are formed by two players.

RULES

For all championship games, the traditional Tennis regulations will apply.

SERVER AND RECEIVER

Doubles will place themselves on opposite sides of the net. The server is the player who plays the ball first. The receiver is the player who is ready to return the ball played by the server.

CHOICE OF SIDES AND SERVICES

The choice of sides and the right to be a server or receiver in the first game will be decided by toss before the game begins. The team who wins the toss can choose :

- To be the server or the receiver in the first game, in which case the opponent will choose which side of the court they will play in first.
- The side of the court for the first game, in which case the opponent will choose whether they want to be server or receiver in the first game.
- To give up their right to choose and let their opponents be the ones to choose one of the prior options.

CHANGE OF SIDES

The teams will change sides at the end of the first, third and following odd games of each set. During tie break, the teams will change sides every 6 points.

CONTINUOUS GAME

The game must be continuous from the moment the first game begins (when serving the first game) until it is over. Taking into consideration the following :

- Between one point and another, a maximum of 20 seconds are allowed.
- When teams change sides at the end of each odd game, a maximum of 90 seconds are permitted.
- During tie break, the game will be nonstop and the teams will change sides with no break

- The maximum time allowed is taken from the moment a point ends and the next point starts.

THE GAME BALL

The ball is in game from the moment the player serves, and remains in the game until the point is established.

THE BALL TOUCHES A LINE

If a ball touches a line, it is considered to be within the boundaries established for that line.

THE BALL TOUCHES A FIXED PERMANENT ACCESSORY

If the ball in game touches a fixed permanent accessory after having fallen within the boundaries of the court, the team that threw that ball is awarded the point. If the ball in game touches a fixed permanent accessory before bouncing on the ground, the player who threw that ball loses the point.

SERVICE

SERVICE ORDER

The team whose turn it is to serve in the first game of the set, will decide which of the two players will do so in that game. In the same manner, before the second game begins, their opponents will decide which of the two players will begin serving in that game. The teammate of the player who served in the first game, will begin serving in

the third game and the teammate of the player who served in the second game will do so in the fourth game This rotation will remain until the end of the set. And will continue in the same manner in case there should be a tie break.

Each server can only serve once. In case he comits any of the faults stipulated in these regulations, the double loses the point.

SERVICE EXECUTION

When serving, the server will place himself behind the baseline of the court and within the imaginary extentions of the lateral lines. The ball must bounce once on the floor before the server hits it, and must respect the margins previously mentioned.

ORDER OF RECEPTION

After the serving team has executed serve, any player of the opponent team can hit it.

FOOT FAULT

During service, the server cannot :

- Change his position walking or running, although minor foot movements will be permitted.
- Touch any of the court baselines with either foot.
- Touch any area beyond the imaginary extention of lateral lines with either foot.
- If the server breaks any one of these rules, then he will have comitted a “foot fault” and thus he automatically loses the point.

SERVICE FAULT

The service will be considered faulty and thus result in the lost of the point if :

- The server misses the ball whilst trying to do so.
- The served ball touches a fixed permanent accesory or the net posts before bouncing on the ground.
- The served ball touches the server or his teammate or anything that either one of them (the server and his teammate) may be wearing.
- The ball touches the net, even if after that the balls bounces on the correct side.

PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS

There will be only warnings and the game lost resulting from unsportsmanlike behaviours.

It is forbidden :

- To use foul language
- Unsportsmanlike conducts
- Deliberate Hand
- Violent Behaviour
- Insult the rival, umpire, line judges, ball boys or any member of the organization.
- To physically attack
- Visible or audible obscenities
- To play in a state of intemperance or with any grade of alcohol in the body.

WALK OVER GROUNDS

- Non presentation of the team at the stipulated time of the game.
- The presentation of the team with only one of the players.
- The team who has a walk over will be punished with direct elimination.
- Walk over will be established by the tournaments control members or referee after five minutes past the presentation time of the game.

PLAYERS DRESS CODE

The participant doubles must be uniformed in the following manner :

- Both players must be uniformed with the football shirt, of the same color and model. The same applies to the Shorts. The color of the socks must be of the same color of the short worn by the players.
- The sneakers used will depend on the court surface of the tournament. If the surface is of synthetic grass, then the players must wear soccer shoes. In case it is a hard surface, then the players must wear Baby Football shoes.
- Jockeys, hairbands and wristbands will be permitted.

Not Permitted Articles :

- Earrings
- Street Clothes
- Any garment different to the ones previously stipulated.

The referee/supervisor can allow or not any kind of article not stipulated in the previous paragraph and consequently forbid the participation of a team or a player.

TIME AND STATE OF PRESENTATION IN THE FIELD COURT

The presentation time for accreditation in the field court shall be the following:

- The players must arrive at the accreditation table, at least fifteen minutes in advance with the hour stipulated for their respective matches. In case one of the teams fails to do so, a period of five minutes from the time established for the match will be granted, after which Walk Over will be applied.
- All players must present their Identification Card at the accreditation table before the matches begin. In case they fail to do so, they will not be able to present themselves at the field court and Walk Over will be applied.

The state of presentation in the field court shall be the following :

- The players must arrive with no more than 0 grades of alcohol. In case there is any suspicion of the presence of alcohol, the umpire or referee/supervisor will demand an alcohol test and consequently, will not allow the participation of that player or team that violates the “Zero Tolerance” regulation.

BALLS

The official FTA Tour ball will be Football Number 5.

The balls used in each game will be pumped for the first time at the beginning of each day. The umpire will check and approve the condition of the balls before beginning each game.

There will be three balls per game. All balls may be used during the development of the game.

JUDGES

The Referee/Supervisor is the final authority in each tournament with regard to legal matters and his decision in terms of FTA Tour Rules and the Tennis International Federation Rules will be definite.

The umpire is the final authority in the court with regard to all facts of the game and his decision will be definite.

In those matches where line judges and net judges are assigned, they are responsible for naming all faults (even foot faults) with regard to the lines or the net. The umpire has the right to correct the decision of a line or net judge if he is sure that a clear error has been committed. The umpire is responsible of naming any line or net fault (even foot faults) when line or net judges have not been assigned.

The umpire can detain or delay any game, at any point, if he considers it necessary or appropriate. When a game is suspended due to lack of visibility or rain, it must be done at the end of a game. When a game is suspended, the score and the position of the players in the court will not be altered in any way when the game is reinstated.

NOT CONTEMPLATED SITUATIONS

Any norm not contemplated in this regulation will be backed by the International Federation of Tennis Regulations.

The umpire or the referee/supervisor of the FTA Tour will be in charge of resolving any controversy, with total and absolute autonomy, when faced with a litigious situation which is not covered under any of these regulations.

All FTA Tour participant referees must be credited by the FTA.

The referees must be dressed according to the Referee Dress Code (official FTA cotton shirt or short or long sleeved shirt). They are allowed to wear hats or traditional jockeys, and eye or sun glasses.