



TENNIS

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The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Tennis shall govern all Special Olympics competitions. As an international sports program, Special Olympics has created these rules based upon International Tennis Federation (ITF) Rules for tennis found at <http://www.itftennis.com/>. ITF or National Governing Body (NGB) rules shall be employed except when they are in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Tennis or Article I. In such cases, the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Tennis shall apply.

SECTION A— OFFICIAL EVENTS

The following is a list of official events available in Special Olympics.

The range of events is intended to offer competition opportunities for athletes of all abilities. Programs may determine the events offered and, if required, guidelines for the management of those events. Coaches are responsible for providing training and event selection appropriate to each athlete's skill and interest.

1. Individual Skills Competition
2. Singles
3. Doubles
4. Mixed Doubles
5. Unified Sports® Doubles
6. Unified Sports Mixed Doubles

SECTION B— RULES OF COMPETITION

1. Match play
 - a. A match will consist of one of the following.
 - 1) One six game No-Ad set with a margin of two games with a 7 point tie-break played at six all.
 - 2) Two out of three short sets. In a short set, the first player/team who wins four games wins that set, provided there is a margin of two games over the opponent(s). If the score reaches four games all, a 7 point tie-break game shall be played. When the score in a match is one set all, one 7 point tie-break game shall be played to decide the match. This tie-break game replaces the deciding final set.
 - b. The No-Ad scoring system will be used for all match play. The No-Ad procedure is simply what the name implies: The first player to win four points wins the game, with the seventh point of a game becoming a game point for each player. The receiver has the choice of advantage court or deuce court to which the service is to be delivered on the seventh point.
NOTE: The score calling may be either in the conventional terms or simple numbers, i.e., "zero, one, two, three, game."
 - c. A 7 point tie-break will be played whenever a set reaches six games all.
 - d. A player may receive coaching from a designated Special Olympics coach when the player changes ends at the end of a game, but not when a player changes ends during a tie-break game.
2. Unified Sports Doubles
 - a. Each Unified Sports doubles team shall consist of one athlete and one partner.
 - b. Each team shall determine their own order of service and selection of courts (ad or deuce).



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3. Individual Skills Competition

NOTE: Competition Managers must specify the type of ball to be used at each ISC competition. These may be a traditional tennis ball, low compression ball, or foam ball. The preferred ISC ball is the SpeedBall, distributed by the Professional Tennis Registry (PTR).

a. Forehand Volley

- 1) The athlete stands approximately one meter from the net with the feeder on the other side positioned halfway between the service line and the net. Each athlete is given five attempts to hit a ball safely over the net. The feeder underhand tosses each ball to the athlete's forehand side.
- 2) The athlete scores 10 points for hitting into the backcourt on or between the baseline, service line and singles sidelines. The athlete scores five points for hitting into either service box.

b. Backhand Volley

- 1) Same as forehand volley except feeder sends the balls to athlete's backhand side. Each athlete is given five attempts.

c. Forehand Groundstroke

- 1) The athlete stands on or behind the baseline. The feeder, positioned halfway between the net and service line on the same side of the net, underhand tosses the ball so it bounces once before reaching the athlete's forehand side. Each athlete is given five attempts.
- 2) The athlete scores 10 points for hitting into the backcourt on or between the baseline, service line and singles sidelines. The athlete scores five points for hitting into either service box.

d. Backhand Groundstroke

- 1) Same as forehand groundstroke except the feeder sends the ball to the athlete's backhand side. Each athlete is given five attempts.

e. Serve—Deuce Court

- 1) Each athlete is given five attempts to hit a legal serve from the right court to the deuce service box. A ball landing in the correct service box will count 10 points. A zero (0) score is recorded if the athlete commits a foot fault or fails to get the ball in the service box. A foot fault occurs when the athlete steps on or over the baseline or the imaginary extensions of the center mark or sideline.

f. Serve—Advantage Court

- 1) Same as serve to deuce court but from the left court to the advantage service box. Each athlete is given five attempts.

g. Alternating Groundstrokes with Movement

- 1) The athlete is positioned at the center service mark on or behind the baseline. The feeder, standing halfway between the service line and net on the same side, alternates tosses to the athlete's forehand and backhand sides. Each toss should land at a point which is both halfway between the service line and baseline and halfway between the center service mark and singles sideline. The athlete must be allowed to return to the center mark before feeding the next ball. Each athlete is given ten attempts.
- 2) The athlete scores 10 points for hitting into the backcourt on or between the baseline, service line and singles sidelines. The athlete scores five points for hitting into either service box.

h. Final Score

- 1) A player's final score is determined by adding together the scores achieved in each of the seven events which comprise the Individual Skills Competition.