



## ITF BILLIE JEAN KING CUP REGULATIONS



**BILLIE JEAN  
KING CUP**

BY > GAINBRIDGE

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## A. THE COMPETITION

### 1. Title and format

- 1.1 The Billie Jean King Cup, which is the ITF's Official Team Championship for women, ~~Billie Jean King Cup~~ by Gainbridge, the World Cup of tennis owned and managed by the ITF.
- 1.2 The Competition will be played in the following format:
- 1.2.1 The Qualifiers, consisting of one knock-out round of eight Home & Away Ties to be played between 16 Nations (selected in accordance with Regulation 20.1.1) to determine which eight Nations advance to the Finals Week and which eight Nations participate in the Play-offs.
- 1.2.2 The Play-offs (**Play-offs**), consisting of one knock-out round of eight Home & Away Ties is to be played between the eight losers of the Qualifiers Round and the eight nations that qualify from the Group I events to determine which eight Nations advance to the next edition of the Qualifiers and which eight Nations participate in their respective Group I in the next edition.
- 1.2.3 The Regional Groups (**Regional Groups** or **Groups**), consisting of four or more Groups based on three different geographical zones, (Europe/Africa (which may be further subdivided into the Europe Region and Africa Region), Americas, and Asia/Oceania), in which Nations play a round robin event in each of the Groups.
- 1.2.4 The Finals Week, a week-long event to be played by 12 Nations (the two finalists in the previous edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition, the eight winners of the Qualifiers, the Host Nation and one Wild Card) over three rounds (a round robin round, and two straight knock-out rounds: Semi-Finals and Final), to determine the champion Nation.

### 2. Rules and Regulations

- 2.1 The Competition will take place in accordance with the following (collectively, the **Rules and Regulations**): these Billie Jean King Cup Regulations, including the attached schedules (together, the **Regulations**), the ITF Constitution, the Rules of Tennis, the ITF Duties and Procedures for Officials, the Hosting Manual, the Commercial Letter(s), the Financial Letter, the Tennis Anti-Doping Programme, the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program, and any other rules, policies or documents issued by the ITF from time to time that apply according to their terms to the Competition, each as amended from time to time. Unless specified otherwise, the provisions in the Rules and Regulations apply to all levels of the Competition.



- 2.2** By submitting an entry and/or by participating in the Competition, a Nation and each of its Team Members is deemed to have agreed to be bound by and to comply with the Rules and Regulations, and will be liable for the consequences set out in the Rules and Regulations in case of any breach. The ITF may require a Nation and/or its Team Members to sign and return a consent form specifically confirming such agreement, but the agreement is legally binding whether they do so or not.
- 2.3 Defined terms used in these Regulations (denoted by initial capital letters) have the meaning given to them in Schedule 1. In addition, Schedule 1 includes certain rules of interpretation to be used in interpreting and applying the Rules and Regulations.
- 2.4 The Regulations may be altered as specified in the ITF Constitution. The expectation is that they will be altered at least annually so that a new and bespoke version applies for each new edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition. Consequently, no Nation or other person acquires any accrued or vested rights under these Regulations, or any legitimate expectation, in relation to future editions of the Billie Jean King Cup competition.

### **3. Personal data**

- 3.1 All personal data submitted by Nations and/or Team Members will be processed in accordance with applicable data protection laws. Nations and Team Members acknowledge and agree that personal data is processed by the ITF for the purposes of administering the Billie Jean King Cup competition, enforcing the Rules and Regulations, and maintaining the integrity of the sport, each in accordance with the applicable ITF privacy notice(s) (available on the ITF website at: <https://www.itftennis.com/en/about-us/privacy-notices/>).

## **B. MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPETITION**

### **4. The Board**

- 4.1 The Competition will be managed by the ITF, including acting via the Board, BJKCL and/or the B~~o~~ delegate(s)
- 4.2 The powers and duties of the Board in respect of the Competition include the following:
- 4.2.1 to take such steps as are necessary (including intervening in the organisation of any Tie or Event) to protect the best interests of the Competition;
- 4.2.2 to refuse or revoke the entry of any Nation in the Competition in accordance with Regulation 14.2;

- 4.2.3 to determine that Ties may not be hosted by a Nation for a specified period where in the Board's opinion a Tie in the manner required to maintain the integrity of the Competition and/or the safety of the participants, spectators, and/or personnel, or otherwise in accordance with its obligations under the Rules and Regulations;
  - 4.2.4 to decide disputes arising in connection with all financial matters;
  - 4.2.5 to decide the scale of Player-only Prize Money and Participation Payments to Nations (which has been delegated to BJKCL);
  - 4.2.6 to appoint:
    - 4.2.6.1 a Tournament Director for the Finals Week; or
    - 4.2.6.2 a Finals Week Organiser, and Local Organising Committee (LOC). Where an LOC is appointed, that LOC will appoint the Tournament Director for the Finals Week);
  - 4.2.7 to register in the name of the ITF any trade marks in connection with the Billie Jean King Cup competition and to protect such trademarks; and
  - 4.2.8 to exercise any other powers and fulfil any other duties assigned to the Board in the Rules and Regulations.
- 4.3 Subject to Regulation 14.2, all decisions of the Board in respect of the Competition will be made in accordance with the quorum and majority requirements specified in the ITF Constitution.

## **5. The Billie Jean King Cup Committee**

- 5.1 The Board will appoint a Billie Jean King Cup Committee, in accordance with the ITF Constitution and the committee's terms of reference. Each member of the Billie Jean King Cup Committee must be from a different Nation (except that one member could be from the Nation that the ITF President comes from), which Nation must have played in the Billie Jean King Cup competition in at least five separate years.
- 5.2 The powers and duties of the Billie Jean King Cup Committee will be:
  - 5.2.1 manage the Competition as delegated by the Board, including in liaison with the Finals Week Organiser and/or other relevant ITF designee;
  - 5.2.2 where requested or appropriate, report to the Board and/or Finance Committee on matters that have financial considerations relating to the administration of the Competition;

- 5.2.3 request further details of the income and expenditure set out in a participating nation's Statement of A
- 5.2.4 exercise any other powers and fulfil any other duties assigned to it by the Board or in the Rules and Regulations.

## **6. Executive Director**

- 6.1 The ITF will appoint an Executive Director for the Competition who will:
- 6.1.1 implement and enforce the decisions relating to the Competition rendered by the Board, the Billie Jean King Cup Committee, the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel, the Independent Tribunal, and the CAS;
- 6.1.2 co-ordinate the arrangements for the Competition;
- 6.1.3 liaise with and advise the LOC and the Tournament Director regarding the proper organisation of the Finals Week;
- 6.1.4 be the representative of the Board for the purposes of any correspondence or notices required under the Rules and Regulations.
- 6.2 If the ITF has appointed an Event Director, the Executive Director may delegate some or all of his responsibilities to the Event Director in respect of the organisation of the Finals Week.

## **7. Finals Week Organiser**

- 7.1 The ITF may appoint a third party organiser to take on some or all of the ITF's responsibilities in relation to the event organisation of the Finals Week. Any third party so appointed will work with the ITF to manage the strategic direction of the Finals Week.
- 7.2 The Finals Week Organiser and the Billie Jean King Cup Committee may together appoint a Finals Week Board who may deal with issues that the LOC delegates to it for resolution.

## **8. Tournament Director**

- 8.1 The Board or otherwise the LOC, will appoint a Tournament Director for the Finals Week whose responsibilities include:
- 8.1.1 serving as a senior member of the Finals Week organising team;
- 8.1.2 working closely with BJKCL, Finals Week Organiser, LOC, Event Director, Executive Director, and Referee to promote, manage and deliver the Finals Week;
- 8.1.3 acting as the key point of contact for the Competition's stakeholders; and

8.1.4 promoting the Finals Week.

### C. PERSONNEL

#### 9. Appointment of Officials

9.1 Officials will be appointed in accordance with the following table at least 21 days before the first match in the Tie or Event in question:

Position	Minimum number to be appointed	Appointing body	Qualifications required (if applicable)
<b>Finals Week</b>			
<b>Referee</b>	3-5	BJKCC	ITF Certified Official Gold badge
<b>Neutral Chair Umpire</b>	6-8	BJKCC	ITF Certified Official Silver badge or higher
<b>Chief Umpire</b>	1	BJKCC	ITF Certified Official Silver badge or higher
<b>Chief Umpire (if live electronic line calling is in use)</b>	1	BJKCC	ITF Certified Official White badge or higher
<b>Line Umpires</b>	Reasonable number depending on number of courts and sessions	ITF	Experience at international-level events
<b>Review Official (if review or live electronic line calling is in use)</b>	6-8	BJKCC	ITF Certified Official Review Official certification
<b>Qualifiers</b>			
<b>Referee</b>	1	BJKCC	ITF Certified Official

			Silver badge or higher
<b>Neutral Chair Umpire</b>	2	BJKCC	ITF Certified Official Silver badge or higher
<b>Chief Umpire</b>	1	Home Nation (approved by ITF)	ITF Certified Official Silver badge or higher
<b>Chief Umpire (if live electronic line calling is in use)</b>	<u>1</u>	<u>Home Nation</u> <u>(approved by</u> <u>ITF)</u>	<u>ITF Certified Official</u> <u>White badge or higher</u>
<b>Line Umpires</b>	20	Home Nation (approved by ITF)	Experience at international- level events
<b>Review Official (if review or live electronic line calling is in use)</b>	1-2	BJKCC	ITF Certified Official Review Official certification
<b>Play-offs</b>			
<b>Referee</b>	1	BJKCC	ITF Certified Official Silver badge or higher
<b>Neutral Chair Umpire</b>	2	BJKCC	ITF Certified Official Bronze badge or higher
<b>Chief Umpire</b>	1	Home Nation (approved by ITF)	ITF Certified Official White badge or higher
<b>Chief Umpire (if live electronic line calling is in use)</b>	<u>1</u>	<u>Home Nation</u> <u>(approved by</u> <u>ITF)</u>	<u>ITF Certified Official</u> <u>White badge or higher</u>
<b>Line Umpires</b>	16	Home Nation (approved by ITF)	Experience at international- level events

<b>Review Official (if review or live electronic line calling is in use)</b>	1-2	BJKCC	ITF Certified Official Review Official certification
<b>Regional Groups</b>			
<b>Referee</b>	1	BJKCC	ITF Certified Official Silver badge or higher
<b>Assistant Referee</b>	Depending on number of participating nations and courts	BJKCC	ITF Certified Official <u>White</u> badge or higher
<b>Chair Umpire</b>	Reasonable number depending on number of participating nations and courts	ITF	ITF Certified Official White badge or higher
<b>Chief Umpire</b>	1	Host Nation (approved by ITF)	ITF Certified Official White badge or higher
<b>Line Umpires</b>	Reasonable number depending on number of participating nations and courts	Host Nation (approved by ITF)	Experience at national-level events

9.2 All Officials nominated by a Home/Host Nation are subject to the approval of the ITF, whose decision will be final.

9.3 Home/Host Nations that are unable to comply with the requirements of Regulation 9.1 must contact the ITF for advice and direction as soon as practicable, but in any event at least five weeks before the first match in the Tie/Event in question

9.4 In addition to any duties set out in these Regulations, the duties of Officials are set out in the ITF Duties and Procedures for Officials.

**10. Appointment of Tie/Event personnel**

10.1 The ITF will appoint an ITF Event Manager to assist with the operational management in the lead-up to each Tie/Event. The ITF will decide whether or not it is necessary for the appointed ITF Event Manager to attend a Tie/Event in person.

10.2 For the Finals Week, the ITF will appoint (at a minimum) the following Event personnel:

10.2.1 a chief of ball persons;

10.2.2 a reasonable number of ball persons (depending on the number of courts and sessions);

10.2.3 a Security Officer;

10.2.4 a Media Manager;

10.2.5 an Independent Doctor; and

10.2.6 racquet stringers (to be available from the day that the first Players arrive at the Finals Week venue).

10.3 For Qualifier and Play-off Ties, the Home Nation must appoint (at a minimum) the following personnel to attend its Tie by the applicable deadline set out in the table below:

<b>Tie personnel</b>	<b>Appointment deadline</b>	<b>Language requirements</b>
<b>Official Organiser</b>	No later than the Questionnaire Deadline	Fluent in English
<b>Security Officer</b>	No later than the Questionnaire Deadline	n/a
<b>Visiting Nation Team Host</b>	No later than one week prior to the arrival of the first member of the Visiting Nation at the Tie venue	Highly proficient in spoken English or the language of the Visiting Nation
<b>Independent Doctor</b>	No later than one week prior to the first day of play in the Tie	Proficient in spoken English

<b>Chief of ball persons</b>	To be decided by the Home Nation	n/a
<b>Reasonable number of ball persons (depending on the number of courts and sessions)</b>	To be decided by the Home Nation	n/a
<b>Media Manager</b>	No later than two weeks prior to the first day of play in the Tie	Highly proficient in written and spoken English
<b>Racquet stringers</b>	Must be operational at least four days prior to the first day of play in the Tie	n/a

10.4 For Regional Group Events, the Host Nation must appoint (at a minimum) the following Event personnel to attend its Event by the applicable deadline set out in the table below:

<b>Tie personnel</b>	<b>Appointment deadline</b>	<b>Language requirements</b>
<b>Official Organiser</b>	No later than 10 days after the BJKCC appoints the Host Nation	Fluent in English
<b>Security Officer</b>	No later than 10 days after the BJKCC appoints the Host Nation	n/a
<b>Independent Doctor (although they may be on-call only)</b>	No later than the first day of play in the Event	Proficient in spoken English
<b>Sports Physiotherapist</b>	No later than two days prior to the first day of play in the Event	Proficient in spoken English
<b>Chief of ball persons</b>	Recommended, but not required	n/a



<b>Reasonable number of ball persons (depending on the number of courts and sessions)</b>	No later than the first day of play in the Event	n/a
<b>Media Manager</b>	Recommended, but not required	n/a
<b>Racquet stringer</b>	Must be operational at least four days prior to the first day of play in the Event	n/a

## **11. Powers and duties of different Officials/personnel**

### **11.1 Referee**

- 11.1.1 The Referee is the on-site representative of the ITF.
- 11.1.2 When the Referee is assisted by a neutral Chair Umpire, the Referee will be seated in close proximity to the court. Otherwise, the Referee is to be given a seat on the court with a clear view of the court.
- 11.1.3 The Referee's duties include:
- 11.1.3.1 arriving onsite at the Tie/Event venue no later than the day specified by the ITF;
  - 11.1.3.2 inspecting the match court and practice courts where necessary;
  - 11.1.3.3 convening a Captains' Meeting in accordance with Regulation 45;
  - 11.1.3.4 ensuring that all playing arrangements for the Tie/Event are satisfactory;
  - 11.1.3.5 ensuring that the programme of play is arranged in accordance with Regulation 51, and if necessary changing the time for the start of play;
  - 11.1.3.6 ensuring that Chair Umpires and Line Umpires have been appointed, and (if necessary) appointing substitutes for any umpires during the course of a match;
  - 11.1.3.7 ensuring the uniform administration of the Rules and Regulations onsite;

- 11.1.3.8 deciding any disputes or questions of interpretation that arise onsite in relation to the Rules and Regulations;
  - 11.1.3.9 deciding whether to stop or postpone a match or to transfer it indoors or to another surface due to the state of the courts, bad weather, darkness, or other factor, and, if the match is stopped or postponed, deciding if and when play should resume;
  - 11.1.3.10 enforcing (or instructing a Chair Umpire to enforce) the Code of Conduct (for example, and without limitation, ensuring that all Team Members comply with rules on dress and equipment; ensuring that any disturbance or interference with play is addressed appropriately);
  - 11.1.3.11 ensuring that changes to Player selections (including on health grounds) are made in accordance with Regulation 42;
  - 11.1.3.12 changing the decision of a Line Umpire or Chair Umpire, or ordering a point to be replayed, when a very clearly incorrect factual decision has been made. (The Referee only has this authority when there is a non-neutral Chair Umpire officiating and the Referee is sitting on court. The intention is to give the Referee power to correct very clear mistakes, not to become a second Chair Umpire);
  - 11.1.3.13 ensuring that only the on-court Officials and the nominated Players/Captain of each Nation are present for any on-court Opening, Team Presentation and Closing Ceremony; and
  - 11.1.3.14 after the Tie, submitting a report of the Tie to the ITF for distribution to the two Nations that played in the Tie.
- 11.1.4 The Referee's powers include the following:
- 11.1.4.1 Subject to Regulation 76.2, the Referee will have the following powers in relation to misconduct by a Team Member onsite before, during, and/or after a Tie:
    - (a) In the case of the Captain, the Referee may give a formal warning. On or after issuing a second formal warning, the Referee may remove the Captain from their duties for the match and/or for any or all of the remaining matches of that Tie or Event (in which case the Captain may be replaced only by one of their Nation's nominated Players). Where warranted, the Referee may remove the Captain without a formal warning for a single incident of misconduct.

- (b) In the case of any Team Member (including a Captain), the Referee may order that the Team Member (i) have their accreditation revoked, (ii) be removed from the Tie/Event venue, and/or (iii) be denied access to the Tie/Event venue for a specified period of time (including for the remainder of the Tie or Event). Prior to doing so, the Referee must use best efforts to obtain the approval of the Executive Director.
- (c) In addition to the above consequences, the Captain/Team Member is subject to the applicable provisions and penalties in the Code of Conduct.

11.1.4.2 The Referee may also make a recommendation to the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel that the Captain be disqualified from acting in that capacity, and/or as a Player, in subsequent Ties in the Competition, and/or in subsequent editions of the Billie Jean King Cup competition.

11.1.4.3 Prior to or during a Tie, the Referee may (in their absolute discretion) call off a match, Tie and/or Event in accordance with Regulation 29.10.1 and may (in consultation with the ITF) call off a Tie and/or Event in accordance with Regulation 59.

11.1.5 All decisions of the Referee are final.

## **11.2 ITF Event Manager**

11.2.1 The ITF Event Manager is responsible, in conjunction with the Referee (where relevant), for overseeing the day-to-day operational running of the Tie or Event (excluding the Finals Week) in the lead-up to and onsite at the Tie/Event, to verify that it is carried out in accordance with these Regulations, the Hosting Manual and Commercial Letter.

11.2.2 For the Finals Week, the ITF event staff are responsible, in conjunction with the Referee, for overseeing the running of the Event in the lead-up to and onsite at the Event, to verify that all arrangements are carried out in accordance with these Regulations, any Hosting Manual and/or Hosting Agreement.

## **11.3 Official Organiser**

11.3.1 The Official Organiser must arrive onsite on the same day as the Referee (or earlier) and remain onsite for the duration of the Tie.

11.3.2 The Official Organiser is responsible for:

11.3.2.1 the organisation and administration of the venue where the Tie/Event is to be played;

- 11.3.2.2 ensuring that the instructions of the Referee are carried out;
- 11.3.2.3 liaising with the Title Sponsor and International Sponsors to ensure that all applicable commercial requirements are properly addressed;
- 11.3.2.4 liaising with the Security Officer in relation to the security arrangements for the Tie/Event; and
- 11.3.2.5 liaising with the Referee and ITF Event Manager onsite to ensure the smooth running of the Tie/Event.

#### **11.4 Security Officer**

- 11.4.1 The Security Officer is responsible for:
  - 11.4.1.1 the formulation, administration and implementation of a security plan for the Tie/Event and all events and other sites associated with the Tie/Event;
  - 11.4.1.2 meeting the requirements of any Security Guidelines issued by the ITF or the Billie Jean King Cup Committee from time to time;
  - 11.4.1.3 ensuring that the organisation of the Tie/Event complies with all local laws, regulations and guidelines concerning the health, safety, security and welfare of all persons participating in and/or attending the Tie/Event; and
  - 11.4.1.4 liaising with any relevant governmental or quasi-governmental authorities and law enforcement agencies concerning safety and security of all participants and spectators and other attendees in the location of the Tie/Event.
- 11.4.2 The Security Officer may delegate any of the above duties to other suitably qualified persons, provided that the ITF is notified of such delegation.

#### **11.5 Media Manager (if appointed)**

- 11.5.1 For the duration of the Tie, the Media Manager must operate from the media room and be available to answer any media queries (including overseas phone calls) relating to the Tie/Event.

#### **11.6 Visiting Nation Team Host**

- 11.6.1 The Visiting Nation Team Host is responsible for assisting the Visiting Nation as necessary during the Tie/Event.

## **D. ENTERING THE COMPETITION**

### **12. Eligibility of Nations**

#### **12.1 *General requirements***

12.1.1 Subject to Regulation 12.1.2, the Competition is open only to National Associations that are Class B Members of the ITF (as defined in the ITF Constitution).

12.1.2 The Board has granted a dispensation from Regulation 12.1.1 to the group of nations listed below, each of which may compete in the Competition as if it were a Nation:

12.1.2.1 Pacific Oceania (including Players from associate member islands, but excluding players from Australia and New Zealand); and

12.1.2.2 The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), including (for purposes of this Regulation) the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and The Grenadines, British Virgin Islands, Anguilla and Martinique.

#### **12.2 *Eligible Nations that cease to exist***

12.3 If the country or territory of a Nation that would otherwise have been eligible to participate in any part of the Competition is divided into two or more countries or territories, or is absorbed in whole or in part by another country or territory, or otherwise ceases to exist, the Billie Jean King Cup Committee will select another Nation to take the original Nation's place from:

12.3.1 the newly created Nation(s) (if any); or

12.3.2 the Nation(s) that would be selected as replacement Nations following the criteria set out under Regulation 17. If the original Nation is treated as a 'withdrawing' Nation (i.e. the replacement Nation will be selected based on the level of the Competition in which the original Nation would have been eligible to compete in, and the time at which the original Nation ceases to exist).

12.4 The Billie Jean King Cup Committee may make any necessary consequential amendments to the composition of the Finals Week, Qualifiers, Play-offs or the Regional Groups.

12.5 Any newly created Nation that is eligible and enters the Competition but is not selected as the replacement for the original Nation will play in the lowest Group in its Region.

- 12.6 When a country divides into two or more countries or territories or is absorbed in whole or in part by another country or territory, or otherwise ceases to exist, the Billie Jean King Cup Committee shall decide which nation(s) (if any) is entitled to inherit the historical Billie Jean King Cup records for that country that ceases to exist.

### 13. Eligibility of Players and Captains

#### 13.1 *General requirements*

13.1.1 To be eligible to represent a Nation in the Competition, a Player/Captain must:

13.1.1.1 be female (if a Player), including pursuant to the ITF Transgender Policy;

13.1.1.2 have reached her 14<sup>th</sup> birthday by the first day of the Tie (for Qualifier and Play-off Ties) or the Monday of the week of the Event (for the Finals Week and Regional Groups);

13.1.1.3 be in good standing with her National Association, meaning that:

- (a) she is free from a suspension for breach of a code of conduct or other disciplinary regulations, imposed by (i) her National Association, (ii) the ITF, or (iii) by another relevant organisation enforcing a code of conduct that the ITF considers is relevant to her Good Standing;
- (b) she does not have fines of \$500 or more owing to the ITF, having been afforded sufficient time to pay the fine(s);
- (c) both she and the National Association accept that she is under the National Association participating in Ties/Events for which it has nominated her;
- (d) she makes herself available for selection for Official Team Championships and the Olympic Tennis Event;
- (e) she respects the spirit of fair play and non-violence at all times; and
- (f) she agrees to be bound by and to comply with the Rules and Regulations, including (without limitation) agreeing to submit to anti-doping testing in accordance with the Tennis Anti-Doping Programme

and the conditions of entry, including any code of conduct adopted for the Tie/Event and the terms and conditions contained in the IPIN registration system (where an IPIN is held);

- (g) agrees to undergo any medical control and/or other tests which are in operation at any event which she enters;
- (h) Has not been convicted by a competent court of a country of an offence:
  - i. In respect of which an unsuspended sentence of at least 12 months was imposed; or
  - ii. Which involved any act or omission which would reasonably be considered to compromise the integrity of tennis, her National Association, the ITF and/or the safety of those taking part in and/or attending a Tie or Event; and
- (i) Has not otherwise engaged in conduct which brings her National Tennis Association and/or the ITF into disrepute.

(defined collectively as the **Good Standing Criteria**).

- 13.1.1.4 not have represented any other Nation in previous editions of the Billie Jean King Cup competition (other than the Junior Billie Jean King Cup) or in the Olympic Tennis Event. She shall be deemed to have represented another Nation in a previous edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition if that Nation previously nominated her as its captain or as one of its players:
  - (a) for the Finals Week: at midday (local time at the Tie/Event) on the day before the start of the first round-robin match for the Finals Week;
  - (b) for all other Ties/Events: at the time of the Tie Draw or Event Draw; and
- 13.1.1.5 satisfy one of the following conditions in relation to the country/territory of the Nation that she wishes to represent:

- (a) she is a citizen of that nation, currently holds a valid passport of that nation, and has so held for a minimum of two years (24 months) in the past five years;
- (b) she is a citizen of that nation, but (in circumstances where that nation does not issue its own passport) currently holds a qualifying passport (issued by or on behalf of that nation), and has so held for a period of two years (24 months) in the past five years which confirms the player's place of
- (c) after a consecutive period of five years (60 months) of residence in that nation, she can provide a genuine reason for being unable to hold or make an application to hold a current valid passport where:
  - (i) she was born, or has a parent or grandparent who was born in that nation; or
  - (ii) she has obtained or procured the right to remain permanently or has been granted humanitarian protection in that nation.

13.1.2 With regards to the Good Standing requirement at 13.1.1.3:

- 13.1.2.1 A National Association shall make an initial determination of whether a player meets the Good Determination);
- 13.1.2.2 An NA Determination can only be reviewed where:
  - (i) It relates only to Good Standing Criteria (a), (h) or (i);
  - (ii) The player/captain has exhausted any internal National Association appeal mechanisms (if the review is sought by the player/captain); and
  - (iii) The request for a review is lodged no later than 21 days after the party requesting the review receives notice of a final NA Determination.
- 13.1.2.3 A review by a player/captain or the ITF of an NA Determination shall be heard by the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel (IAP).
- 13.1.2.4 The IAP may set aside the NA Determination only where it would be unreasonable in all the circumstances to deny or allow (as applicable) the player/captain eligibility to represent their nation, including but not limited to:



- (i) Where the NA Determination was so unreasonable as to be manifestly excessive or manifestly prejudicial to the player/captain;
- (ii) Whether the proceedings that resulted in the NA Determination were procedurally unfair or contrary to natural justice, having regard to all the circumstances;  
or
- (iii) Where the reputation of the competition or the ITF would suffer serious prejudice if the player/captain were to participate.

13.1.2.5 Any decision of the IAP made in relation to an NA Determination shall be final and binding. For the avoidance of doubt, the IAP shall not act as a further appeal body for, nor have any powers to dismiss or modify any disciplinary suspension or sanction that falls within Good Standing Criteria (a), and appeals against any such decision shall be handled in accordance with the procedural rules applicable to that decision.

### **13.2 Application for special exemption if Player/Captain not otherwise eligible**

13.2.1 If a Player/Captain is not eligible pursuant to Regulation 13.1, a National Association may apply to the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel for permission to nominate that individual on the basis of the full circumstances of their case. An application for exemption from the requirement in Regulation 13.1.1.4 or 13.1.1.5 must demonstrate that the Player/Captain has a sufficient, genuine connection and commitment to life and tennis in the nation that they wish to represent. The complete application and all supporting materials must be received by the ITF at least three months prior to the Tie/Event for which the Nation wishes to nominate the Player/Captain.

### **13.3 Players/Captains eligible to represent more than one Nation**

13.3.1 If a Player/Captain is eligible under Regulation 13.1 or 13.2 to represent more than one Nation, and one of those Nations wishes to nominate that individual to represent it at a Tie/Event, that Nation must submit an application to the ITF no later than three months prior to that Tie/Event. The ITF will forward a copy of the application to the other Nation(s) concerned, which will have 15 days from receipt to comment on the application, should it wish to do so.

13.3.2 The ITF Executive will decide on the application having taken into account all relevant matters. The decision of the ITF Executive may be appealed to the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel, which will consider the matter *de novo*, in accordance with its Procedural Rules. The appeal

must (i) be made in writing, (ii) detail the basis of the appeal, and (iii) be filed with the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel within 14 days of notification of the decision. There is no right of appeal from the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel's decision.

### **13.4 Eligibility of Players/Captains where Nation is divided or absorbed**

#### 13.4.1 Notwithstanding Regulation 13.1.1.4

13.4.1.1 If a Player/Captain has represented or has been eligible to represent a Nation, and the country or territory of that Nation is subsequently divided into two or more countries or territories represented by different Nations, the Player/Captain will be required to submit to the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel, proof of residence and/or proof of familial connection to the Nation that she wishes to represent in the Competition (being of the two or more new countries or territories). The Internal Adjudication Panel shall determine, to its reasonable satisfaction, whether the Player/Captain has demonstrated a genuine connection to her nominated nation to determine her eligible to compete for that nation in the Competition.

13.4.1.2 If a Player/Captain has represented or has been eligible to represent a Nation, and the country or territory of that Nation is absorbed in whole or in part by the country or territory of another Nation, she will immediately be eligible to represent that other Nation.

13.4.2 Once a Player/Captain is determined eligible under Regulation 13.4.1 (or its comparable predecessor) to represent a newly formed nation, and then plays for that newly formed nation, any subsequent application to represent a Nation must be made under Regulation 13.2.

### **13.5 Request for evidence of eligibility**

13.5.1 A Nation must only select Players and a Captain who are eligible to represent it in the Competition. Upon request by the ITF, a Nation must produce evidence to show that a Player/Captain is eligible to represent it.

### **13.6 No right to participate**

13.6.1 No person is entitled as of right to participate in the Competition, even if they are otherwise eligible to do so. Notwithstanding any other provision in the Regulations, the ITF has the absolute right to refuse a Nation's nomination of any Player and/or Captain, and to refuse to permit any of the Nation's other Team Members to participate in the

Competition. The ITF may exercise that right as it sees fit, with or without providing reasons.

#### **14. Entries**

- 14.1 To participate in the Competition, an eligible Nation must submit an entry form by no later than the Entry Deadline and pay the applicable entry fee set out in the relevant Financial Letter by the deadline specified by the ITF.
- 14.2 The entry of any Nation may be refused or revoked by the Members at an Annual General Meeting if in the opinion of at least three-quarters of those Members present and voting at the Annual General Meeting the participation of said Nation may result in the Competition being brought into disrepute. If, due to timing, the Members are unable to consider any issue relating to the refusal or revocation of a Nation's entry at the Annual General Meeting, the powers conferred on the Members under this Regulation may be exercised by the Board, provided that at least nine members of the Board are present at the relevant meeting and at least two-thirds of those present and voting cast their vote in favour of the refusal or revocation.

#### **15. Insurance policies required of all Nations**

- 15.1 As a condition of entry in the Competition, each Nation must take out and maintain at its own expense:
- 15.1.1 suitable travel, medical, and personal accident (including repatriation) insurance for each of its Team Members covering the period of their travel to/from and participation in the Competition; and
- 15.1.2 suitable event cancellation and abandonment insurance covering all reasonably known financial risks arising from the rescheduling, cancellation and/or abandonment in whole or in part of a match, Tie and/or Event due to force majeure.
- 15.2 Upon request by the ITF, the Nation must provide a copy of the above insurance policies to the ITF.

### **E. ABSENCES FROM THE COMPETITION**

#### **16. Withdrawals**

- 16.1 A Nation may not withdraw from the Competition after its entry is accepted by the ITF.

#### **17. Replacements in the Competition**

- 17.1 If an eligible Nation:
- 17.1.1 does not enter the Competition;

17.1.2 withdraws from the Competition, is determined to be in a different level of the Competition than the Qualifiers, or is determined to be ineligible to participate in the Competition prior to the Qualifiers Draw (in the case of any Nation that would otherwise have participated in the Qualifiers, or is already qualified for the Finals Week); or

17.1.3 withdraws from the Competition, is determined to be participating in a different level of the Competition than it would otherwise have been eligible for, or is determined to be ineligible to participate in the Competition prior to the scheduled final day of the Qualifiers, (in the case of any Nation not participating in the Qualifiers or not already qualified for the Finals Week);

then the Billie Jean King Cup Committee (in agreement with BJCKL if the relevant Nation is the Finals Host Nation or a Wild Card) will select another Nation to take its place according to the table below (depending on the level of the Competition in which the non-entering/withdrawing Nation was going to participate):

Relevant Nation	Replacement Nation to be (or to be selected from):
Two Nations qualified for Finals Week (without having to participate in the Qualifiers)	Billie Jean King Cup Committee discretion
Qualifiers	<p>a) If the relevant nation was seeded, it will be replaced by the highest ranked Nation from the <u>eight</u> unseeded Nations competing in the Qualifiers, using the most recent Billie Jean King Cup Nations Rankings, and that unseeded nation will then be replaced by the highest ranked Nation that lost its Play-off Tie in the previous edition of the competition using the most recent Billie Jean King Cup Nations Rankings.</p> <p>b) If the relevant nation was not seeded it will be replaced by the highest ranked Nation that lost its Play-off Tie in the previous edition of the competition using the most recent Billie Jean King Cup Nations Rankings.</p>
Play-offs	If the relevant Nation gained its place in the Play-offs by gaining promotion from Group I it will be replaced by the next highest ranked Nation from the withdrawing Nation's Region in Group I using the most recent Billie Jean King Cup Nations Ranking.

	If the relevant Nation gained its place in the Play-offs by losing its Qualifier Tie it will be replaced by the next-highest ranked Nation from any Region using the most recent Billie Jean King Cup Nations Ranking.
<u>Wild Card or Finals Host Nation</u>	Any Nation entered in the Competition, provided that it meets the Wild Card criteria set out at Regulation 22.3.1
Regional Groups	Withdrawals from Regional Groups will be dealt in accordance with the provisions on the composition of Regional Groups in Regulation 23.3

17.2 If a Nation withdraws from the Competition, is determined to be participating in a different level of the Competition than it would otherwise have been eligible for, or is determined to be ineligible to participate in the Competition after the applicable deadline in Regulation 17.1, then the Billie Jean King Cup Committee (in agreement with BJCKL if the relevant Nation is the Finals Host Nation or a Wild Card) will determine the replacement Nation (if any) in accordance with the table below, unless the Billie Jean King Cup Committee determines that it is not practicable to fill that place:

<b>Time</b>	<b>Replacement Nation (if any):</b>
<b>Qualifier Nations</b>	
After the Qualifiers Draw, but prior to the Qualifiers	Billie Jean King Cup Committee discretion
<b>Finals Week Nations (excluding Wild Card and Host Nation)</b>	
Prior to the Qualifiers (for the two Nations qualified for Finals Week without having to participate in the Qualifiers)	Billie Jean King Cup Committee discretion
After the Qualifiers, but prior to the Finals Week	Billie Jean King Cup Committee discretion
During the Finals Week	The relevant Nation will not be replaced. It will be defaulted and each

	remaining Tie will count as a straight loss with score to be recorded as 6-0, 6-0. See also Regulation 61.
<b>Wild Card or Finals Host Nation</b>	
After the Qualifiers Draw or the Qualifiers	Any Nation entered in the Competition, provided that it meets the Wild Card criteria set out at Regulation 22.3.1.
During the Finals Week	The relevant Nation will not be replaced. It will be defaulted and each remaining Tie will count as a straight loss with score to be recorded as 6-0, 6-0. See also Regulation 60.
<b>Play-offs</b>	
After the Qualifiers	Billie Jean King Cup Committee discretion
<b>Groups I, II, III and IV</b>	
After the Qualifiers Draw	No replacement

- 17.3 When the Billie Jean King Cup Committee has discretion under Regulation 17.1 or 17.2 on the replacement Nation, it will take into account all relevant factors including (but not limited to) the timing of the replacement, the most recent Nations Rankings, results of most recent rounds, ensuring the replacement does not compromise the format of the Competition, and any other relevant factor.
- 17.4 If the withdrawing Nation would (but for its withdrawal) have been the Home Nation in a Home & Away Tie, the Billie Jean King Cup Committee has discretion to determine which Nation will be designated as the Home Nation for that Tie (i.e. either the Nation selected to replace the withdrawing Home Nation or the Visiting Nation), depending on the circumstances and the timing of the withdrawal.
- 17.5 The Billie Jean King Cup Committee may make any necessary consequential amendments to the composition of the Regional Groups (save that those consequential amendments will not trigger the application of Regulation 17.1 or 17.2).

## **18. Consequences to Nations that do not enter or withdraw from the Competition**

- 18.1 Any Nation that does not enter or withdraws from the Competition by the relevant deadline in Regulation 17.1, or whose entry is revoked, will be required to play in the lowest Group of its Region in the next edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition that it enters, unless the Billie Jean King Cup Committee waives this requirement based on exceptional circumstances (for example, where the withdrawal was the result of force majeure).
- 18.2 Any Nation that withdraws from the Competition after the relevant deadline in Regulation 17.1:
- 18.2.1 will not be eligible to participate in any other level of the Competition unless decided otherwise by the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel;
  - 18.2.2 will not be eligible to take part in the next edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition, unless decided otherwise by the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel (and in either case the next time the Nation participates the Nation will be required to play in the Group determined by the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel in consultation with the Billie Jean King Cup Committee); and/or
  - 18.2.3 may be subject to the following penalties imposed by the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel:
    - 18.2.3.1 a fine; and/or
    - 18.2.3.2 if the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel applies the exception under Regulation 18.2.2 to a Finals Week Nation, then it may relegate that Nation to the Regional Groups for the next edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition.
- 18.3 This Regulation 18 applies in addition to the consequences set out for a no-show under Regulation 61.

## **F. COMPETITION DATES AND FORMAT**

### **19. Competition dates**

- 19.1 The Billie Jean King Cup Committee will decide on and will notify the participating Nations of the dates for all Ties/Events in the Competition.
- 19.2 Unless decided otherwise by the Billie Jean King Cup Committee, the different Competition levels will each be played during designated weeks. The Qualifiers and Group I Events will be played first, followed by the Play-offs and the Finals Week. The remaining Regional Group Events may be played during any of the designated weeks.

## **20. Qualifiers**

### **20.1 Composition**

20.1.1 Subject to Regulation 22.3, the Nations participating in the Qualifiers will be:

20.1.1.1 the ten Nations from the Finals Week of the previous edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition that did not progress to the Final; and

20.1.1.2 the eight Nations that won their Play-Off ties in the previous edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition.

20.1.2 The Wild Card and Host Nation will not take part in the Qualifiers.

### **20.2 Format of play**

20.2.1 The Qualifiers will consist of one knock-out round of eight Home & Away Ties played between 16 Nations (each Nation playing one Tie). Ties must be played over two consecutive days, being the Friday and Saturday of the designated week, unless otherwise approved by the Billie Jean King Cup Committee.

20.2.2 Each Tie will consist of four singles matches and one doubles match. Each match (singles and doubles) will be played to the best of three tie-break sets, and all matches will be played with regular Ad scoring.

### **20.3 Qualifiers Draw**

20.3.0 The Billie Jean King Cup Committee will complete the Qualifiers Draw for the Qualifiers no later than the Qualifiers Draw Deadline. Choice of Ground for the Qualifier Ties will be determined at the same time as the Qualifiers Draw. A representative from each participating Nation may be present at the Qualifying Draw.

20.3.1 If two Nations have previously been drawn to meet each other in two successive editions of the Billie Jean King Cup competition in any knock-out Home & Away draw (i.e. excluding the Semi-Finals and Final in the Finals Week) they will be drawn in different halves of the Qualifiers Draw.

### **20.4 Seeding**

20.4.1 The eight highest ranked Nations according to the most recent Billie Jean King Cup Nations Rankings at the time of the Qualifiers Draw shall be seeded.



- 20.4.2 Seeds will be placed consecutively on each line, e.g. seed 1 on line 1; seed 2 on line 2; seed 3 on line 3 etc. The unseeded Nations will then be randomly drawn to play the seeded Nations.

## **20.5 Qualifier results**

- 20.5.1 The eight Nations that win their Qualifier Ties will qualify for the Finals.
- 20.5.2 The eight Nations that lose their Qualifier Ties will play in the Play-offs (according to the provisions on the composition of the Play-offs set out at Regulation 21.1).

## **21. Play-offs**

### **21.1 Composition**

- 21.1.1 Subject to Regulation 22.3, the Nations participating in the Play-offs will be:
- 21.1.1.1 the eight Nations that lost their Qualifier Ties in that edition of the Competition; and
  - 21.1.1.2 the eight Nations that qualify from the Group I Events in that edition of the Competition.

### **21.2 Format of Play**

- 21.2.1 The Play-offs will consist of one knock-out round of eight Home & Away Ties played between 16 Nations (each Nation playing one Tie). Ties must be played over two consecutive days, being the Friday and Saturday or the Saturday and Sunday of the designated week, at the election of the Home Nation. The Home Nation must confirm the days of play no later than the Questionnaire Deadline. If the Home Nation does not confirm by this deadline, the Tie must be played on Friday and Saturday, unless otherwise agreed by the Billie Jean King Cup Committee. If a WTA 250-level tournament or higher is held in the week immediately following the Play-offs, Ties must be played on the Friday and Saturday of the designated week.
- 21.2.2 Each Tie will consist of four singles matches and one doubles match. Each match (singles and doubles) will be played to the best of three tie-break sets, and all matches will be played with regular Ad scoring.

### **21.3 Play-off draw**

- 21.3.1 The Billie Jean King Cup Committee will complete the Play-off Draw no later than the Play-off Draw Deadline. Choice of Ground for the Play-off Ties will be determined at the same time as the Play-off Draw. A representative from each participating Nation may be present at the Play-off Draw.

- 21.3.2 If two Nations have previously been drawn to meet each other in two successive editions of the Billie Jean King Cup competition in any knock-out Home & Away draw (i.e. excluding the Semi-Finals and Final in the Finals Week) they will be drawn in different halves of the Play-off Draw.

#### **21.4 Seeding**

- 21.4.1 The eight highest ranked Nations according to the most recent Billie Jean King Cup Nations Ranking at the time of the Draw shall be seeded.
- 21.4.2 Seeds will be placed consecutively on each line, e.g. seed 1 on line 1; seed 2 on line 2; seed 3 on line 3 etc. The unseeded Nations will then be randomly drawn to play the seeded Nations.

#### **21.5 Play-off results**

- 21.5.1 The eight Nations that win their Play-off Tie will qualify for the Qualifiers in the next edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition.
- 21.5.2 The eight Nations that lose their Play-off Tie will participate in their respective Group I event in the next edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition.

### **22. Finals Week**

#### **22.1 Composition**

- 22.1.1 The 12 Nations participating in the Finals will be:
- 22.1.1.1 the two Nations that participated in the Final in the previous Billie Jean King Cup competition;
  - 22.1.1.2 the eight Nations that win their Qualifier Ties in the Competition;
  - 22.1.1.3 one Wild Card; and
  - 22.1.1.4 the Host Nation.

#### **22.2 Format of play**

- 22.2.1 The Finals Week will consist of the following rounds (in the following order):
- 22.2.1.1 a Finals Round Robin of 12 Nations, split into four round robin groups with three Nations in each;
  - 22.2.1.2 two Finals Week Knock-Out Rounds, including:

- (a) a Semi-Final round contested by the four Nations that win their respective round robin group; and
- (b) a Final contested by the two Nations that win the Semi-Finals.

22.2.2 Each Tie in the Finals Week will consist of two singles matches and one doubles match, all played on one day.

22.2.2.1 Each singles match in the Finals Week will be played to the best of three tie-break sets with regular Ad scoring.

22.2.2.2 Each doubles match in the Finals Week will be played to the best of three sets with No-Ad scoring and the third set shall be played as a match tie-break (10 points).

### **22.3 Wild Card**

22.3.1 The ITF, in consultation with the Billie Jean King Cup Committee and the LOC will select one Wild Card from any of the Nations entered in the Competition that placed 3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> or that won its Play-off Tie in the previous edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition and which meets one or more of the following criteria:

22.3.1.1 the Nation has a Billie Jean King Cup Nation's Ranking or above at the time of selection; and/or

22.3.1.2 one or more of the Nation's Players is ranked in the top 10 of WTA singles players in the WTA rankings published at the end of the previous year.

22.3.2 Once a Wild Card is named it will not play in any other level of the Competition, and will participate in the Finals Week only.

### **22.4 Seeding**

22.4.1 Four Nations will be seeded for the Finals Week. Seeds 1 and 2 will be the winner and the runner-up respectively of the previous edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition and will be seeded in accordance with the Billie Jean King Cup Nations Ranking published immediately following the Qualifiers. Seeds 3-4 will be determined in accordance with the Billie Jean King Cup Nations Ranking published immediately following the Qualifiers.

### **22.5 Round Robin Draw**

22.5.1 The Round Robin Draw will take place no later than seven days after the completion of the Qualifiers, in order to determine the round robin groups.

- 22.5.2 The round robin groups will be drawn as follows:
- 22.5.2.1 Seeds 1-4 will be placed in round robin groups A-D, respectively (with Seed 1 being placed in group A);
  - 22.5.2.2 The remaining Nations will be ranked from 5 to 12 in accordance with the most recent Billie Jean King Cup Nations Ranking;
  - 22.5.2.3 Nations ranked from 5 to 8 will be drawn randomly into round robin groups A-D, taking position two in such group; and
  - 22.5.2.4 Nations ranked from 9 to 12 will be drawn randomly into round robin groups A-D, taking position three in such group.

## **22.6 *Semi-Finals Draw***

- 22.6.1 The Semi-Finals Draw will take place at the same time as the Round Robin Draw.
- 22.6.2 The Semi-Finals Draw will consist of the four winners of the Round Robin groups (determined in accordance with the count-back calculation at Regulation 58.3).
- 22.6.3 Nations that qualify for the Semi-Finals will be drawn and placed as follows:
- 22.6.3.1 the winner of round robin group A will be placed on line 1;
  - 22.6.3.2 the winner of round robin group B will be placed on line 4; and
  - 22.6.3.3 the winners of round robin groups C and D will be drawn randomly onto lines 2 and 3.

## **22.7 *Promotion and relegation***

- 22.7.1 Subject always to Regulation 2.4:
- 22.7.1.1 The two Nations that reach the Final will automatically be entitled to participate in the Finals Week of the next edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition.
  - 22.7.1.2 The other Nations in the Finals Week (i.e. those that finish in places 3-12) will be entitled to participate in the Qualifiers round of the next edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition (unless selected as a Wild Card or Host Nation pursuant to Regulation 22.1.1.3).

## **23. Regional Groups I, II, III and IV**

- 23.1 There will be four Regional Groups (I-IV) in the Competition. Group I shall be the highest of the four levels followed by Regional Groups II, III and IV. The ITF may add further Group levels (e.g. Group V) if necessary to accommodate the number of Nations entered in the Competition.
- 23.2 Each Group is split into three geographical Regions: (i) Europe/Africa (which may be further subdivided into the Europe Region and Africa Region), (ii) the Americas, and (iii) Asia/Oceania. Nations in the Europe/Africa Group or the Asia/Oceania Group will play Ties against the other Nations in that group that are in their geographical Region.

### **23.3 Composition**

- 23.3.1 The composition of Groups I, II, III and IV and the Ties to be played in each Group will be determined by the Billie Jean King Cup Committee as soon as reasonably practical following completion of Play-off and Group Ties of the previous year.
- 23.3.2 Notwithstanding Regulation 23.3.3 below, the Billie Jean King Cup Committee may make necessary adjustments to the size of each Group Event by moving Nations between the levels.
- 23.3.3 The Billie Jean King Cup Committee will determine the total number of Nations that will play in each Group taking into account the number of Nations that can practically compete in one Regional Group Event. Once the Billie Jean King Cup Committee has determined the size of Group I, the composition will be as determined below.
- 23.3.3.1 Group I in Americas, Asia/Oceania and Europe/Africa will consist of:
- (a) the Nations relegated from the Play-offs in the previous edition of the previous edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition;
  - (b) the Nations that advance from Group II in the previous edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition; and
  - (c) the Nations that did not advance or were not relegated from Group I in the previous edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition.
- 23.3.3.2 Group II in Americas, Asia/Oceania and Europe/Africa will consist of:
- (a) the Nations relegated from the respective Group I in the previous edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition;

- (b) the Nations that advance from Group III in the previous edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition; and
- (c) the Nations that did not advance or were not relegated from the respective Group II in the previous edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition.

23.3.3.3 Group III in Americas, Asia/Oceania and Europe will have a variable number of Nations consisting of:

- (a) the Nations relegated from the respective Group II in the Competition;
- (b) the Nations that did not advance or were not relegated from the respective Group III in the previous edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition;
- (c) any Nation in these regions entering the Competition that are not otherwise qualified (or selected) to participate in higher levels of the Competition;
- (d) any Nation in these regions entering the Billie Jean King Cup competition for the first time; and
- (e) any Nation in these regions that did not compete in the previous edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition.

23.3.3.4 Group IV in Africa will have a variable number of Nations consisting of:

- (a) the Nations relegated from the respective Group III in the Competition;
- (b) the Nations that did not advance or were not relegated from the respective Group IV in the previous edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition;
- (c) any Nation in this region entering the Competition that are not otherwise qualified (or selected) to participate in higher levels of the Competition;
- (d) any Nation in this region entering the Billie Jean King Cup competition for the first time; and
- (e) any Nation in this region that did not compete in the previous edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition.

## **23.4 Format of play**

- 23.4.1 Each Event must be played over a maximum of seven days at one or more venues, as determined by the Billie Jean King Cup Committee, depending on the number of Nations in the group. The Billie Jean King Cup Committee will decide the venue(s) and the dates for the various groups. Each Event will be played on a Round Robin and/or Knock-Out format as decided by the Billie Jean King Cup Committee.
- 23.4.2 If an Event is to be played at two or more locations, the ITF shall conduct a Round Robin location draw to determine which Nations will play at each location. The ITF will conduct the Round Robin location draw no later than ten weeks before the Event.
- 23.4.3 Each Tie in the round robin will consist of two singles matches and one doubles match played in one day. Each singles match will be played to the best of three tie-break sets. Each doubles match will be played to the best of three sets with No-Ad scoring and the third set shall be played as a match tie-break (10 points).

## **23.5 Seeding**

- 23.5.1 Seeding will be determined in accordance with the most recent Billie Jean King Cup Nations Ranking at the time of the respective Group Draw.

## **23.6 Group Draws**

- 23.6.1 The Group Draws will take place on the day prior to the start of the Event unless otherwise decided by the ITF.
- 23.6.2 If a Group Event is to be played at:
- 23.6.2.1 one location, then there will be one draw for each Event; or
  - 23.6.2.2 more than one location, then for each Event there will be a (i) a pre-draw to determine which Nations will play at each location, no later than ten weeks before the Event, and (ii) a draw at each location to determine the round robin groups.
- 23.6.3 Each Group Event location will be split into round robin groups. If there are eight Nations playing at one location, those Nations will be divided into two groups of four Nations. For any other number of Nations at one location, the Billie Jean King Cup Committee will decide on the number of groups, and how many Nations will be in each one.
- 23.6.4 When drawing the Nations into two round robin groups, the highest seeded Nation will be placed in one group and the second seeded Nation will be placed in the other group. If there are round robin groups

with different numbers of Nations, the highest seeded Nation(s) will be placed in the group(s) with the least number of Nations.

- 23.6.5 Thereafter the remaining Nations will be drawn in pairs according to their Billie Jean King Cup Nations Rankings. When there is an odd number of Nations remaining, the last three Nations will be drawn together. The same principles will be applied if there are more than two round robin groups.

### **23.7 Promotion and relegation**

- 23.7.1 Subject always to Regulation 2.4, and any necessary adjustments to the Regional Groups made by the Billie Jean King Cup Committee.

#### 23.7.1.1 Group I – Promotion

- (a) Eight (8) Nations will advance from the Group I Events to the Play-offs. Four (4) Nations will qualify from the Europe/Africa region and two (2) Nations will qualify from each of the Americas and Asia/Oceania regions unless the Billie Jean King Cup Committee decides otherwise. If the Billie Jean King Cup Committee so decides, such decision shall take into account the number of entries in each region, the results of Nations (and their players) in that region, and any other factors that the Billie Jean King Cup Committee considers relevant to its assessment.

#### 23.7.1.2 Group I – Relegation

- (a) Six (6) Nations (two (2) Nations from each region) will be relegated from the Group I Events to Group II.

#### 23.7.1.3 Group II, III and IV – Promotion and Relegation

- (a) As determined by the Billie Jean King Cup Committee, Nations will be promoted and/or relegated based on the number of Nations participating.

### **24. Billie Jean King Cup Nations Ranking**

- 24.1 Nations will start the Competition with their year-end Billie Jean King Cup Nations Ranking from the previous edition of the competition. The ranking points attributable to each edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition will be determined by the Billie Jean King Cup Committee. The process for determining Nations' rankings is set out on the Billie Jean King Cup website at [www.billiejeankingcup.com/en/rankings/rankings-explained.aspx](http://www.billiejeankingcup.com/en/rankings/rankings-explained.aspx)



## G. ORGANISATION OF TIES/EVENTS

### 25. General hosting requirements

25.1 Ties/Events must be organised in accordance with the Rules and Regulations, including the Hosting Manual, the Commercial Letter applicable to the relevant level of Competition, and the Financial Letter, and any other hosting requirements issued by the ITF.

### 26. Organising body

#### 26.1 *Finals Week*

26.1.1 The ITF is responsible for organising the Finals Week. The ITF may delegate some or all of that responsibility to a third party.

26.1.2 The requirements for the organisation of the Finals Week will be set out in a contract between the ITF and any third party to whom the responsibility for organising has been delegated.

#### 26.2 *Qualifiers and Play-offs*

26.2.1 The organisation of Qualifier Ties and Play-off Ties are the responsibility of the Nation competing in the Tie that is designated as the 'Home Nation', unless Regulation 28.2.5.2 applies (in which case the Billie Jean King Cup Committee will specify which of the competing Nations is responsible for organising the Tie). The Choice of Ground provisions set out in Regulation 28.2.1 will determine how the Home Nation is selected.

#### 26.3 *Groups I, II, III and IV*

26.3.1 The organisation of Regional Group Events is the responsibility of the relevant Host Nation. Any Nation in the Groups may apply to host a Group Event, by submitting an Application to Host Form to the ITF by no later than the Host Application Deadline.

### 27. Approval of arrangements

#### 27.1 *Home Nation Questionnaire (Qualifiers and Play-offs)*

27.1.1 Once a Home Nation knows that it will be hosting a Tie, it must provide the ITF with a duly completed Questionnaire, setting out the Home Nation's proposed arrangements for the Tie, by the applicable deadline set out in the table below (the **Questionnaire Deadline**).

<b>Qualifiers</b>	60 days after the Qualifiers Draw
<b>Play-off ties</b>	60 days after the Play-off Draw.

- 27.1.2 A Nation may not publicly disclose any details set out in its Questionnaire until the Questionnaire has been approved by the ITF or until the ITF has given its consent for the Nation to do so.

## **27.2 Application to Host Form (Regional Groups)**

- 27.2.1 The ITF will publish Hosting Requirements for Regional Group Events. The Host Nation must confirm that it will comply with those requirements, and set out any further proposed arrangements for the Event, in an Application to Host Form, which must be submitted to the ITF by the Host Application Deadline.
- 27.2.2 A Nation may not publicly disclose any details set out in its Application to Host Form until the application has been approved by the ITF or until the ITF has given its consent to do so.

## **27.3 Billie Jean King Cup Committee approval**

- 27.3.1 The arrangements for hosting and organising Ties/Events are subject to approval by the Billie Jean King Cup Committee. The Billie Jean King Cup Committee may reject any proposed arrangements for a Tie/Event that do not comply with the Rules and Regulations. The Billie Jean King Cup Committee may also grant exemptions from the applicable hosting requirements where it is satisfied that suitable alternative arrangements can be made that will not prejudice the Competition.
- 27.3.2 Once arrangements for a Tie/Event have been approved by the Billie Jean King Cup Committee, a Nation must consult the ITF as soon as reasonably practicable if it has any concerns about its ability to deliver those arrangements. Changes to approved arrangements may only be made with the agreement of the Billie Jean King Cup Committee and only under justified circumstances.
- 27.3.3 The Billie Jean King Cup Committee may delegate its approval power under this Regulation 27.3 to the ITF Executive. If a Nation participating in a Tie/Event disputes a decision made by the ITF Executive in relation to the arrangements for that Tie/Event, it may request that the decision be reviewed by the Billie Jean King Cup Committee.

## **27.4 Power to intervene in the organisation of a Tie/Event**

- 27.4.1 The Billie Jean King Cup Committee may intervene at any time in the organisation of a Tie/Event if it considers that the conditions for or the circumstances surrounding the Tie/Event (including, without limitation, the climate and/or other playing conditions, such as the surface of the courts and/or balls) or local organisation do not or are unlikely to meet at all times the high standards of the Billie Jean King Cup competition.

27.4.2 In the event that a Nation fails to comply with any hosting requirements set out in the Rules and Regulations, the Billie Jean King Cup Committee may (without prejudice to the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel's general sanctioning powers) relocate that Tie/Event.

## **28. Venues**

### **28.1 Finals Week**

28.1.1 The Finals Week will be held at one or more fixed location(s) decided in consultation with the Final Week Organiser, if any, and published by the ITF.

### **28.2 Qualifiers and Play-offs (Choice of Ground)**

28.2.1 The venue for Qualifier Ties and Play-off Ties is determined by the Nation that has Choice of Ground (save if Regulation 28.2.5.2 applies). Choice of Ground will be determined in the following sequence:

28.2.1.1 If the Nations have played each other in one or more previous editions of the Billie Jean King Cup competition, the Nation that did not have the choice in their most recent meeting will have choice in the Competition. Ties played (i) prior to 1995, (ii) in the Finals Week, and (iii) in Groups I and below do not count for these purposes.

28.2.1.2 If the most recent Tie between the Nations was not played for any reason, the Billie Jean King Cup Committee shall decide the Choice of Ground taking into account any relevant factors.

28.2.1.3 If Regulations 28.2.1.1 and 28.2.1.2 do not apply, Choice of Ground will be decided by lot.

28.2.2 A Nation with Choice of Ground must choose a location:

28.2.2.1 within its own country or territory; or

28.2.2.2 within an overseas territory or associated state of its own country or territory, provided that any Member for that territory or state (even if not participating in the Competition) and the Billie Jean King Cup Committee agree; or

28.2.2.3 on a Neutral Ground, provided that the Billie Jean King Cup Committee agrees; or

28.2.2.4 in the country or territory of the opposing Nation, provided that the opposing Nation and the Billie Jean King Cup Committee agree.

28.2.3 Applications to hold a Tie under Regulation 28.2.2.3 or 28.2.2.4 must reach the ITF as soon as practicable after the Qualifiers Draw (as applicable) and no later than the Questionnaire Deadline.

28.2.4 A Nation with Choice of Ground that chooses to play:

28.2.4.1 on a Neutral Ground will be considered the Home Nation for the purposes of the conduct and financial arrangements of the Tie;

28.2.4.2 in the country or territory of the opposing Nation will be considered the Visiting Nation for the purposes of the conduct and financial arrangements of the Tie;

and in both cases the Nation that so chooses will be considered to have exercised its Choice of Ground (for purposes of future application of regulations equivalent to Regulation 28.2.1.1).

28.2.5 A Nation with Choice of Ground may lose its choice at any time if the Billie Jean King Cup Committee considers that it is not possible or practicable for the opposing Nation to reach or play at the venue chosen for the Tie, due to (for example) an incident such as war, political unrest, terrorism or natural disaster. In such cases:

28.2.5.1 The Nation with Choice of Ground may choose to play on a Neutral Ground, subject to the Billie Jean King Cup Committee's approval and provided that the ITF receives a completed Questionnaire from the Nation no later than five working days after the Nation receives the Billie Jean King Cup Committee's decision under Regulation 28.2.5. If the application to play on a Neutral Ground is accepted, the Nation with Choice of Ground will be considered the Home Nation for the purposes of the conduct and financial arrangements of the Tie, and will be considered to have exercised its Choice of Ground for purposes of future application of regulations equivalent to Regulation 28.2.1.1.

28.2.5.2 If the Nation does not exercise the choice given to it under Regulation 28.2.5.1 the Billie Jean King Cup Committee may decide that the Tie will be held on a Neutral Ground or in the country or territory of the opposing Nation. The agreement of the opposing Nation is not required in either scenario.

(a) If the Billie Jean King Cup Committee's decision is to hold the Tie on a Neutral Ground, both Nations will be considered Visiting Nations for the purposes of the conduct and financial arrangements of the Tie. On the next occasion the two Nations meet, the Choice of

Ground will be with the Nation that lost its choice for the above reasons.

- (b) If the Billie Jean King Cup Committee's decision is made in the country or territory of the opposing Nation, the Nation with Choice of Ground will be considered the Visiting Nation (and the opposing Nation will be considered the Home Nation) for the purposes of the conduct and financial arrangements of the Tie. Subject always to Regulation 2.4, on the next two occasions the two Nations meet, the Choice of Ground will be with the Nation that lost its choice for the above reasons.

28.2.5.3 In exceptional circumstances, the Billie Jean King Cup Committee may decide to postpone the Tie so that it may be played at the venue selected by the Nation with Choice of Ground.

28.2.6 The Home Nation has the right to choose the ball and court surface for the Tie. If both Nations are considered Visiting Nations under Regulation 28.2.5.2(a), the Billie Jean King Cup Committee will choose the ball and court surface for the Tie.

28.2.7 Decisions made by the Billie Jean King Cup Committee under Regulation 28.2.5 may be appealed by the Nation(s) concerned to the Independent Tribunal, sitting as an appeal body, in accordance with its procedural rules, save that the appeal under this Regulation shall not take the form of a *de novo* review, but instead shall be limited to a consideration of whether the decision being appealed was erroneous.

### **28.3 Regional Groups**

28.3.1 In selecting one or more venues proposed by a Host Nation in its Application to Host Form, the Billie Jean King Cup Committee will consider:

28.3.1.1 the number of courts, facilities, and officials available;

28.3.1.2 the availability and cost of hotel accommodation;

28.3.1.3 the Host Nation's previous experience in organising international tennis events, if any;

28.3.1.4 airport accessibility; and/or

28.3.1.5 any other factors that it considers relevant to the successful organisation of the Event.

- 28.3.2 The Billie Jean King Cup Committee may change the selected venue for the Regional Group Events at any time in the event of an incident such as war, political unrest, terrorism or natural disaster. In exceptional circumstances, the Billie Jean King Cup Committee may postpone the Event. Decisions made by the Billie Jean King Cup Committee under this Regulation may be appealed by the Host Nation(s) concerned to the Independent Tribunal, sitting as an appeal body, in accordance with its procedural rules, save that the appeal under this Regulation shall not take the form of a *de novo* review, but instead shall be limited to a consideration of whether the decision being appealed was erroneous.

#### **28.4 Minimum requirements for venues**

- 28.4.1 The Home/Host Nation must ensure that during the period of the Tie/Event no other tennis event is taking place at the venue selected for the Tie/Event.
- 28.4.2 Unless specified otherwise, the requirements below apply to Home Nations only. Regulations 28.4.2.6 and 28.4.2.7 apply also to Host Nations.
- 28.4.2.1 **Location.** Qualifier and Play-off Ties must be held in a major city or heavily populated area of the country or territory of the Home Nation.
- 28.4.2.2 **Airport.** The airport must either be an international airport or capable of easy connection to an international airport by a regularly scheduled large commercial jet aircraft and must be easily accessible from the city where the Tie is held.
- 28.4.2.3 **Accommodation.** There must be sufficient hotel accommodation of the highest category available to accommodate Officials and members/representatives of the participating Nations, Title Sponsors, International Sponsors, and media.
- 28.4.2.4 **Stadium.** The stadium must be within reasonable distance of the Tie hotels (maximum 45 minutes by car).
- 28.4.2.5 **Minimum seating capacity.** The stadium of any Qualifier or Play-off Tie must have a minimum of 4,000 seats unless otherwise approved by the ITF.
- 28.4.2.6 **Transportation.** An efficient transportation system must be provided to and from the airport and between the Tie hotels and venue, as set out in the Hosting Manual.
- 28.4.2.7 **Facilities.** The stadium and venue must have appropriate onsite facilities, as set out in the Hosting Manual.

## 29. Courts

### 29.1 Surface of courts

- 29.1.1 The ITF will determine the surface type of the courts to be used in the Competition. Subject to Regulation 29.1.3, the surface type of the courts to be used in the Competition must be acrylic, asphalt, carpet, clay, hybrid clay, artificial clay, concrete, grass or artificial grass (as defined in the current version of the "ITF surfaces & recognised courts: a guide to A Tie/Event may not be played on any other surface type except by mutual agreement between the two Nations competing in the Tie and subject to the approval of the Billie Jean King Cup Committee.
- 29.1.2 Unless otherwise approved by the Billie Jean King Cup Committee, for all Ties and Events in the Competition, the court surface must be of a type used in a Grand Slam tournament or in a minimum of three WTA Tour tournaments (each at a level of WTA 250 or higher) held in the year prior to the Tie.
- 29.1.3 For all Ties in the Finals Week, Qualifiers, and Play-offs that are played on hard courts, the court surface must be an ITF classified surface product listed in the *ITF Approved Tennis Balls, Classified Surfaces & Recognised Courts*. For all Regional Group Events it is recommended that the court surface be an ITF classified surface product.
- 29.1.4 Temporary surfaces:
- 29.1.4.1 In the event that a Home/Host Nation proposes to play a Tie on any court surface laid on a temporary basis, the Home/Host Nation must notify the ITF and the Visiting Nation/participating Nation(s) of such proposal no more than seven days after the Questionnaire Deadline or Host Application Deadline (as applicable). Such notification must include the name of the proposed court installer and must provide sufficient detail as to the proposed surface type, its component and the method of installation and construction.
- 29.1.4.2 The ITF will confirm in writing to the Home/Host Nation whether or not it approves the proposed temporary surface and court installer. If the ITF does not approve the temporary surface and/or court installer, the Home/Host Nation and/or the proposed court installer may appeal the ITF's decision to the Billie Jean King Cup Committee. The Billie Jean King Cup Committee's decision will be communicated to the parties in writing and will be final and binding.
- 29.1.5 Carpet (not permitted for Finals Week or Qualifiers):

29.1.5.1 Subject to compliance with Regulation 29.1.2 above, if a Play-off or Group Event is to be played on carpet, the Home/Host Nation must inform the ITF and the participating Nations about the type of carpet to be used and the type of base on which the carpet is to be laid.

29.1.5.2 A carpet surface (whether synthetic or other) may not be laid on a temporary basis if a Tie is held outdoors.

## **29.2 Court Pace Rating**

29.2.1 The pace of the courts to be used in the Competition, excluding grass and clay surfaces, must have a measured Court Pace Rating between 24 and 50 (inclusive) when using the Tie ball. Where practicable, Court Pace Ratings will be confirmed and approved by the ITF in advance of the Tie. Otherwise, all testing to determine Court Pace Ratings will be conducted onsite.

29.2.2 If on-site testing establishes that the match court does not comply with the required Court Pace Rating, the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel may impose the following penalties on the Home Nation:

29.2.2.1 reduction of Billie Jean King Cup Ranking Points;

29.2.2.2 a fine;

29.2.2.3 withholding all or part of any payments to the Nation under Schedule 2, Article 9;

29.2.2.4 forfeiture of Choice of Ground on the subsequent occasion(s) when the Nation would otherwise be entitled to choose, to apply either generally and/or to the next time(s) the Nation in question would otherwise be entitled to Choice of Ground against the Visiting Nation;

29.2.2.5 relegation to a lower division for the next edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition;

29.2.2.6 disqualification from the Competition and/or ineligibility for future editions of the Billie Jean King Cup competition; and/or

29.2.2.7 an order to pay financial compensation to the Visiting Nation.

## **29.3 Court covers/water removal for outdoor courts**

29.3.1 Court covers for outdoor clay and grass courts:

29.3.1.1 In the Finals Week, Qualifiers and Play-offs, high quality court covers with the appropriate water drainage adequate for either clay or grass courts (whichever is applicable) must be



provided for all outdoor Ties, and must be available at least eight days before the first day of the Tie.

29.3.1.2 In the Regional Group Events, court covers are recommended for clay and grass courts.

29.3.2 Water removal equipment for outdoor hard courts:

29.3.2.1 When a Tie is played on a hard court, appropriate equipment/squeezers must be provided to remove water from the court.

#### **29.4 Artificial Lighting**

29.4.1 Play is allowed with artificial lighting outdoors or indoors provided that:

29.4.1.1 there is (evenly distributed over the match court surface) a minimum of (i) 1,200 lux per square metre for Ties in the Finals Week, Qualifiers and Play-offs and (ii) 1,000 lux per square metre for all other Ties/Events; and

29.4.1.2 there are practice facilities with similar lighting to the match court available for both participating Nations.

29.4.2 All light measurements are to be taken one metre above the playing surface.

29.4.3 The Referee will determine when it is appropriate to turn on artificial lighting on outdoor courts.

#### **29.5 Match court lines and markings**

29.5.1 The lines on courts (other than grass courts) must be marked with paint (or other similar substance), tapes of linen (or other similar material), or metal painted white. Grass courts must be marked with chalk or paint.

29.5.2 A court marked for doubles with a doubles net may be used for singles matches if it is properly equipped with singles sticks.

#### **29.6 Dimensions**

29.6.1 The overall court area must be rectangular in shape.

29.6.2 Unless otherwise approved by the Billie Jean King Cup Committee:

29.6.2.1 for Ties in the Finals Week, there must be a space behind each baseline of not less than 8.23 metres (27 feet) and at the sides of not less than 4.57 metres (15 feet);

29.6.2.2 for Qualifiers, Play-offs and Regional Group Events, there must be a space behind each baseline of not less than 6.40 metres (21 feet) and at the sides of not less than 3.66 metres (12 feet).

For Qualifier and Play-off ties, it is recommended that there is a space behind each baseline of not less than 8.23 metres (27 feet) and at the sides of not less than 4.57 metres (15 feet).

29.6.3 The chairs of the Line Umpires may be placed at the back and the sides of the court within the above minimum distances provided they do not protrude into the area by more than 0.914 metres (3 feet).

### ***29.7 Minimum height to the ceiling***

29.7.1 Unless otherwise approved by the Billie Jean King Cup Committee there must be a clear space from the court surface to the ceiling (measured at the net) of not less than:

29.7.1.1 12 metres for Ties in the Finals Week, Qualifiers and Play-offs;  
and

29.7.1.2 9 metres for Regional Group Events.

### ***29.8 Application to vary court requirements***

29.8.1 No exemptions will be permitted from the requirements set out in Regulations 29.1 to 29.3.

29.8.2 The requirements in Regulations 29.4 to 29.7 may be varied only with the prior approval of the Billie Jean King Cup Committee. The Home/Host Nation must apply for such approval no later than the Questionnaire Deadline or Host Application Deadline (as applicable).

### ***29.9 No changes to courts during Tie/Event without Referee consent***

29.9.1 From the date the Referee arrives onsite for the Tie/Event until the Tie is over, the surface of the court(s) and/or court surrounds cannot be changed without the Referee's consent.

### ***29.10 Consequences if match court(s) not playable***

29.10.1 Prior to or during a Tie/Event, if the Referee determines that the match court(s) is/are not (or will not be) playable for any reason at the scheduled start time of play or at any point during the Tie/Event, he may:

29.10.1.1 call off the match, Tie and/or Event;

- 29.10.1.2 postpone the start time of the match, Tie and/or Event (if he believes that a playable match court may be available within a reasonable time); and/or
  - 29.10.1.3 reschedule the order of play.
- 29.10.2 If the Referee calls off a match, Tie and/or Event under Regulation 29.10.1 so in circumstances where in their opinion the Home/Host Nation (or any court supplier/installer it engaged) was at fault for failing to provide a playable match court in accordance with any of the requirements in Regulations 29.1 to 29.7 (except for Regulation 29.2):
- 29.10.2.1 for Qualifier Ties and Play-off Ties, the Home Nation will be deemed to have forfeited the match and/or Tie and the Referee will declare the Visiting Nation the winner of the match and/or Tie (however, the Referee must obtain the approval of the Executive Director or their designee for such forfeit);
  - 29.10.2.2 for Regional Group Events, the Host Nation must reschedule the match, Tie and/or Event in accordance with the instructions of the Billie Jean King Cup Committee; and
  - 29.10.2.3 in addition to the above, on application by the ITF (excluding BJKCL), the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel may also impose any penalties on the Home/Host Nation as it sees fit in accordance with Regulation 75.
- 29.10.3 For the avoidance of doubt, bad weather or other unavoidable hindrance would not constitute a reason for the Referee to award a match and/or Tie to the Visiting Nation or for the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel to penalise the Home/Host Nation.

### **29.11 Availability of match and practice courts**

- 29.11.1 The Referee will be responsible for the allocation (at their discretion) of match and practice courts at all times before and during the Tie/Event.
- 29.11.2 For Regional Group Events:
  - 29.11.2.1 All of the singles matches in a Tie must be played on the same court.
  - 29.11.2.2 The Referee may transfer a doubles match to a different court.
- 29.11.3 The Home Nation in Qualifier and Play-off Ties must make match and practice courts available as follows:
  - 29.11.3.1 Indoor courts:

- (a) The match court must be available for practice at least three days before the Tie is due to start.
- (b) One indoor practice court of exactly the same surface as, and in close proximity to, the match court must be freely available to both Nations during the three days before the Tie is due to start and during the Tie.
- (c) The Home Nation may arrange to have only the match court available for both practice and the Tie, in which case the Visiting Nation will have priority in the practice schedule.
- (d) If hard court is the selected playing surface, and provided two indoor practice courts of exactly the same surface as, and in close proximity to, the match court are freely available to both Nations during the three days before the Tie, the Home Nation may arrange to have the match court available for practice a minimum of two days before the Tie is due to start.

29.11.3.2 Outdoor courts:

- (a) The match court must be available for practice at least three days before the Tie is due to start.
- (b) One practice court of exactly the same surface as, and in close proximity to, the match court must be freely available to both Nations during the four days before the Tie is due to start and during the period of the Tie.

29.11.3.3 In the case of a temporary clay court, unless otherwise approved by the ITF, construction of the court must begin at least four days before the first day of practice in the Tie/Event (for example, if the court must be ready at 9.00am (local time) on Tuesday, then construction must start at the latest on the Friday morning of the week prior to the Tie).

29.11.3.4 All courts required for practice under Regulations 29.11.3.1 and 29.11.3.2 must be ready by no later than 9.00am on the indicated day and be in a condition suitable for competitive play, as determined by the Referee.

29.11.3.5 All practice sessions onsite during the week of a Tie will remain open. The court area will be restricted to the Nations, Team Members, Officials, and any other person authorised by the Referee.

29.11.4 For Regional Group Events, the ITF will set out the requirements for the match court(s) and the recommended number of practice courts in the Hosting Requirements. A Host Nation must confirm the arrangements for match/practice courts in its Application to Host Form, which will be subject to the approval of the Billie Jean King Cup Committee.

### **30. Balls**

#### **30.1 Ball types**

30.1.1 Subject to the applicable Court Pace Rating under Regulation 29.2, the following types of balls may be used in the following circumstances:

<b>Court Pace Rating in Tie/Event</b>	<b>Type of ball permitted</b>
Slow ( $\leq 29$ )	Type 1 or 2
Medium (30-44)	Type 2
Fast ( $\geq 45$ )	Type 2 or 3

<b>Altitude where Tie/Event held</b>	<b>Type of ball permitted</b>
Less than 1,219 m above sea level	Type specified for Court Pace Rating, as above
1,219m or higher above sea level	Types specified for High Altitude, as described in Appendix I of the Rules of Tennis

30.1.2 The type of ball to be used in a Tie/Event will be selected by:

Finals Week	The ITF
Qualifiers and Play-offs	The Home Nation (save if Regulation 28.2.5 applies)
Groups	The Host Nation

30.1.3 Each Home/Host Nation must seek the ITF's approval for its choice of ball by no later than (respectively) the Questionnaire Deadline or the Host Application Deadline.

#### **30.2 Consequences for use of unauthorised balls**

30.2.1 If any Home/Host Nation uses a type of ball during a Tie/Event that is not one of the types of balls approved by the ITF, or that is otherwise not suitable for play (e.g., it is too soft):

30.2.1.1 the Referee has the power to (i) require that approved balls be used and postpone the start time of a match, Tie and/or Event, as necessary (if practicable in the circumstances), or

(ii) continue match play with the unauthorised balls (provided that they are suitable for play); and

30.2.1.2 on application by the ITF, the Internal Adjudication Panel may impose any penalties as it sees fit in accordance with Regulation 75 (regardless of the Referee's decision under Regulation 30.2.1.1).

### **30.3 Change of Balls**

30.3.1 For Ties in the Finals Week, Qualifiers and Play-offs, in each match the balls must be replaced with six new balls after the first seven games and after each subsequent nine games, unless both Captains and the Referee agree otherwise.

30.3.2 For Regional Group I events, in each match the balls must be replaced with four new balls after the first seven games and after each subsequent nine games.

30.3.3 For Regional Groups II, III and IV, in each match the balls must be replaced with four new balls after the first nine games and after each subsequent 11 games.

### **31. Language for calling score**

31.1 The official language for calling the score is English. In each Tie, the participating Nations and the Referee may mutually agree upon a second language to be used by the Chair Umpire in calling the score. Failing such agreement, only the English language will be used.

### **32. Visas**

32.1 The Home/Host Nation must:

32.1.1 advise the participating Nations of any requirements for visa applications when notifying them of arrangements for the Tie/Event;

32.1.2 give every assistance to ITF personnel, Tie/Event personnel, Officials and Nations participating in the Tie/Event in obtaining any necessary visas;

32.1.3 facilitate the visa application process by providing any necessary documentation or other information in a timely manner;

32.1.4 ensure that visas are issued 14 days before the Monday of the week of the Tie/Event to a minimum of 15 people nominated by the Nation(s), and to all ITF personnel, Tie/Event personnel and Officials attending the Tie/Event (provided in each case that the individual in question has met the requirements to obtain a visa).

- 32.2 For the Finals Week, the ITF or the Finals Week Organiser shall:
- 32.2.1 advise the participating Nations of any requirements for visa applications when notifying them of arrangements for the Finals Week;
  - 32.2.2 give every assistance to Officials and Nations participating in the Finals Week in obtaining any necessary visas;
  - 32.2.3 facilitate the visa application process by providing any necessary documentation or other information in a timely manner;
  - 32.2.4 ensure that visas are issued 14 working days before the Monday of the Finals Week (provided in each case that the individual in question has met the requirements to obtain a visa).
- 32.3 Each Nation participating in a Tie/Event is responsible for completing the requirements for visa applications, and complying with any timings notified to them. Failure to do so may result in visas not being issued in sufficient time, which shall not be the responsibility of the Home/Host Nation or Finals Week Organiser.

### **33. Media**

- 33.1 Suitable arrangements must be made for press and media, in accordance with the Hosting Manual.

### **34. Security**

- 34.1 The Home/Host Nation must:
- 34.1.1 plan and implement a comprehensive Security Plan that:
    - 34.1.1.1 ensures, as far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety, security and welfare of all members of the participating Nations, ITF personnel and contractors and any Officials, at all times, from arrival in the country or territory of the Tie/Event until departure from the country or territory of the Tie/Event or 24 hours after the conclusion of the Tie/Event, whichever is the earlier;
    - 34.1.1.2 ensures, as far as reasonably practicable, the health, safety, security and welfare of all persons attending the Tie/Event in any capacity; and
    - 34.1.1.3 applies to each Tie/Event venue (including, without limitation, practice, match and Official Function venues), and any official hotel, facilities, and transportation organised by the Home/Host Nation and/or the ITF;

- 34.1.2 provide a duly completed Security Questionnaire and (if requested) Security Plan to the ITF by the deadline specified by the ITF, and any further documents or information as may requested by the ITF from time to time;
  - 34.1.3 comply with all security, health and safety laws, regulations and guidelines applicable to the holding of an event in the location of the Tie/Event;
  - 34.1.4 liaise with any and all relevant governmental or quasi-governmental authorities and law enforcement agencies concerning safety and security around the delivery of the Tie/Event and the implementation of the Security Plan;
  - 34.1.5 comply with any Security Guidelines or special requests that the ITF may issue/make from time to time; and
  - 34.1.6 notify the ITF about any specific security risk at or in connection with the Tie/Event of which it is advised.
- 34.2 Request for special security arrangements by a participating Nation:
- 34.2.1 Where special circumstances apply to a particular Tie/Event, no later than 14 days prior to the Tie/Event a participating Nation may request that the Home/Host Nation take into account the need for specific security arrangements. Should that participating Nation attend with its own security personnel, it must identify such personnel to (and they must liaise with) the Home/Host Nation

**35. Automated External Defibrillators**

- 35.1 Sufficient Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) must be located on site so that an AED is within three minutes of all areas of play on both practice and match days.

**36. Insurance**

- 36.1 In addition to the insurance requirements set out at Regulation 15, each Home/Host Nation must:
  - 36.1.1 take out and maintain suitable public and product liability insurance policy that is compliant with local laws and regulations and that, at a minimum, covers claims made for damage to third party property and/or death/injury caused to people at the Tie/Event. “ I T F, ITF Licensing (UK) Ltd and Billie Jean King Cup Limited” must be named as additional insured parties on the policy;



- 36.1.2 take out and maintain all other compulsory insurances that are required by local law or regulation, e.g. employer's liability (workers compensation), automobile, etc; and
  - 36.1.3 ensure that all venues, training facilities, etc, for the Tie/Event have appropriate insurance cover in place, including for material damage, business interruption, and public liability.
- 36.2 Upon request by the ITF, the Nation must provide a copy of the above insurance policies.

## H. TEAM NOMINATIONS

### 37. Team nominations

- 37.1 Each participating Nation must provide its team nominations in indicative order of merit (determined in accordance with Regulation 37.2) to the ITF no later than the applicable deadline set out in the table below (**Team Nomination Deadline**):

Finals Week	28 days before the Monday of the week of the Event
Qualifiers and Play-offs	28 days before the first day of the Tie
Groups I-IV	28 days before the Monday of the week of the Event

- 37.2 The order of merit of Players will be determined (and the indicative order of merit included at the team nomination will be amended) in accordance with the following:

- 37.2.1 the world computer singles rankings accepted by the ITF (protected rankings are not used) and published as follows:

37.2.1.1 for the Finals Week, the singles rankings published on the Monday prior to the Finals Week; or

37.2.1.2 for the Qualifiers and Play-offs, the singles rankings published on the Monday of the week of the Tie; or

37.2.1.3 for Regional Groups, the singles rankings published on the Monday prior to the week of the commencement of the Regional Group Event; or

- 37.2.2 if the Players do not have world computer singles rankings, their national ranking; or

37.2.3 if the Players do not have a national ranking (or their National Association has no national ranking system), their ranking according to their Captain.

37.3 The team nominations must include the following number of Players/Captains, nominated in order of merit (determined in accordance with Regulation 37.2), without specifying which Players will play singles/doubles:

Finals Week	A playing Captain and three to four Players; or A non-playing Captain and four to five Players.
Qualifiers and Play-offs	A playing Captain and three to four Players; or A non-playing Captain and four to five Players.
Groups I-IV	A playing Captain and two to four Players; or A non-playing Captain and three to five Players.

37.4 Only Players nominated in accordance with this Regulation 37 (or changed in accordance with Regulation 38) may be selected to play in the singles and doubles matches of the relevant Tie/Event.

37.5 Upon request by the ITF, a Nation must provide evidence to support the rankings assigned to its Players.

37.6 A Nation may nominate different Players and/or Captains for the Finals Week, Qualifiers, Play-offs and Regional Group Events.

### **38. Changes to team nominations**

38.1 Team nominations may only be changed in the following circumstances:

38.1.1 Player nominations may be changed at any time prior to the applicable Team Nomination Deadline.

38.1.2 After the applicable Team Nomination Deadline:

38.1.2.1 a maximum of three nominated Players may be changed up to 11.00am (local time at the Event) the day before the round robin match play is scheduled to start for the Finals Week;

38.1.2.2 a maximum of three nominated Players may be changed up to one hour before the Tie Draw (for Qualifier and Play-off Ties); and

38.1.2.3 a maximum of two nominated Players may be changed up to 11.00am (local time at the Event) the day before the round robin match play is scheduled to start for the Regional Groups Events.

For the avoidance of doubt, adding (rather than replacing) a nominated Player (e.g. adding a fifth player when only four were nominated previously) before this deadline constitutes a change of nomination.

- 38.1.3 The nomination of a non-playing Captain may be changed at any time before the Nation's first match in the Tie/Event.
- 38.1.4 Notwithstanding Regulation 38.1.2, for the Finals Week, if following the start of play in that week, three or more Players are, in the Referee's opinion incapacitated by illness or injury and are unable to play during the Finals Week, the Billie Jean King Cup Committee may permit the Nation to change one or more of those withdrawn Players. Save where the Referee considers that there is an obvious injury or illness, before the Referee makes a decision as to the fitness of a Player, the Player must undergo an examination by the Independent Doctor, who must complete the "ITF on-Meeting Medical Examination Form". The Billie Jean King Cup Committee shall have discretion to impose conditions as it sees fit, and prior to making its decision must consult with the Referee and the Tournament Director.

### **39. Notice of changes to team nominations**

- 39.1 Any changes to team nominations:
- 39.1.1 made before the Referee arrives onsite at the Tie/Event must be notified by the Nation to the ITF, and then the ITF will notify the other Nation(s) participating in the Tie/Event;
- 39.1.2 made after the Referee arrives onsite at the Tie/Event must be notified by the Nation to the Referee, and the Referee will notify the Captain(s) of the other Nation(s) participating in the Tie/Event.

### **40. Replacement of nominated Captain**

- 40.1 If the nominated Captain is unable to fulfil their duties on court, he may only be replaced by one of the Nation's nominated Players. The replacement Captain will sit on the court.

## **I. PLAYER SELECTIONS**

### **41. Notification of selection of singles and doubles Players**

- 41.1 Subject to Regulation 42, the Captain may select any of the nominated Players to play singles and/or doubles.
- 41.2 Each Captain must give to the Referee the names of their two singles Players in order of merit (see Regulation 37.2) and the names of their two doubles Players by the applicable deadline set out in the table below (**Player Selection Deadline**):

Finals Week	No later than one hour before the scheduled start time of each Tie those Players are playing in (both for round robin and knock-out rounds)
Qualifiers and Play-offs	No later than the relevant Tie Draw
Regional Groups	No later than one hour before the scheduled start of play each day during the Event

41.3 Of the two singles Players for each Nation, for purposes of determining order of play, the Player with the higher ranking will be referred to as 'number one' and the Player with the lower ranking will be referred to as 'number two'.

## 42. Changes to Player selections

42.1 First and second singles matches:

42.1.1 Subject to Regulation 42.4, a Captain may not change their selection of Players for the first and second singles matches after the Player Selection Deadline.

42.2 Third and fourth singles matches (applies only to the Qualifiers and Play-offs):

42.2.1 A Captain may change the selection of Players for the third and fourth singles matches, provided that (i) any substitute Player is selected from among the Players nominated for the Tie who has not competed in the first or second singles matches; and (ii) he gives the Referee notice of such change no later than:

42.2.1.1 for the third singles match, notice is given to the Referee at least one (1) hour before the scheduled start of play of the third singles match; and

42.2.1.2 for the fourth singles match, no later than 10 minutes after completion of the third singles match.

42.3 Doubles match:

42.3.1 A Captain may change the selection of Players for the doubles match, provided that (i) he gives the Referee notice of such change no later than the relevant deadline set out below, and (ii) any substitute Player is selected from among the Players nominated for the Tie.

Finals Week	No later than 15 minutes after the completion of the preceding singles match.
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Qualifiers and Play-offs	No later than 15 minutes after the completion of the preceding singles match.
Regional Groups	No later than 15 minutes after the completion of the preceding singles match.

**42.4 Changes of Players for disciplinary reasons or due to illness, accident or other unavoidable hindrance:**

42.4.1 Any selected Player who has been withdrawn by the Captain for disciplinary reasons may only be replaced with the permission of the Referee. Any substitute permitted by the Referee must be selected from among the Players nominated for the Tie/Event. The withdrawn Player may not compete thereafter in the Tie/Event.

42.4.2 If, in the Referee's opinion, a Player (is subject to) is incapacitated by illness, injury or other unavoidable hindrance, the Referee may permit the replacement of that Player (and the replacement of the Player's doubles partner) from among the Players nominated for that Tie/Event. A Player who has withdrawn from the first or second singles matches under this Regulation may be selected for the doubles match and/or for the third or fourth singles match in the Qualifiers or Play-offs. If a Player is replaced under this Regulation, the opposing Captain will be given the opportunity to change his/her Player(s) after learning of the opposing Nation's replacement.

42.4.3 Save where the Referee considers that there is an obvious injury or illness, before the Referee makes a decision as to the fitness of a Player, the Player must undergo an examination by the Independent Doctor, who must complete the Form. The Medical Rules (Appendix 1) applies to a Referee's decision (i) to replace a Player on grounds of illness/injury, and (ii) to permit a Player to return to play after being replaced due to illness/injury.

**43. Referee power to vary Change of Selection Deadlines**

43.1 In case of bad weather or other unavoidable circumstances onsite, the Referee may vary the Change of Selection Deadlines.

**44. Notification of Player selections**

44.1 Any notice by a Captain under Regulation 42 must be given to the Referee in writing by the applicable deadline. The Referee will inform the Captain of the other participating Nation(s) as soon as practicable.

## J. PRE-TIE EVENTS

### 45. Captains' Meeting

- 45.1 The Referee may call a Captains' Meeting for the Semi-Finals and/or Final. The Referee will call a Captains' Meeting for all other Ties/Events in the Competition.
- 45.2 A Captains' Meeting (if held) must take place by no later than the day before the first match in the Event, or the day before the Semi-Final or Final (if applicable), unless otherwise directed by the Referee).
- 45.3 Captains (whether playing or non-playing) must attend (on time) any Captains' Meeting concerning their Tie/Event called by the Referee.
- 45.4 During a Captain's Meeting, the Referee and the Captains will discuss the arrangements for the Tie/Event, and the Captains must each sign a statement of arrangements to be made for the Tie/Event and the Official Functions.

### 46. Pre-Draw Press Conference

- 46.1 A Pre-Draw Press Conference must be held at least 24 hours before the relevant Tie Draw for Qualifiers and Play-offs.

### 47. Pre-Tie Function

- 47.1 A Pre-Tie Function may be organised by the ITF or the Finals Week Organiser delegate(s) for the Finals Week.

### 48. Tie/Event Draw

- 48.1 Unless specified otherwise by the ITF, the Tie/Event Draw must take place by the applicable deadline set out in the table below.

<b>Qualifiers and Play-offs</b>	The Tie Draw must take place on the day prior to the first match in the Tie, and at least 24 hours before the start of play.
<b>Regional Groups</b>	The Event Draw must take place following the Meeting unless decided otherwise by the ITF.

### 49. Post-Draw Press Conference

- 49.1 A Post-Draw Press Conference must be held immediately after the Tie Draw, save in the case of Regional Group Events.

### 50. Official Dinner

- 50.1 An Official Dinner must be organised for the Qualifiers and Play-off ties.

50.2 An Official Dinner may be organised for Regional Groups and the Finals.

## **K. PLAYING SCHEDULE**

### **51. Start and end of play**

51.1 The start and end of play must be arranged so that it is possible for play to be completed each day under reasonable conditions. Scheduling will take into account the best interests of the Nations to the extent possible, providing it does not jeopardise the fairness of scheduling and the completion of the Tie/Event (and this will override the specific times currently stated in Regulation 51.2).

51.2 For Qualifier and Play-off Ties:

51.2.1 There must be a minimum of 20 hours before the start time of play on the first day and the scheduled start time of play on the second day.

51.2.2 There must be six hours of daylight for play outdoors on the first day of play (irrespective of surface) and eight hours of daylight for the second day of play.

51.2.3 If artificial light will be used, or if the Tie is held indoors, the first match on the first day of the Tie must start no later than 6.00pm and the first match on the second day must start no later than 4.00pm.

51.3 For Regional Group Events, the Host Nation must propose playing start times in the Host Application Form, which is subject to the approval of the ITF.

51.4 Changes to play start and end times:

51.4.1 The Referee may amend the scheduled start and end times of play (in consultation with the ITF) to ensure play will be completed under reasonable conditions, save that the Referee is not required to consult with the ITF when play is rescheduled due to bad weather.

51.4.2 The start times for play may be varied by the ITF in consultation with relevant commercial partners in order to accommodate any television or other agreements. For the Finals Week, this will be agreed between the Tournament Director and the Referee. If the Tie/Event is being hosted by a Home/Host Nation, the ITF will first consult with the Home/Host Nation, and will give full consideration to factors important to the success of the Tie within the Home/Host Nation.

### **52. Interval between matches**

52.1 Unless decided otherwise by the Referee, and subject to Regulation 52.2, singles matches will be scheduled as follows:

52.1.1 for the Finals Week:

- 52.1.1.1 singles matches will follow each other directly; and
- 52.1.1.2 there shall be a maximum interval of 30 minutes between any singles and doubles matches played on the same day.
- 52.1.2 for Qualifiers, Play-offs and Regional Group Events:
  - 52.1.2.1 there shall be an interval of 20 minutes between any two singles matches played on the same day; and
  - 52.1.2.2 there shall be an interval of 30 minutes between any singles and doubles matches played on the same day.
- 52.2 If a Player is required to play two matches in the same day because of a change of schedule (for example bad weather or other unavoidable circumstances), the Referee may extend the interval between two matches (notwithstanding Regulation 52.1) to give the Player a longer rest period, provided that the interval between the two matches does not exceed two hours (with the maximum time to be afforded only in exceptional circumstances).

### **53. Persons permitted on court**

- 53.1 No person other than the Players/Captains competing in the match, the Officials officiating the match and the ball persons may be on court during the course of a match without the Referee's permission.

### **54. Captain's role on court**

- 54.1 The Captain will sit on the court beside the chair of their team. They may not move away from that area. They may talk to their team, to the Chair Umpire and to the Referee. They may not talk to any Line Umpire.

### **55. Medical and toilet breaks**

- 55.1 Schedule 5 sets out the conditions for medical and toilet breaks during a match.

## **L. HOW A TIE/EVENT IS DECIDED**

### **56. Qualifiers and Play-offs (Home & Away format)**

#### **56.1 Order of play**

- 56.1.1 Subject to Regulations 56.1.2 and 56.1.3, the order of play will be:

Day 1:

1. first singles match (number one v number two; or vice versa depending on the Tie Draw)
2. second singles match (reverse singles)



Day 2:

3. third singles match (number one v number one)
4. fourth singles match (number two v number two)
5. doubles match

56.1.2 The order of play will be determined by the Tie Draw. The names of the four selected singles Players will be placed in the Tie Draw and one Player's name will be drawn. The Player whose name is drawn will play in the first singles match against the Player with the opposite ranking (i.e. if the Player drawn is ranked number one for her Nation, she will play the Player ranked number two for the opposing Nation; if the Player drawn is ranked number two for her Nation, she will play the Player ranked number one for the opposing Nation).

56.1.3 The Referee may change the order of the doubles match. However, prior to making such a decision, the Referee must endeavour to obtain the approval of the Executive Director.

## **56.2 Scoring**

56.2.1 The Nation that wins the majority of matches in the Tie will be declared the winner of the Tie.

## **56.3 Dead match policy**

56.3.1 If the third singles match is decisive, the fourth singles match will not be played and the fifth (dead) doubles match will be played instead.

56.3.2 If the fourth singles match is decisive, the fifth match (doubles) will not be played unless both Nations and the Referee agree.

56.3.3 If the fourth match is not completed (due to injury, etc), the Referee may require the Nations to play the fifth match.

56.3.4 Any dead doubles match played pursuant to this Regulation 56.3 will be played to the best of three sets, with a 10-point match tie break in the third set and according to the No-Ad scoring system set out in the Rules of Tennis.

56.3.5 The Referee will make all decisions relating to the implementation of this Regulation.

## **57. Regional Groups**

### **57.1 Order of play**

57.1.1 The order of play for each Tie in the Event will be, over one day:

1. first singles match (number two v number two)
2. second singles match (number one v number one)
3. doubles match

## **57.2 Scoring**

- 57.2.1 The Nation that wins the majority of the matches in the Tie will be declared the winner of that Tie and awarded one point.
- 57.2.2 When a result has been obtained after the singles matches, the doubles match must still be played to obtain the full score, unless the Referee decides that it not practicable due to an unavoidable hindrance. When a knock-out format is used, where a result has been obtained after the singles matches the Referee may decide to cancel the doubles match.
- 57.2.3 The final standings in each group shall be determined by the following count-back calculation (i.e. determined by the first of the following methods that applies, following the order set out below):
- 57.2.3.1 Greatest number of points.
- 57.2.3.2 If two Nations are tied with an equal number of points, those Nations' head-to-head result shall determine final standings.
- 57.2.3.3 If three or more Nations are tied with an equal number of points, then the following order applies:
- (a) any Nation that has not played in all Ties in its round robin group is automatically eliminated;
  - (b) highest percentage of matches won;
  - (c) highest percentage of sets won from all matches played;
  - (d) highest percentage of games won from all matches played; then finally
  - (e) the Nations' positions on the Billie Jean King Cup Nations Ranking on the Monday of the week of the Event.
- 57.2.3.4 The count-back calculation in Regulation 57.2.3.3 will continue until only two Nations remain tied, at which point the tie between those two Nations will be broken by their head-to-head result.
- 57.2.4 In the event that a Nation withdraws from the Event prior to completing all of the Ties in its round robin group, any points earned against the withdrawing Nation will not be counted in the count-back calculation.

(For example, if Nation A beats Nation B, where the former has not yet played Nation C, and Nation B withdraws, the score from the match between Nation A and B will not be included in the count-back calculation).

57.2.5 The ITF will announce the format for determining the overall winner of the Event in advance of the Event. The ITF may determine the format at its discretion. The possible formats include:

57.2.5.1 The winner is based on the Nation that has the greatest number of points following the round robin, determined in accordance with the count-back calculation in Regulation 57.2.3.

57.2.5.2 The round robin is followed by a play-off between the winners or other top-placed finishers (as specified by the ITF) of each round robin group.

## **58. Finals Week**

### **58.1 Schedule**

58.1.1 The ITF shall determine the schedule of play for the Finals Week. Decisions regarding the schedule are not appealable.

### **58.2 Order of play**

58.2.1 The order of play for each Tie in the Finals Week will be over one day as follows:

1. first singles match (number two v number two)
2. second singles match (number one v number one)
3. doubles match

### **58.3 Scoring – Finals Week Round Robin**

58.3.1 The Nation that wins the majority of the matches in a Tie will be declared the winner of the Tie and awarded one point.

58.3.2 Where a result has been obtained after the singles matches, the doubles match must still be played to obtain the full score, unless the Referee decides that is not practicable due to an unavoidable hindrance, or due to it having an adverse affect on scheduling. Doubles matches shall be played to the best of three sets with No-Ad scoring and if the match reaches one set all, the third set will be played as a match tie-break (10 points).

58.3.3 The final standings in each group shall be determined by the following count-back calculation (i.e. determined by the first of the following methods that applies, following the order set out below):

58.3.3.1 greatest number of points;

58.3.3.2 If two Nations are tied with an equal number of points, those Nations' head-to-head result shall determine final standings;

58.3.3.3 if three or more Nations are tied, then the following order applies:

(a) any Nation that has not played the other two Nations in its round robin group is automatically eliminated;

(b) highest percentage of matches won;

(c) highest percentage of sets won;

(d) highest percentage of games won; then finally

(e) the Nations' Billie Jean King Cup on the Nations Ranking of the Monday of the week of the Finals Week.

58.3.3.4 As soon as the count-back calculation in Regulation 58.3.3.2 produces one superior Nation (first place) or one inferior Nation (third place), and the two remaining Nations are tied, the tie between those two Nations will be broken by their head-to-head result.

58.3.4 In the event that a Nation withdraws from the Finals Week prior to completing all of the Ties in its round robin group, any points earned against the withdrawing Nation will not be counted in the count-back calculation. (For example, if Nation A beats Nation B, where the former has not yet played Nation C, and Nation B withdraws, the score from the match between Nation A and B will not be included in the count-back calculation).

#### **58.4 Dead match policy for Finals Week Round Robin**

58.4.1 All matches in the Finals Week Round Robin must be played, except if called off due to an unavoidable hindrance, or due to it having an adverse affect on scheduling, where a result in the Tie has already been obtained.

58.4.2 The Referee will make all decisions relating to the implementation of this Regulation.

#### **58.5 Scoring – Finals Week Knock-Out Rounds**

58.5.1 In the Semi-Final and Final Ties, the Nation that wins the majority of matches in the Tie will be declared the winner of the Tie.

58.5.2 The doubles matches in the Semi-Finals and Final will be played to the best of three sets with No-Ad scoring and if the match reaches one set all, the third set shall be played as a match tie break (10 points).

**58.6 Dead match policy for Finals Week Knock-Out Rounds**

58.6.1 In the Semi-Finals, if the second match is decisive, the doubles match shall not be played unless both Nations and the Referee agree to play.

58.6.2 In the Final, if the second singles match is decisive, the doubles match will not be played. The Closing Ceremony and Trophy presentation will take place immediately after the second singles match.

**59. Consequences if play called off due to bad weather or other unavoidable hindrance or circumstances**

59.1 Where play is called off due to bad weather or any other unavoidable hindrance:

59.1.1 if a result has been obtained, Nations are not required to complete the Tie and/or Event unless decided otherwise by the Referee.

59.1.2 if a result has not been obtained:

59.1.2.1 Nations must stay and play for two further days if necessary to conclude the Tie or Finals Week. If the Tie or Finals Week has not been concluded after those two days, every effort must be made to conclude the Tie on a further third or fourth day.

59.1.2.2 If a Player's other commitments mean they must stay longer than two days after the initially-scheduled completion date of a Tie or the Finals Week, then the Referee will postpone the Tie / Finals Week. The Billie Jean King Cup Committee will then notify the Nations concerned of the new date by which any outstanding Tie(s) must be played and concluded.

59.1.2.3 Failure to conclude a Tie and/or Finals Week as provided in this Regulation 59.1.2 may result in one or more participating Nations being defaulted.

59.2 Consequences if play called off due to other unavoidable circumstances:

59.2.1 Where play is interrupted due to circumstances outside the Host/Home Nation's control, including on-site exposure to Covid-19, or government decree, the Referee, in consultation with the ITF Executive, may call off a Tie and/or Event.

59.2.2 Where the Referee cancels a Tie and/or Event pursuant to Regulation 59.2.1:

59.2.2.1 if a result has been obtained, Nations are not required to complete the Tie and/or Event.

59.2.2.2 if a result has not been obtained, the Referee will postpone the Tie. The Billie Jean King Cup Committee will then notify the two Nations concerned of the new date by which the Tie must be played and concluded.

## **60. Scoring if match is a walk-over or started and not completed**

60.1 If a match is a walk-over (i.e. a player defaults before play is started), the score must be recorded as 6-0, 6-0.

60.2 If a match is started but not completed, the full score must be recorded. (For example, if Player A leads over Player B by 6-1, 4-3 when Player B is injured and unable to continue. Player A's victory mu

## **61. Default in the event of a no-show**

61.1 If after the ITF has approved the arrangements made for playing a Tie/Event, a Nation fails to send a team to compete in a Tie/Event:

61.1.1 it will be defaulted from the Tie;

61.1.2 it will be defaulted from the remainder of the Event, unless decided otherwise by the Referee;

61.1.3 it will be defaulted from the remainder of the Competition, unless decided otherwise by the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel;

61.1.4 it may, on application by the ITF, be subject to a fine imposed by the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel;

61.1.5 (for a No Show in the Finals Week or a Home & Away tie) it will be liable for all reasonable expenses incurred by the ITF and the other Nation(s) participating in the Tie/Event up to the date when notice of default was received by the ITF (as determined by the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel);

61.1.6 it will not be eligible to participate in the next one or more editions of the Billie Jean King Cup competition in the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel's discretion; and

61.1.7 (for a No Show in the Finals Week) it may be relegated to a lower group for the next edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition that it participates in.

61.2 Any claim for reasonable expenses under this Regulation must be made within two months of the date fixed for the conclusion of the Tie/Event. In the event of

disagreement, the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel will determine the amount of reasonable expenses to be paid by the defaulting Nation.

- 61.3 The defaulting Nation will be allowed one month from the date of the notification to pay the reasonable expenses and fine (if applicable). It will not be eligible to participate in any future edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition until such sums payable have been paid in full.

## **M. CEREMONIES**

### **62. ITF approval**

- 62.1 The location and timing of any ceremonies are subject to the ITF's prior approval.

### **63. Opening Ceremony**

- 63.1 An Opening Ceremony must take place on the first day of the Tie/Event, save that it:

63.1.1 is optional for Regional Group Events; and

63.1.2 may take place the day before the first day of the Finals Week.

### **64. Team Presentation Ceremony**

- 64.1 A Team Presentation Ceremony (where the Players/Captains are introduced on court) may take place in the Finals, Qualifier and Play-off Ties subject to ITF approval in advance.

### **65. Photo Shoot for winning Nation**

- 65.1 In addition to the media obligations set out at Schedule 2, all Players and any non-playing Captain of the winning Nation shall make themselves available, after the Final and the Closing Ceremony, for the Photo Shoot at a time to be determined by the ITF and which may be offsite.

### **66. Trophy and Closing Ceremony**

- 66.1 The trophy will be presented by a representative of the ITF and awarded to the winner of the Final (the **Trophy**) during the Closing Ceremony, which is to take place immediately after the completion of the Final.

- 66.2 The winning Nation may keep the Trophy in its possession until a date specified by the ITF in the year following the Final. After the Final, it is the responsibility of the winning Nation to arrange for the shipment of the Billie Jean King Cup Trophy:

**66.2.1** back to its country or territory, clearing the Trophy through customs and paying any costs incurred; and

66.2.2 to the ITF the following year so that it is received no later than the date specified by the ITF, clearing the Trophy through customs and paying any costs incurred.

66.3 The Trophy will at all times remain the property of the ITF. Nations must comply (and must ensure that any Team Member or third party handling the Trophy complies) with the Billie Jean King Cup Trophy Protocol.

## **N. COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL RIGHTS/OBLIGATIONS**

### **67. Commercial and financial rules**

67.1 The commercial and financial rights and obligations of Nations and Team Members are set out in Schedule 2, the Hosting Manual, the Commercial Letter(s) and the Financial Letter.

## **O. INTEGRITY**

### **68. Anti-doping**

68.1 The Tennis Anti-Doping Programme (the TADP, available for download at [www.itia.tennis](http://www.itia.tennis)) applies to the Competition, and testing may be conducted during the Competition in accordance with the TADP. Each Nation and Team Member, and each Player Support Person (as defined in the TADP), shall be deemed to have agreed to be bound by and to comply with all of the provisions of the TADP.

68.2 Re-assessment of results:

68.2.1 If any Player's results in the Competition under the TADP, those results will not be re-assessed for purposes of the Competition, except that any wins by the Player (or by a doubles pair including the Player) in the Final that are disqualified pursuant to the TADP will be reversed and all unplayed dead matches in which the Player would have played will be awarded to the opposing Nation of such Player.

68.2.2 If such re-assessment results in the Nation that originally lost the Final being declared the winner:

68.2.2.1 the Nation that originally won the Final must repay to the ITF the difference between the Participation Payment it received



for winning and the Participation Payment paid to the Nation that originally lost the Final;

68.2.2.2 the other Players from the original winning Nation must return the difference between the Prize Money paid to the Players of the winning Nation and that paid to the Players of the runner-up Nation; and

68.2.2.3 the amounts under Regulations 68.2.2.1 and 68.2.2.2 will be paid to the new winning Nation and Players only once the ITF receives the repayments.

### 68.3 Forfeiture of Nation's Participation Payment:

68.3.1 Where a Player's results in any Tie are disqualified pursuant to the TADP, that Player's Nation must repay to the ITF the following proportion of its Participation Payment (after deducting any payment paid to that Nation's Players) within the deadline specified by the ITF:

68.3.1.1 For Finals Week: the proportion is equal to the number of matches played by the Player divided by the total number of matches played by the Player's Nation.

68.3.1.2 For Qualifiers and Play-offs: the proportion is 20% per singles match and 10% per doubles match played by the Player.

68.3.1.3 For Regional Groups: not applicable.

### 68.4 Forfeiture of prize money:

68.4.1 Where a Player's results in any Tie are disqualified pursuant to the TADP, the Player will forfeit the prize money she actually received (or is owed).

68.4.1.1 If the Player participated in the Finals Week (and so received a direct payment of Prize Money), she must repay that Prize Money to the ITIA.

68.4.1.2 If the Player did not participate in the Finals Week (and so any prize money received was paid to her by her Nation), the Nation must repay the prize money to the ITIA.

68.4.2 The Player and/or her Nation (as applicable) must repay the prize money to the ITIA within a deadline specified by the ITIA. The Player and/or Nation (as applicable) must provide proof of the prize money actually received or paid/owed. In the event that a Player or Nation cannot establish to the satisfaction of the ITIA how much money the Player actually received, the prize money (as defined in the TADP) to be

forfeited under the TADP will be based on the same proportions as set out in Regulation 68.3.1.

68.4.3 Where the Player and/or Nation fail(s) to provide proof of the prize money received or paid/owed that is satisfactory to the ITIA, the ITIA may conduct an investigation to determine that amount, including by making a written demand to the Player and/or her Nation to furnish any evidence the ITF considers relevant to its investigation (including, without limitation, bank statements and/or signed witness statements). Where the ITIA establishes that the amount of prize money actually received by or owed to the Player exceeds the amount of prize money that would have been deemed forfeited under Regulation 68.4, the ITIA may require the Nation to pay the actual amount received/owed.

## **69. Anti-corruption**

69.1 The Tennis Anti-Corruption Program (available for download at [www.itia.tennis](http://www.itia.tennis)) applies to the Competition. Each Nation, Team Member and any other Covered Person (as defined in the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program) shall be deemed to have agreed to be bound by and to comply with all of its provisions.

## **P. INVESTIGATIONS AND RECIPROCITY**

### **70. ITF power to investigate potential breaches**

70.1 The ITF has the power to conduct investigations into any potential breach of the Regulations.

70.2 Nations and any person bound by the Regulations must cooperate fully with investigations conducted pursuant to this Regulation 70. In cases of refusal or failure to cooperate without compelling justification, disciplinary proceedings may be brought against the Nation and/or person concerned before the Independent Tribunal (sitting as a first instance body), and if the Independent Tribunal finds that there has been such refusal or failure without compelling justification then it shall impose upon the Nation and/or Team Member such sanctions as it sees fit.

70.3 The ITF may make a written demand to a Nation and/or any person bound by the Regulations to furnish to the ITF any information that may evidence or lead to the discovery of evidence of a breach of the Regulations, including (without limitation) requiring a representative of the Nation and/or the person concerned to attend an interview and/or to provide a written statement setting forth her knowledge of the relevant facts.

70.4 The ITF may in its absolute discretion share information concerning any complaint against any person bound by the Regulations with, and/or may conduct an investigation in conjunction with, any other tennis organisation or any other relevant authorities. The ITF may also refer the complaint and/or any

information received during the course of its investigations or proceedings to any authorities it considers appropriate in its absolute discretion. The ITF may, where it deems appropriate, stay its own investigation pending the outcome of investigations being conducted by any other tennis organisations and/or any relevant authorities.

70.5 References to the ITF in this Regulation 70 shall exclude ITF Limited.

## **71. Reciprocity**

71.1 Defined terms used in this Section are:

71.1.1 Tennis Organisation means any organisation involved in the governance, regulation, sanctioning, organisation, or administration of tennis, including but not limited to Association of Tennis Professionals, the Grand Slam Board, and each member national association;

71.1.2 Disciplinary Sanction means a suspension, ineligibility or other sanction issued against a Nation or Covered Person (as defined in Article IV - ITF Welfare Policy) pursuant to a conduct or disciplinary process, under a code of conduct or disciplinary policy (including where some or all of the sanction is suspended, but strictly excluding monetary fines);

71.1.3 Reciprocate means the affirmation, modification or extension of a Disciplinary Sanction.

71.2 The ITF (excluding BJKCL) reserves the right to ask the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel (IAP) to Reciprocate with respect to any or all Ties/Events a Disciplinary Sanction issued against a Nation or Covered Person either (i) by or on behalf of the ITF pursuant to any ITF code or policy, or (ii) by any other Tennis Organisation or relevant authority including National Associations, the Grand Slam Board, WTA and ATP.

71.3 When considering whether to Reciprocate a Disciplinary Sanction, the IAP will have regard to the following matters:

71.3.1 Whether the decision to impose the suspension or Disciplinary Sanction was so unreasonable as to be manifestly excessive or unduly lenient;

71.3.2 Whether the disciplinary proceedings that resulted in the Disciplinary Sanction were procedurally unfair or contrary to natural justice, having regard to all the circumstances.

71.4 The decision by the IAP to Reciprocate a Disciplinary Sanction may be appealed by the Nation or Covered Person and/or the ITF to the Independent Tribunal, which shall determine the matter in accordance with its Procedural Rules (save that there shall be no right of appeal against the decision). t h e

71.5 The ITF shall have the right in its absolute discretion to share information concerning any complaint against a Covered Person or Nation with and/or conduct an investigation in conjunction with any Tennis Organisation or any other relevant authorities. The IAP may also refer the complaint and/or any information received during the course of investigating an allegation or prosecuting a charge to any authorities they considers appropriate in their absolute discretion. The ITF shall have the absolute discretion, where it deems appropriate, to stay its own investigation pending the outcome of an investigations being conducted by any Tennis Organisations and/or any relevant authority.

## **Q. DISPUTES AND ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATIONS**

### **72. Onsite enforcement**

72.1 The Referee is responsible for enforcing the Rules and Regulations onsite.

### **73. First instance proceedings**

#### **73.1 Referee**

73.1.1 The Referee has exclusive jurisdiction, in the first instance, over the following matters:

73.1.1.1 unless expressly referred elsewhere in the Code of Conduct, an allegation that a Team Member has committed an offence under the Code of Conduct that is not a Major Offence or a breach of the Welfare Policy;

73.1.1.2 any disputes or questions of interpretation that arise onsite at any Ties/Events in relation to the Rules and Regulations; and

73.1.1.3 any other decisions, disputes, questions of interpretation or other matters that are entrusted under the Rules and Regulations to the Referee.

73.1.2 Unless expressly provided otherwise, there is no right of appeal from the Referee's decisions.

#### **73.2 Billie Jean King Cup Committee**

73.2.1 The Billie Jean King Cup Committee (or its delegate) will decide any issues entrusted to it under these Regulations. Unless expressly provided otherwise, there is no right of appeal from its decisions.

### **73.3 Board, ITF Executive or other designated person/entity**

73.3.1 The Board, ITF Executive and any other person/entity designated under these Regulations may decide any issues entrusted to them (respectively) under these Regulations. Unless expressly provided otherwise, there is no right of appeal from their respective decisions.

### **73.4 ITF Internal Adjudication Panel**

73.4.1 The ITF Internal Adjudication Panel has exclusive jurisdiction, in the first instance, over the following matters:

73.4.1.1 any request for a decision that is expressly entrusted under the Rules and Regulations to the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel;

73.4.1.2 any dispute or question about the proper interpretation of these Regulations (save in respect of any matters that arise onsite during the Competition, which fall under the jurisdiction of the Referee);

73.4.1.3 any dispute or question about Player/Captain eligibility arising under the Regulations;

73.4.1.4 any allegation that a Team Member or other person or entity bound by the Regulations has failed to comply with any other aspect of the Rules and Regulations (unless expressly referred elsewhere); and

73.4.1.5 any other dispute arising out of or relating in any way to the Regulations that is referred to it by the Board (if the matter referred under this Regulation involves an appeal of a decision, the appeal shall not take the form of a *de novo* review, but instead shall be limited to a consideration of whether the decision being appealed was erroneous).

73.4.2 Any disputes referred under these Regulations to the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel must be referred within 14 days of the Nation or person concerned or the Board becoming aware of the dispute. Any failure to meet that deadline shall constitute a waiver of all rights in respect of the dispute, unless decided otherwise by the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel.

73.4.3 The ITF Internal Adjudication Panel has appellate jurisdiction over decisions of the Referee as to which the Rules and Regulations provide an express right of appeal.

73.4.4 The ITF Internal Adjudication Panel shall conduct all proceedings before it in accordance with its Procedural Rules.

73.4.5 Decisions of the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel are final and binding on all parties, and may only be challenged by way of appeal as set out in Regulation 76.

### **73.5 Independent Tribunal**

73.5.1 The Independent Tribunal has exclusive jurisdiction, in the first instance, over the following matters:

73.5.1.1 any request for a decision that is entrusted under the Rules and Regulations to the Independent Tribunal;

73.5.1.2 any allegation arising in relation to the Competition of a breach of:

- (a) the Tennis Anti-Doping Programme;
- (b) the Code of Conduct for a Major Offence;
- (c) the Welfare Policy; and

73.5.1.3 any other dispute arising out of or relating in any way to the Regulations that is referred to it as a first instance body by the Board or the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel (and the dispute shall not take the form of a *de novo* review or appeal, but instead shall be limited to a consideration of whether the disputed decision was erroneous, unless agreed otherwise by the parties).

73.5.2 The Independent Tribunal shall have exclusive appellate jurisdiction over decisions of the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel under the Regulations (save for decisions of that panel on appeals against decisions of the Referee, as to which there shall be no right of appeal). The Independent Tribunal may also hear any other appeals expressly referred to it under the Rules and Regulations. Where there is a right of appeal to the Independent Tribunal, the parties may agree to waive the first instance proceedings and instead have a single (first instance) hearing before the Independent Tribunal, with no further right of appeal from its decision.

73.5.3 The Board or the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel may (where it deems it appropriate) refer any matter under Regulation 73.4 to the Independent Tribunal. The Independent Tribunal will sit as a first instance body, but there shall be no right of appeal against a decision.

73.5.4 The Independent Tribunal will conduct all proceedings before it in accordance with its Procedural Rules.

73.5.5 Subject to any agreement under Regulation 73.5.2 to agree to a single (first instance) hearing before the Independent Tribunal, decisions of the Independent Tribunal sitting as a first instance tribunal may only be challenged by way of appeal to the CAS, as set out in the Independent Tribunal Procedural Rules.

73.5.6 Decisions of the Independent Tribunal sitting as an appellate body or as a single (first instance) hearing agreed pursuant to Regulation 73.5.2 are final and binding, with no further right of appeal to any further body.

### **73.6 *Anti-Corruption Officer***

73.6.1 The Anti-Corruption Officer has exclusive jurisdiction, in the first instance, over any allegation in relation to the Competition of a breach of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program.

73.6.2 Decisions of the Anti-Corruption Officer may be appealed as set out in the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program.

### **74. Provisional suspensions**

74.1 Provisional suspensions may be imposed in accordance with Schedule 3 (Code of Conduct) Article III section C, and/or Schedule 4 (Welfare Policy) Article b (i), or where otherwise expressly provided in the Rules and Regulations (such as in the Tennis Anti-Doping Programme and Tennis Anti-Corruption Program).

### **75. Sanctions**

75.1 Where the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel and/or the Independent Tribunal (as applicable) upholds an allegation of breach of the Regulations, it may impose one or more of the sanctions below for such breach, unless the Regulations specify other specific sanctions for such breach:

75.1.1 a caution, reprimand and/or warning as to future conduct;

75.1.2 a fine payable by a specified date;

75.1.3 withholding of part or all of any payments otherwise due under Schedule 2, Articles 9-10;

75.1.4 disqualification/expulsion from the Competition and/or any specific matches, Ties and/or Events in the Competition, with all resulting consequences;

75.1.5 a specified period of ineligibility from participating in the Billie Jean King Cup competition, with all resulting consequences; and/or

75.1.6 such other sanction(s) as the Panel deems appropriate.

75.2 The ITF Internal Adjudication Panel and/or Independent Tribunal (as applicable) has the power to suspend all or any part of a sanction for a specified period, and to vacate the suspended sanction(s) at the end of that period if there have been no further breaches in the interim (either a specified type of breach or any breach, as specified by the decision-maker at the time of suspending the sanction).

## **76. Appeals**

### **76.1 *Standard appeal procedure***

76.1.1 Subject to any contrary provision in the Rules and Regulations, appeals must be brought within no later than 21 days after receipt of the decision in question.

76.1.2 Notwithstanding, Regulation 76.1.1, the ITF Executive or the Internal Adjudication Panel may reduce the 21 day appeal timeframe in exceptional circumstances, including but not limited to, where a decision needs to be rendered expeditiously to ensure the successful delivery of the Competition.

76.1.3 Subject to any contrary provision in the Rules and Regulations, appeals may (only) be brought by:

76.1.3.1 the person/Nation that is the subject of the decision being appealed;

76.1.3.2 the Nation of the person who is the subject of the decision being appealed;

76.1.3.3 any Nation that is directly affected by the decision being appealed; and/or

76.1.3.4 the ITF (excluding BJKCL).

### **76.2 *Expedited appeal procedure available for Finals Week***

76.2.1 For the Finals Week, where a Referee makes a decision under Regulation 11.1.4.1 against a Team Member for misconduct, or a Team Member is defaulted from a Tie as a result of an Onsite Offence, the group of Referees appointed for the Finals Week (or the Executive Director) shall have the power to remove the Team Member, or default the Player, for the remainder of the Finals Week, provided that (in the view of the Referees or Executive Director) such measure is required to protect the integrity and/or reputation of the Billie Jean King Cup competition, the ITF and/or the sport of tennis. A decision under this Regulation may be appealed by:



- 76.2.1.1 the Team Member that is the subject of the decision being appealed;
  - 76.2.1.2 the Nation of the person who is the subject of the decision being appealed; and/or
  - 76.2.1.3 the ITF (excluding BJKCL).
- 76.2.2 Any appeal under this Regulation 76.2 during the Finals Week may be subject to the special expedited procedure set out below, provided that the requirements set out below are met:
- 76.2.2.1 In order for the special expedited procedure to apply, the Team Member/Nation concerned must provide written notification of their intention to appeal to the Executive Director (who will notify the Independent Tribunal and, unless already notified, the Nation of the Team Member concerned) within one hour of notification of the decision in issue. If the Executive Director considers that the one-hour deadline is not feasible in the circumstances, they may extend that deadline, but in any event it shall not exceed 24 hours following notification of the decision. No notice of intention to appeal is required for any appeal by the ITF.
  - 76.2.2.2 The appellant must file a written notice of appeal as soon as practicable with the Executive Director (who will forward the appeal to the Independent Tribunal and, where applicable, the Nation of the person concerned), but in any event no later than 48 hours after notification of the decision in issue. The Independent Tribunal may invite the respondent and/or any other interested parties to file written response submissions within 24 hours (or less) of receipt of the notice of appeal.
  - 76.2.2.3 Subject to Regulation 76.2.2.4, the Independent Tribunal will order an oral hearing to proceed onsite (or other convenient location for the parties which may include by video or telephone conference) as soon as reasonably practicable in the circumstances.
  - 76.2.2.4 Subject to the approval of the Independent Tribunal, the parties to the appeal may agree to waive the right to an oral hearing, so that the Independent Tribunal renders a decision on the papers alone.
  - 76.2.2.5 The parties may be assisted by a legal or other representative during the hearing, and may call witnesses.
  - 76.2.2.6 The Independent Tribunal will issue a decision as soon as reasonably practicable after the hearing and/or receipt of

written submissions. The Independent Tribunal may issue the operative part of the award in writing, with a written reasoned decision to follow later.

76.2.2.7 The Independent Tribunal has the power to vary the deadlines set out in this Regulation depending on the specific circumstances of the case. The Independent Tribunal will apply its Procedural Rules, amended as necessary to accommodate this special expedited procedure for the Finals Week.

76.2.3 If the person/Nation concerned does not request (or comply with the requirements for) the special expedited procedure set out above, she/it may still bring an appeal to the Independent Tribunal, in accordance with the standard appeal procedure under Regulation 76.1 (or other specific procedure provided in the relevant section of the Regulations). In such a case, the person/Nation concerned shall not be entitled to an expedited procedure under the Independent Tribunal's Procedural Rules, unless the Independent Tribunal decides otherwise based on the specific circumstances of the matter in issue.

## **77. Failure to pay fines**

77.1 A Nation that fails to pay a fine within three months will not be allowed to participate in further editions of the Billie Jean King Cup competition until the fine is paid in full, unless otherwise decided by the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel.

## **R. MISCELLANEOUS**

## **78. Communications**

78.1 Any communications required to be made by the ITF (or any of its representatives) under the Regulations to:

78.1.1 a Nation will be sent to the National Association of that Nation by post, fax, email or otherwise at the ITF's discretion;

78.1.2 one or more of the Nation's Team Members, directors, officials, officers, members of staff, employees, contractors, agents, supporters or other representatives may be sent to the individual in question directly (by post, fax, email or otherwise at the ITF's discretion) or to the National Association to which the individual is affiliated in accordance with Regulation 78.1.1 (in which case it will be the responsibility of the National Association to ensure that the communication is passed to the relevant individual(s)).

78.2 For the purposes of Regulation 78.1, a Nation and/or individual will be deemed to have received a communication from the ITF under these Regulations (a) if sent by fax or email, on the business day such fax or email is sent (or, if not sent on a business day, on the first business day after the day on which it is sent); and (b) if sent by post, three business days after the day upon which the notification is posted to the Nation and/or individual. For these purposes, a 'business day' means a day on which the banks are open for business in the country/territory of the Nation or (as applicable) in the country in which the individual is residing.

78.3 Any communications required to be made by a Nation to the ITF under the Regulations must, unless otherwise specified by the ITF, be made by email with copy by post to:

International Tennis Federation  
FAO Executive Director  
Bank Lane  
Roehampton  
London SW15 5XZ  
England  
Email: executive.director@itftennis.com

## **79. Governing law and jurisdiction**

79.1 The Rules and Regulations and any dispute arising out of or in connection with them (including any dispute or claim relating to non-contractual obligations) shall be governed by and construed in accordance with English law, without regard to English law conflict of law principles.

79.2 Strictly subject to the alternate dispute resolution provisions set out in Regulations 72 to 76 or elsewhere in the Rules and Regulations, each Nation and each of its Team Members, directors, officials, officers, members of staff, employees, contractors, agents, and representatives agrees to submit any disputes or claims or other matters arising in relation to the Rules and Regulations (including any non-contractual disputes or claims) to arbitration before the CAS, to the exclusion of any other court or forum. Unless otherwise agreed, such disputes must be lodged within 21 days of the occurrence of the acts or omissions on which the claim or dispute is based, or (if later) of the claimant's knowledge of such acts or omissions. Any claim or dispute brought by or on behalf of the ITF under the Rules and Regulations shall be determined by the CAS exercising a supervisory jurisdiction only.

## **80. Waiver of claims and limitation of liability**

80.1 Subject to Regulation 80.3, by submitting an entry and/or participating in the Competition, each Nation and each of its Team Members agrees to waive all claims of any kind, nature and description, for themselves and for their executors, administrators, heirs and personal representatives, including past, present and future claims, for:

80.1.1 any injuries, losses or damages sustained in travelling to and/or from the Competition venue; and/or

80.1.2 participating in the Competition;

against each of the ITF (and its designees), the Finals Week Organiser, Home/Host Nations, Sponsors and any other commercial partners.

80.2 The ITF bears no liability to any Nation (or any of its Team Members) or any other persons or entities for any loss incurred as a result of a delayed, cancelled or rescheduled match, Tie and/or Event.

80.3 Nothing in the Regulations excludes or limits the liability of the ITF (and its designees), the Finals Week Organiser, Home/Host Nations or Sponsors or other commercial partners (i) for death or personal injury caused by their (respective) negligence; (ii) for fraud; or (iii) to the extent that such exclusion or limitation is not permitted by applicable law.

## **81. Severability**

81.1 A ruling by a competent authority that any provision of the Regulations is invalid or unenforceable shall not affect the legal enforceability of the Regulations as a whole. Instead, such provision shall be replaced by the ITF with a valid and enforceable replacement provision as close as possible in effect to the replaced provision.

## **82. Matters not provided for**

82.1 Where a matter arises for which provision has not been made in the Regulations, the Board will provide for the matter as it sees fit.

## SCHEDULE 1: DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

S1.1 The following words or terms have the following meanings when used in the Rules and Regulations:

**Annual General Meeting:** as defined in the ITF Constitution.

**Anti-Corruption Officer:** means the position described in Regulation 73.6.

**Application to Host Form:** the form to be completed by any Nation wishing to apply to host a Regional Group Event.

**ATP:** Association of Tennis Professionals.

**Billie Jean King Cup:** the annual international women's tennis competition known by that name, being an official team competition of the ITF.

**Billie Jean King Cup Committee (or BJKCC):** the body appointed by the ITF to manage the Billie Jean King Cup competition, which has the powers and duties set out in Regulation 5.

**Billie Jean King Cup Nations Ranking:** the ranking of a Nation in the Competition, published at: [www.billiejeankingcup.com/en/rankings/current-rankings.aspx](http://www.billiejeankingcup.com/en/rankings/current-rankings.aspx).

**Billie Jean King Cup Trophy Protocol:** the protocol established by the ITF regarding the handling of the Trophy, as amended from time to time.

**BJKCL:** Billie Jean King Cup Limited (a subsidiary of ITFL).

**Board:** the Board of Directors of ITF Limited.

**Captain:** any captain (whether playing or non-playing) nominated by a Nation to participate in one or more Ties and/or Events in the Competition.

**Captains' Meeting:** a meeting called by the Referee with the Captains of the two Nations participating in a Tie, or the Captains of all Nations participating in the Event, as described in Regulation 45.

**CAS:** the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.

**Chair Umpire:** the on-court official responsible for calling the score and otherwise officiating a match. The Chair Umpire may be 'neutral' (i.e. from a different country than the two Nations in the match) or 'non-neutral' (from the same country as one of the two Nations in the match).

**Change of Selection Deadline:** the deadlines for changing singles and doubles Player selections set out in Regulation 42.

**Chief Umpire:** the on-site official responsible for assisting the Referee and managing and overseeing the other Officials appointed for any Tie/Event.

**Choice of Ground:** as defined in Regulation 28.2.

**Closing Ceremony:** the Trophy presentation ceremony held on court immediately after the conclusion of the Final, as described in Regulation 66.

**Code of Conduct:** the code of conduct set out at Schedule 3.

**Commercial Letter:** the letter(s) sent by BJKCL to participating Nations before each Tie/Event by 31 October for the Qualifiers and eight weeks before any other Tie/Event setting out details of the commercial and operational requirements to be fulfilled by participating Nations and the way in which the participating Nations may be permitted to exercise rights in the Competition.

**Commercial Rights:** as defined in Schedule 2, Article 1.

**Competition:** as defined in Regulation 1.2.

**Court Pace Rating:** the pace of a court surface, determined in accordance with the Rules of Tennis.

**Covered Person:** as defined in the preamble to the Welfare Policy.

**Credentialed Person:** as defined in the preamble to the Welfare Policy.

**Entry Deadline:** 3pm GMT on 24 July 2023.

**Event:** a series of round robin Ties (with a play-off or knock-out format) played within a one week period.

**Event Draw:** the draw that will take place at or before Regional Group Events to determine the composition of the round robin groups.

**Event Director:** a person appointed by the ITF with the powers and duties as set out in Regulation 6.

**Event Sponsor:** a company or other entity appointed by a Host Nation as a sponsor of a Regional Group Event.

**Executive Director:** the person appointed by the ITF with the powers and duties set out in Regulation 6.

**Final:** the final round of the Competition, contested by two Nations for the Trophy.

**Finals Round Robin:** the first round of the Finals Week consisting of a round robin between 12 Nations.

**Finals Week:** the top level of the Competition held over a period of one week, consisting of a 12-Nation Finals Round Robin, Semi-Finals and Final.

**Finals Week Knock-Out Rounds:** the Semi-Finals and Final.

**Finals Week Board:** the body appointed jointly by the ITF and the Finals Week Organiser, which will determine Wild Card selection and any other matter agreed between those parties.

**Finals Week Organiser:** a third party appointed by the ITF to organise the Finals Week.

**Financial Letter:** the letter sent by the ITF to participating Nations setting out further details of the financial requirements and benefits applicable to participating Nations.

**Grand Slam Board:** the body responsible for the coordination and management of activities of mutual interest to the four Grand Slam tournaments, including regulations, code of conduct and officiating.

**Group:** any one of Group I-IV, or further groups, based on geographical Region that may be created, which are different levels of the Competition below the Finals Week, Qualifiers and Play-offs (Group I being the highest level).

**Group I to IV Draw:** draws to determine the round robin pools for each Group Event in Groups I and below.

**Gross Receipts:** all monies received by a Home Nation in respect of admissions to the grounds, courts and stands at the Tie venue after the deduction of any government and/or municipal taxes (such deductions not exceeding 20% of the gross receipts).

**Home & Away:** the format for Ties in the Qualifiers and Play-offs where the location of each Tie is determined in accordance with Choice of Ground principles (Regulation 28.2), and where each Tie has a Home Nation (hosting the Tie) and a Visiting Nation (save if Regulation 28.2.5.2(a) applies).

**Home Nation:** a Nation responsible for hosting a Home & Away Tie in the Qualifiers or Play-offs, determined in accordance with Regulation 28.2.

**Home Nation Rights:** as defined in Schedule 2, Article 17.5.

**Host Application Deadline:** the deadline specified by the ITF for the application process for each Regional Group Event.

**Host Nation:** a Nation responsible for hosting a Regional Group Event.

**Hosting Manual:** a manual issued by the ITF, setting out the requirements for organising Ties/Events in the Competition.

**Hosting Requirements:** a document issued by the ITF, setting out the hosting requirements for Regional Group Events.

**Independent Doctor:** an independent medical doctor appointed for a Tie/Event in accordance with Regulation 10, and with the responsibilities (among others) set out in Schedule 5.

**Independent Tribunal:** an independent and impartial tribunal appointed in accordance with the Independent Tribunal's Procedural Rules.

**International Sponsor:** the company or other entity to which the ITF (or its designee) grants a package of rights for part or all of the Competition.

**ITF:** unless expressly stated otherwise references to 'ITF' in indicate:

ITF Limited (t/a the International Tennis Federation), responsible for the regulation of the Billie Jean King Cup competition (including the contents of the Regulations), and/or

ITFL and/or BJKCL, which own and control all the commercial rights in (and the rights to operate and manage) the Billie Jean King Cup competition, and/or their designees.

**ITF Constitution:** the memorandum of association, articles of association and bye-laws of ITF Limited, as amended from time to time, available at [www.itftennis.com/en/about-us/governance/rules-and-regulations/constitution](http://www.itftennis.com/en/about-us/governance/rules-and-regulations/constitution)

**ITF Duties and Procedures for Officials:** the rules of procedures and duties for Officials issued by the ITF, as amended from time to time.

**ITF Event Manager:** the person appointed by the ITF, with the powers and duties set out at Regulation 11.2.

**ITF Executive:** the executive staff members of the ITF responsible for the organisation of professional tennis events.

**ITF Internal Adjudication Panel:** an internal hearing panel appointed in accordance with the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel's Procedural Rules.

**ITFL:** ITF Licensing (UK) Limited.

**ITF Transgender Policy:** the policy issued by the ITF from time to time that determines how eligibility of transgender players are dealt with and which can be found on the ITF website: [www.itftennis.com/en/about-us/governance/rules-and-regulations/rules](http://www.itftennis.com/en/about-us/governance/rules-and-regulations/rules)

**ITIA:** the International Tennis Integrity Agency.



**Line Umpire:** the match-court official responsible for making line calls (among other things).

**Local Organising Committee:** the body appointed by the ITF and Finals Week Organiser to manage the operational delivery of the Finals Week in consultation with the Billie Jean King Cup Committee and Tournament Director.

**Major Offence:** the offences set out at Schedule 3 (Code of Conduct), Article III.

**Media Manager:** the person appointed to manage the media at a Tie/Event with the powers and duties set out in Regulation 11.5.

**Medical Time-Out:** as described in Schedule 5.

**Members:** as defined in the ITF Constitution.

**Nation:** has the same meaning as 'National Association'.

**National Association:** a member association of ITF Limited, representing one country or territory, including its officers, directors, employees, representatives, consultants, agents and volunteers, as well as the team representing it in the Billie Jean King Cup competition.

**Neutral Ground:** location for a Home & Away Tie that is not in the country or territory of either the Home Nation or Visiting Nation (i.e. a neutral venue), as described in Regulation 28.2.

**No Show:** as defined in Regulation 61.

**Official:** includes any match officials appointed by the ITF (or its designee) or a Home/Host Nation, including the Referee, Chair Umpires (whether neutral or non-neutral), Chief Umpires, Line Umpires and the Review Official.

**Official Dinner:** an official dinner that may be held by the organiser of a Tie/Event.

**Official Functions:** include the Captains' Meeting, Pre-Draw Press Conference, Pre-Tie Function, Post-Draw Press Conference, on-court ceremonies (including the Opening Ceremony, Team Presentation Ceremony and Closing Ceremony), Official Dinner, Photo Shoot and any Official Player Party.

**Official Organiser:** the person appointed by a Home/Host Nation with the powers and duties set out in Regulation 11.3.

**Official Player Party:** an official event that may be held for the Finals Week.

**Official Sponsor:** a sponsor of the Competition and/or any Tie/Event in the Competition granted the right by the ITF (or its designee) to use the designation 'Official Sponsor'.

**Official Supplier:** a supplier of the Competition and/or any Tie/Event in the Competition granted the right by the ITF (or its designee) to use the designation 'Official Sponsor'.

**Official Team Championship:** as defined in the ITF Constitution.

**Olympic Tennis Event:** as defined in the ITF Constitution.

**Onsite Offence:** the offences set out at Schedule 3 (Code of Conduct), Article II.

**Opening Ceremony:** as described in Regulation 63.

**Participation Payment:** payment paid to Nations, which the Nation may then use or distribute as it wishes, including to its Players and Captains nominated by a Nation to participate (or otherwise participating) in the Competition.

**Photo Shoot:** as described in Regulation 65.

**Play-offs:** a round of knock-out Home & Away Ties that take place after the Qualifiers and Group I Events contested by 16 Nations over a period of two match days, with the 8 winners qualifying for the Qualifiers the following year and the eight losers being relegated to their respective Group I the following year.

**Play-off Draw:** draw to determine which Nations will play each other in the Play-offs.

**Play-off Draw Deadline:** no later than one week after the conclusion of the Qualifiers.

**Player:** any tennis player nominated by a Nation to participate (or otherwise participating) in one or more Ties/Events in the Competition.

**Player Selection Deadline:** as specified in Regulation 41.2.

**Player Support Team Member:** as defined in the preamble to the Welfare Policy.

**Point Penalty Schedule:** the point penalty schedule set out at Schedule 3 (Code of Conduct), section S.

**Post-Draw Press Conference:** as described in Regulation 49.

**Pre-Draw Press Conference:** as described in Regulation 46.

**Pre-Tie Function:** as described in Regulation 47.

**Prize Money:** prize money paid to Players participating in the Finals Week.

**Procedural Rules:** the procedural rules of the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel and/or the procedural rules of the Independent Tribunal, both as amended from time to time.

**Qualifiers:** a round of knock-out Home & Away Ties contested by 18 Nations over a period of one week in the applicable edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition, with the nine winners advancing to the Finals Week.

**Qualifiers Draw:** draw to determine which Nations will play each other in the Qualifiers.

**Qualifiers Draw Deadline:** no later than one week after the conclusion of the Finals/Play-offs.

**Questionnaire:** the form setting out various arrangements for the organisation of the Tie that are subject to the approval of the Billie Jean King Cup Committee.

**Questionnaire Deadline:** as specified in Regulation 27.1.1.

**Referee:** the referee appointed for a Tie/Event by the Billie Jean King Cup Committee or ITF (see Regulation 9.1) with the duties and powers set out under Regulation 11.1.

**Region:** a geographical region that divides each of the Regional Groups, including (i) Europe/Africa), (ii) the Americas, or (iii) Asia/Oceania.

**Regional Group Event:** an Event comprising of Nations in a specific Regional Group I, II, III or IV.

**Regulations:** as defined in Regulation 2.1.

**Related Person:** any Team Member; any management representative, agent, family member, tournament guest, business associate or other affiliate or associate of any Team Member; and any other person who receives accreditation to a Tie/Event at the request of a Team Member or any other Related Person.

**Review Official:** the match official responsible for reviewing the electronic line calling system onsite.

**Round Robin Draw:** as defined in Regulation 22.5.

**Rules and Regulations:** as defined in Regulation 2.1.

**Rules of Tennis:** the rules of tennis issued by the ITF, as amended from time to time.

**Security Guidelines:** the guidelines issued by the ITF from time to time, setting out requirements for security at Ties/Events.

**Security Officer:** the person appointed to manage security at a Tie/Event, with the duties set out in Regulation 11.4.

**Security Plan:** the form to be completed by Home/Host Nations upon request by the ITF, setting out detailed security plans and arrangements for a Tie/Event.

**Security Questionnaire:** the form to be completed by Home/Host Nations in relation to security arrangements for a Tie/Event.

**Semi-Finals:** a round in the Finals Week contested by the four Nations that win their Round Robin pool.

**Sponsor:** includes the Title Sponsor, International Sponsors, Team Sponsors, Tie Sponsors and Event Sponsors, and any other Official Sponsor of the Competition.

**Sports Physiotherapist:** a physiotherapist appointed by the Host Nation for Regional Group Events or any physiotherapist engaged by a Nation and/or a Player to treat Player(s) during the Competition.

**Team Member:** Players and Captains nominated by a Nation to participate (or otherwise participating in) the Competition and any extra players, coaches, trainers, medical and para-medical personnel, physiotherapists (and other physicians) and any other Player support personnel attending the Competition on behalf of a Nation and/or assisting a Player and/or Captain participating in the Competition.

**Team Nomination Deadline:** as specified in Regulation 37.1.

**Team Presentation Ceremony:** as described in Regulation 64.

**Team Sponsor:** an entity appointed by a National Association as a sponsor of its team.

**Tennis Anti-Corruption Program (or TACP):** the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program issued by the ITIA, as amended from time to time.

**Tennis Anti-Doping Programme (or TADP):** the Tennis Anti-Doping Programme issued by the ITIA, as amended from time to time.

**Tie:** a series of three or five matches (with one doubles match and the rest singles) played between two Nations in the Competition.

**Tie Draw:** a draw completed before a Tie to determine the order of play.

**Tie Sponsor:** a company or other entity appointed by a Home Nation as a sponsor of a Home & Away Tie/Event.

**Title Sponsor:** the company or other entity to which the ITF (or its designee) grants naming rights (and other rights, as agreed) to the Competition.

**Tournament Director:** the person appointed to manage the Finals Week in accordance with Regulation 8.

**Trophy:** as described in Regulation 66.

**Visiting Nation:** a Nation playing in a Home & Away Tie that is not responsible for hosting the Tie (i.e. that is not the Home Nation), determined in accordance with Regulation 28.2.

**Visiting Nation Team Host:** the person appointed by a Home Nation to assist a Visiting Nation during a Home & Away Tie, as described in Regulation 11.6.

**Welfare Policy:** the Welfare Policy set out at Schedule 4.

**Wild Card:** a Nation selected to play in the Finals Week (that would not otherwise have been qualified for the Finals Week) in accordance with Regulation 22.3.

**WTA:** W o m e n ' s T e n n i s A s s o c i a t i o n .

- S1.2 The ITF may publish the Regulations in languages other than English. In the event of any discrepancy between the English language version of the Regulations and any other language versions of the Regulations, the English language version will govern.
- S1.3 Any words following the terms 'including', 'include', 'in particular', 'such as', 'for example', or any similar expression will be construed as illustrative and will not limit the sense of the words, description, definition, phrase or term preceding those terms.
- S1.4 Unless specified otherwise, (i) references to a 'Regulation' refer to a numbered provision in the Regulations, (ii) references to a 'Schedule' refer to the schedules to the Regulations (which form an integral part of the Regulations), and (iii) references to 'Article' refer to a numbered provision in the Schedules.
- S1.5 References to provisions of the ITF Constitution or of the other Rules and Regulation will be deemed to include references to any successor provisions thereto as may be issued after the date these Regulations are issued.
- S1.6 Unless the context requires otherwise, references to the male sex ('he' and 'his') are to be deemed to encompass the female sex as well ('she' and 'her'), and vice versa.
- S1.7 To the extent there is any inconsistency between the ITF Constitution on the one hand and these Regulations on the other hand, the ITF Constitution will govern.

## **SCHEDULE 2: COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL RULES**

### **A. OWNERSHIP OF RIGHTS**

#### **1. ITF rights**

- 1.1 Any and all rights of a commercial nature and any other exploitation of the Competition and/or any match, Tie and/or Event within the Competition, and all intellectual property rights associated with the Competition and/or any match, Tie and/or Event within the Competition, are owned by and vested in ITFL (the **Commercial Rights**).
- 1.2 ITFL has granted a licence to BJKCL to exploit all of the Commercial Rights. Each of those entities may in their discretion authorise others to exploit all or some of the Commercial Rights and/or decide not to exploit (and not to allow others to exploit) some of the Commercial Rights. Each of ITFL and BJKCL may also appoint one or more commercial representatives to act as a broker or agent on their behalf with respect to some or all of the Commercial Rights.
- 1.3 Save where expressly provided to the contrary in this Schedule 2 or otherwise in the Rules and Regulations, all of the Commercial Rights will be reserved in their entirety to the ITF and/or their designees, and all of the revenues arising from the exploitation of the Commercial Rights will accrue to the ITF and/or their designees.
- 1.4 Unless expressly stated otherwise, all references in this Schedule 2 to 'the ITF' shall be deemed to mean 'ITFL and/or BJKCL'.

#### **2. Nation rights**

- 2.1 The Nations will have the rights and be entitled to keep the revenues as set out in the subsequent sections of this Schedule 2, and as otherwise set out in the Rules and Regulations.

### **B. PROVISIONS COMMON TO ALL LEVELS OF THE COMPETITION**

#### **Part I: Commercial rights and obligations**

#### **3. Sponsorship rights**

- 3.1 The ITF has the following rights (without limitation) in relation to the Competition, including the Finals Week:
- 3.1.1 the title of the Competition;
- 3.1.2 the use of any mascot, symbol, legend or device associated with the Competition;

- 3.1.3 advertisements within the court area and stadium in accordance with the split of rights agreed by the ITF and the Nations (as shown on the current Billie Jean King Cup court layout). The ITF may allow a Home/Host Nation in the Qualifiers, Play-offs and Regional Groups to have limited advertising within the court area. It is understood, however, that the ITF will not acquire rights to permanent signs at the venues (permanent meaning fixed in place prior to the scheduling of the Tie pursuant to the terms of a written contract of not less than three years duration). No venue may be selected if it has permanent signs at courtside positions or within the angle of the main television cameras. For the purposes of this provision, '**advertisements**' means all space available for advertising within the court area (including the court, surrounds and stands) whether on advertising boards, banners, chairs, uniforms, tickets, scoreboards, backdrops or any other static or moving objects;
  - 3.1.4 appointment of entities as Official Sponsors of and/or Official Suppliers to the Competition;
  - 3.1.5 all Media Rights (without territorial limitation) (as set out in Article 5);
  - 3.1.6 all recordings (as set out in Article 6); and
  - 3.1.7 all Data Rights (as set out in Article 7).
- 3.2 Subject to the provisions set out in the relevant Commercial Letter(s), each participating Nation has the right to:
- 3.2.1 designate the name or title of the national team;
  - 3.2.2 secure Team Sponsors, subject to the following restrictions:
    - 3.2.2.1 there may be a maximum of three Team Sponsors at any time.
    - 3.2.2.2 Team Sponsors for the Finals Week may be in any category other than the reserved categories notified to Nations in advance of the Finals Week, notwithstanding any conflict with sponsors that the Finals Week Organiser engages.
  - 3.2.3 produce team-specific merchandise and save that merchandise will not be permitted to be sold within any Tie/Event venue without the prior approval of the Tie/Event Organiser; and
  - 3.2.4 use video clips and images on websites, platforms and publications (for non-commercial information purposes and only to promote the Competition and/or its team).

#### **4. Image Rights**

- 4.1 Each Team Member nominated to participate in (or otherwise attending or participating in) the Competition grants a worldwide, perpetual, irrevocable, royalty free, transferrable and sub-licensable licence to the ITF (and to the ITF's licensees, e.g. the Finals Week Organiser, broadcasters and Sponsors, including in respect of the Final in accordance with Article 13) the right in perpetuity to make, use and show from time to time and at the ITF's discretion, audio or audio-visual footage, still pictures and live, taped or filmed television, games-based imagery and other reproductions of her in connection with the promotion of the Competition, future editions of the Billie Jean King Cup competition, the ITF itself and the sport of tennis, without compensation for herself, her heirs, devisees, executors, administrators or assigns (the **Image Rights**). Each Team Member waives any moral rights (and/or any other rights of attribution in any jurisdiction) in respect of the Image Rights.
- 4.2 No Team Member's image may be used in a manner that implies a commercial endorsement by the Team Member individually of any product or company save as required by Article 13 and/or as otherwise agreed by separate agreement.
- 4.3 Each Nation must notify its Team Members of the grant to the ITF (and its licensees) of the Image Rights, and must do or procure to be done all such further acts and things, and will execute or procure the execution of all such other documents, as may be required to give full force and effect to the grant of that licence.
- 4.4 References to the ITF in this Article 4 shall include ITF Limited.

#### **5. Media Rights**

- 5.1 The ITF owns and has absolute discretion with respect to both domestic and international Media Rights, save as set out in this Schedule 2. For the purposes of this Schedule 2, the term **Media Rights** means the right to attend at and to film and/or record and transmit, anywhere in the world, audio and audio-visual signals of Ties, matches and other Competition-related content, in whole or in part, whether live or delayed, by all methods of communication to the public by way of electronic transmission (whether analogue or digital or otherwise) now existing or as may be developed in the future, including (without limitation) satellite, cable and terrestrial television and radio, internet (e.g. webcasting of live video or audio coverage of matches and/or Ties), mobile and/or wireless telephony and other technologies (e.g. WAP technology, SAS, ADSL, SDL, 3G), applications or similar software, interactive technology and fixed media (e.g. videos, DVDs, CD-Roms and computer games).

#### **6. Recordings**

- 6.1 Copyright in any and all coverage of the Billie Jean King Cup competition (including but not limited to coverage produced for television, film, video, internet and/or radio exploitation) and any other reproductions shall be the



exclusive property of the ITF. If a Nation wishes to film or make use of footage from the Billie Jean King Cup competition, it must obtain prior written approval from the ITF.

## **7. Data**

### **7.1 Data Rights**

7.1.1 For the purposes of this Article 7, the following terms relating to data rights are defined as follows:

7.1.1.1 **Data Rights:** the right to in any way use or create or assemble Official Data including without limitation the right to collect, collate, store, use, reproduce, exploit, onward supply or make available any and all Official Data including but not limited to the Live Scoring Rights.

7.1.1.2 **Live Scoring Rights:** the right to exercise the Data Rights during the applicable Match Period.

7.1.1.3 **Match Period:** in respect of each match, the period commencing at the start of that match and expiring 30 seconds after the conclusion of the last game in that match.

7.1.1.4 **Official Data:** any order of play/schedule, draw, scoring (including, without limitation live match scores/in-match incident such as match starting, challenge, a point being scored, number of aces etc) and/or other statistical information relating to the Competition, any match, Tie and/or Event therein, and/or any Nation and/or Team Member, howsoever generated and including (without limitation) PAT Data.

7.1.1.5 **Player Analysis Technology Data (or PAT Data):** Player performance analysis data and/or other data or information (and any analysis derived from that data or information) that is collected (a) during a match in the Competition, and (b) by means of any system of Player analysis technology that is approved by ITF for use in the Competition, whether or not it is collected by or in co-operation with the ITF, the Nation or the Team Member.

7.1.2 The ITF will have the exclusive right to exercise the Data Rights (including without limitation the Live Scoring Rights) in respect of any and all Ties and/or any and all elements of the Competition. Each Nation will assist the ITF in its efforts to exercise the Data Rights.

7.1.3 Each Nation may on a royalty-free basis:

- 7.1.3.1 use Official Data (excluding PAT Data) in the Nation's official publications and on official websites, mobile applications and/or other media outlets provided that any such use takes place after the applicable Match Period and is for non-gambling purposes;
- 7.1.3.2 supply the Official Data (excluding PAT Data) to Official Sponsors and/or Official Suppliers provided that any such supply:
  - (a) takes place after the applicable Match Period;
  - (b) is for non-gambling purposes;
  - (c) is for their own use and publication in connection with the Nation that they sponsor/supply; and
  - (d) is not for onward supply to third parties; and
- 7.1.3.3 use the Official Data (excluding PAT Data) for in-venue purposes (including, for example, without limitation, on in-venue scoreboards) before the expiry of the Match Period for non-gambling purposes;
- 7.1.4 In addition, the host broadcaster of a Qualifier, Play-off or Regional Group Tie/Event and (if applicable) the licensees of traditional broadcast television in the host country may use Official Data in their live and/or delayed transmissions of that Tie provided that:
  - 7.1.4.1 such use is an integral part of the transmission of the television signal of the Tie;
  - 7.1.4.2 the Official Data is not used in connection with gambling or for gambling purposes; and
  - 7.1.4.3 the Official Data used relates only to the Tie that is being broadcast.
- 7.1.5 If the ITF provides a live score centre of any match on the ITF and/or Billie Jean King Cup website, Nations may request to incorporate a link on their respective official websites that enables viewers to access and view such live score centre. The ITF will not unreasonably refuse any request to incorporate such a link provided that the link is incorporated in accordance with the ITF's directions.
- 7.1.6 All other rights to use or create or assemble Official Data or in any way to exercise the Data Rights are reserved exclusively to the ITF and may be exploited by the ITF at its sole election.

## **7.2 Data Rights protection**

- 7.2.1 Nations shall not allow or authorise the dissemination, transmission, publication or release of any Official Data and/or any match score or other related statistical data from the venue of any Tie/Event.
- 7.2.2 The use of laptop computers, mobile phones or other handheld electronic devices within the venues to collate, collect, use, store, reproduce, onward supply or make available any Official Data and/or any match score or other related statistical data (save for incidental use within editorial reporting) or for purposes relating to gambling is prohibited and each Nation must take reasonable steps to enforce such prohibition (including without limitation by means of venue regulations, ticket conditions and accreditation terms). This provision does not apply to use by credentialed personnel of a Nation and/or the ITF of Official Data in the performance of their duties.
- 7.2.3 Nations must co-operate with the ITF in relation to:
- 7.2.3.1 any system or scheme that the ITF implements for the exercise, collection, supply and/or licensing (in each case by the ITF itself or via an appointed third party) of Live Scoring Rights; and
  - 7.2.3.2 any measures that the ITF takes to protect the exclusivity of Live Scoring Rights and the prevention of any unauthorised collation, collection, use, storage, reproduction, onward supply or making available of Official Data.

## **7.3 PAT Data exploitation**

- 7.3.1 Subject to the Rules of Tennis, Nations and Team Members using approved PAT systems may collect, collate, assemble and store PAT Data from matches played in the Competition subject to the following conditions:
- 7.3.1.1 During the Tie/Event, the Nations, Team Members and any technology providers or service operators involved in the collection, collation and/or analysis of PAT Data may only use such PAT Data for internal analysis and coaching purposes of the respective Player and/or Nation and such use is strictly subject to Rule 31 of the Rules of Tennis.
  - 7.3.1.2 Each Nation shall procure that any technology provider or service operator involved in the collection, collation and/or analysis of PAT Data at any time must:
    - (a) not publish, use or otherwise exploit any PAT Data or supply any PAT Data or analysis derived therefrom to third parties for any purposes other than as described

in this Article 7 or that have otherwise been pre-approved in writing by ITFL;

- (b) take such steps as the ITFL may reasonably require to prevent any unauthorised access to and/or use of such PAT Data, in particular but without limitation no PAT Data or analysis or product derived therefrom may be used or supplied to any third party for any purpose related to betting and/or gambling; and
- (c) ensure that ITFL is able to access free of charge any and all such PAT Data live and/or delayed at the venue of the match and/or such other point as may be agreed, and ITFL is free to use such PAT Data and authorise third parties to use such PAT Data for any purposes.

7.3.2 In the event that such PAT Data is accessed by unauthorised third parties and/or ITFL reasonably believes that PAT Data, PAT equipment and/or PAT services are being used for any purposes in breach of the Rules and Regulations, ITFL is entitled to rescind its approval and the Nations and Team Members will immediately cease use of the PAT system pending resolution.

## **Part II: Finances**

### **8. Currency**

8.1 The official currency of the Competition is the US dollar. Financial transactions under the Regulations may be conducted in currencies other than the US dollar where agreed in writing between the two parties involved in the transaction. Such agreement should specify the currency in which the transaction will be conducted and the date on which any conversion to/from any other currency will be calculated. Unless otherwise agreed in writing between the parties, the official currency will apply and the date of completion of the Tie in question will be the relevant date for conversion of amounts from any other currency.

### **9. Participation Payment to Nations**

9.1 Each Nation participating in the Competition will receive a Participation Payment, which may be made up of income from licence fees, sponsorship deals, and/or broadcast or other rights deals in relation to the Billie Jean King Cup. The amount of the payment will be based on performance in the Competition, and will be determined by BJKCL in consultation with the Billie Jean King Cup Committee. It is up to the Nation to determine any distribution of the Participation Payment to its Players and Captains nominated to participate (or otherwise participating) in the Competition.

9.2 BJKCL may (as it sees fit) make a separate payment to the Home/Host Nation for hosting a Tie/Event, as determined by BJKCL in consultation with the Billie Jean King Cup Committee.

## **10. Player-only Prize Money for Finals Week**

10.1 For the Finals Week only, Prize Money will be paid in accordance with a distribution agreed by the Nation and the Players. If no agreement is reached on the distribution, the prize money must be in accordance with the policy notified to the Nations by the ITF.

## **Part III: Specific sanctions**

### **11. Failure to comply**

11.1 If a Nation fails, without the consent of the ITF, to carry out any of its obligations under this Schedule 2, and the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel upholds an allegation of such failure/breach, then in addition to its sanctioning powers under Regulation 75, the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel may also order forfeiture of that Nation's Choice of Ground on the first occasion on which it is entitled to such choice in the next edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition.

## **C. FINALS WEEK**

### **Part I: Commercial rights and obligations**

#### **12. Media Rights**

12.1 Participating Finals Week Nations will have no Media Rights. The ITF shall retain all revenue generated from any exploitation of broadcast rights, whether international or domestic, subject to any agreement with designee(s) authorised to exploit these rights.

#### **13. Image Rights for the Final**

13.1 In respect of the Final, each Player/Captain acknowledges and agrees that Sponsors may use her Image Rights (further to the licence granted in Article 4.1), subject to the following conditions:

13.1.1 the rights are restricted to use by Sponsors in connection with each Player's/Captain's status as a member of her Nation and must only be used in materials featuring no less than four Players/Captains;

13.1.2 the images may only be used by Sponsors to promote their association with the Finals Week;

13.1.3 the Image Rights may only be used by one Team Sponsor or one Tie Sponsor, and only within the geographic territory of the relevant Nation;

- 13.1.4 all use by Sponsors (including scope and duration of use) will be subject to the prior written approval of the ITF;
  - 13.1.5 no Player's/Captain's image may be used in a manner that is materially more prominent than the images of other Player/Captain used; and
  - 13.1.6 in any event the rights may only be granted for a period of up to one year after the Final.
- 13.2 As to use of Image Rights by sponsors, unless otherwise approved by the ITF:
- 13.2.1 the Title Sponsor may use the Image Rights on a worldwide basis for a maximum period of four months after the Final.
  - 13.2.2 the International Sponsors may use the Image Rights on a worldwide basis for a maximum period of four months after the Final. The Image Rights may be used for print and online advertising in normal customer contact points, e.g. store fronts and websites. The Image Rights may not be used for any form of on-product advertising or promotion.
  - 13.2.3 a Team Sponsor or Tie Sponsor may use the Image Rights, but such use is restricted to the scope set out in Article 13.1.3, and restricted to within the geographic territory of the Nation associated with that Team Sponsor/Tie Sponsor.

**Part II: Ticketing and hospitality**

**14. Complimentary tickets/hospitality**

- 14.1 Each Nation participating in the Finals Week may receive up to the following number of complimentary tickets and hospitality allocations (upon request to ITFL) for each session of the Finals Week in which it participates:

<b>Number of seats</b>	<b>Type/position</b>	<b>Hospitality</b>
<b>12</b>	For Team Members directly behind the Nation's Captain's seat	Not included
<b>10</b>	Priority positions in the Presidential box	Included (free of charge)
<b>100</b>	First category session tickets	Not included

- 14.2 The Nations participating in each session shall have first choice of location for their complimentary seats, subject to the following:
- 14.2.1 Where a stadium does not include any boxes, the seats can be located anywhere;

- 14.2.2 Where the first six rows of seating or less are categorised as boxes, the complimentary seats must be located outside of the area set aside for boxes; and
- 14.2.3 Where more than the first six rows of seating are categorised as boxes, the complimentary seats can be positioned anywhere, including in the area set aside for boxes, but only starting in the rows immediately behind row six.
- 14.2.4 The seats in each complimentary ticket category allocation must be positioned together.

**15. Right to purchase additional tickets/hospitality**

- 15.1 Each Finals Week Nation is entitled:
  - 15.1.1 to purchase, subject to availability, additional seats for its delegates in the Presidential box;
  - 15.1.2 to purchase 10% of all available tickets (excluding the number previously allocated to it as complimentary under Article 14.1) for each Tie it competes in, provided that it makes such request to ITFL by the deadline set by ITFL and notified to participating Nations when that deadline is known by ITFL. Such tickets must be divided in proportion to the number of available tickets in the two highest price categories (excluding boxes), save that each participating Nation will be entitled (at a minimum) to purchase 700 first category tickets, at face value. The seats in each price category must be positioned together in significant numbers, and the majority of the seats must be located in a block directly behind the relevant Nation's team bench, unless otherwise agreed by ITFL; and
  - 15.1.3 to use a reasonable-sized facility onsite at the Finals Week venue for each Tie it competes in for its official party (maximum of 100 people), provided that it makes such request to the Finals Week Organiser by the deadline set by ITFL and notified to participating Nations when that deadline is known by ITFL. Use of the facility will be free of charge, but the Finals Week Organiser is entitled to charge the Nation at cost for food, drink, decoration, etc.

**16. The Final**

- 16.1 The ticket allocations and entitlements detailed in Article 14 and 15 remain applicable for the Final.
- 16.2 The Presidents (and a guest) of Nations that have participated in the Finals Week but are not participating in the Final are entitled (upon request to ITFL at reasonable notice and where available) to receive complimentary seats in the Presidential box (including hospitality) for use by themselves and their guest.

## Part III: Finances

### 17. Expenses

- 17.1 For the Finals Week, BJKCL will reimburse the general travelling expenses of the Nation's Players and Captain in accordance with a percentage agreed by the ITF in consultation with the Billie Jean King Cup Committee (as detailed in the Financial Letter). The general travelling expenses will be limited as set out in the Financial Letter.
- 17.2 The Finals Week Organiser will provide for meals on match days onsite at the Finals Week venue for up to 16 Team Members of both participating Nations, at no cost.
- 17.3 The Finals Week Organiser will provide and pay for accommodation for each Nation's nominated Players and Captain.
- 17.4 For the avoidance of doubt, each Nation is responsible for the cost of all other travel, accommodation, subsistence and other expenses incurred as a result of participation in the Finals Week.

## D. QUALIFIERS AND PLAY-OFFS

### Part I: Commercial rights and obligations

- 17.5 Subject to the provisions and limitations set out in the relevant Commercial Letter(s), in addition to the rights set out at Article 3.2, the Home Nation has (in relation to the Tie that it organises) the right to (together, the **Home Nation Rights**):
- 17.5.1 retain Gross Receipts and the rights and proceeds to and from hospitality, the programme, food, beverages, merchandise and other on-site sales related to the Tie;
- 17.5.2 advertisements within the court area and stadium of the Tie in accordance with the current Billie Jean King Cup court layout, as set out in the relevant Commercial Letter. The Home Nation must provide the Title Sponsor and other International Sponsors of the Competition appointed by the ITF the opportunity to purchase such advertising opportunities and subject to the conditions set out below;
- 17.5.3 appoint entities as Official Suppliers of the Tie;
- 17.5.4 the right to appoint a number of Tie Sponsors in accordance with the Commercial Letter;
- 17.5.5 feature Billie Jean King Cup-specific material on its website, in accordance with any guidelines provided by the ITF;



- 17.5.6 income generated from advertising on the big-screen in-venue (where present) in accordance with the Commercial Letter (although the ITF shall control the content);
  - 17.5.7 commercial/product display booths outside the court area;
  - 17.5.8 selection of the ball to be used, subject to Regulation 30; and
  - 17.5.9 selection of the court surface and manufacturer, subject to Regulation 29.1.
- 17.6 Further detail on the rights of Home Nations and the rights of sponsors of Qualifier and/or Play-off Ties will be set out in the Commercial Letter.
- 17.7 The following restrictions apply to the exercise of Home Nation Rights:
- 17.7.1 If the Billie Jean King Cup Committee decides to relocate a Tie and/or otherwise to revoke a Nation's status as a Home Nation in circumstances permitted under the Regulations, that Nation will lose the right to exercise the Home Nation Rights. If the Billie Jean King Cup Committee relocates the Tie to the country of the Visiting Nation, then the Visiting Nation will become the Home Nation for that Tie, and if the Billie Jean King Cup Committee relocates the Tie to a neutral venue then the ITF will perform the obligations of the Nation otherwise responsible for organising the Tie.
  - 17.7.2 Companies that acquire Home Nation Rights may not undertake substantial promotional or advertising activities at any particular Tie (i) that conflict with licensed product lines advertised within the precincts of the court by the Title Sponsor and/or International Sponsors, or (ii) that are greater than and/or derogate from those rights acquired by the Title Sponsor and International Sponsors. Nations must ensure that the Title Sponsor is clearly recognised as the main sponsor of the Competition and must give the Title Sponsor appropriate recognition in any official programmes of the Tie and in other print and/or promotional material. The ITF may intervene if it reasonably believes that this Article 17.7.2 has been or is about to be breached in a manner that may jeopardise its contract(s) with the Title Sponsor or International Sponsors.
  - 17.7.3 Home Nation Rights for advertisements within the court and the stadium of the Tie may only be acquired by a Team Sponsor and Tie Sponsors, of which there must be not more than the limit for that Tie as set out in the relevant Commercial Letter. Tie Sponsors must be companies whose principal place of business is located within and/or substantially serves the metropolitan area of the Tie venue. Within the stadium and court area, no one Sponsor can have more than four banners in total, unless agreed otherwise in writing by the ITF (in its sole discretion). Any

Tie Sponsor or Team Sponsor must be notified to the ITF at least 15 days prior to the first match in the Tie.

17.8 In relation to advertisements, the Home Nation must:

17.8.1 ensure that the precincts of the court are cleared of advertising, franchise, display and other rights that have not been granted by or with the approval of the ITF or otherwise in accordance with the Rules and Regulations;

17.8.2 ensure that no obstructions are placed or remain between the camera(s) and courtside advertising;

17.8.3 where applicable, obtain a written statement from the prospective host broadcaster that specifies any restrictions applicable to the display of advertising boards, banners or any similar identification on its broadcast feed and immediately send a copy upon receipt to the ITF;

17.8.4 procure that any holders of Home Nation Rights whose advertising or identification may be seen on television comply with any restrictions imposed by the host broadcaster under Article 17.8.3;

17.8.5 allow relevant contractors access to the match court at least 48 hours prior to the start of play to erect and install advertisements, displays, equipment and so on; and

17.8.6 remove or cover any advertisements that do not comply with the Rules and Regulations.

17.9 If the Home Nation fails to comply with Article 17.8, the ITF may instruct its own contractors to remove or cover up any advertisements as necessary to comply with the Rules and Regulations.

17.10 BJKCL undertakes to ensure that the holders of any International Rights comply with any restrictions (provided that they are legitimate and notified to BJKCL) imposed by the host broadcaster pursuant to Article 17.8.3.

## **18. Media Rights**

18.1 The Home Nation will have no Media Rights. The ITF shall retain all revenue generated from any exploitation of broadcast rights, whether international or domestic, subject to any agreement with any designee that is authorised to exploit these rights.

## Part II: Ticketing and hospitality

### 19. Complimentary tickets/hospitality

- 19.1 The Home Nation of any Qualifier and Play-off Tie must provide the following complimentary seats/tickets and hospitality (upon request) to the Visiting Nation for each session:

Visiting Nations		
Number of seats	Type/position	Hospitality
<b>12</b>	For Team Members directly behind the Nation's Captain's seat	Not included
<b>Up to 10</b>	Priority positions in the Presidential box	Included (free of charge)
<b>50</b>	First category daily tickets	Not included

- 19.2 The Home Nation of any Qualifier and Play-off Tie must provide the following complimentary seats/tickets and hospitality (upon request) to ITFL, Title Sponsor and International Sponsors for each session:

ITF, Title Sponsor and International Sponsors		
Number of seats	Type/position	Hospitality
<b>Up to 6</b> (ITFL) <b>Up to 20</b> (Qualifiers and Play-offs) (in aggregate for Title Sponsor and International Sponsors)	Presidential box	Included (free of charge)
<b>180</b> (Qualifiers and Play-offs)	First category daily tickets	Not included

- 19.3 The Home Nation participating in each session shall have first choice of location for their complimentary seats, subject to the following:

- 19.3.1 Where a stadium does not include any boxes, the seats can be located anywhere;

- 19.3.2 Where the first six rows of seating or less are categorised as boxes, the complimentary seats must be located outside of the area set aside for boxes;
- 19.3.3 Where more than the first six rows of seating are categorised as boxes, the complimentary seats can be positioned anywhere, including in the area set aside for boxes, but only starting in the rows immediately behind row six; and
- 19.3.4 The seats in each complimentary ticket category allocation must be positioned together.

## **20. Right to purchase additional tickets/hospitality**

### **20.1 The Visiting Nation is entitled:**

- 20.1.1 to purchase 10% of all available tickets (excluding the number previously allocated to it as complimentary under Article 19.1), provided that it makes such request to the Home Nation no later than 20 days after being advised of the ticket prices and venue for the Tie. Such tickets must be divided in proportion to the number of available tickets in the two highest price categories (excluding boxes), save that the Visiting Nation will be entitled (at a minimum) to purchase 500 first category tickets at cost. The seats in each price category must be positioned together in significant numbers, and the majority of the seats must be located in a block directly behind the Visiting Nation's team bench, unless otherwise agreed by the ITF; and
- 20.1.2 to use a reasonable-sized facility onsite at the Tie venue for its official party (maximum of 50 people), provided that it makes such request to the Home Nation no later than 30 days before a Tie. The Home Nation is entitled to charge the Visiting Nation at cost for food, drink, decoration, etc.

### **20.2 The ITF, Title Sponsor and International Sponsors are entitled to purchase (in aggregate):**

- 20.2.1 10% of all available tickets (excluding the number previously allocated to them as complimentary under Article 19.2), provided that they make such request to the Home Nation no later than 30 days before the Tie. Such tickets must be divided in proportion to the number of available tickets in the two highest price categories (excluding boxes), with the entitlement to purchase 500 first category tickets per session, at face value. The seats in each price category must be positioned together in significant numbers, and must be in a good location; and
- 20.2.2 500 hospitality passes of a first class standard at market price. The price must include facility construction, food and beverages, decoration, staff etc. but does not have to include local taxes. The ITF, Title Sponsor and

International Sponsors must be given first choice of the location of their hospitality area after the Home Nation area have been met.

### **Part III: Finances**

#### **21. Expenses**

##### **21.1 Officials**

- 21.1.1 ITFL will pay the travelling expenses of the Referee and neutral Chair Umpires to/from their location to the Tie venue (i.e. airfare or other modes of transport).
- 21.1.2 The Home Nation must pay the fees, accommodation, transport (between hotel and venue) and subsistence costs of the Referee and neutral Chair Umpires.

##### **21.2 Nominated teams – general travelling expenses**

- 21.2.1 For each Tie that a Nation plays away from home, the ITF will reimburse the general travelling expenses of the Nation's nominated Players and Captain in accordance with a percentage agreed by the Board in consultation with the Billie Jean King Cup Committee. The general travelling expenses will be limited as follows:
  - 21.2.1.1 The ITF will reimburse the price of travel from the Nation's capital city to the Tie venue.
  - 21.2.1.2 If any Player/Captain travels to the Tie venue from a city other than the Nation's capital city, then the ITF will set a 'benchmark' for the cost of travel from the Nation's capital city to the Tie venue (the 'journey') using: (i) the actual price paid by one of the nominated Player's/Captain's if he made the journey, or (ii) if none of the Players/Captains made that journey, by carrying out research online and with travel agents to prepare a quote. If the actual cost of travel for any Player/Captain:
    - (a) is more than the benchmark for the journey, then the ITF will reimburse only the benchmark amount; or
    - (b) is less than the benchmark for the journey, then the ITF will reimburse only the lesser amount.
- 21.2.2 BJKCL will reimburse business class airfares for the Finals, Qualifiers and Play-offs, and economy class airfares for Group I and below events (or equivalent, if the nominated Players/Captain travel by other reasonable means of transport).

### **21.3 Nominated teams – accommodation/meals**

21.3.1 The Home Nation must provide and pay for meals on match days onsite at the Tie venue for the nominated teams of both Nations.

21.3.2 Each Nation must pay its own costs for accommodation and off-site meals, irrespective of where the Tie is played.

### **22. Nation defaulting on payments**

22.1 Where a Nation fails to make any payment due under the Rules and Regulations, either to the ITF (including ITF Limited) or to another Nation, without prejudice to the Nation's obligation to discharge its the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel will impose a fine (to be paid to the creditor in question) of not more than 10% of the amount outstanding for each month of delay in payment, and may rule the defaulting Nation ineligible for future editions of the Billie Jean King Cup until its liabilities under this Regulation have been fully discharged.

22.2 A creditor Nation must file a claim with the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel within four calendar months of the conclusion of the Tie/Event concerned, giving particulars of the amounts due to it in respect of general travelling expenses, subsistence and details of the Gross Receipts (if known).

## **E. REGIONAL GROUPS**

### **23. Commercial rights**

23.1 In addition to section B of this Schedule 2, the commercial rights available to Nations in the Regional Groups will be specified in the relevant Commercial Letter.

### **24. Ticketing and hospitality**

24.1 The allocation of tickets will be as set out in the Hosting Manual.

### **25. Finances**

25.1 ITFL will pay the fees, and all reasonable accommodation, subsistence and travel expenses (economy class only) of the Referee as detailed in the Financial Letter. Any other financial matters will be detailed in the Financial Letter.

## **SCHEDULE 3: BILLIE JEAN KING CUP CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **ARTICLE I: GENERAL**

#### **A. Purpose**

The ITF promulgates this Billie Jean King Cup Code of Conduct in order to maintain fair and reasonable standards of conduct by Team Members and Related Persons in Ties and to protect their rights, the rights of the public and the integrity of the sport of tennis.

#### **B. Applicability**

This Code of Conduct applies to the Competition and to all Team Members, Related Persons and (for Article V and Article VI) Covered Persons.

#### **C. United States Dollar**

All monetary fines set forth in this Code of Conduct are in US Dollars.

### **ARTICLE II: ONSITE OFFENCES**

#### **A. General**

Each Team Member shall, during all matches and at all times while within the precincts of the site of a Tie/Event (which shall include any official venue or location related to the Tie/Event), or otherwise in connection with a Tie/Event, conduct herself in a professional manner. The provisions hereinafter set forth shall apply to each Team Member's conduct while within the precincts

#### **B. Punctuality**

Captains must provide team selections by the Player Selection Deadline and the Change of Selection Deadline. Failure to do so may result in a fine of up to \$5,000.

Matches shall be called in accordance with the order of play. Players and Captains shall be ready to play when their matches are called. For the purposes of this punctuality rule, the official clock in Ties shall be t h

1. Any Player and/or Captain not ready to walk on court when their match is called may be fined up to \$5,000.

2. Any Player not ready to play (and/or any Captain not on court) within fifteen (15) minutes after her match is called may be fined up to an additional \$10,000 and the Player shall be defaulted unless the Referee in her sole discretion, after consideration of all relevant circumstances, elects not to declare a default.

Players and Captains must attend Official Functions on time and comply with ITF instructions regarding the timing and organisation of any such Official Functions. Failure to do so may result in a fine of up to \$10,000.

### **C. Dress and equipment**

Each Player and Captain must dress and present herself for play in a professional manner. Clean and customarily acceptable tennis attire must be worn.

#### **1. Unacceptable attire**

Sweatshirts, gym shorts, dress shirts, T-shirts or any other inappropriate attire shall not be worn during a match (including the warm-up).

#### **Shoes**

Players are required to wear tennis shoes generally accepted as proper tennis attire. Shoes shall not cause damage to the court other than what is expected during the normal course of a match or practice. Damage to a court may be considered as physical or visible, which may include a shoe that leaves marks beyond what it considered acceptable. The Referee has the authority to determine that a shoe does not meet these criteria and may order the player to change.

##### **(a) Grass court shoes**

In a Tie played on grass courts, no shoes other than those with rubber soles, without heels, ribs, studs or coverings, shall be worn by Players.

Special grass court shoes will not be used without the express approval of the Referee. Such shoes will not be approved unless they comply with the following specifications:

The pimples or studs on the base of the sole shall have maximum top diameter of three (3) millimetres and a minimum top diameter of two (2) millimetres. The maximum height of the pimples or studs shall be two (2) millimetres with a maximum of 10 degree angle slope between the base and the top of the pimple. The durometres shall be between 58 and 63 based on the shore "A" scale. The respective pimple density per square inch shall be within the following guidelines:

Pimple Top Diameter	Density Per Square Inch
2.00mm	32
2.25mm	28
2.50mm	24
2.75mm	21
3.00mm	18

Shoes with pimples or studs around the outside of the toes shall not be permitted. The foxing around the toes must be smooth. Players desiring approval of special grass court shoes should submit a sample shoe to the ITF in advance of the Tie.



As an alternative to the above specifications, players may also use the special grass court shoes developed, tested and approved by the All England Lawn Tennis Club. Details of these special grass court shoes are available from the ITF upon request.

**(b) Clay court shoes**

Players are required to wear tennis shoes generally accepted for play on clay courts or granular surfaces. The Referee has the authority to prohibit its use at Ties played on clay courts.

Special grass court shoes as described in section (a) above shall not be worn during a match on clay courts.

**2. Team identification**

(a) Team identification principles – the Nations Captains shall be required at all times to dress in compliance with team identification principles which are set out in the *Billie Jean King Cup Team ID Style Guide*. To comply, a Player and Captain shall:

- i) display the Nation's name on the back of their shirts or dress; or
- ii) dress in their national colours, as approved by the ITF.

For the Finals Week only, Players and Captains shall not wear their "Away" colours in respect of any so Match, Tie or Event.

A Nation's "Away" colours shall be approved for Finals Week in accordance with the *Billie Jean King Cup Team ID Style Guide*.

(b) Team identification principles – as relates to substantially the same colours requirement.

The two Players in a doubles team shall be dressed in substantially the same colours.

The additional team identification principles will be satisfied so long as both members of a doubles team:

- i) display the Nation's name on the back of their shirts or dress in substantially the same colours; or
- ii) dress in their Nation's colours, as approved by the ITF.

Nations should refer the *Billie Jean King Cup Team ID Style Guide* to ensure compliance with this Section 2.

### **3. Identification**

No identification shall be permitted on a Player's equipment on court during a match, at any Official Function or press conference (including the media and promotional events referred to at section G below), except as follows (the ITF reserves the right to interpret the following rules so as to give effect to the intent and purpose of the rules):

#### **(a) Shirt, sweater, or jacket**

##### **(i) Sleeves**

One (1) manufacturer's identification on each 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.

##### **Sleeves or front**

A total of two (2) commercial (non-manufacturer's) identification which shall exceed four (4) square inches (26 sq.cm) in size, and one (1) commercial identification of a Nation's Team Sponsor not to exceed four (4) square inches (26 sq.cm) may be placed on the sleeves and/or front of the garment.

##### **WTA Patch**

Under the current agreement with WTA and unless otherwise decided by the ITF, an additional patch may be worn on the sleeve or front of the garment if and only if it is a WTA patch and the sponsor of the WTA does not conflict with a sponsor of the Billie Jean King Cup. The WTA patch shall not exceed three (3) square inches (19.5 sq.cm).

##### **(ii) Front, back and collar**

Total of two (2) manufacturer's identification square inches (13 sq.cm) or one (1) manufacturer's identification exceed four (4) square inches (26 sq.cm), plus the Nation's logo which does not exceed two (2) square inches (13 sq.cm) shall be permitted.

#### **(b) Leggings, skirts, shorts or tracksuit pants**

Two (2) manufacturer's identifications, neither (13 sq.cm) or one (1) manufacturer's identification square inches (26 sq.cm) shall be permitted. Leggings or compression shorts may be worn without a skirt, dress, or shorts as long as they reach mid-thigh at a minimum and comply with the manufacturer's identification paragraph (b). For leggings or compression shorts worn under a skirt, dress, or shorts,

one (1) manufacturer identification of up to two (2) square inches (13 sq. cm) may be visible in addition to the manufacturer identifications allowed on the applicable piece of clothing under which the undergarment is worn.

Note: A dress for the purpose of permissible identification shall be treated as a combination of a skirt and shirt (dividing dress at waist).

**(c) Socks/shoes**

Manufacturer's identifications on each sock identifications on the sock(s) on each foot shall be limited to a maximum of two (2) square inches (13 sq.cm).

**(d) Racquet**

Manufacturer's identifications on racquet and

**(e) Hat, headband, wristband or face covering**

One (1) manufacturer's identification, not shall be permitted.

**(f) Bags, other equipment or paraphernalia**

Tennis equipment manufacturer's identification commercial identifications on one (1) bag, neither of which exceeds four (4) square inches (26 sq.cm) shall be permitted.

**(g) Other tennis, sport or entertainment event**

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary hereinabove set forth the identification by use of the name, emblem, logo, trade mark, 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 ITF.

**(h) General**

In the event that utilisation of any of the foregoing permitted commercial identifications would violate any governmental regulation with respect to television, then the same shall be prohibited.

No identification shall be permitted on a P equipment that (i) relates to tobacco, e-cigarettes, betting or hard liquor, (ii) is political in nature, and/or (iii) is detrimental to the sport of tennis, the ITF or the Billie Jean King Cup competition.

For the purposes of this rule, the manufacturer means the manufacturer of the clothing or equipment in question.

In addition, the size limitation shall be ascertained by determining the area of the actual patch or other addition to a Player's clothing. 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.

#### **4. Warm-up clothing (sweater, jacket)**

Players may wear warm-up clothing during the warm-up and during a match provided it complies with the foregoing provisions and provided further that the Players obtain approval of the Referee prior to wearing warm-up clothing during a match.

The country name of the Player's Nation must be displayed on the back of the warm-up clothing. This is not considered to be an identification and is legal in any size.

In addition to the commercial identification of a Nation's Team Sponsor allowed on one sleeve of sweaters or jackets, one (1) commercial identification of a Nation's Team Sponsor not to exceed four (4) square inches (26 sq.cm) is permitted on the front, back or collar of the warm-up clothing.

This warm-up clothing can only be used during the warm-up, Pre-Tie Function, official ceremonies and Pre-Draw Press Conferences.

#### **5. Change/taping**

Any Player who violates this section (dress and equipment) may be ordered by the Chair Umpire or Referee to change their attire or equipment immediately. No taping over of such attire shall be allowed. Failure of a Player to comply with such order may result in immediate default.

#### **6. Fines**

Any Player and/or Captain who violates this section (dress and equipment) and (if a Player) is not defaulted shall be subject to the following fines:

- (a) Violation of the provisions with respect to unacceptable attire or team identification shall result in a fine of up to \$10,000.
- (b) Violation of the provisions with respect result in a fine of up to \$1,000.
- (c) Violation of the provisions with respect to commercial identifications shall result in a fine of up to \$4,000.
- (d) Violation of the provisions with respect to other tennis, sport or entertainment event shall result in a fine of up to \$10,000.

If a violation of this section occurs, the Nation of the relevant Player/Captain must pay the relevant fine to the ITF on behalf of the Player/Captain.

#### **D. Leaving the court**

Players and Captains shall not leave the court area during a match (including the warm-up) without the permission of the Umpire. Violation of this section shall subject a Player and/or Captain to a fine of up to \$6,000 for each violation. In addition, the Player may be defaulted and subjected to the additional penalties for failure to complete a match as set out below.

#### **E. Best efforts**

A Player shall use their best efforts to win a match when competing in a Tie. Violation of this section shall subject a Player to a fine of up to \$10,000 for each violation. For purposes of this section, the Referee and/or the Chair Umpire shall have the authority to penalise a Player in accordance with the Point Penalty Schedule.

In circumstances that are flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a Tie, or are singularly egregious, a single violation of this section shall also constitute the Major Offence of "Aggravated Behaviour" penalties set forth in these Regulations.

#### **F. Failure to complete a match, Tie and/or Event**

All Players and Captains selected for any match, Tie and/or Event must complete such match, Tie and/or Event unless they are incapacitated by illness, accident or other unavoidable hindrance.

Violation of this section shall:

(a) For the Qualifiers, Play-offs and Regional Group Events:

- i) subject the Player and/or Captain to a fine of up to \$10,000 and ineligibility to represent their Nation in the next match, Tie and/or Event whether in the current Competition or subsequent editions of the Billie Jean King Cup competition.

(b) For the Finals Week only:

- i) subject a Player and/or Captain to a fine of up to \$100,000 and ineligibility to represent their Nation in the next match, Tie and/or Event whether in the current Competition or subsequent editions of the Billie Jean King Cup competition; and
- ii) (notwithstanding the Referee's authority to default U below, and only where a nation fails to field a doubles team for a dead Tie that is required to be played by the Regulations) confer on the Referee the authority to default the Nation of the Player/Captain in breach of this Section F from the next doubles match that the Nation is scheduled to play in its next Tie during the Finals Week. Before issuing a default under this sub-section

(b) (ii), the Referee must use best efforts to obtain the approval of the Executive Director.

The power to declare the Player and/or Captain ineligible to represent their Nation for the remainder of the Tie or Event shall be exercised by the Referee, who shall use his/her best efforts to obtain the approval of the Executive Director. Any further ineligibility shall be determined by the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel.

In circumstances that are flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a match, Tie and/or Event, or are singularly egregious, a single violation of this section shall also constitute the Major Offence of "Atgatheavated additional penalties set forth in that section.

### **G. Full Performance**

Notwithstanding section F above, any match, Tie and/or Event that is not completed shall subject the Nation of the Player who is responsible for not completing the match, Tie and/or Event to a fine of up to \$100,000 for each violation.

### **H. Media obligations**

Players and Captains have the following media obligations:

#### **Pre-Tie:**

- (a) Each Nation's nominated Players and Captain must attend (if held) any:
  - i) Pre-Tie Function;
  - ii) Tie/Event Draws;
  - iii) Post-Draw Press Conference and interviews; and
- (b) Captains must attend the Pre-Draw Press Conference (if held). The Pre-Draw Press Conference may be held in conjunction with a Team Sponsor in accordance with the Billie Jean King Cup Commercial Guidelines.
- (c) For the Finals Week, each Nation's nominated Players and Captain must attend a team press conferences and interviews, and two additional promotional and media activities (lasting a maximum of two hours in total).

#### **Post-match:**

- (a) Unless injured and physically unable to appear, the Player(s) who participated in the match must attend the post-match press conference organised immediately or within 30 minutes after the conclusion of each match whether they won or lost the match, unless such time is extended or otherwise modified by the Referee for good cause. Captains must attend only the last post-match press conference organised on each day of the Tie in which they participate.

- (b) The Nation's nominated Players and Captain must participate in post-match one-to-one interviews with the national broadcasters of the Home and Visiting Nation, ITF TV and a journalist from the official Billie Jean King Cup website.
- (c) For the Final, each of the winning Nation's nominated Players and Captain must attend promotional and media activities (lasting a maximum of four hours in total) and the Photo Shoot.

Violation of this section shall subject a Player/Captain to a fine of up to \$10,000 for each incident. (For the avoidance of doubt, if more than one Player/Captain from the same Nation fail to attend the same media event, e.g. two Players fail to attend the same Tie/Event Draw, the total fine for their collective conduct will be \$10,000; but, if any of a Nation's Players/Captains fail to attend different media events, e.g. a Nation's Player fails to attend a Tie/Event Draw and its Captain fails to attend a Pre-Draw Press Conference, then a fine of up to \$10,000 may apply to each failure).

If a Player or Captain fail to attend a media obligation due to a medical reason, the Referee has the discretion to request they undergo a medical examination by the Independent Doctor.

## **I. Ceremonies**

For the purpose of ceremonies and Official Functions, the nominated Players and Captains of all participating Nations are required to attend the following functions (if held) in appropriate team dress unless reasonably unable to do so, as determined by the Referee:

- (a) Pre-Tie Function
- (b) Opening Ceremony
- (c) Team Presentation Ceremony
- (d) Closing Ceremony
- (e) Official Player Party
- (f) Official Dinner

Violation of this section shall subject each Player/Captain to a fine of up to \$10,000 for each incident. (For the avoidance of doubt, if more than one Player/Captain from the same Nation fails to attend the same ceremony/Official Function, e.g. two Players fail to attend the Opening Ceremony, the total fine for their collective conduct will be \$10,000; but, if any of a Nation's Players/Captains fail to attend different ceremonies/Official Functions, e.g. a Nation's Player fails to attend the Opening Ceremony and its Captain fails to attend the Closing Ceremony, then a fine of up to \$10,000 may apply to each failure).

If a Player or Captain fail to attend an Official Function or ceremony due to a medical reason, they must undergo a medical examination by the Independent Doctor.

## **J. Time violation/delay of game**

Following the expiration of the warm-up period play shall be continuous and a Player and/or Captain shall not unreasonably delay a match for any cause.

A maximum of twenty (25) seconds shall elapse from the moment the ball goes out of play at the end of the point until the time the ball is struck for the first serve of the next point. If such serve is a fault the second serve must be struck by the server without delay.

When changing ends a maximum of ninety (90) seconds shall elapse from the moment the ball goes out of play at the end of the game until the time the first serve is struck for the next game. If such first serve is a fault the second serve must be struck by the server without delay. However, after the first game of each set and during a tie-break, play shall be continuous and the Players shall change ends without a rest period.

At the conclusion of each set, regardless of the score, there shall be a set break of one hundred and twenty (120) seconds from the moment the ball goes out of play at the end of the set until the time the first serve is struck for the next set.

If a set ends after an even number of games, there shall be no change of ends until after the first game of the next set.

The receiver shall play to the reasonable pace of the server and shall be ready to receive within a reasonable time of the server being ready.

The first violation of this section, as either server or receiver, shall be penalised by a time violation warning and each subsequent violation, as either server or receiver, shall be penalised as follows:

- Server The time violation shall result in a “ f a u l t ”
- Receiver T h e t i m e v i o l a t i o n s h a l l r e s u l t i n

When a violation is a result of a medical condition, refusal to play or not returning to the court within the allowed time, a Code of Conduct violation (delay of game) penalty shall be assessed in accordance with the Point Penalty Schedule.

## **K. Audible obscenity**

Team Members shall not use audible obscenity within the precincts of the site. Violation of this Section shall subject a Team Member to a fine up to \$10,000 for each violation. In addition, if a Player commits such violation during a match (including warm-up), the Player shall be penalised in accordance with the Point Penalty Schedule below. In circumstances that are flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a Tie, or are singularly egregious, a single violation of this Section shall also constitute the Major Offence of “ Aggravated Behaviour ” and shall forth in that section.



For the purpose of this section, 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 Chair Umpire, spectators, linesmen or ball persons.

#### **L. Coaching and Team Members**

Coaching is allowed under the following conditions:

- (a) When the Player is at the same end of the court as the Captain, verbal or visual communication is permitted between points. When the player is at the opposite end of the court from the Captain, only visual communication (subtle hand signals or gestures) is permitted between points.
- (b) Verbal coaching must consist of a few words and/or short phrases.
- (c) Visual coaching must consist of subtle hand signals or gestures.
- (d) The Captain must be on court within the designated area by the player bench.
- (e) Coaching must be done in a way that is not disruptive to the opponent(s) or spectators.
- (f) Coaching must be done in a timely manner so as not to disrupt play. No extra time will be allowed for a Player to receive coaching. Delays will be penalised under section J. Time Violation/delay of game.
- (g) Coaching from members of the team bench will be permitted during change of ends and set breaks. No coaching between points will be permitted from the team bench.

No other coaching is permitted during a match.

Players shall also prohibit their Team Members (1) from using audible obscenity within the precincts of the site, (2) from making obscene gestures of any kind within the precincts of the site, (3) from verbally abusing an official, opponent, spectator or other person within the precincts of the site, (4) from physically abusing any official, opponent, spectator or other person within the precincts of the site and (5) from giving, making, issuing, authorising or endorsing any public statement within the precincts of the site which have, or are designed to have, an effect prejudicial or detrimental to the best interests of the Billie Jean King Cup competition and/or of the officiating thereof.

Violation of this section shall subject a Player to a fine of up to \$10,000 for each violation. In addition, if such violation occurs during a match (including warm-up), the Player shall be penalised in accordance with the Point Penalty Schedule. In circumstances that are flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of the Tie, or are singularly egregious, the Referee may order the Team Member to be removed from the stands or the precincts of the site and upon their failure to comply with such order may declare an immediate default of the Player.

#### **M. Visible obscenity**

Team Members shall not make obscene gestures of any kind within the precincts of the site. Violation of this Section shall subject a Team Member to a fine up to \$10,000 for each violation. In addition, if a Player commits such violation during a match (including warm-up), the Player shall be penalised in accordance with the Point Penalty Schedule

below. In circumstances that are flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a Tie, or are singularly egregious, a single violation of this section shall also constitute the Major Offence of “ Aggravated Behaviour ” penalties set forth in that section.

For the purposes of this section, visible obscenity is defined as the making of signs by the person with their hands and/or racquet or balls that commonly have an obscene meaning or impact to reasonable people.

**N. Abuse of balls**

Players shall not violently, dangerously or with anger hit, kick or throw a tennis ball within the precincts of the site except in the reasonable pursuit of a point during a match (including warm-up). Violation of this Section shall subject a Player to fine up to \$700 for each violation. In addition, if a Player commits such violation during a match the Player shall be penalised in accordance with the Point Penalty Schedule below.

For the purposes of this section, 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.

**O. Abuse of racquets or equipment**

Players shall not violently or with anger hit, kick or throw a racquet or other equipment within the precincts of the site. Violation of this section shall subject a Player to a fine up to \$1,000 for each violation. In addition, if a Player commits such violation during a match (including warm-up), the Player shall be penalised in accordance with the Point Penalty Schedule below.

For the purpose of this section, abuse of racquets or equipment is defined as intentionally and violently destroying or damaging racquets or equipment or intentionally and violently hitting the net, match out of anger or frustration.

**P. Verbal abuse**

Team Members shall not at any time directly or indirectly verbally abuse any official, sponsor, opponent, spectator or other person within the precincts of the site.

Violation of this Section shall subject a Team Member to a fine up to \$10,000 for each violation. In addition, if a Player commits such violation during a match (including warm-up), the Player shall be penalised in accordance with the Point Penalty Schedule below. In circumstances that are flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a Tie, or are singularly egregious, a single violation of this Section shall also constitute the Major Offence of “ Aggravated Behaviour ” penalties set forth in these Regulations.

For the purposes of this section, verbal abuse is defined as a statement about an official, opponent, sponsor, spectator or other person that implies dishonesty or is derogatory, insulting or otherwise abusive.

**Q. Physical abuse**

Team Members shall not at any time physically abuse any official, opponent, spectator or other person within the precincts of the site.

Violation of this Section shall subject a Team Member to a fine up to \$10,000 for each violation. In addition, if a Player commits such violation during a match (including warm-up), the Player shall be penalised in accordance with the Point Penalty Schedule below. In circumstances that are flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a Tie, or are singularly egregious, a single violation of this Section shall also constitute the Major Offence of "Aggravated Behaviour" and additional penalties set forth in these Regulations.

For the purposes of this section, physical abuse is the unauthorised touching of an official, opponent, spectator or other person.

**R. Unsportsmanlike conduct**

Team Members 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. Violation of this Section shall subject a Team Member to a fine of up to \$10,000 for each violation. In addition, if a Player commits such violation during a match (including warm-up), the Player shall be penalised in accordance with the Point Penalty Schedule below. In circumstances that are flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a Tie, or are singularly egregious, a single violation of this Section shall also constitute the Major Offence of "Aggravated Behaviour" and additional penalties set forth in these Regulations.

For the purposes of this section, unsportsmanlike conduct is defined as any misconduct by a player that is clearly abusive or detrimental to the Billie Jean King Cup competition, the ITF or the sport of tennis generally. In addition, unsportsmanlike conduct shall include, but not be limited to, the giving, making, issuing, authorising or endorsing any public statement having, or designed to have, an effect prejudicial or detrimental to the best interest of the Billie Jean King Cup competition and/or the officiating thereof.

**S. Partisan crowd/spectator behaviour**

During Competition matches each Nation must control its supporting spectators so that play is not interrupted or disturbed. In the event that the spectators or any individual spectators supporting a Nation behave in such a partisan manner that play is unreasonably interrupted or the Players at any time are unreasonably provoked and/or intimidated, the Referee shall penalise such Nation's player in accordance with the following:

FIRST offence	WARNING
SECOND offence	POINT PENALTY
THIRD AND EACH SUBSEQUENT offence	GAME PENALTY

However, after the third partisan crowd violation, the Referee shall determine whether each subsequent offence shall constitute a default.

In circumstances that are flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a Tie, the Referee shall have the authority to declare a default for a single violation of this section.

#### **T. Point Penalty Schedule**

The Point Penalty Schedule to be used for violations set forth is as follows:

FIRST offence	WARNING
SECOND offence	POINT PENALTY
THIRD AND EACH SUBSEQUENT offence	GAME PENALTY

However, after the third Code of Conduct violation, the Referee shall determine whether each subsequent violation shall constitute a default.

The decision of the Referee under the Point Penalty Schedule shall be final and not subject to appeal.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Point Penalty Schedule applies in addition to any other sanction (such as fines) that might apply under this Code of Conduct.

#### **U. Defaults**

The Referee may declare a default for either a single violation of this Code of Conduct (immediate default) committed by any Team Member or pursuant to the Point Penalty Schedule set out above. In all cases of default, the decision of the Referee shall be final and not subject to appeal.

Any Player who is defaulted under this provision may be fined up to \$2,000 in addition to any or all other fines levied with respect to the offending incident.

In addition, any Player who is defaulted under this provision may be defaulted from the remainder of the Tie/Event, except when the offending incident involves only a violation of the punctuality or dress and equipment sections of this Code of Conduct, or as a result of a medical condition or when their doubles partner commits the Code of Conduct violation that causes the default. Default of a Player from the remainder of the Tie/Event may include at the Referee's discretion denial of access to the site.

A default as a result of a violation by a Team Member other than a Player will subject that Team Member to removal of accreditation of access to the site (except for a violation arising during the Finals Week, in which case Regulation 76.2 applies).

However, prior to any default from the remainder of the Tie, removal of accreditation and/or denial of access to the site, the Referee must use best efforts to obtain the approval of the Executive Director.

## **V. Doubles match**

### **1. Point penalties/game penalties/defaults**

Point penalties, game penalties and/or a default if assessed for violation of this Code of Conduct shall be assessed against the doubles team.

### **2. Fines**

Fines for violation of the provisions on team identification for doubles teams shall be assessed against the team. All other fines for violation of Article II shall be assessed only against the individual member of the doubles team who is in violation unless both members of the team are in violation.

## **W. Determination and penalty**

The Referee shall make such investigation as is reasonable to determine the facts regarding all Onsite Offences and upon determining that a violation has occurred shall specify the applicable fine and/or other sanction and give written notice to the Captain.

## **X. Payment of fines**

The ITF shall deduct any fines from any payment to Nations.

## **Y. Appeals**

Any Team Member found to have committed an Onsite Offence at a Tie may appeal the offence and/or any fine imposed to the Independent Tribunal in accordance with Regulation 76.

## **ARTICLE III: MAJOR OFFENCES**

### **A. Aggravated Behaviour**

No Team Member or Related Person at any Tie which is defined as follows:

1. One or more incidents of behaviour designated in this Code of Conduct as constituting "Aggravated Behaviour".
2. One incident of behaviour that is egregious flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of the Billie Jean King Cup competition, or is singularly egregious.
3. A series of two (2) or more violations of this Code of Conduct within a twelve (12) month period which singularly do not constitute viewed together establish a pattern of conduct that is egregious and is detrimental to the Billie Jean King Cup competition.

Violation of this Section by a Player/Captain, directly or indirectly through a Related Person or others, shall subject a Player/Captain to a fine up to \$250,000 or the amount

of Prize Money won at the Tie, whichever is greater, and a maximum penalty of permanent suspension from play in all Ties and/or any ITF tournament, event or circuit.

Violation of this section shall subject a Related Person to a maximum penalty of permanent revocation of accreditation and denial of access to all Ties and/or any ITF tournament, event or circuit.

## **B. Conduct contrary to the integrity of the game**

No Player, Captain or Related Person shall engage in conduct contrary to the integrity of the game of tennis. If a Player and/or Captain is convicted of the violation of a criminal law of any country or territory, the punishment for which includes possible imprisonment for more than one year, he may be deemed by virtue of such conviction to have engaged in conduct contrary to the integrity of the game of tennis. In addition, if a Player, Captain or Related Person has at any time behaved in a manner severely damaging to the reputation of the sport, he may be deemed by virtue of such behaviour to have engaged in conduct contrary to the integrity of the game of tennis and be in violation of this section. Violation of this section by a Player and/or Captain, directly or indirectly through a Related Person or others, shall subject a Player and/or Captain to a fine up to \$250,000 and/or to a maximum penalty of permanent suspension from play in all Ties and/or any ITF tournament, event or circuit. Violation of this Section shall be Aggravated Behaviour and shall subject a Related Person to a maximum penalty of permanent revocation of accreditation and denial of access to all Ties and/or any ITF tournament, event or circuit.

## **C. DETERMINATION AND PENALTY**

The ITF will investigate all facts concerning any alleged Major Offence. All Players, Captains and Related Persons must cooperate fully with such investigations. The ITF may make a written demand to a Player, Captain or Related Person (a '**Demand**') to furnish to the ITF any information that may evidence or lead to the discovery of evidence of a Major Offence, including (without limitation) requiring the Player, Captain or Related Person to attend an interview and/or to provide a written statement setting forth their knowledge of the relevant facts and circumstances. The Player, Captain or Related Person must furnish such information within seven business days of the making of such demand, or within such other deadline as may be specified by the ITF.

Where, as the result of an investigation under this section, the ITF forms the view that a Player, Captain or Related Person has a case to answer for commission of a Major Offence, the ITF shall send a written notice to the player or other person (the '**Notice of Charge**'), with a copy to the Chair of the Independent Tribunal, setting out:

- (a) the Major Offence(s) alleged to have been committed, a summary of the facts upon which such allegations are based;
- (b) the potential consequences applicable if it is determined that the alleged Major Offence has been committed;

(c) the Player, Captain or Related Person's entitlement to respond to the Notice of Charge in one of the following ways:

- (i) To admit the Major Offence(s) charged, and accede to the consequences specified in the Notice of Charge;
- (ii) To admit the Major Offence(s) charged, but to dispute and/or seek to mitigate the consequences specified in the Notice of Charge, and to have the Independent Tribunal determine the consequences at a hearing; or
- (iii) To deny the Major Offence(s) charged, and to have the Independent Tribunal determine the charge and (if the charge is upheld) any consequences, at a hearing; and

(d) that, if the Player, Captain or Related Person wishes to exercise their right to a hearing before the Independent Tribunal, he must submit a written request for such a hearing so that it is received by the ITF as soon as possible, but in any event within 10 days of the Player, Captain or Related Person's receipt of the notice. The request must also state how the Player, Captain or Related Person responds to the charge in the notice and must explain (in summary form) the basis for such response. In the event no such response is received by that deadline, the Player, Captain or Related Person will be deemed to have admitted the Major Offence(s) charged, and to have acceded to the consequences specified in the Notice of Charge.

In the event that the ITF withdraws the Notice of Charge, or the Player, Captain or Related Person admits the Major Offence(s) charged and accedes to the consequences specified by the ITF (or is deemed to have done so), a hearing before the Independent Tribunal shall not be required. Instead the ITF shall promptly issue a decision confirming (as applicable) its withdrawal of the Notice of Charge or the commission of the Major Offence(s) and the imposition of the specified consequences, and shall send a copy of the decision to the Player, Captain or Related Person and to any other party that has a right, further to Regulation 76, to appeal the decision.

### **Provisional suspension**

At the time, afterwards, or (exceptionally) before it issues a Notice of Charge, the ITF may impose a provisional suspension on the Player, Captain or Related Person in question pending determination of the charge(s), where it considers it necessary to protect the integrity and/or reputation of the Competition, the ITF, and/or the sport of tennis.

Where a provisional suspension is imposed, the ITF shall notify the Player, Captain or Related Person of their right:

- (a) at their election, to make an application to the Chair of the Independent Tribunal convened to hear her case, either immediately or at any time prior to the full hearing, for an order that the provisional suspension should not be

imposed (or, if the provisional suspension has been imposed, that it should be vacated). The Chair of the Independent Tribunal, sitting alone, will rule on the application as soon as reasonably practicable; and

(b) to have the proceedings before the Independent Tribunal expedited so that the hearing is held, and the charge against her is determined, as soon as possible, consistent with the requirements of due process.

In circumstances where the ITF decides not to impose a provisional suspension, the Player, Captain or Related Person shall be offered the opportunity to accept a voluntary provisional suspension pending the resolution of the matter. If the Player, Captain or Related Person wishes to accept the offer (and receive credit against any period of suspension that might be imposed), the Player, Captain or Related Person must communicate her acceptance in writing to the ITF, in a form acceptable to the ITF.

No admission shall be inferred, or other adverse inference drawn, from the decision of a Player, Captain or Related Person (a) not to make an application to avoid (or to vacate) a provisional suspension, or (b) to accept a voluntary provisional suspension.

A Player, Captain or Related Person may not, during the period of any provisional suspension, play, coach or otherwise participate in any capacity in the Competition or subsequent edition of the Billie Jean King Cup competition.

Any period of provisional suspension served by the Player, Captain or Related Person (whether imposed or voluntarily accepted in writing, in a form acceptable to the ITF) shall be credited against any period of suspension imposed by the Independent Tribunal, provided that the Player, Captain or Related Person must have respected the terms of the provisional suspension in full. No credit against a period of suspension shall be given for any time period before the effective date of the provisional suspension (whether imposed or voluntarily accepted in writing, in a form acceptable to the ITF), regardless of the Player's, Captain's or Related Person's status or lack of participation during such period. If a period of suspension is served pursuant to a decision that is subsequently appealed, then the Player, Captain or Related Person shall receive a credit for such period of provisional suspension served against any period of suspension that may ultimately be imposed on appeal.

## **Hearing**

If the Player, Captain or Related Person charged exercises their right to a hearing, the matter shall be referred to the Independent Tribunal and shall proceed in accordance with the procedures set out in the Independent Tribunal Procedural Rules.

Subject only to the rights of appeal set out in Regulation 76, **t h e I n d e p e n d e n t** decision shall be the full, final and complete disposition of the case and will be binding on all parties.

Any breach by a player or Related Person of the terms of their sanction under this Article III shall be referred to the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel and dealt with pursuant to clause 5 of the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel Procedural Rules.



#### **D. PAYMENT OF FINES**

All fines imposed by the Independent Tribunal for Major Offences shall be deducted from any payments to be made to the Player's (no payments outstanding or they are not sufficient to cover the fine) shall be paid by the Player/Captain and/or her Nation to the ITF by the deadline specified by the Independent Tribunal (or ITF where the Player or Captain does not exercise their right to a hearing).

#### **ARTICLE IV: WELFARE POLICY**

Each Team Member shall be bound by and shall comply with the provisions of the Welfare Policy set out in Schedule 4.

#### **ARTICLE V: MISCONDUCT**

- A. For the purposes of this article, '**Covered Persons**' shall have the same meaning as set out in the Welfare Policy in Schedule 4.
- B. The ITF is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct. Any Covered Person or Nation who/that engages in or commits any act of misconduct which does not fall within any behaviour or conduct that is specifically prohibited in this Code of Conduct, or is prohibited but such prohibition is limited in its application so that it is not expressed to apply to the applicable Covered Person or Nation, shall be in violation of this section.
- C. For the purposes of this section, '**Misconduct**' means any conduct or behaviour that is contrary to the integrity or reputation or interests of the ITF, the Billie Jean King Cup competition, any other tournament, event or circuit owned or sanctioned by the ITF or the game of tennis.
- D. Any individual or Nation who/that believes that any Covered Person or Nation has committed misconduct in violation of this section may file a written complaint with the Executive Director. That complaint shall identify the complainant and state specifically the nature of the alleged misconduct.
- E. Upon receipt of such a complaint, or if the ITF itself considers that there has been apparent misconduct, the ITF shall cause an investigation to be made of all facts concerning the alleged misconduct and shall provide written notice of such investigation to the Covered Person involved; the Covered Person shall be given at least ten (10) days to provide to the ITF, directly or through counsel, such evidence as the Covered Person deems to be relevant to the investigation. All Covered Persons must cooperate fully with such investigations. Upon the completion of the investigation, the ITF shall refer the matter to the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel.

- F. Having heard the matter in accordance with the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel Procedural Rules, the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel shall promptly issue a written decision, including sanctions (if any). A copy of the decision shall be promptly delivered to all parties.
- G. The ITF Internal Adjudication Panel may impose appropriate sanctions on Covered Persons or a Nation including:
  - 1. In the case of a Player or Captain, a fine of up to \$250,000 or the amount of Prize Money won at the Tie during or at which the violation of this section occurs, whichever is greater, and/or a maximum penalty of permanent suspension from play in all Ties in the Competition and/or subsequent editions of the Billie Jean King Cup competition;
  - 2. In the case of a Nation, disqualification in respect of the Competition, and/or refusal of entry for future editions of the Billie Jean King Cup competition until assurances of compliance with the Regulations and Code of Conduct are given, and/or a fine of up to \$250,000. For violations which, in the opinion of the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel, do not justify disqualification, the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel may decide to impose only a fine or withhold part or whole of the payment set out in Schedule 2, Article 9.
  - 3. In the case of all other Covered Persons, denial of privileges or a maximum penalty of permanent revocation of accreditation and denial of access to all Ties and/or the Billie Jean King Cup competition.
- H. Any Covered Person sanctioned for misconduct by the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel may appeal that decision to the Independent Tribunal in accordance with Regulation 76.
- I. If any Team Member commits misconduct during the Finals Week, Regulation 76.2 applies.

## **ARTICLE VI: COVID-19 PROTOCOLS**

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the ITF introduced an obligation for Home/Host Nations and Covered Persons to comply with the Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup Covid-19 Protocols including without limitation the Minimum Standards of Behaviour (the "Protocols") .

The ITF reserves the right at any time to reintroduce the obligation for Home/Host Nations and Covered Persons to comply with the Protocols shall be made e n t. The ITF shall endeavour to notify Covered Persons, National Associations, Regional Associations or other governing bodies of the reintroduction of the Protocols, but the Protocols shall be enforceable in any event.

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In the event the ITF decides to reintroduce the obligation for Home/Host Nations and Covered Persons to comply with the Protocols, the provisions in Article VI. A – D below shall apply:

A. For the purposes of this article, 'Covered Persons' shall have the same meaning as set out in the Welfare Policy in Schedule 4.

B. MINIMUM STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR

All Home/Host Nations and Covered Persons shall comply with the Protocols. Any failure to comply with the Protocols shall amount to a violation of this Article VI. Violation of this Article VI may result in the following sanctions:

1. For a Player or Team Member: a fine of up to \$10,000, and/or an Immediate Default under Article II. Section U and ineligibility to represent her Nation in the next match, Tie and/or Event in the current Competition. If such violation occurs during a match (including the warm-up), the Player shall be penalised in accordance with the Point Penalty Schedule at Article II.S. One violation of this section that is flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a match, Tie and/or Event or the Competition, or is singularly egregious, or a series of two (2) or more violations of this section within a twelve (12) month period which when viewed together establish a pattern of conduct that is collectively egregious and is detrimental or injurious to the Tie and/or Event or the Competition may also constitute Behaviour” and shall be subject to the section.
2. In the case of the Nation responsible for a Covered Person: disqualification in respect of the Tie, Event or Competition. For one or more violations which are singularly or collectively flagrant or egregious or detrimental or injurious to the Tie, Event or Competition, the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel may, upon referral by the Referee or the ITF Executive Director, consider the violation as Misconduct under Article V of the Code of Conduct.
3. In the case of all other Covered Persons: immediate denial of privileges or revocation of accreditation and denial of access to the Tie, Event or Competition. One or more violations which are singularly or collectively flagrant or egregious or detrimental or injurious to the tournament may also result in permanent revocation of accreditation and denial of access to future editions of the Competition as determined by the ITF.
4. In circumstances of any failure by a Home/Host Nation to comply with the Protocols, including without limitation the *Minimum Standards of Behaviour*, the Billie Jean King Cup Committee may (without prejudice to the ITF Internal

Adjudication Panel's general sanctioning powers) intervene in the organisation of, relocate, postpone or cancel that Tie/Event.

#### C. DETERMINATION AND PENALTY

The Referee shall make such investigation as is reasonable to determine the facts regarding all offences under Article VI.B and upon determining that a violation has occurred shall specify the applicable fine and/or other sanction and (where appropriate) give written notice to the Captain. In addition, the Referee may refer a specific violation to the ITF Internal Adjudication Panel under Section B.(ii). All Covered Persons must cooperate fully with such investigations.

A violation by a Covered Person may subject that Covered Person to (as applicable) a fine, default, disqualification, immediate removal of accreditation and/or denial of access to the site, at the Referee's discretion (as applicable) at the Finals Week by a Player or Team Member, in which case Regulation 76.2 applies). Before issuing any default from the remainder of the Tie, removal of accreditation and/or denial of access to the site, the Referee must use best efforts to obtain the approval of the ITF Executive Director.

#### D. APPEALS

Any Player or Team Member found to have committed an offence under Article VI.B at a Tie or Event may appeal the offence and/or any fine imposed to the Independent Tribunal in accordance with Regulation 76. Any other Covered Person found to have committed an offence under Article VI.B at a Tie or Event may appeal the offence and/or any sanction imposed to the Internal Adjudication Panel in accordance with Regulation 76.

## **SCHEDULE 4: WELFARE POLICY**

A **Covered Person**” is bound by all sections of this who:

- Competes, coaches, officiates, works at, or otherwise participates in (whether as a player or supporting role, including parents and legal guardians of a player) in a tennis event organised or sanctioned by the ITF;
- Attends or is employed at an ITF Regional Training Centre;
- Is a member of an ITF Touring Team in any capacity;
- Is an ITF employee or ITF-appointed consultant;
- Holds an ITF or ITF-recognised Officiating or Coaching certification;
- Receives accreditation at any ITF Tournaments, Events and activities; or
- Acts as an ITF contractor or volunteer in relation to any of the above.

### **Section A.**

Criminal Conduct – illegal drugs and substances

Any Covered Person convicted of or having entered a plea of guilty or no contest to a criminal charge or indictment relating to the use, possession, distribution or intent to distribute illegal drugs or substances will be deemed to be in violation of this Section A of the ITF Welfare Policy and shall be subject to sanction in accordance with the *Procedural Rules Governing Proceedings before an Internal Adjudication Panel Convened Under ITF Rules*.

### **Section B.**

Children Safeguarding Policy

*Published separately and available in full on the ITF website at [www.itftennis.com/en/about-us/governance/rules-and-regulations/tour-regulations](http://www.itftennis.com/en/about-us/governance/rules-and-regulations/tour-regulations)*

### **Section C.**

Adult Safeguarding Policy

*Published separately and available in full on the ITF website at [www.itftennis.com/en/about-us/governance/rules-and-regulations/tour-regulations](http://www.itftennis.com/en/about-us/governance/rules-and-regulations/tour-regulations)*

### **Section D.**

Safeguarding and Case Management Procedures

*Published separately and available in full on the ITF website at [www.itftennis.com/en/about-us/governance/rules-and-regulations/tour-regulations](http://www.itftennis.com/en/about-us/governance/rules-and-regulations/tour-regulations)*

## **SCHEDULE 5: MEDICAL/TOILET AND CHANGE OF ATTIRE BREAKS AND EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS**

An Independent Doctor (referenced in this Schedule) must be appointed for all Ties/Events in the Competition. For some Ties, the Independent Doctor must be onsite at all times, whereas for other Ties the Independent Doctor is required to be on-call only (see Regulation 10.4). Where this Schedule requires consultation with the Independent Doctor, and if at the time consultation is required the Independent Doctor is on-call but not onsite, the Referee shall have discretion to decide whether it is necessary for the Independent Doctor to come onsite for the consultation or whether it is sufficient to communicate with the Independent Doctor by telephone.

### **1. Medical condition**

- 1.1 A medical condition is a medical illness or a musculoskeletal injury that warrants medical evaluation and/or medical treatment by the Sports Physiotherapist (*as defined in the ITF Guide to Recommended Healthcare Standards*) during the warm-up or the match.
- 1.2 Treatable medical conditions include:
  - (a) Acute medical condition: the sudden development of a medical illness or musculoskeletal injury during the warm-up or the match that requires immediate medical attention.
  - (b) Non-acute medical condition: a medical illness or musculoskeletal injury that develops or is aggravated during the warm-up or the match and requires medical attention at the changeover or set break.
- 1.3 Non-treatable medical conditions include:
  - (a) Any medical condition that cannot be treated appropriately, or that will not be improved by available medical treatment within the time allowed.
  - (b) Any medical condition (inclusive of symptoms) that has not developed or has not been aggravated during the warm-up or the match.
  - (c) General Player fatigue.
  - (d) Any medical condition requiring injections or intravenous infusions, except for diabetes, for which prior medical certification has been obtained, and for which subcutaneous injections of insulin may be administered.
  - (e) Any medical condition requiring oxygen, unless prior medical approval has been given by the ITF. Except as permitted by this provision, the use of supplemental oxygen is not permitted at any time, for any reason.

## **2. Medical evaluation**

- 2.1 During the warm-up or the match, the Player may request through the Chair Umpire for the Sports Physiotherapist, in conjunction with the Independent Doctor, to evaluate her during the next change over or set break. Only in the case that a Player develops an acute medical condition that necessitates an immediate stop in play may the Player request through the Chair Umpire for the Sports Physiotherapist, in conjunction with the Independent Doctor, to evaluate her immediately.
- 2.2 The purpose of the medical evaluation is to determine if the Player has developed a treatable medical condition and, if so, to determine when medical treatment is warranted. Such evaluation should be performed within a reasonable length of time, balancing player safety on the one hand, and continuous play on the other. At the discretion of the Referee, such evaluation may be performed off-court and may proceed in conjunction with the Independent Doctor.
- 2.3 If the Referee, in consultation with the Independent Doctor, determines that the Player has a non-treatable medical condition, then the Player will be advised that no medical treatment will be allowed.

## **3. Medical Time-Out**

- 3.1 A Medical Time-Out is allowed by the Referee, in consultation with the Independent Doctor, when the Sports Physiotherapist has evaluated the Player and has determined that additional time for medical treatment is required. The Medical Time-Out takes place during a change over or set break, unless the Sports Physiotherapist, in conjunction with the Independent Doctor, determines that the Player has developed an acute medical condition that requires immediate medical treatment.
- 3.2 The Medical Time-Out begins when the Sports Physiotherapist is ready to start treatment. At the discretion of the Referee, treatment during a Medical Time-Out may take place off-court, and may proceed in conjunction with the Independent Doctor.
- 3.3 The Medical Time-Out is limited to three minutes of treatment.
- 3.4 A Player is allowed one Medical Time-Out for each distinct treatable medical condition. All clinical manifestations of heat illness shall be considered as one treatable medical condition. All treatable musculoskeletal injuries that manifest as part of a kinetic chain continuum shall be considered as one treatable medical condition.
- 3.5 A Player may receive treatment for muscle cramping only during the time allotted for change of ends and/or set breaks. Players may not receive a Medical Time-Out for muscle cramping.

- 3.6 In cases where there is doubt about whether the Player suffers from an acute medical condition, non-acute medical condition inclusive of muscle cramping, or non-treatable medical condition, the decision of the Referee, in consultation with the Independent Doctor, is final. If the Sports Physiotherapist, in conjunction with the Independent Doctor, believes that the Player has heat illness, and if muscle cramping is one of the manifestations of heat illness, then the muscle cramping may only be treated as part of the recommended treatment by the Sports Physiotherapist, in conjunction with the Independent Doctor, for the heat illness condition.
- 3.7 A Player who has stopped play by claiming an acute medical condition, but is determined by the Referee, in consultation with the Independent Doctor, to have muscle cramping, shall be ordered by the Chair Umpire to resume play immediately.
- 3.8 If the Player cannot continue playing due to severe muscle cramping, as determined by the Referee, in consultation with the Independent Doctor, he may forfeit the point(s)/game(s) needed to get to a change of ends or set-break in order to receive treatment. There may be a total of two full change of ends treatments for muscle cramping in a match, not necessarily consecutive.
- 3.9 If it is determined by the Chair Umpire or Referee that gamesmanship was involved, then a Code of Conduct violation for unsportsmanlike conduct may be issued.
- 3.10 A total of two consecutive Medical Time-Outs may be allowed by the Referee for the special circumstance in which the Sports Physiotherapist, in conjunction with the Independent Doctor, determines that the Player has developed at least two distinct acute and treatable medical conditions. This may include: a medical illness in conjunction with a musculoskeletal injury; two or more acute and distinct musculoskeletal injuries. In such cases, the Sports Physiotherapist, in conjunction with the Independent Doctor, will perform a medical evaluation for the two or more treatable medical conditions during a single evaluation, and may then determine that two consecutive Medical Time-Outs are required.

#### **4. Medical Treatment**

- 4.1 A Player may receive on-court medical treatment and/or supplies from the Sports Physiotherapist, and/or Independent Doctor during any changeover or set break. As a guideline, such medical treatment should be limited to two changeovers/set breaks for each treatable medical condition, before or after a Medical Time-Out, and need not be consecutive. Players may not receive medical treatment for non-treatable medical conditions.

#### **5. Penalty**

- 5.1 After completion of a Medical Time-Out or medical treatment, any delay in resuming play shall be penalised by Code of Conduct violation for delay of



game. Any Player abuse of this provision will be subject to penalty in accordance with the unsportsmanlike conduct section of the Code of Conduct.

## **6. Bleeding**

- 6.1 If a Player is bleeding, the Chair Umpire must stop play as soon as possible, and the Sports Physiotherapist should be called to the court by the Chair Umpire for evaluation and treatment. The Sports Physiotherapist, in conjunction with the Independent Doctor, will evaluate the source of the bleeding, and will request a Medical Time-Out for treatment if necessary.
- 6.2 If requested by the Sports Physiotherapist, in conjunction with the Independent Doctor, the Referee may allow up to a total of five minutes to ensure the bleeding is controlled.
- 6.3 If blood has spilled onto the court or its immediate vicinity, play must not resume until the blood spill has been cleaned appropriately.

## **7. Vomiting**

- 7.1 If a Player is vomiting, the Chair Umpire must stop play if vomiting has spilled onto the court, or if the Player requests medical evaluation. If the Player requests medical evaluation, then the Sports Physiotherapist, in conjunction with the Independent Doctor, must determine if the Player has a treatable medical condition, and if so, whether the medical condition is acute or non-acute.
- 7.2 If vomiting has spilled onto the court, play must not resume until the vomit spill has been cleaned appropriately.

## **8. Incapacity**

- 8.1 If any concern arises about a Player's medical condition (whether physical or psychological) that he is unable to compete, or he poses a serious health risk to other Players, Officials or Tie organisers or staff, the Sports Physiotherapist and/or Independent Doctor should be called to assist the Player.
- 8.2 If the issue arises during a match, the Chair Umpire should immediately call for the Sports Physiotherapist and/or Independent Doctor to assist the Player.
- 8.3 The Independent Doctor is responsible for ensuring that the Player is afforded the best medical attention, that their well-being is not put at risk, and that their medical condition is not a risk to other Players or the public at large. All discussions between the Independent Doctor and the Player take place within the context of a doctor-patient relationship and are therefore confidential and may not be divulged to a third party without the informed consent of the player. However, if the Independent Doctor determines that the Player's medical condition makes the Player unable to participate safely in the match, the Player must permit the Independent Doctor to advise the Referee of their determination (only disclosing medical information to which the Player has consented). Upon

receipt of such a report from the Independent Doctor, the Referee will decide whether to retire the Player from the match in progress or withdraw her from the match to be played (as applicable). The Referee shall use great discretion before taking this action, and should base the decision on the best interests of professional tennis, as well as taking all medical opinion and advice, and any other relevant information into consideration.

8.4 If the Player's medical condition improves, the Independent Doctor may inform the Referee accordingly. At the discretion of the Referee, the Player may subsequently compete in another match at the same Tie, either that day or on a subsequent day.

8.5 It is recognised that national laws or governmental or other binding regulations imposed upon the event by authorities outside its control may require more compulsory participation by the Independent Doctor in all decisions regarding diagnosis and treatment.

## **9. Toilet / Change of Attire break**

9.1 A Player is allowed to request permission to leave the court for a reasonable time for a toilet break / change of attire break.

9.2 Toilet breaks should be taken on a set break. Change of attire breaks must be taken on a set break.

9.3 In singles, a Player is entitled to one toilet break.

9.4 In doubles matches, each doubles team is entitled to a total of two breaks. If partners leave the court together, it counts as one break.

9.5 Any time a Player leaves the court for a toilet break, it is considered one of the authorised breaks regardless of whether or not the opponent has left the court.

9.6 Any toilet break taken after a warm-up has started is considered one of the authorised breaks.

9.7 Additional breaks will be authorised but will be penalised in accordance with the Point Penalty Schedule if the Player is not ready to play within the allowed time.

9.8 A player should not take a toilet/change of attire break and a medical time out consecutively unless approved by the Referee.

9.9 A player may change her attire during a toilet break.

9.10 Any Player abuse of this rule will be subject to penalty in accordance with the unsportsmanlike conduct section of the Code of Conduct.

## **10. Lightning**

- 10.1 The Referee or his/her designee is responsible for monitoring the local weather for lightning. The Referee has the authority to suspend play when a thunderstorm appears imminent (for instance if lightning is sighted and thunder occurs in 30 seconds or less). Everyone on-site should be advised to seek appropriate shelter immediately. Play should not resume until the likelihood of a lightning strike has passed (as a guideline, at least 30 minutes after the last lightning strike is seen and the last sound of thunder is heard). Additional information on thunderstorms and lightning is provided in the *ITF Guide to Recommended Health Care Standards for Tennis Tournaments*.

## **11. Extreme Weather Conditions**

### 11.1 Definitions

#### (a) Extreme Heat Condition: Modification of Play

Extreme Heat Condition: Modification of Play criterion is defined as when the Wet-Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) on court meets or exceeds 30.1°C (86.2°F). If the WBGT cannot be measured, then the Heat Index should be calculated using the chart below, and Extreme Heat Condition: Modification of Play criterion is defined as when the Heat Index meets or exceeds 34.0°C (93.2°F).

#### (b) Extreme Heat Condition: Suspension of Play

Extreme Heat Condition: Suspension of Play criterion is defined as when the WBGT on court meets or exceeds 32.2°C (90.0°F). If the WBGT cannot be measured, then the Heat Index should be calculated using the chart below, and Extreme Heat Condition: Suspension of Play criterion is defined as when the Heat Index meets or exceeds 40.1°C (104.2°F).

<b>Air temperature</b>											
	21.1°C	23.9°C	26.7°C	29.4°C	32.2°C	35°C	37.8°C	40.6°C	43.3°C	46.1°C	48.9°C
	70°F	75°F	80°F	85°F	90°F	95°F	100°F	105°F	110°F	115°F	120°F
<b>Relative humidity</b>	<b>Heat Index</b> (combined index of air temperature and relative humidity)										
<b>0%</b>	17.8°C	20.6°C	22.8°C	25.6°C	28.3°C	30.6°C	32.8°C	35°C	37.2°C	39.4°C	41.7°C
	64°F	69°F	73°F	78°F	83°F	87°F	91°F	95°F	99°F	103°F	107°F
<b>10%</b>	18.3°C	21.1°C	23.9°C	26.7°C	29.4°C	32.2°C	35°C	37.8°C	40.6°C	43.9°C	46.7°C
	65°F	70°F	75°F	80°F	85°F	90°F	95°F	100°F	105°F	111°F	116°F
<b>20%</b>	18.9°C	22.2°C	25°C	27.8°C	30.6°C	33.9°C	37.2°C	40.6°C	44.4°C	48.9°C	54.4°C
	66°F	72°F	77°F	82°F	87°F	93°F	99°F	105°F	112°F	120°F	130°F
<b>30%</b>	19.4°C	22.8°C	25.6°C	28.9°C	32.2°C	35.6°C	40.1°C	45°C	50.6°C	57.2°C	64.4°C
	67°F	73°F	78°F	84°F	90°F	96°F	104°F	113°F	123°F	135°F	148°F
<b>40%</b>	20°C	23.3°C	26.1°C	30°C	33.9°C	38.3°C	43.3°C	50.6°C	58.3°C	66.1°C	
	68°F	74°F	79°F	86°F	93°F	101°F	110°F	123°F	137°F	151°F	
<b>50%</b>	20.6°C	23.9°C	27.2°C	31.1°C	35.6°C	41.7°C	48.9°C	57.2°C	65.6°C		
	69°F	75°F	81°F	88°F	96°F	107°F	120°F	135°F	150°F		
<b>60%</b>	21.1°C	24.4°C	27.8°C	32.2°C	37.8°C	45.6°C	55.6°C	65°C			
	70°F	76°F	82°F	90°F	100°F	114°F	132°F	149°F			
<b>70%</b>	21.1°C	25°C	29.4°C	33.9°C	41.1°C	51.1°C	62.2°C				
	70°F	77°F	85°F	93°F	106°F	124°F	144°F				
<b>80%</b>	21.7°C	25.6°C	30°C	36.1°C	45°C	57.8°C					
	71°F	78°F	86°F	97°F	113°F	136°F					
<b>90%</b>	21.7°C	26.1°C	31.1°C	38.9°C	50°C						
	71°F	79°F	88°F	102°F	122°F						

## 11.2 Measurement Procedure

The WBGT or Heat Index should be measured at least three (3) times daily by the Referee or his/her designee. Ideally, measurements should be taken every 2 hours, but a minimum three (3) readings should be taken at the following times:

- (a) 30 minutes before match play begins;
- (b) Middle of the scheduled day's play; and
- (c) Just prior to beginning the last match of the day, or just prior to the start of the first evening session match.

The WBGT or Heat Index should also be measured under the following circumstances:

- (a) Following any suspension of play; and
- (b) At the discretion of the Referee, in consultation with the Independent Doctor and/or Sports Physiotherapist.

Details on the measurement of WBGT and Heat Index are provided in the current edition of the *ITF Guide to Recommended Health Care Standards for Tennis Tournaments*.

## 11.3 Extreme Heat Condition: Modification of Play

When the Extreme Heat Condition: Modification of Play criterion is met before the start or resumption of a match, the procedures set out below in Regulation 11.4 should be followed.

If there is a change in weather conditions and the Extreme Heat Condition: Modification of Play criterion is met while a match is in progress, as determined by the periodic monitoring set out above in Regulation 11.2, the procedures set out below in Regulation 11.4 should be followed on all courts, including matches already in progress. Once notified that the Extreme Weather Condition: Modification of Play criterion is met, the Chair Umpire must inform the players when the players next approach the net player break.

If there is a change in weather conditions and the Extreme Heat Condition: Modification of Play criterion is no longer met, as determined by the periodic monitoring set out above in Regulation 11.2, those matches already in progress should continue to follow the procedures set out below in Regulation 11.4 until they are completed or suspended.

#### 11.4 Modification of Play Procedures (Singles and Doubles)

A 10-minute break will be allowed between the second and third sets (in a best of 3 sets match) if one or more of the players requests such a break. If neither/none of the players requests such a break, then play will continue.

However, if a match has already resumed following the suspension of play and one set was completed before the suspension of play (in a best of 3 sets match), the 10-minute break will no longer be available, unless otherwise decided by the Referee.

The Referee, in consultation with the Independent Doctor/Sports Physiotherapist, may choose to delay the starting time for matches until such a time as the Extreme Heat Condition: Modification of Play criterion is no longer met.

(a) During the 10-minute break:

- (i) Coaching is allowed.
- (ii) A Medical Evaluation, Medical Time-Out or Medical Treatment is not allowed, unless approved by the Referee. Approval would normally be restricted to requests for the Independent Doctor/Sports Physiotherapist that are made on-court to the Chair Umpire, or were already agreed before the end of the second set (in a best of 3 sets match). However, a player is allowed to receive an adjustment of medical support, medical equipment and/or medical advice from the Independent Doctor/Sports Physiotherapist during the 10-minute break.

(b) Immediately following the 10-minute break:

- (i) Any delay in resumption of play will subject a player to Time Violations under the Code of Conduct (Warning, and Point Penalties only apply).
- (ii) No re-warm up is allowed.
- (iii) A player is not allowed to receive a Medical Evaluation, Medical Time-Out or Medical Treatment, unless approved by the Referee.

(c) Consecutive Breaks:

An Extreme Weather Condition: Modification of Play 10-minute break and a Bathroom/Change of Attire break cannot be taken consecutively.

#### 11.5 Extreme Heat Condition: Suspension of Play (Singles and Doubles)

When the Extreme Heat Condition: Suspension of Play criterion is met before the start or resumption of a match, the start or resumption of play should be suspended until Extreme Heat Condition: Suspension of Play criterion is no longer met. If a game is in progress when the Extreme Heat Condition: Suspension of Play criterion is met, play should be suspended at the end of that game. Once the Extreme Heat Condition: Suspension of Play criterion is no longer met, the Referee should give the players reasonable notice of the time at which play will resume.

## **SCHEDULE 6: TRANSGENDER POLICY**

The ITF will deal with any cases involving transgender players in accordance with the principles set out in the ITF Transgender Policy, which can be found on the ITF website: [www.itftennis.com/en/about-us/governance/rules-and-regulations/rules](http://www.itftennis.com/en/about-us/governance/rules-and-regulations/rules)



## **SCHEDULE 7: COMMITTEE**

### **Board of Directors**

David Haggerty (USA) (Chair), Carlos Bravo (CRC), Roger Davids (NED), Jack Graham (CAN), Brian Hainline (USA), Asa Hedin (SWE), Nao Kawatei (JPN), Philip Mok (HKG), Salma Mouelhi Guizani (TUN), Lionel Ollinger (FRA), Mary Pierce (FRA), David Rawlinson (GBR), Jordi Tamayo de Winne (ESP), Bulat Utemuratov (KAZ), Dietloff von Arnim (GER), Rafael Westrupp (BRA), Mark Woodforde (AUS).

### **Billie Jean King Cup Committee**

Mary Pierce (FRA/BoD) (Chair), Katrina Adams (USA), Nathalie Dechy (FRA), Rebecca James (GBR), Christiane Jolissaint (SUI), Ilana Kloss (USA), Raimondo Ricci Bitti (ITA), Horia Vlad Tecau (ROU), Nico Weschenfelder (GER), Xin Zhang (CHN), Joan Pennello (WTA – Observer).

### **The Executive Director**

Executive Director Professional Tennis  
ITF Ltd, Bank Lane  
Roehampton  
London SW15 5XZ  
Tel: (44) 20 8878 6464  
executive.director@itftennis.com

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