



## **EUROPEAN VETERANS CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **REGULATIONS**

#### **1. ORGANISATION**

- 1.1. The Committee of Management of Tennis Europe has authorised the Tennis Europe Veterans committee (the Committee) to organise, issue and amend Regulations for European Clubs Championships for Veteran's teams.
- 1.2. The Committee chooses the venue for the hosting, staging and organising of the Club Championships. The Club chosen as host has an automatic right to participate in the event it is hosting.
- 1.3. The champion club from the previous year will be given the first option to host the event, unless it was the host in the previous year or, in the opinion of the Committee, does not have appropriate facilities.

#### **2. PARTICIPATION**

- 2.1. The following have a right to participate:
  - a) The European champion club from the previous year
  - b) The host club
  - c) The National Club Champion and Runner-up of each affiliated country that stages a National Club Championship
  - d) Two nominated clubs from affiliated countries that do not hold national club championships.
- 2.2. If the club or clubs in c) above cannot or choose not to enter, their National Association may nominate a club or clubs to replace them.
- 2.3. No country may have more than two teams in the competition, except the hosting nation (maximum of 3 clubs). The Tennis Europe Veterans Committee will not choose, or will withdraw its invitation from, a host club and/or a runner-up that would increase the number of eligible clubs from that country above two.
- 2.4. The entries must be made by National Associations to Tennis Europe respecting the fixed deadline. They must be accompanied by the entry fee, which will be set by the Committee each year.
- 2.5. The Competition will only take place if there is a minimum of five entered teams.
- 2.6. By entering the competition, Clubs agree to abide by these Regulations, by the ITF Code of Conduct (see Appendix I) and by normal standards of good behaviour for guests at Host Clubs. Each team shall appoint a captain and he or she will be responsible for the on and off court behaviour of the team members.

### 3. **COMPETITION FORMAT**

- 3.1 Each match will consist of singles and doubles. The singles will be played first. The number of events in each match will be:
- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Men 45:    | 4 singles / 2 doubles (In case of an equal result 3 / 3, the decision is based on the number of sets and games won and if still equal, the win of the first doubles is decisive) |
| Men 55:    | 3 singles / 2 doubles  |
| Men 60:    | 3 singles / 2 doubles  |
| Men 65:    | 3 singles / 2 doubles  |
| Ladies 40: | 2 singles / 1 doubles  |
| Ladies 50: | 2 singles / 1 doubles  |
- 3.2. The maximum number of players per team will be 7 for the men's competitions and 5 for the ladies' event (incl. reserve). Each team may also have a non-playing captain.
- 3.3. It is a condition of entry that all matches must be played, including those not started or completed when a result of the whole match is known. This is a courtesy to the hosts and spectators. The referee may make exceptions to this at his discretion.
- 3.4. A referee, if possible qualified to the standard required by the Tennis Europe Officiating Requirements, to be nominated by the host club and approved by the Committee, will run each event. The referee's decisions on all matters regarding play shall be final.
- 3.5. The running of a consolation event is mandatory and all teams eligible are expected to play. The format will be decided by the Referee and the Tennis Europe Representative.
- 3.6. The competition will be played as a knock-out if 8 or more teams are involved. If less than 8 teams have entered it will be played as a round-robin in two groups, with the group winners playing a final, the runners-up playing for third and fourth places and the third place teams playing for fifth and sixth places. The competition can be organized up to five days depending on the final number of entries.
- 3.7. The group winner in round robin competitions will be the team with the most wins. If there is more than one team with the same number of wins, the winner will be the team which has won the most rubbers and if these are equal the winner will be the one that has won the most sets. If these are equal, the team winning the most games will be the winner. If this does not produce a result, the decision between two equal teams will be decided by the result of the match between them. If there are more than two equal teams it will be decided by drawing lots.
- 3.8. All matches will be the best of three sets with tie-breaks in all sets at 6-6. A ten minute rest can be taken after the second set in singles matches at the request of either player. The no-ad rule will not be used in this competition.
- 3.9. If a player is not able to play a single or to continue to play in the singles he should be barred from playing in the same round.

### 4 **THE DRAW AND SEEDINGS**

- 4.1 The likely team must be submitted with the Club's entry form to assist the host club with its publicity and arrangements. The formal team nominations must be given to the referee at least two hours before the captains' meeting on the day before the start of the event.
- 4.2. Team nominations must be in order of merit, taking account of both national and European rankings. In the event of dispute, the referee's decision shall be final. Teams must bring a copy of their National Ranking List with them if available. In the event of obvious fault in the order of merit becoming apparent after play has begun, the referee will consult with the Tennis Europe representative over any action to be taken, with the Tennis Europe representative's decision being final.

- 4.3. Seeding will be done by the referee and the official Tennis Europe Representative before the captains' meeting. They will be based on the strength of the teams as nominated and present. In case of disagreement, the Tennis Europe representative's decision shall be final.
- 4.4. The number of seeds will depend on the number of entries. 8 to 16 entries will have minimum two seeds and 16 or more will have minimum four.
- 4.5. The draw will take place at the captains' meeting. If there are two teams from the same country participating they will be drawn in opposite halves in the case of a knock-out draw or in different groups in the case of a round-robin competition.

## 5. **ORDER OF PLAY**

- 5.1. Teams must play their singles in strict order of merit as nominated. Nominations must be given to the referee at least 30 minutes before play is due to start and no changes can be made less than 30 minutes before play starts.
- 5.2. Doubles pairs must be notified to the referee 30 minutes before the start of the first doubles. Captains are free to pair their players in any combination and can change the pairs for each match.
- 5.3. Doubles pairs must play in order of merit, with the doubles players ranked 1 to 4 as defined by the singles rankings of the players in that day's team. The pair with the lowest total of singles rankings must play first (eg players 1 and 3 must play above players 2 and 4). If the totals of both pairs are the same, the best ranked player must be included in the doubles first pair.

## 6. **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- 6.1. Players must have reached, or will reach by December 31 of the year of the competition, the minimum age for that competition.
- 6.2. Only players who are, and have been since October 1st of the previous year, genuine members of their club are eligible to play. A proof can be requested.

## 7. **PENALTIES**

- 7.1. The Committee has the power to impose financial and other penalties for infringement of these Regulations.
- 7.2. Clubs which withdraw less than 2 months before the start of the competition shall forfeit their entry fee and send an explanation for their withdrawal to the Committee based on which additional steps could be taken. On a second or subsequent occasion they will be liable to an additional fine and/or the refusal of future entries at the discretion of the Committee.
- 7.3. Any competing club which fails to conform to the Regulations may be immediately disqualified or fined and shall have its entry refused for future competitions until satisfactory assurances of compliance with the Regulations have been given and accepted by the Committee.

# APPENDIX I

## CODE OF CONDUCT

### **Purpose**

The aim of the Code is to maintain fair and reasonable standards of conduct by players participating at all tournaments, Club Championships and International Team Competitions included in the European Veterans Circuit Calendar.

### **Reports**

In order to maintain a complete record of all action taken under this Code, the Referee and organising committee must include in their reports all action, or recommended action, under the following headings:

- point penalties imposed
- defaults
- any unprofessional behaviour

### **Withdrawals**

A player may not compete in more than one tournament in the same week. Therefore if he/she enters two (2) or more tournaments during the same period and is accepted into both events, he/she is responsible for withdrawing from one tournament no later than seven (7) days prior to the scheduled start of the singles main draw without penalty.

Any player who fails to sign-in or report within fifteen (15) minutes of his/her match being called, shall be considered a "no-show" and shall be defaulted by the Referee, and shall be penalised under the Code of Conduct.

### **Coaches, Player Representatives and Player Relatives**

No coach, representative or relative of a player may at any time, particularly during a tournament or an event into which the player's entry has been accepted, conduct himself or herself in a manner that will reflect unfavourably on Tennis Europe, its tournaments, any player, official or the game of tennis.

Abusive conduct, including conduct directed toward any player, tournament on-court official or spectator, shall be considered a violation of this rule.

Violations will result in (i) denial of privileges or exclusion of such person from any or all tournaments on the circuit; or (ii) such other sanctions as the Tennis Europe Veterans Committee may decide to impose.

### **Player On-Site Offences**

#### a) General

Every player shall, during all matches and at all times while within the precincts of the tournament site, conduct him/herself in an orderly and sportsmanlike manner.

The following provision shall apply to each player's conduct while within the precincts of the site.

#### b) Punctuality

Matches shall follow each other without delay in accordance with the announced order of play.

The order of play shall be posted at a highly visible place in a general players' area by the Referee. The announced order of play may not be changed without the approval of the Referee.

The Referee shall designate a visible timepiece at a fixed location as the official clock for the event.

Matches shall be called in accordance with the order of play using all available and reasonable means.

Any player not ready to play within fifteen (15) minutes after the match is called shall be defaulted unless the Referee in his sole discretion, after consideration of all relevant circumstances, elects not to declare a default.

c) Dress and Equipment

All players shall dress and present themselves for play in a suitable manner. Clean and customarily acceptable tennis attire shall be worn.

1. Unacceptable Attire

Sweatshirts, gym shorts, dress shirts, t-shirts or any other inappropriate attire shall not be worn during a match. If a player is in doubt, he/she should consult the Referee who may instruct a change of attire.

2. Doubles Teams

Wherever possible members of a doubles team shall be dressed in substantially the same colours.

d) Leaving the Court

A player shall not leave the court area during a match (including the warm-up) without the permission of the umpire.

A player who violates this section may be defaulted by the Referee.

e) Best Efforts

A player shall use his/her best efforts to win a match.

A player who in the joint opinion of the Referee and the umpire, does not try his/her best, may be defaulted.

f) Failure to complete a match

A player must complete a match in progress unless reasonably unable to do so.

A player who violates this section may be defaulted forthwith by the Referee.

g) Media Conference

Unless injured and physically unable to appear, a player or team must attend the post-match media conference organised immediately or within a reasonable time after the conclusion of each match, whether the player or team was the winner or loser.

h) Unreasonable Delays

Players shall commence play upon order of the chair umpire after the expiration of the established warm-up period. Thereafter play shall be continuous and a player shall not unreasonably delay a match for any cause.

A maximum of twenty (20) seconds shall elapse from the moment the ball goes out of play at the end of the point until such time the ball is struck for the first serve of the next point. If such serve is a fault then 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 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 game until the time the first serve is struck for the next game.

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 must be ready to receive when the server is ready to serve.

Delay on account of the natural loss of physical condition, injury or refusal to play shall constitute a violation of this section.

The first violation of this section shall be penalised by a warning and each subsequent violation shall be penalised by the assessment of one (1) point penalty. However, when a violation is a result of refusal to play, or a medical condition, after being ordered to play by the chair umpire, the penalty shall be assessed in accordance with the point penalty schedule.

i) Audible Obscenity

Players shall not use audible obscenity within the precincts of the tournament site.

If such violation occurs during a match, the player shall be penalised in accordance with the point penalty schedule.

For the purposes of this rule, audible obscenity is defined as the use of words commonly known and understood to be profane and uttered clearly enough and loudly enough to be heard by the chair umpire, spectator, linesmen or ballpersons.

j) Coaching and Coaches

Players shall not receive coaching during a tournament match. Communications of any kind, audible or visible, between a player and a coach may be construed as coaching. Players shall also prohibit their coaches (1) from using audible obscenity within the precincts of the tournament site, (2) from making obscene gestures of any kind within the precincts of the tournament site, (3) from verbally abusing any official, opponent, spectator or other person within the precincts of the tournament site, (4) from physically abusing any official, opponent, spectator or other person within the precincts of the tournament site and (5) from giving, making, issuing, authorising or endorsing any public statement within the precincts of the tournament site having, or designed to have, an effect prejudicial or detrimental to the best interests of the tournament and/or of the officiating thereof.

If such violation occurs during a match (including the warm-up), the player shall be penalised in accordance with the point penalty schedule hereinafter set forth.

In circumstances that are flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a tournament, the Referee may order the coach to be removed from the site of a match or the precincts of the tournament site and upon his/her failure to comply with such order may declare an immediate default of such player.

Rule 31 of the Rules of Tennis reads:

During the playing of a match in a team competition, a player may receive coaching from a Captain who is sitting on the court only when he/she changes ends at the end of a game, but not when he/she changes ends during a tie-break game.

A player may not receive coaching during the playing of any other match. The provision of this rule

must be strictly construed.

After due warning an offending player may be disqualified. When an approved point penalty system is in operation the umpire shall impose penalties according to that system.

Case 1. Should a warning be given, or the player be disqualified, if the coaching is given by signals in an unobtrusive manner?

Decision. The umpire must take action as soon as he/she becomes aware that coaching is being given verbally or by signals. If the umpire is unaware that coaching is being given, a player may draw his/her attention to the fact that advice is being given.

Case 2. Can a player receive coaching during an authorised rest period, or when play is interrupted and he/she leaves the court?

Decision. Yes. In these circumstances, when the player is not on the court, there is no restriction on coaching.

Note: the word "coaching" includes any advice or instruction.

#### k) Visible Obscenity

Players shall not make obscene gestures of any kind within the precincts of the tournament site.

If such violation occurs during a match the player shall be penalised in accordance with the point penalty schedule.

For the purposes of this rule, visible obscenity is defined as the making of signs by a player with his/her hands and/or racquet or balls that commonly have an obscene meaning or import to reasonable people.

#### l) Abuse of Balls

Players shall not violently or with anger hit, kick or throw a tennis ball within the precincts of the tournament site except in the reasonable pursuit of a point during a match (including the warm-up). If such violation occurs during a match the player shall be penalised in accordance with the point penalty schedule.

For the purposes of this rule, 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.

#### m) 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 tournament site.

If such violation occurs during a match, the player shall be penalised in accordance with the point penalty schedule.

For the purpose of this rule, abuse of racquets or equipment is defined as intentionally and violently destroying or damaging racquets or equipment or intentionally and violently hitting the net, court, umpire's chair or other fixture during a match out of anger or frustration.

#### n) Verbal Abuse

Players shall not at any time verbally abuse any official, opponent, spectator or other person within the precincts of the tournament site.

If such violation occurs during a match, the player shall be penalised in accordance with the point penalty schedule.

For the purposes of this rule, verbal abuse is defined as a statement directed at an official, opponent, spectator or other person that implies dishonesty or is derogatory insulting or otherwise abusive.

o) Physical Abuse

Players shall not at any time physically abuse any official, opponent, spectator or other person within the precincts of the tournament site.

If such violation occurs during a match, the player shall be penalised in accordance with the point penalty schedule. In circumstances that are flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a tournament, a single violation of this section shall also constitute a major offence of “aggravated behaviour” and shall be subject to the additional penalties hereinafter set forth.

For the purposes of this rule, physical abuse is the unauthorised touching of an official, opponent, spectator or other person.

p) Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Players 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.

If a violation occurs during a match (including the 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 a tournament, a single violation of this section shall also constitute the major offence of “aggravated behaviour” and shall be subject to the additional penalties hereinafter set forth.

For the purposes of this rule, unsportsmanlike conduct is defined as any misconduct by a player that is clearly abusive or detrimental to the sport, but that does not fall within the prohibition of any specific on-site offence contained herein. 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 interests of the tournament and/or officiating thereof.

### **Player Major Offences**

No player at any ITF Vets Circuit Tournament shall engage in “aggravated behaviour” which is defined as follows:

1. One or more incidents of behaviour designated in this code as constituting “aggravated behaviour”.
2. One incident of behaviour that is flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of an European Veterans Circuit Tournament;
3. A series of two (2) or more violations of this code within a twelve (12) month period which singularly do not constitute “aggravated behaviour”, but when viewed together establish a pattern of conduct that is detrimental or injurious to any European Veterans Circuit Tournaments.

Violations of this section shall subject a player to suspension from play in any European Veterans Circuit Tournaments for a period of time based upon a decision of the Tennis Europe Veterans Committee.

q) Point Penalty Schedule

The point penalty schedule to be used for violations above set forth (except unreasonable delays) is as follows:

first offence:	warning
second offence:	loss of point
third and each	

subsequent offence:

game penalty

However, after the third code violation, the Referee shall determine whether each subsequent offence shall constitute a default.

Point penalties as above set forth shall be levied by the chair umpire. If the chair umpire fails to levy a point penalty for a violation, then the Referee may order him/her to do so. The player must be clearly informed of any warning, subsequent point penalty or game penalties imposed. During a match umpired by a competitor, no penalty may be imposed without the approval of the Referee or his/her assistant.

r) Toilet/Attire Change Break

A player is allowed to request permission to leave the court for a reasonable time for a toilet break / change of attire break. Toilet breaks should be taken on a set break and can be used for no other purpose. Change of attire breaks must be taken on a set break and are only allowed in women's tennis. In women's tennis, these breaks may be limited by the Referee to five (5) minutes in addition to the time allowed for a set break. If due to the layout of the tournament facility it is necessary to extend the five (5) minute break, the Referee must post a notice to this effect before matches begin.

In women's singles events, a player is entitled to two (2) breaks during a match. In men's singles events, a player is entitled to one (1) toilet break during a best of three (3) set match and two (2) toilet breaks during a best of five (5) set match.

In a doubles match, each team is entitled to a total of two (2) breaks. If partners leave the court together, it counts as one (1) of the team's authorised breaks. 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. Any toilet break taken after a warm-up has started is considered one of the authorised breaks. 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.

s) Defaults

The chair umpire may declare a default for either a single violation of this Code, or pursuant to the point penalty schedule set out above. Upon appeal by a player the Referee shall have the discretionary authority to affirm or set aside an immediate default and his/her decision on appeal shall be final.

The Referee may default a player for any violation of this Code and such decision shall be unappealable.

Any player who is defaulted as herein provided shall be defaulted from all other events, if any, except when the offending incident involves only a violation of the punctuality or dress and equipment provisions above set forth, or loss of physical condition or when his/her doubles partner commits the Code violation which causes the default.

t) Doubles Events

Point penalties and/or default if assessed for violation of the Code shall be assessed against the team.

u) Determination and Penalty

The Referee shall make such investigation as is reasonable to determine the facts regarding all player on-site offences and upon determining that a violation has occurred shall specify the punishment therefore, other than that under the point penalty schedule, and give written notice thereof to the player.

**Medical Examinations**

The ITF Medical Commission recommends that Vets players undergo regular medical examinations on

a yearly basis. The Commission stresses the importance of a thorough physical examination, to include a blood work-up and cardiac evaluation, including stress testing, for those who have been inactive for any prolonged period prior to participating in tournament play.

## **Medical Conditions**

### a) Medical Time-Out

In the event that a player sustains a medical condition during the match or warm-up or believes that medical diagnosis and treatment are required for a medical condition, the player may request through the chair umpire to see the tournament trainer or physician. The tournament trainer or physician may authorise a one-time three (3) minute medical time-out for that condition. The player may make this request at any time during a match or warm-up.

Medical evaluation and treatment of a player's condition will be made only by the tournament trainer or physician. The time-out begins after the completion of the evaluation and diagnosis of the medical condition by the tournament trainer or physician.

At the discretion of the tournament trainer or physician the evaluation and/or treatment can take place off-court.

The tournament trainer or physician can treat heat related physical conditions if determined to be appropriate. However, a player will be allowed only one (1) medical time-out per match for any and all cramping conditions.

### b) Medical Treatment

A player may, within any ninety (90) second changeover or one hundred and twenty (120) second set break, receive on-court medical evaluation, treatment and supplies from the tournament trainer or physician. The player must make this request to the chair umpire.

As a guideline this medical treatment should not exceed two consecutive changeovers.

## **Non-treatable Medical Conditions:**

A player may not receive treatment at any time during a match (including the warm-up) for the following conditions:

- i) Any illness or medical condition, as determined by the tournament trainer or physician that cannot be appropriately treated or will not be improved by medical treatment available;
- ii) Pre-existing conditions not aggravated during play;
- iii) General player fatigue; or
- iv) Any condition requiring injections, intravenous infusions or oxygen, except for diabetics with prior medical certification who may be allowed to use devices off-court to check blood sugar and administer subcutaneous injections of insulin if needed.

### c) Time-out Procedures:

#### i) During the warm-up

If a player sustains a medical condition during the warm-up that prevents the player from starting the match as scheduled, the player can receive either a medical time-out or a ninety (90) second treatment period at the end of the warm-up prior to the start of the match. If it is clear that a player is not physically able to compete after receiving a medical time-out or treatment, then the match should not begin. Any medical condition incurred during the warm-up shall be deemed to be a pre-existing condition once the match begins.

#### ii) During the match

A player can make the request and receive a medical time-out either; immediately, on the next changeover or set break (in such cases the time-out is in addition to the time allowed for that changeover or set break), or when the tournament trainer or physician arrives, evaluates and is prepared to give treatment. If play is stopped until the tournament trainer or physician arrives, then when treatment or consultation is completed (prior to the completion of the time-

out), play will resume immediately except in the case of a re-warm-up.

In addition, the chair umpire can stop play and call for the tournament trainer or physician, who may advise that continued play is detrimental to the player's health. In that case, the Referee may retire the player from the match.

d) Penalty

After completion of a medical treatment, any delay shall be penalised in accordance with the point penalty schedule.

e) Physical Incapacity

Where because of player injury or illness the quality of a scheduled tournament match is jeopardised to the extent that the Referee believes it would not be in the best interest of tennis for the match to be played, the Referee has the authority to rule a player ineligible to compete.

The Referee shall use this power with great discretion and shall seek medical advice and any other appropriate information in all such cases. Also, the player may continue to play another event (singles or doubles) at the tournament if the tournament doctor certifies the player's condition has improved to the extent that the player may physically perform, whether the same day or a later day. pursuant thereto, it is the responsibility of each tournament to have a tournament doctor on-call at all times.

Having made a request to see the tournament trainer or physician, the player has the option to:

- continue playing until the tournament trainer or physician arrives; or
- stop playing until the tournament trainer or physician arrives; or
- continue playing until the next changeover and then take the medical time-out.

If a player chooses to stop the match and wait for the tournament trainer or physician to arrive, the match is officially suspended and the medical time-out shall begin once the tournament trainer or physician arrives on-court and begins his/her evaluation.

Note:

- once treatment is completed, play will resume immediately.
- the tournament trainer or physician will be allowed to treat a player on a maximum of three (3) changeovers during a match. These treatments may occur during any changeovers, which may or may not be consecutive.

During the warm-up – if a player sustains a medical condition during the warm-up, he/she may request and receive a medical time-out. Any medical condition incurred in the warm-up shall be deemed to be pre-existing once the match begins.

### **Medical Suspension of Play**

The chair umpire may call for a medical suspension of play and wait for the Referee and tournament trainer or physician to arrive, if under extreme circumstances, in the chair umpire's discretion, it is determined that continuing play without medical treatment or consultation could be physically detrimental or life endangering to the player. If upon evaluation it is determined by the tournament trainer or physician that continuation of the match would put the player's health at extreme risk, the Referee in consultation with the tournament trainer or physician may retire a player from the match.