# BEACH TENNIS & RACKET VOLLEY RULES

## GENERAL REGULATION

The present general regulations are established by I.F.B.T. to provide the rules for the competitions.

## FOREWORD

The International Federation Beach Tennis is divided into three fields:

- Beach Tennis: played on the sand
- Racket Volley: played with string racket on the sand

## RULE N. 1 - PLAYING AREA

For Doubles Matches, the playing area must be 16m (52.50 feet) of lengths and 8m (26.24 feet) of width. It must be divided into two equal parts by a net, with small meshes so that the ball cannot pass through.
For Singles Matches, the width is 4.5m (14.91 feet) and keeping the same lengths as in doubles.

## RULE N.2 - PERMANENT FURNISHING

Permanent systems consist of: Net, stakes, lines or rope

Net height:

- Beach Tennis and Racket Volley: 67 inches (1.70 m.)

Perimeter lines:

- Maximum width of 2 inches (5 cm.)
- Contrasting color with the sand or surface of play

## RULE N.3 - THE BALL

Official I.F.B.T. approved balls are depressurized:

- Beach Tennis: size 2.5 inches (6.4 cm.) and mass 38 – 40 grams (ex. Artengo 710).
- Racket Volley size 3.0 inches (7.6 cm) and mass 44 grams (ex. Artengo 700).

## RULE N.4 - THE RACKETS

Beach Tennis and Gym Racket:

- Maximum length: 21.65 inches (55 cm)
- Maximum width: 11.81 inches (30 cm).
- No string
- Flat surface, with an indefinite number of holes

Racket Volley:

- Maximum length: 30 inches (73.7 cm)
- Maximum width: 12.5 inches (31.7 cm)
- Strings as tennis rackets.

**RULE N.5 - SERVER AND RETURNEE**

- Players must be opposite each other
- Server: the player who throws the ball first
- Receiver: the player who receives the serve

**RULE N.6 - SIDE AND SERVICE DRAW**

The right to serve first or be the receiver, at the start of a match is decided by a draw.

The player who wins the draw may choose one of the following options:

1. Service Option: Serve first or receive first
2. Side of the Court Option: which side the players will start play

The draw winner may also elect that the opponent chooses first one of the above options.
The loser of the draw may select their preference in the remaining option, such as which side they want to start to play if the opponent elects the Service Option.

**RULE N.7 - THE SERVICE**

Should the Server/Receiver infringe any rule, he/she loses the point:

- The Server must always serve behind the baseline. • The Server has 1 opportunity to serve per point.
- The Server can serve from any position on his side along the baseline and can serve to either opponent in doubles.
- The serve commences when the Server tosses the ball up in the air. The contact point of the ball with the racket can be made below or above the head. The exception to this rule applies to mixed doubles in which the male partner must serve underhand—ball and racket contact is the below the waist. This rule does not apply to the female partner in mixed doubles.
- During the serve, if the ball touches the net, play continues, as it is not considered a let.
- The Receivers can return from any position on their side of the court.
- Receivers must be in waiting position for the serve and cannot move towards the net, with intent to block the serve, until the serve has been initiated with the ball toss in the air. Receivers are permitted to block the serve if the Server has commenced to toss the ball up in the air.

**RULE N. 8 - SERVICE FAULT**

Service fault occurs when: the player misses the ball while trying to hit it; the serviced ball hits a permanent furnishing, the area bounding net, the walls or the ceiling of a possible gym before touching the ground; the server invades his side before hitting the ball.
Service fault occurs when the server touches or treads on the bottom line. (Foot fault)

**RULE N. 9 - SERVICE ORDER**
Under penalty of loosing the point, each player must alternate at the service, following a pre-established order previously reported to the judges.

**RULE N. 10 - WHEN PLAYERS CHANGE THE COURT SIDE**
During matches, players must change sides at the end of each odd game.

**RULE N. 11 - SCORE**
Game score:

- 0 (love), 15, 30, 40 and "game".
- If both players have scored three points each (deuce), it is required that one player (team) must win one point to win the game.

Set score: The winner is determined by the team who scores 7 (or 9) games with a margin of at least 2 games. A tie-break is played at 6 (or 8) games all.

**RULE N.12 - TIE BREAK**
Only one more game is played to determine the winner of the set; the score of the set is always 7–6 (or 6–7). Points are counted consecutively using ordinary numbering. The set is decided by the player who wins at least seven points in the tiebreak but also has two points more than his opponent.
The player who would normally be serving after 6–6 or 8-8 is the one to serve first in the tiebreak, and the tiebreak is considered a service game for this player. The server begins his service. After the first point, the serve changes to the first server's opponent. Each player then serves two consecutive points for the remainder of the tiebreak. After every four points, the players switch sides of the court.

**RULE N. 13 - HOW TO DETERMINE POINTS**

- Each time the ball touches the own bounding playing field, the point is given to the opposite team.
- If a player sends the ball out of the bounding playing field he loses the point.
- A ball that touches the bounding lines is considered "in".
- If a player intentionally disturbs the opponent while hitting the ball, he loses the point; if not intentional then the point is replayed.
- The receiver's return of serve is considered "good" and is effective should the ball hit the net, as long as it passes over it and touches ground within court.
- It is not legal to return while invading the opponent court.

**RULE N. 14 - OFFICIALS DECISIONS**
In a match where a referee is named, his decisions are definitive.

**RULE N. 15 - COMPETITION MANAGER OFFICIALS & REFEREE**
All the official competitions must be controlled by an I.F.B.T. Manager; all participating Officials and Referees must have the specific license and will be organized in an official Registration. The Federation will organize stages and courses.

**RULE N. 16 - COMPETITIONS**
Contests are divided as follows:

- Regional Championship
- National Championship
- Continental Championship
- International Championship

All Tournaments and competitions must be authorized by the Federation. A calendar of the events for each season will be made with respective charts. In order to organize a tournament, each nation must ask the Board of Directors at least 30 days in advance.

Competitions are also divided into two categories: Pro & Advanced A,B, and C.

**IFBT - International Beach Tennis**
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