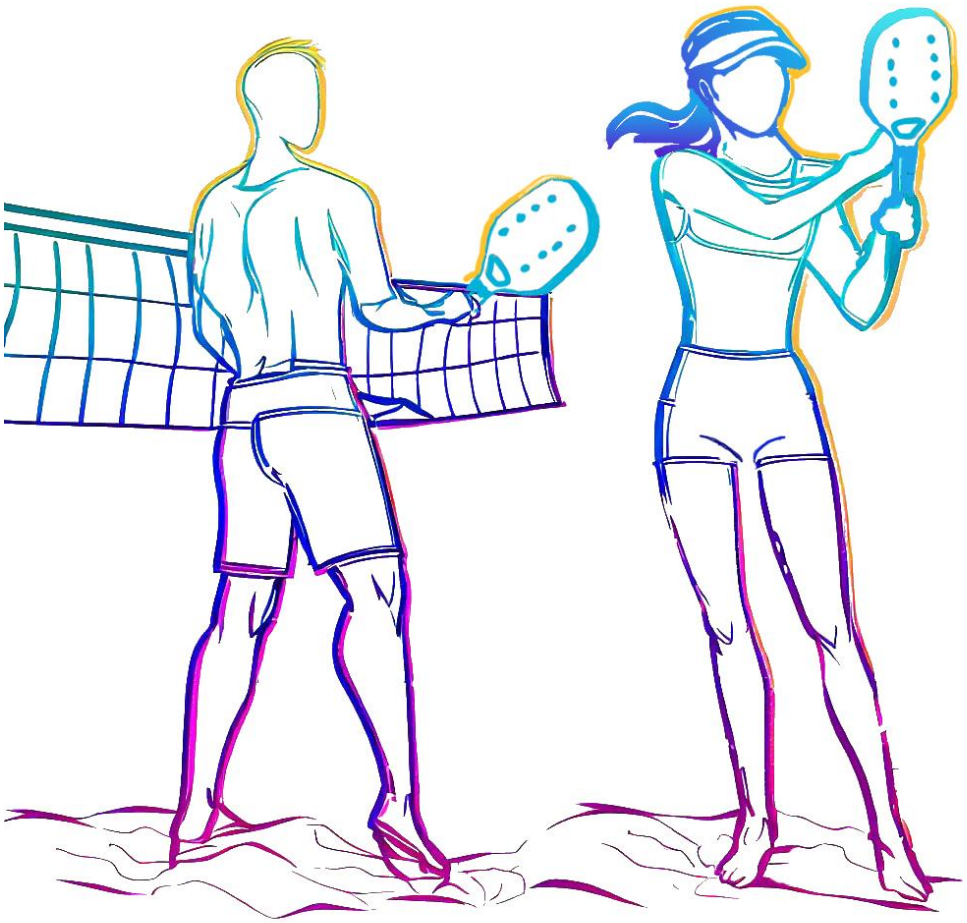
IFBT DISCIPLINARY RULES
2023



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Preamble

The present Disciplinary Rules are addressed: players, coaches, physiotherapists, health professionals, referees, judges, and all those people who are involved during the sporting development of the Championships and tournaments.

Also, those events that may occur in adjoining premises, such as tournament's accommodations, transportation, tournament facilities bars, restaurants, etc.

TITLE I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.- Object

These Disciplinary Rules describe infringements of the rules from IFBT regulations, determine the sanctions incurred, regulate the organization and function of the IFBT judicial bodies responsible for making decisions and the procedures to be followed before said bodies.

2.- Scope of application

2.1 These Disciplinary Rules will apply to every match and competition sanctioned by IFBT.

2.2 These Disciplinary Rules also apply to any breach of IFBT's statutory objectives as well as of any IFBT Norms and Rules.

3.- Scope of personal application

a) Players
b) Coaches
c) Referees
d) Judges
c) Physiotherapists, and health professionals
d) All those people who are involved during the sporting development

4.- Applicable bylaws and Regulations

IFBT Statutes as well as IFBT's regulations, circulars, directives and decisions, and the Competition Norms and Rules.

TITLE II. OFFENCES AND MISCONDUCTS

5.- Offences and Misconducts

5.1 Minor misconducts during the match

a) Audible or Visible Obscenity
b) Abuse of equipment (racket or ball or other equipment)
c) Time-wasting
d) Questioning a decision of the referee
e) Unsporting conduct
f) Coaching not allowed (see Competition Rules)

The disciplinary measures and application of the penalties will be applied by the Main Judge of the tournament during matches. In Doubles matches the penalties will be applied to the Doubles team.

Depending on the seriousness of the offense, the penalties are as follows:

1) First Warning - Warning for misconduct, does not imply a penalty, but the player is warned a possible sanction
2) Second Warning - Subject to penalty for misconduct, the player or the team is sanctioned with the loss of a point
3) Third Warning- Penalty for misconduct is punishable by expulsion, and is equivalent to the loss of the entire match

5.2 Major misconducts during the match

a) Deliberately breaking the racket
b) Hitting the ball or throwing the racket out of the court

The penalty for major misconducts is the player in singles category or the team in doubles loses the entire match

5.3 Severe misconducts during the match

a) Offensive behavior
b) Physical aggression
c) Offensive behavior and violations of the principles of fair play

The penalty for severe misconducts during the match, the player in singles category or the team in doubles loses the entire match. After the match the Main Judge will notify to the Disciplinary Committee the name of the player who committed the offense, following the procedure indicated in the chapter IV.

5.4 Major or Severe misconducts
a) Offensive behavior
b) Physical aggression
c) Offensive behavior and violations of the principles of fair play
d) Misconduct of players or officials
e) Discrimination
f) Manipulation of Beach Tennis matches and competitions
g) Those misconducts that may occur in adjoining premises, such as tournament's accommodations, transportation, tournament facilities, bars, restaurants, etc.
e) Public statements or posts on social media that might have a negative impact on the image of IFBT, its competitions, or its Members
f) To give or enter in the player's profile or in registration forms deliberately incorrect birthdates in order to participate in disallowed age categories.

Severe misconducts will be notified to the Disciplinary Committee with the name of the player who committed the offense, following the procedure indicated in the chapter IV.

6.- Disciplinary measures
The following disciplinary measures may be imposed on players:
a) Warning
b) Reprimand
c) Return of awards
d) Withdrawal of a title
e) Suspension for a specific number of matches or for a specific period
f) Annulment of the result of a match
g) Lost of points
h) Suspension for a serious offense for a period up to twelve months
i) Suspension for very serious offenses for a period of twelve months to thirty-six months

7.- Responsibility

1. Unless otherwise specified in this document, infringements are punishable regardless of whether they have been committed deliberately or negligently
2. Acts amounting to attempt are also punishable
3. Anyone who takes part in committing an infringement or induces someone to do so, whether as instigator or accomplice, may also be sanctioned

8.- Discrimination

Discrimination will not be tolerated on account of race, skin color, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, language, religion, political opinion, wealth, birth or any other status or any other reason.

9.- Duty to report

1. Anyone subject to these Disciplinary Rules shall immediately report to the IFBT secretariat any violation of, or attempt to violate, these Disciplinary Norms by any third party.

2. Anyone subject to these Disciplinary Rules making an unfounded or irresponsible accusation may be sanctioned.

TITLE III. CONSTITUTION DISCIPLINARY SPORTIVE COMMITTEE

10.- Constitution of the Disciplinary Sportive Committee

By virtue of article 31b of the current statutes a Disciplinary Sportive Committee will be established, and it will have the power to punish faults committed by associated members, players, referees or judges, or others for violations of competition regulations, fair play, inappropriate behavior in competitions, match fixing, anti-doping regulations, or other actions that may result in a disrepute for the sport of Beach Tennis or for IFBT.

11.- Members of the Disciplinary Sportive Committee

The Disciplinary Sportive Committee will be formed by a minimum of four people, one representing the Executive Committee, one representing the players, one representing the referees, and one staff representative.

TITLE IV. REPORTING PROCESS

12. Procedure to report faults to the Committee

a) Tournament Director/Referee will fill a form, and send it to the Disciplinary Sportive Committee explaining the misconduct
b) When the secretariat receives the form, the IFBT secretariat will ask the person affected to submit arguments a period of twenty calendar days
c) When the arguments' period expires, the Committee will meet to study the documentation received, and punish faults committed

The Director/Referee who submitted the original report should receive a copy of the Disciplinary Commission's report whether any further action is taken against the person affected or not.
For very serious misconduct, the Committee may seek the advice of a sports lawyer.

TITTLE V APPEALS

13. Procedure to Appeal

The Executive Committee will appoint a sole Judge of Appeal, who must be a lawyer specializing in Sports Law, and will be vested with the authority to review and make decisions in the second instance concerning appeals made against the agreements issued by the Sports Disciplinary Committee.
If an individual wishes to challenge a decision issued by the Sports Disciplinary Committee, they may file an appeal with the sole Judge of Appeal within five business days of receiving the sanctioning resolution of the Committee.
It is expected that the sole Judge of Appeal will make a decision within a period of fifteen business days from the date the appeal is received from the interested party. If an extension of time is necessary due to valid reasons, the affected person will be duly informed, and given the opportunity to object to any such delay.
Please note that decisions resulting from the ruling of the sole Judge of Appeal are deemed to be final.

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IFBT- INTERNATIONAL BEACH TENNIS ASSOCIATION
Passeig de Torras i Bages, 95 – 99 local
808030 Barcelona – Catalonia (Spain)
www.ifbt.eu info@ifbt.eu