



# USTA Florida Junior Red, Orange, and Green Ball Tennis Guidelines

As of January 26, 2018

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## I. GENERAL

These USTA Florida Regulations shall apply to Red, Orange, and Green Ball Tennis. Any authority delegated by these Regulations to the USTA Florida Junior Competition Committee, the USTA Florida Competitive Department, or any other entity stated herein, unless otherwise stated, may not be delegated to a different authority.

## II. RED BALL TENNIS

### Definition of Red Ball Tennis.

- A. Red Ball Tennis** is played on a 36-foot court as described in **Figure 8**. The net shall be 33 inches (0.838m) high at center. The ball shall be a stage 3 (red) ball of any composition as described in **Appendix VII** of the **ITF Rules of Tennis**. **Figure 8** is published at the end of these Regulations.
- B. Divisions Required to Use Red Ball Tennis.** USTA Florida requires Level 8 (Entry Level) sanctioned tournaments to provide Red Ball Divisions for 8 and under players and is recommended for other competitions in this division.
- C. Racket.** The racket is recommended to be no longer than 23 inches (58.5 cm).
- D. Events.** Boys, Girls, and Coed events may be held. Coed events are recommended at the entry level and when a small number of entries are anticipated.
- E. Scoring.** The match shall consist of one of the following formats:
  - 1. *One tiebreak game.*
    - i. *First to 7 by a margin of 1.* A tiebreak game whereby the first player or team to win 7 points wins the game; or
    - ii. *First to 7 by a margin of 2.* A tiebreak game whereby the first player or team to win 7 points wins the game, provided there is a margin of 2.During the tiebreak game, the players shall not change ends.
  - 2. *Best of 3 tiebreak games.* The best of 3 tiebreak games. Either tiebreak game format described in **Regulation II.E.1.** may be used. Players shall change ends at the end of each tiebreak game.
  - 3. *Timed matches - point format.* To ensure equal playing time for each match, the Tournament Committee may authorize a timed match point format. This format consists of an ongoing tiebreak game during which the players do not change ends and continue playing points until the end of the specified period of time. The player who has won the most points wins the match. If the score is tied one point is played to determine the winner. The player due to serve the next point shall serve the final point.
- F. Draw Format and Size.** Tournament draws shall be any non-elimination format such as a compass draw or round robin. The maximum draw size shall be 32. Tournaments should not last more than one-half day.
- G. Continuous Play.** When players change ends at the end of a tiebreak game, a maximum of 90 seconds is allowed.
- H. Rest Between Matches.** The Tournament Director shall offer reasonable rest to players between matches. Because Red Ball Tennis matches are relatively short, the minimum rest period of 30 minutes in Table 11 of the USTA Regulations does not always apply. In most cases a rest period of less than 30 minutes is appropriate. Additional rest should be offered when the length of a match, heat, humidity, total time on court during the day, or other conditions justify more rest.
- I. Limit on Play.** A player should play no more than 18 tiebreak games in a day.
- J. Point Penalty System and USTA Junior Suspension Point System.** Teaching and maintaining high standards of good sportsmanship are important. Although the Point Penalty System is not used, the Tournament Director has the obligation to promote good sportsmanship, including addressing inappropriate behavior by players and persons associated with the players (parents, coaches, and associated spectators).
- K. Results Not Considered for Ranking.** Results shall not be considered for ranking.
- L. Ball Usage.** Tournaments must start with new stage 3 (red) balls. There is no limit to the number of matches for which the balls may be re-used.

### III. ORANGE BALL TENNIS

#### Definition of Orange Ball Tennis.

- A. Orange Ball Tennis** is played on a 60-foot court as described in **Figure 9**. The net shall be 36 inches (0.914m) high at center. The ball shall be a stage 2 (orange) ball of any composition as described in **Appendix VII of the ITF Rules of Tennis**. **Figure 9** is also published at the end of these Regulations.
- B. Divisions Required to Use Orange Ball Tennis.** USTA Florida requires Level 7, 8, & 9 sanctioned tournaments to provide Orange Ball 10 and under divisions.
- C. Racket.** The racket is recommended to be no longer than 25 inches (63.5 cm).
- D. Events.** Boys, Girls, and Coed events may be held.
- E. Scoring.** In the 10s Division No-Ad scoring is recommended at all tournaments and competitions. The match shall consist of the following format:
1. The best of 3 short sets with a 7-Point Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set.
    - a. Short set - *First to 4 games by a margin of 1*. A short set whereby the first player to win 4 games wins the set
    - b. If players are tied at 3 – 3, the 7-point Tiebreak is played.
- F. Recommended Draw Format.** Tournament draws should be a format such as a compass draw or round robin. Tournaments should not last more than one day, *unless* a longer period is authorized by the tournament sanction.
- G. Continuous Play.** When the players change ends at the end of a game, a maximum of 90 seconds is allowed *except that* no rest is allowed after the first game of each set and players shall change ends without delay. At the end of each set there shall be a set break of a maximum of 2 minutes.
- H. Rest Between Matches.** The Tournament Director shall offer reasonable rest to players between matches. Because some Orange Ball Tennis matches are relatively short, the minimum rest period of 30 minutes in **Table 11** of the **USTA Regulations** does not always apply. The guidelines in **Table 11** apply when the best of 3 short sets match format is used, in which case the rest offered shall be at least 30 minutes. In most other cases a rest period of less than 30 minutes is appropriate. Additional rest should be offered when the length of a match, heat, humidity, total time on court during the day, or other conditions justify more rest.
- I. Limit on Play.** A player should play no more than 75 games in a day, no more than 60 of which should be singles.
- J. Limited Use of Point Penalty System.** The Point Penalty System set forth in **USTA Regulation IV.D.** is used only when authorized by USTA Florida. Teaching and maintaining high standards of good sportsmanship are important. When the Point Penalty System is not used, the Tournament Director has the obligation to promote good sportsmanship, including addressing inappropriate behavior by players and persons associated with the players (parents, coaches, and associated spectators).
- K. Limited Use of USTA Junior Suspension Point System.** The USTA Junior Suspension Point System set forth in **USTA Regulation IV.F.** is used only when authorized by USTA Florida.
- L. Ball Usage.** Tournaments must start with new stage 2 (orange). The balls may be re-used. The following are guidelines for re-usage:
- Balls should be in use for no more than four hours, *except that* balls are not changed when a match is in progress; and
  - Balls should not be used for more than eight short sets.

#### IV. GREEN BALL TENNIS

##### Definition of Green Ball Tennis.

- A. Green Ball Tennis** is played on a 78-foot court as described in **Figure 1** of the **USTA Regulations**. The net shall be 36 inches (0.914m) high at center. The ball shall be a stage 1 (green) ball of any composition as described in **Appendix VII of the ITF Rules of Tennis**.
- B. Divisions Required to Use Green Ball Tennis.** sets for the divisions that are required to use Green Ball Tennis. USTA Florida requires Level 6 sanctioned tournaments to provide Green Ball 10 and under divisions.
- C. Racket.** The racket is recommended to be no longer than 29 inches (73.3 cm).
- D. Events.** Boys, Girls, and Coed events may be held. The use of the Green Ball Tennis scoring formats are recommended only at advanced-level tournaments and competitions in the 10 Division
- E. Scoring.** In the 10s Division Ad scoring is recommended at all tournaments and competitions. The match shall consist of the following format:
1. *Best of 3 short sets.* The best of 3 short sets with a 7-Point Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set.
    - a. Short set - *First to 4 games by a margin of 1.* A short set whereby the first player to win 4 games wins the set
    - b. If players are tied at 4 – 4, the 7-point Tiebreak is played.
- F. Recommended Draw Format.** Tournament draws should be a format such as a compass draw or round robin. Tournaments should not last more than one day, *unless* a longer period is authorized by the tournament sanction.
- G. Continuous Play.** When the players change ends at the end of a game, a maximum of 90 seconds is allowed, *except that* no rest is allowed after the first game of each set. At the end of each set there shall be a set break of a maximum of 2 minutes.
- H. Rest Between Matches.** The Tournament Director shall offer reasonable rest to players between matches. Because some Green Ball Tennis matches are relatively short, the minimum rest period of 30 minutes in **Table 11** of the **USTA Regulations** does not always apply. The guidelines in **Table 11** apply when the best of 3 short sets match format is used, in which case the rest offered shall be at least 30 minutes. In most cases a rest period of less than 30 minutes is appropriate. Additional rest should be offered when the length of a match, heat, humidity, total time on court during the day, or other conditions justify more rest.
- I. Limit on Play.** A player should play no more than 75 games in a day, no more than 60 of which should be singles.
- K. Limited Use of Point Penalty System.** The Point Penalty System set forth in **USTA Regulation IV.D.** is used only when authorized by USTA Florida. Teaching and maintaining high standards of good sportsmanship are important. When the Point Penalty System is not used, the Tournament Director has the obligation to promote good sportsmanship, including addressing inappropriate behavior by players and persons associated with the players (parents, coaches, and associated spectators). Use of the Point Penalty System is recommended in advanced-level tournaments in the 10 Division.
- L. Limited Use of USTA Junior Suspension Point System.** The USTA Junior Suspension Point System set forth in **USTA Regulation IV.F.** is used only when authorized by USTA Florida.
- M. Ball Usage.** Tournaments must start with new stage 1 (green) balls. The balls may be re-used. The following are guidelines for re-usage:
- Balls should be in use for no more than four hours, *except that* balls are not changed when a match is in progress; and
  - Balls should not be used for more than eight short sets or six 6-game sets.

## V. DETERMINING ORDER OF FINISH WHEN ROUND ROBIN DRAW FORMAT PLAYED

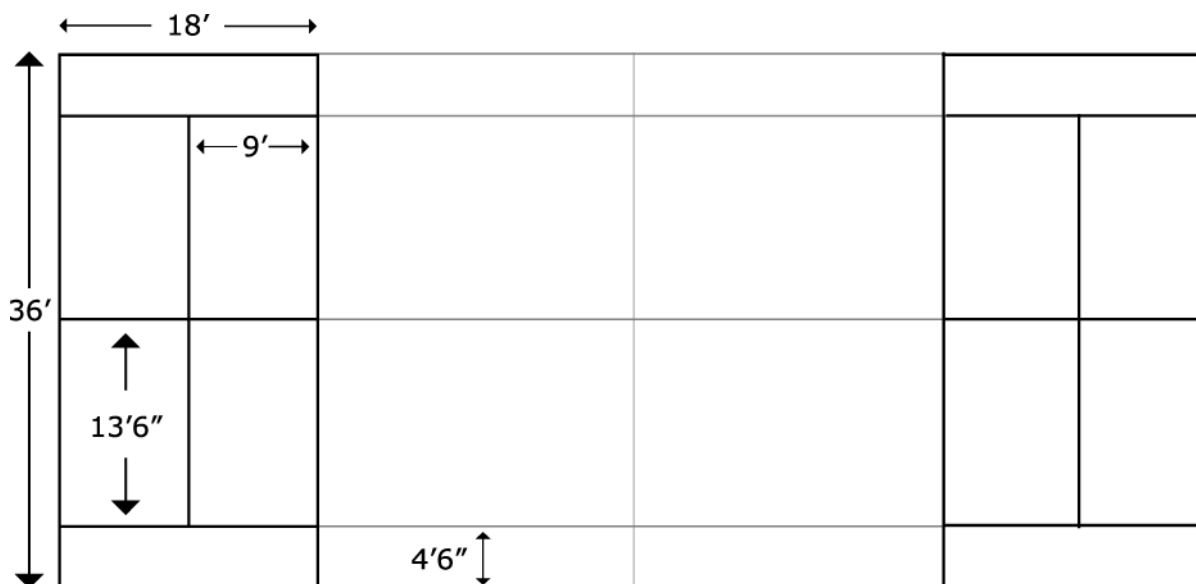
The player who wins the most matches is the winner. If two players are tied, then the winner of their head-to-head match is the winner.

If three or more players are tied, the Referee shall use the steps set forth below that corresponds with the match format played. The Referee shall use the steps in the order listed and shall break as many ties as possible using a given step before using the next step.

| ROG | Red, Orange, and Green Ball Tennis Match Formats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Procedure for Breaking Ties                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Red | <p><b>One Tiebreak Game:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First to 7 by a margin of 1.</li> <li>• First to 7 by a margin of 2.</li> </ul> <p><i>Score Examples: 7-6 (First to 7 by a margin of 1)<br/>8-6 (First to 7 by a margin of 2)</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving just the tied players;</li> <li>• The player with the highest percentage of points won;</li> <li>• The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving the players who remain tied.</li> </ul> <p>If all the steps have been applied and a tie still cannot be broken, a random drawing among the remaining tied players shall be done to determine their order of finish.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Red | <p><b>Timed Matches - Point Format:</b></p> <p>An ongoing tiebreak game during which the players do not change ends and continue playing points until the end of the specified period of time. The player who has won the most points wins the match. If the score is tied one point is played to determine the winner. The player due to serve the next point shall serve the final point.</p> <p><i>Any point total for both opponents is possible for a score.</i></p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Red | <p><b>Best of 3 Tiebreak Games:</b></p> <p>The best of 3 tiebreak games. Either tiebreak game format used in the One TB Game format may be used. Players shall change ends at the end of each tiebreak game.</p> <p><i>Score Examples:<br/>7-6, 6-7, 7-6 (First to 7 by a margin of 1)<br/>8-6, 6-8, 8-6 (First to 7 by a margin of 2)</i></p>                                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving just the tied players;</li> <li>• The player with the highest percentage of tiebreak games won of all games completed;</li> <li>• The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving the players who remain tied;</li> <li>• The player with the highest percentage of points won;</li> <li>• The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving the players who remain tied;</li> <li>• The player with the highest percentage of tiebreak games won of games completed among the players under consideration;</li> <li>• The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving the players who remain tied;</li> <li>• The player with the highest percentage of points won; and</li> <li>• The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving the players who remain tied.</li> </ul> <p>If all the steps have been applied and a tie still cannot be broken, a random drawing among the remaining tied players shall be done to determine their order of finish.</p> |

| ROG                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Red, Orange, and Green Ball Tennis Match Formats                                                               | Procedure for Breaking Ties                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Orange and Green                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Best of 3 Short Sets with a 7-Point Tiebreak in lieu of 3rd set</b><br>Either short set format may be used. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving just the tied players;</li><li>• The player with the highest percentage of sets won of all sets completed;</li><li>• The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving the players who remain tied;</li><li>• The player with the highest percentage of games won of all games completed;</li><li>• The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving the players who remain tied;</li><li>• The player with the highest percentage of sets won of sets completed among players in the group under consideration;</li><li>• The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving the players who remain tied;</li><li>• The player with the highest percentage of games won of games completed among the players under consideration; and</li><li>• The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving the players who remain tied.</li></ul> <p>If all the steps have been applied and a tie still cannot be broken, a random drawing among the remaining tied players shall be done to determine their order of finish.</p> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Defaults, Withdrawals, Walkovers, and Retirements.</b> <p>A player is credited with a win in the round robin if the opponent withdraws, creates a walkover, or retires; or when an official defaults the opponent.</p> <p>When breaking a tie, only completed sets count as sets won and only completed games count as games won. A player who is defaulted for any reason other than lateness shall not play in subsequent matches and may not be declared the winner of the round robin. A player who is defaulted, retires, or creates a walkover shall finish lower than every player who has an identical match record.</p> |                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <div><p><b>A.</b> The Tournament Director’s determination as to whether a match should be scored as a default (and its type), withdrawal, or retirement affects the outcome of the round robin. Therefore, the Tournament Director should use great care in determining why a player is not playing a match.</p><p><b>B.</b> When a round robin tie must be broken by a random draw to determine the winner, USTA Florida may choose to treat the loser of the random draw as a winner for the purpose of fulfilling criteria for advancement.</p></div>                                                                            |                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>VI. SPECIAL TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR AND TOURNAMENT CHAIRMAN PROVISIONS FOR 8 AND 10 DIVISIONS</b> <p>The Tournament Director or Tournament Chairman of a Red, Orange, or Green Ball Tennis tournament in the 8 and 10 Divisions may also serve as the Referee. The recommendation for the use of a USTA-certified Referee in these Divisions does not apply.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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## 36-Foot Court



**Fig. 8**  
**Instructions for Laying Out 36-Foot Court**  
**on Top of Regulation 78-Foot Court**

### ***The Court***

The court shall be a rectangle that is 36 feet long and 18 feet wide. This size shall be used for singles and doubles.

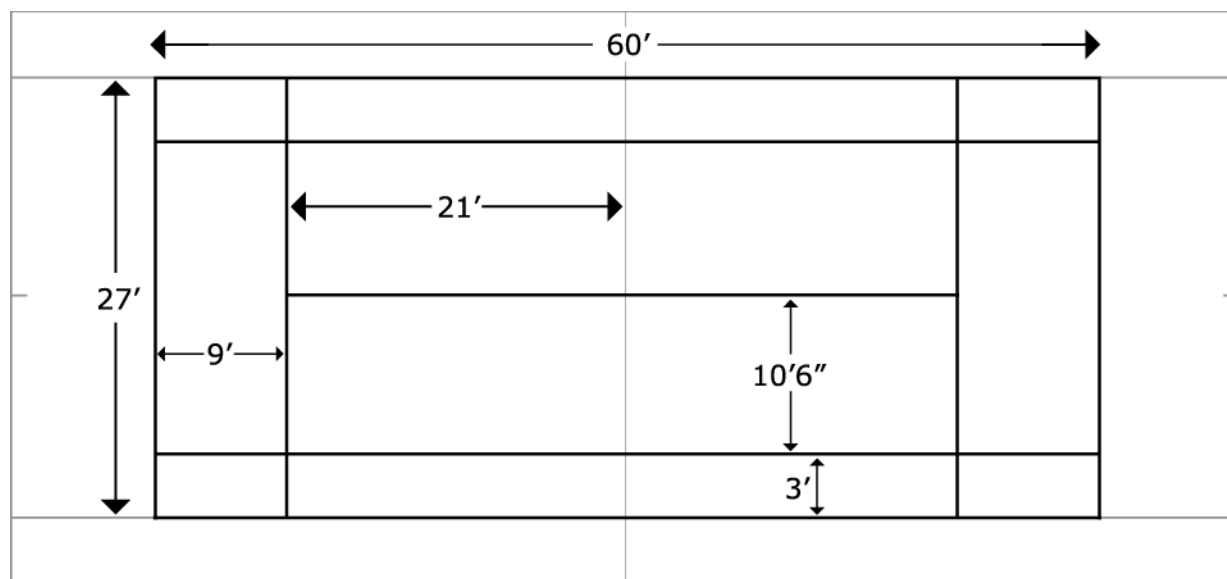
### ***The Net***

The court shall be divided across the middle by a net suspended by a cord that shall pass over or be attached to two net posts at a height of 33 inches. The net shall be fully extended so that it completely fills the space between the two net posts and must be made of sufficiently small mesh so that a ball cannot pass through it. The height of the net at its center shall be 33 inches.

### ***Marking the Lines on the Court***

- Create two baselines by drawing lines that are 36 feet apart at the ends of the court. (This places the baselines on top of the doubles sidelines of a 78-foot court.)
- Create two sidelines by drawing lines that are 18 feet apart and perpendicular to the baselines. They are used for singles and doubles. (This places the sidelines on the baseline and service line of a 78-foot court.)
- Create two service lines by drawing lines between the sidelines that are parallel to each baseline and 4 feet 6 inches inside each baseline.
- Create the center service line by starting at one service line and drawing a line parallel to the sidelines that is halfway between the sidelines and that ends at the other service line. (The center service line results in the formation of two service courts on each side of the court.)
- Divide each baseline in half by a 2-inch wide center mark that is drawn inside the baseline and parallel to the sidelines.
- All lines shall be 1.5 inches wide, the same color, and shall clearly contrast with the color of the surface. If the lines are painted on a 78-foot court, they shall be of a different color than the lines on the 78-foot court and shall stop 3 inches from the standard lines.
- All measurements shall be made to the outside of the lines.

## 60-Foot Court



**Fig. 9**  
**Instructions for Laying Out 60-Foot Court**  
**on Top of Regulation 78-Foot Court**

### ***The Court***

The court shall be a rectangle that is 60 feet long and 21 feet wide for singles and 60 feet long and 27 feet wide for doubles.

### ***The Net***

The court shall be divided across the middle by a net suspended by a cord that shall pass over or be attached to two net posts at a height of 42 inches. The net shall be fully extended so that it completely fills the space between the two net posts and must be made of sufficiently small mesh so that a ball cannot pass through it. The height of the net at its enter shall be 36 inches. The net may be held down by a strap. The strap and band shall be primarily white.

### ***Marking the Lines on the Court***

- Create two baselines by drawing lines that are 60 feet apart at the ends of the court.
- Create two singles sidelines by drawing lines that are 27 feet apart and perpendicular to the baselines. Leave a 2-inch gap in each sideline immediately behind each service line.
- Create two doubles sidelines by drawing lines that are 33 feet apart and perpendicular to the baselines. (This places the doubles sidelines on top of the singles sideline for a 78-foot court.)
- Use the existing service lines of the 78-foot court as the service lines.
- Use the existing center service line of the 78-foot court as the center service line.
- Divide each baseline in half by a 2-inch wide center mark that is drawn inside the baseline and parallel to the sidelines.
- All lines shall be 1.5 inches wide, the same color, and shall clearly contrast with the color of the surface. If the baselines and singles sidelines are painted on a 78-foot court, they shall be of a different color than the lines on the 78-foot court.
- All measurements shall be made to the outside of the lines.

## Glossary

**7-Point Set Tiebreak.** The 7-Point Set Tiebreak is played in some matches in lieu of the deciding final set or to determine the winner of a set or pro set. The first player or team to win 7 points by a margin of at least 2 wins the final set 1-0 and the match.

**Advantage Scoring.** This is the traditional scoring system in which the points are 15, 30, 40, Deuce, and Advantage.

**Compass Draw.** This is a non-elimination format that is so named because players advance in four to eight different directions depending upon when they lose their first match and when they lose their subsequent matches.

**Consolation Draw.** A consolation draw describes a group of different types of draws in which losers in the main draw play an additional match or matches against other players who have lost a match in the main draw.

**Division.** Division refers to one or two events in a tournament in which the eligibility criteria are identical. For example, the Girls' 10 Singles and Girls' 10 Doubles are two events but only one division because their eligibility criteria are identical.

**Green Ball Tennis.** Green Ball Tennis is played on a 78-foot court with a stage 1 (green) ball.

**ITF Rules of Tennis.** The ITF Rules of Tennis are the rules for the sport of tennis. They are made by the International Tennis Federation (ITF). The USTA, as a member of the ITF, has agreed that the ITF Rules of Tennis apply to all USTA sanctioned tournaments.

**Main Draw.** The main draw is that part of a draw in which the remaining players have not yet lost a match.

**Match Format.** The match format refers to the scoring format used by a tournament.

**No-Ad Scoring.** This is a scoring system that is the same as the traditional system except that when the score reaches 40-40 (or 3-3 when numeric scoring is used), only one additional point is played to determine the winner of that game.

**Non-Elimination Draw Format.** In this tournament format, players are never eliminated after they lose. Examples are a round robin draw and a compass draw.

**Numeric Scoring.** Numeric scoring consists of substituting 0, 1, 2 and 3 for love, 15, 30, and 40.

**Orange Ball Tennis.** Orange Ball Tennis is played on a 60-foot court with a stage 2 (orange) ball and a racket that is not longer than 25 inches.

**Point Penalty System.** This is a system of penalties designed to deter unsportsmanlike behavior. The first penalty results in the loss of a point; the second penalty results in the loss of the game in progress, and the third penalty results in a default.

**Pro Set.** A pro set is a scoring system consisting of one set only in which the first player to a specified number of games wins the match. One 6-game set is an example of a pro set played to 6 games. One Short Set is an example of a pro set played to 4 games. If games are tied, a 7-Point Set Tiebreak is played to determine the winner.

**Red Ball Tennis.** Red Ball Tennis is played on a 36-foot court with a stage 3 (red) ball and a racket that is not longer than 23 inches.

**Round Robin.** A round robin is a format in which a player plays every other player in the draw.

**Short Set in Orange and Green Ball Tennis.** A short set in Orange and Green Ball Tennis is a set won by the first player to reach 4 games by either a margin of 1 or a margin of 2.

**Tiebreak Game in Red Ball Tennis.** A tiebreak game in Red Ball Tennis is a game won by the first player to reach 7 points by either a margin of 1 or a margin of 2. During this type of Tiebreak Game, players do not change ends.

**Timed Match.** A timed match is a scoring format that may be played in Red, Orange or Green Ball Tennis whereby players continue playing until the end of a specified period of time has ended.

**USTA Junior Suspension Point System.** This is a system under which junior players are assessed points for unsportsmanlike behavior. A player who accumulates too many points is suspended. The system is not used in Junior Red Ball Tennis. The system is used in Orange and/or Green Ball Tennis only if authorized by USTA Florida.