

Changes to the Laws and Regulations at the 2005 ITTF Annual General Meeting

Many propositions were considered and most were passed. Those of major interest to players and umpires are:

1. Wheelchair competition. For the first time the ITTF has recognized wheelchair play and has outlined rules applicable to players in wheelchairs. The rules apply whether the opponent(s) is/are in wheelchairs or standing. (Effective September 1, 2005)

The Doubles Play in Wheelchairs:

When two players are in wheelchairs due to a physical disability are a pair playing doubles, the server shall first make a good service, the receiver shall then make a good return but thereafter either player of the disabled pair may make good returns.

However, no part of a player's chair shall protrude beyond an imaginary extension of the centre line of the table, If it does, the umpire shall award the point to the opposing pair.

The Service against Players in Wheelchairs:

When a player who is in a wheelchair due to a disability is receiving a service in singles, the rally shall be a let if the ball:

Leaves the table by either of the receiver's sidelines (on one or more bounces)

or

after bouncing on the receiver's side, returns in the direction of the net

or

comes to rest on the receiver's side of the playing surface.

However, if the receiver strikes the ball before it crosses a sideline or takes a second bounce on his or her side of the playing surface, the service shall be considered good and no let shall be called.

When a player who is in a wheelchair due to a disability is receiving service in doubles, the rally shall be a let if the ball:

after bouncing on the receiver's side, returns in the direction of the net, or comes to rest on the receiver's side of the playing surface.

However, if the receiver strikes the ball before it takes a second bounce on his or her side of the playing surface, the service shall be considered good and no let shall be called.

2. The assistant umpire is given an additional specific task: (This should be applied now)

Inform the umpire for breaches of the advice or behavior regulations.

3. The signal for a point is corrected in the Laws to that described in the Handbook for Match Officials: (This signal should be used now)

When a point has been scored, he may raise his arm nearer the player or pair who won the point so that the upper arm is horizontal and the forearm is vertical with the closed hand upward.