

ITF Rules of Wheelchair Tennis

Extracted from www.itftennis.com/wheelchair

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Wheelchair tennis players are welcome in the Men's 50 Plus League of Lee County. Matches including such players are governed by rules of the International Tennis Federation, as is tennis for able-bodied players. Integration and inclusion with non-disabled tennis is encouraged whenever possible.

Here are guidelines concerning the league and wheelchair players; full rules, including medical conditions that qualify players for wheelchair tennis, are available on the ITF web site: www.itftennis.com/wheelchair

Wheelchair and able-bodied players in match: Where a wheelchair tennis player is playing with or against an able-bodied person, the Rules of Wheelchair Tennis apply for the wheelchair player while the Rules of Tennis for able-bodied tennis apply for the able-bodied players.

The game of wheelchair tennis follows the ITF Rules of Tennis with the following exceptions.

a. The Two Bounce Rule: The wheelchair tennis player is allowed two bounces of the ball. The player must return the ball before it bounces a third time. The second bounce can be either in or out of the court boundaries.

b. The Wheelchair: The wheelchair is considered part of the body and all applicable rules, which apply to a player's body, shall apply to the wheelchair. If a ball in play touches the wheelchair, the player loses the point.

c. The Service: The service shall be delivered in the following manner: Immediately before commencing the service, the server shall be in a stationary position. The server shall then be allowed one push before striking the ball.

The server shall throughout the delivery of the service not touch with any wheel, any area other than that behind the baseline within the imaginary extension of the center mark and sideline.

If conventional methods for the service are physically impossible for a quad player, then the player or another individual may drop the ball for such a player and allow it to bounce before it is struck. If this is the case, the same method of serving must be used for the entire match.

d.: Touching the ground: The player loses the point if he uses any part of his feet or lower extremities against the ground or against any wheel while delivering service, striking a ball, turning or stopping while the ball is in play. An exception: If due to lack of capacity a player is unable to propel the wheelchair via the wheel then he may propel the wheelchair using one foot. However, no part of the player's foot may be in contact with the ground: a) during the forward motion of the swing, including when the racket strikes the ball; b) from the initiation of the service motion until the racket strikes the ball.

e. Seating in chair. The player loses the point if he fails to keep one buttock in contact with his wheelchair seat when contacting the ball.