



## PRESS RELEASE

### USTA, ATP and WTA IMPLEMENT RULES INNOVATIONS AT EVENTS THROUGHOUT SUMMER

**July 11, 2018** – The USTA, ATP and WTA today announced that a series of in-game innovations will be implemented at a number of events taking place within the United States and Canada throughout the summer, including at the 2018 US Open. These rule changes were a result of collaboration and consultation between all three organizations, and are aimed at increasing pace of play and ensuring a consistent set of enforcement standards.

The following innovations will be instituted:

- Warm-Up Clock
  - A one-minute clock will begin when the second player/team entering the court arrives at their chair(s). If at the end of that one minute, a player is not at the net, they will be notified by the Chair Umpire and subject to a post-match fine. This will not be a time violation.
  - A five-minute time clock will begin following the coin-toss and begin the warm-up period. During this time, the Chair Umpire will make announcements informing the players of the 3-minute, 2-minute, 1-minute, 30-seconds, and end-of-warm-up marks. Following the conclusion on the five-minute warm-up period, a one-minute countdown will commence. At the end of this one-minute countdown, a player must be ready to play. If a player is not ready at this juncture, the Chair Umpire will announce a “Start of Match Violation” and the player will be subject to a post-match fine. This will not be a time violation.
- Serve Clock
  - The server will be given up to 25 seconds to serve. This will be enforced in the following ways:
    - During a game
      - Following the point, the score will be entered, the Chair Umpire will announce the score, and then start the 25 second-clock. If the player has not started the service motion at the completion of the 25-second countdown, the Chair Umpire will issue a time violation.
    - After even-numbered games
      - The Chair Umpire will start the clock when the balls are all in place on the server’s end of the court. If the player has not started the service motion at the completion of the 25-second countdown, the Chair Umpire will issue a time violation.
  - The receiver is responsible for playing to the server’s reasonable pace

\*\*\*The Chair Umpire will have the ability and discretion to pause the clock. The Chair Umpire will have the ability to resume the clock from the same time or reset the clock to 25-seconds.

Although the exact location has yet to be determined, a “clock” will be placed in a position visible to players, fans and the Chair Umpire.

Along with the US Open, the following events will incorporate the innovations: Citi Open (Washington, D.C.), Mubadala Silicon Valley Classic (San Jose, Calif.), Rogers Cup (Montreal and Toronto, Canada), Western & Southern Open (Cincinnati, Ohio), Connecticut Open (New Haven, Conn.), and Winston-Salem Open (Winston-Salem, N.C.).

In 2017, the US Open utilized both a Serve Clock and a Warm-Up Clock in the Men’s and Women’s Qualifying Tournaments, as well as the Junior Tournament, Wheelchair Competition, American College Invitational, and Champions Invitational. The ATP also featured a Shot Clock at the inaugural Next Gen Finals in Milan in 2017.

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**About the USTA**

**The USTA** is the national governing body for the sport of tennis in the U.S. and the leader in promoting and developing the growth of tennis at every level -- from local communities to the highest level of the professional game. A not-for-profit organization with more than 655,000 members, it invests 100% of its proceeds in growing the game. It owns and operates the US Open, one of the highest-attended annual sporting events in the world, and launched the US Open Series, linking seven summer WTA and ATP World Tour tournaments to the US Open. In addition, it owns approximately 90 Pro Circuit events throughout the U.S. and selects the teams for the Davis Cup, Fed Cup, Olympic and Paralympic Games. The USTA's philanthropic entity, the USTA Foundation, provides grants and scholarships in addition to supporting tennis and education programs nationwide to benefit under-resourced youth through the National Junior Tennis & Learning (NJTL) network. For more information about the USTA, go to [USTA.com](http://USTA.com) or follow the official accounts on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat.

**About the WTA**

**The WTA** is the global leader in women's professional sport with more than 2,500 players representing nearly 100 nations competing for a record \$146 million in prize money. The 2018 WTA competitive season includes 54 events and four Grand Slams in 30 countries. In 2017, the WTA was watched around the world by a total TV audience of 500 million. The 2018 WTA competitive season concludes with the BNP Paribas WTA Finals Singapore presented by SC Global from October 21-28, 2018 and the Hengqin Life WTA Elite Trophy in Zhuhai, China from October 30-November 4, 2018. Further information on the WTA can be found at [www.wtatennis.com](http://www.wtatennis.com), [facebook.com/WTA](https://facebook.com/WTA) and [twitter.com/WTA](https://twitter.com/WTA).

**About the ATP**

**The ATP** is the governing body of the men's professional tennis circuits - the ATP World Tour, the ATP Challenger Tour and the ATP Champions Tour. With 64 tournaments in 31 countries, the ATP World Tour showcases the finest male athletes competing in the world's most exciting venues. From Australia to Europe and the Americas to Asia, the stars of the 2018 ATP World Tour will battle for prestigious titles and ATP Rankings points at ATP World Tour Masters 1000, 500 and 250 events, as well as Grand Slams (non-ATP events). At the end of the season only the world's top 8 qualified singles players and doubles teams will qualify to compete for the last title of the season at the Nitto ATP Finals. Held at The O2 in London, the event will officially crown the 2018 ATP World Tour No. 1. For more information, please visit [www.ATPWorldTour.com](http://www.ATPWorldTour.com).

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