



Policy for Late Withdrawal and Failure to Complete Required Tournament Events

Revised 1 February 2016

Tennis Canada and its provincial partners feel strongly that in entering a tournament a player accepts the responsibility for it. Specifically, once a commitment to playing a tournament is made, it is the player's responsibility to follow-through and to compete in the tournament. Thus, a National policy has been created for "Late withdrawals and failure to complete required tournament events" which has been added to the "Rules of the Court". This will:

- 1) Help protect the integrity of the event and associated rankings
- 2) Protect players who are affected by the player not showing up or withdrawing from the tournament (e.g. a player driving 1 hour to an event and gets there and realizes that his/her opponent has not shown up or has withdrawn)
- 3) Help create and teach each player the responsibility and the importance of following through on commitments

The following policy is now in effect **in all provincial and national junior events** at all levels in Canada:

Late Withdrawal and Failure to Complete Required Tournament Events

- a. Withdrawal after the draw has been posted 1.0 LW/FC Point
- b. Failure to complete all required events at a tournament 1.0 LW/FC Point

The LW/FC point schedule is separate from the normal Code of Conduct Point Penalty Schedule, as outlined in the *Rules of the Court*.

Players must withdraw before any draws are posted. A withdrawal before the draws are posted must be accepted and confirmed by the person responsible for accepting tournament entries and the tournament director. If the player withdraws after the draw has been posted or fails to appear for his/her scheduled match, **regardless of the reason**, he/she will receive 1 LW/FC Point. However, if a player fails to appear for a scheduled match without having withdrawn from it (i.e., without having informed the referee and/or tournament director), he/she will be assessed 1.5 or 2 suspension points under the normal Code of Conduct (see Cases 6 & 7 below).

In the case of tournaments with multiple events (e.g. Junior Nationals) where an entered player is required to participate in the singles main draw and then the consolation and/or the doubles event, a player who withdraws or retires from the required events of the tournament will be assessed 1 LW/FC Point **regardless of the reason for failing to complete these events**. (See Cases 3a & b for an exception to this principle.) There will be a maximum of one LW/FC Point per tournament (e.g., if a player plays main draw singles but withdraws from both consolation and doubles 1 LW/FC Point will be assessed.)

Retirements:

- A player who retires from any one event and then withdraws or retires from the remaining required events will be assessed 1 LW/FC Point **regardless of the reason for failing to complete these events**.
- A player who loses his/her main draw singles (including a loss by retirement) and then retires from consolation or doubles will be assessed 1 LW/FC Point.

However, a player who retires during a **main draw singles match*** but then completes the remaining tournament events (if any) will not be penalized under this rule.

Note: This policy applies regardless of the reason (i.e. injury, illness, family circumstances, or any other reason). Doctor's notes are not required and will not influence the assessment of penalty points. In the case of injury or illness that causes a player to withdraw from or to fail to complete tournaments scheduled for consecutive weeks, 1 LW/FC Point will be assessed per tournament, but the player may appeal to have the penalty reduced.

Once a player receives a total of 3 LW/FC Points within a 12 month period, he/she will be suspended for 3 months without being able to compete in any Canadian event (Provincial, National, ITF domestic) within that period. The period begins the day following the completion of the tournament in which the third LW/FC Point was assessed.

Players may appeal to their PTA after the 3rd LW/FC Point is received. (Same process as in the Code of Conduct outlined in Tennis Canada's "Rules of the Court").

***Note:** In the U12/U14 Junior Nationals formats, the flights are considered as the main singles draw. A player can retire or withdraw from round robin matches and still play in the flights.

Cases and Decisions:

The following situations apply to Junior provincial and national tournaments in which a player is required to compete in multiple events.

Case 1-a: A player loses in main draw singles and then withdraws from consolation singles.

Case 1-b: A player loses in main draw singles and then retires from consolation singles.

Decision: In both cases, the player will be assessed 1 LW/FC point for failing to complete all required events in the tournament, but will be allowed to compete in doubles.

Case 2-a: A player retires from main draw singles then withdraws from doubles and/or consolation singles.

Case 2-b: A player retires from main draw singles then retires from doubles and/or consolation singles.

Decision: In both cases, the player will be assessed 1 LW/FC point for failing to complete all required events in the tournament, but will then be allowed to compete in the third event, if applicable.

Case 3-a: A player retires during a main draw singles match but then goes on to compete in consolation singles and/or doubles, completing those events (whether win or lose).

Case 3-b: A player withdraws from main draw singles but then goes on to compete in consolation singles and/or doubles, completing those events (whether win or lose).

Decision: In both cases, the player will not be penalized. In spite of a retirement during, or withdrawal from, main draw singles the player has completed his/her obligation to compete in all required events.

Case 4: A player wins his/her main draw singles match and is scheduled to play a doubles match later in the day. During the rest period between matches the player becomes ill and is unable to play the doubles match.

Decision: The player will be assessed 1 LW/FC point for withdrawing from the doubles competition, but may continue to play in main draw singles, subject to certification by the athletic therapist that the player is able to compete at full capacity.

Case 5-a: In the U12 or U14 Junior Nationals, a player retires from a round robin match. Is he/she allowed to continue in the round robin competition?

Case 5-b: In the U12 or U14 Junior Nationals, a player is unable to compete in, and must therefore withdraw from, a round robin match. Is he/she allowed to continue in the round robin competition?

Decision: In both cases the player will be assessed 1 LW/FC point but, subject to certification by the athletic therapist that the player is able to compete at full capacity, he/she will be allowed to continue in the round robin competition and then in the flights (main draw) competition.

Case 6: After losing a main draw singles match and a main draw doubles match, a player fails to appear for his/her singles consolation match the following day.

Decision: Fifteen minutes after the match has been called, the player will be defaulted under the Punctuality rule and will be assessed 1.5 Suspension Points. (NB: this is a normal Code of Conduct issue involving Suspension Points rather than Late Withdrawal/Failure to Compete (LW/FC) points.)

Case 7: A player fails to appear for his/her first match of the tournament. There has been no contact or prior notification from the player that he/she would not appear for the match.

Decision: The player will be considered as a 'No-Show' and defaulted fifteen minutes after the match has been called; 2 Suspension Points will be assessed for failure to appear. In addition, the player will be defaulted from the remaining events in the tournament. (NB: this is a normal Code of Conduct issue involving Suspension Points rather than Late Withdrawal/Failure to Compete (LW/FC) points.)