

# OFFICIAL RULES OF WORLD SAND TENNIS – 2018 - 2020

## WORLD SAND TENNIS ASSOCIATION

### DESCRIPTION OF THE GAME

A new game that combines lawn tennis and beach volleyball. Played on a regulation beach volleyball court with the net at 8FT. The games played are singles, doubles, mixed doubles, and three person teams. Using a tennis racket not exceeding 26" in length and either a real tennis ball or the 50% less pressure tennis ball depending on the Division being played. Players serve and then volley the ball not allowing the ball to touch the sand which would result in loss of point. Played on any surface however when possible on sand. Played recreational, non-sanctioned and World Sand Tennis Association sanctioned tournaments.

### EQUIPMENT

The game may be played on any surface such as grass and indoor gym, however a sand surface such as a beach or sand pit should be used whenever possible.

### COURT

Regulation size beach volleyball court 52'6" in length and 26'3" width for doubles, mixed doubles, and four person teams (only 3 players play at a time). Singles competition will use a court 26'3" in width. Beach volleyball lines or rope can be used to mark the boundaries. An orange colored peg located just outside the baseline or a piece of line will mark the division of the court in half for dividing the court for the diagonal tennis serve used in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles. In four person team play the serve may be served to any player similar to volleyball. Another orange peg located outside the lines 8FT from the net posts will designate the "SHORT" line, a line that the serve must pass to be a good serve. A serve on the short line is a good serve.

### THE NET

The net will be at a height of 8FT. similar to beach volleyball. The net does not have to be exact but may be within 12" lower for recreational play, up to 6" lower for non-sanctioned tournaments, and up to 2" lower for WSTA sanctioned tournaments. When possible the tournament director should try to have all nets at a height of 8FT.

### RACKETS

A normal tennis not to exceed 26" in length and 110 square inches in string size. Racket grip size can be built up and rackets may have weight added to the frame.

## BALL

A normal tennis ball used in lawn tennis will be used for Division One play. The 50% less pressure ball will be used for Division Two play. Either ball may be used recreationally however the Division Two ball is recommended.

## SHOES

Players may play bare footed or protect the feet with their choice of athletic foot wear.

"ALL EQUIPMENT TO BE USED IN A TOURNAMENT MATCH MUST BE ON THE COURT AT THE START OF THE MATCH. PLAYERS CAN NOT LEAVE THE COURT FOR EQUIPMENT ONCE THEIR MATCH STARTS. THIS INCLUDES SPORTS DRINKS AND WATER."

## SCORING

The best two out of three sets. A WORLD SAND TENNIS set will be the ten point tiebreaker as sometimes used in lawn tennis matches to represent the third set. Contestants must win ten points and be ahead by one point to win a set. Unlike lawn tennis when the score reaches 9-9 one more point will be played with the receiver having the choice of sides to have the serve served to. The highest score of a set would be 10-9. In three person team play the receiver has no choice of where the serve will be served. Only in the "third set" of all WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES will players play until one player has at least ten points and leads by two points. This rule will be in effect in all categories and in both Divisions. In the WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS in Division One Men's Singles Final the match will be the best three out of five sets with the fifth set being won by at least a margin of two points.

## SIDE ROTATION

Players will stay on a side for the entire first set. Players will trade sides for the entire second set. If there is a third set players will trade sides to begin the set and again every six points during the third set. If the score is 9-9 the receiver has a choice of sides to receive the serve. In the Men's Singles Finals Division One WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS the changing of sides every six points will occur in the Fifth Set. The proper changing of sides should compensate for sun and wind.

## SERVING

Players will spin a racket to see who serves first in the first set or who selects the side they want to be on for the entire first set. In singles, doubles, and mixed doubles the first server serves one serve on the right side of the court followed by their opponent serving two serves with the first of their serves being on the left side of the court followed by a serve on the right side of the court. This rotation of serving continues

with each player or doubles partner serving two points at a time until one player or doubles team reaches 10 points. At 9-9 the receiving player or doubles team has a choice of sides where to have the final point served to. In three person team players will rotate in a clockwise order serving the same format but not needing to serve to a particular side as in team play the server can serve to any player.

In doubles and mixed doubles the order of serving and the order of receiving the serve cannot be changed during a set but may be changed at the beginning of a new set. In team play the order of serving cannot be changed during a set but may be changed to begin a new set. During team play any player may return the serve as it comes to them similar to volleyball. Players will have "TWO ATTEMPTS" to get the serve in.

A serve touching the net and staying in the proper area past the short line must be played as a good serve. Unlike lawn tennis this is not a let serve. If the ball touches the net but does not pass the short line or is out of the field of play it is a fault and if the second serve a loss of point.

Serving must be done from behind the baseline. In singles and doubles the server must serve diagonal like lawn tennis to half of the court. The serve must at least pass the "short line" a line 8FT from the net posts and marked by orange markers located just outside the boundary lines of the court. In team play, three person, the server may serve from any area behind the baseline and to any player of the opposing team.

Unlike lawn tennis if the server breaks the plane of the baseline before striking the serve it will be deemed a "foot fault" and the serve will not count and cannot be taken over. If it is the second serve it will be loss of point. A foot fault may be called by an umpire. Matches with no umpire, serving foot faults must be controlled by participating players.

The rotation of players in Team Play will be in a clockwise order with each player taking their turn serving two points in a row unless they are serving the first point of a set in which they will only serve on point.

The server shall not serve until the receiver is ready. If the receiver attempts to return the serve they shall be deemed ready. The receiver must play to the reasonable pace of the server and should be ready to receive when the server is ready to serve. If the receiver of a serve is not ready a "let" may be called and that serve repeated.

The server cannot serve outside the side boundary line.

In doubles and mixed doubles if the serve strikes a doubles partner before being a fault that team being hit loses the point.

In doubles and mixed doubles during the serve the receiving team and the serving team player not serving may stand where they want but not closer to the net than the short line. After the serve players may cover all parts of the court.

## GENERAL GAME RULES

Striking the ball - The ball must be hit in the air. There is no bounce allowed or loss of point.

A point is lost when a player or team fails to serve into the proper area in two tries or a player or team fails to return the ball over the net or hits the ball outside the boundaries.

A player cannot strike the ball twice in a row to make it cross the net. It must be hit over the net with one hit. In doubles and team play the ball cannot be hit by one player and then helped over by a teammate. As in lawn tennis each hit must carry the ball over the net into the boundaries or the point is lost.

A ball in play after the serve that touches the net and goes over is in play. The short line only applies to the serve.

Players will lose the point if during a point they touch the net with their racket or body and players cannot reach over the net to strike a ball and their follow through cannot break the plane above or below the net or it will be loss of point.

A ball striking the net post or scorecard and going into the court is in play and must be returned except when it is the serve and then it is a fault. During a point a ball outside the net post but hit back into the court must be played as a ball in play. The ball does not have to pass over the post.

A ball striking the line is in. A ball passing through a net is loss of point by the striker.

If there is interference coming into the court such as a ball or player from an a joining court a "let" can be called and a complete new point will be played.

Like lawn tennis a ball cannot be struck twice in the same hit deliberately or it is loss of point. Two hits occurring in a single swing but not deliberate is not a double hit and is in play.

A player cannot pass under or around the net to dispute a line call or it is loss of that set. If it is the deciding set it is loss of the match.

If a ball in play touches a player or anything he wears and goes back over the net it is loss of point. It must be hit by the racket.

A player cannot throw their racket at the ball in order to return it or it will be loss of point.

If a player deliberately tries to hinder his opponent from making a shot it will be loss of point for that player. If the hinder is involuntary it can be called a "let".

If a string or racket breaks during a point the point must be continued and the player may select a second racket at the end of the point provided they have a second racket available on court. If a string or racket breaks on a first serve the player may select a new racket for the second serve.

Anytime there is an error in the procedure of the game such as serving on the wrong side or the wrong doubles player serving the mistake will be corrected to the proper procedure immediately but no point or points will be replayed. Played points will stand and the score will proceed from that point on.

## TOURNAMENTS

Recreational and non-sanctioned tournaments can be on any surface but Sanctioned Tournaments should be played whenever possible on sand. Sanctioned Tournaments played on a surface other than sand will be accepted for ranking however Sand Tournaments will be looked upon more favorably. International competition will be held in many different countries but the World Championships will be held on sand in the country of Jamaica. The "WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS" where players may reside in the community or any size hotel. During the World Championships a free shuttle bus will be provided to help players and family members get to the tournament site located less than ten minutes from most resorts and down town Negril.

In sanctioned tournament play it is recommended a chair umpire and two line judges be used in the finals. In matches prior to the finals players will make their own calls. A roving umpire will be used whenever possible. Players should repeat the score often.

In the Men's World Singles Championship Finals in both Division one and two the final match will be the best three out of five sets and the fifth set will be played out until a player wins by two points.

## TOURNAMENT CATEGORIES - DIVISION ONE AND DIVISION TWO

Men's and Ladies Singles - Open 18 & Over | 35 & Over | 50 & Over

Men's and Ladies Doubles - Open 18 & Over | 35 & Over | 50 & Over

Mixed Doubles - Open 18 & Over | 35 & Over | 50 & Over

### Team Play - 3 Player

Any combination of players. - Open 18 & Over | 35 & Over | 50 & Over

Any combination of Men/Women – teams may also have one substitute player. A substitute may only come in at the beginning of a set.

### JUNIORS - DIVISION ONE AND TWO

Boys Singles and Doubles - Age groups Open Under 14 | 17 & Under

Girls Singles and Doubles - Age groups Open Under 14 | 17 & Under

### TIME LIMITS

Warmup before a match including practice serves - 6 minutes

Time between points - 20 Sec.

Time between sets - 90 Sec.

Changing sides during the third set that changes every 6 points - 30 Sec.

Injury time out - One per match - 5 min.

STALLING - An umpire or roving umpire may call: 1. Warning 2. Loss of point 3. Loss of set 4. Loss of match

FOOT FAULTS - Called by umpire or roving umpire - 1. Warning 2. Fault and loss of that serve.

### LATE FOR A MATCH - ALL TOURNAMENTS

1. 5 min. - loss of toss

2. 10 min. - loss of one set

3. 20 min. - loss of match

Tournament Directors may adjust the late match rule as they see fit depending on the reason for late such as weather related, traffic accident hold up, etc. Players match time does not start until their match is called with an available court.

### REST TIME BETWEEN MATCHES

Players will receive a minimum of 30 minutes between matches unless they are playing in a second event in which case they may receive only 15 minutes between matches.

### TOURNAMENT CHECK-IN

Players should check in no later than 5 minutes before their match. Players and opponents who are both signed in early will have the first open court in a tournament where players are waiting for an open court.

## PLAYER MATCH CARD

Players will be given a "player match card" indicating the time of their second match and then later matches.

## LINE CALLS

Players in a match with no official will make their own calls. The player on the side of the ball has the call. Players may agree to play a "let" on a disputed call but both players must agree to play such a "let".

In matches where a line judge or line judges are used the call of the line judge is final.

In matches where a chair umpire is used a line judge call can not be over ruled.

An umpire may suspend or delay play at any time as may be necessary. The time of the delay may be set by the umpire as to a reasonable allowance for the particular reason of the delay.

## COACHING

No coaching and or hand signaling can be used to aid a player adult or junior during an entire match. The Umpire will give : 1. Warning 2. Loss of set 3. Loss of match.

## BALLS

Balls used in the first round matches shall continue to be used for the next matches until the finals at which time new balls will be used unless the Tournament Director wishes new balls more often.

In all World Sand Tennis Tournaments the number of events a player may play in the same tournament is two unless declined by the Tournament Director due to the large size of the draw or weather related delays. Players can not enter three events in the same tournament unless allowed by the Tournament Director. If the Tournament Director allows three events to one player they must allow three events to all players. With two events offered there will be no back draws unless the Tournament Director elects to have a back draw or back draws.

## SEEDING

The Tournament committee will determine the seeding based on present ranking.

## AGE GROUP SELECTION BY PLAYERS

Players entering age groups will base their age on the age they are when:

1. ADULTS - If they reach the age of the age group requested during that calendar year they are allowed to play in that age group even though their birthday may not have yet occurred. Adult players can play down in age groups but not up.
2. JUNIORS - Juniors are can play in an age group until the month of their birthday that would take them to the next higher age group. Juniors may play up in older age groups but not down below their age.

## DRAWS

All draws will be made by the Tournament Director

## DEADLINES

Deadlines for local and in country tournaments are set by the Tournament Director however the World Sand Tennis Association suggests a period of time two weeks prior to the event.

The deadline for International Tournaments should be a minimum of three weeks prior to the first day of the tournament allowing for travel plans.

The deadline for the World Championships to be held in the country of Jamaica will be three weeks prior to the first day of the event.

Tournament Directors have the authority to add a late entry due to unforeseen circumstances such as a player withdrawing opening up a spot, an injured or sick player dropping out, travel arrangements, etc.

Players withdrawing from a tournament may withdraw up to one week before the tournament with no default of entry fee. Withdrawing less than one week will be charged a portion of the entry fee set by the tournament director. Reasons for withdraw will determine the fee amount.

MATCH TIMES - Match times will be gotten from the Tournament Director.

## OFFICIALS USED

Officials used in WSTA Tournaments do not have to be certified officials but should have a copy and good knowledge of WSTA rules.



## ABUSE

Verbal abuse of an official or throwing equipment such as a racket.

1. Loss of match - no warning

Ball abuse - 1. Loss of one point 2. Loss of set 3. Loss of match

## RULE CHANGES BY THE WORLD SAND TENNIS ASSOCIATION

The rules of the World Sand Tennis Association remain for a calendar year and then are reviewed by an advisory board of directors made up of citizens from five continents and ten different countries. Rules can be changed during a calendar year only if the rule has to do with the safety of the players, officials, or spectators of the game.

## RANKING

World ranking will begin after the first World Championships in 2020.

## UNOFFICIAL CUSTOMS OF WORLD SAND TENNIS

1. In Jamaica volleyball standards will be made out of bamboo.

2. In recreational play at the conclusion of each set players should take a 30 second dip in the ocean before resuming play.

3. In recreational play reggae music should be present in the background.

4. When in Negril for a tournament look up street vendor "Smoky Joe" for the Official Jerk Chicken of World Sand Tennis.

5. PLAY HARD - HAVE FUN