

6 REGULATIONS AGAINST ILLEGAL BETTING AND CORRUPTION

INTRODUCTION

The integrity of sport depends on the outcome of sporting events and competitions being based entirely on the competing merits of the participants involved. Any form of corruption that might undermine public confidence in the integrity of a sporting contest is fundamentally contrary to the spirit of sport and must be eradicated at all costs.

The ITTF has adopted these rules as a means of safeguarding the integrity of the sport of table tennis by (i) prohibiting any conduct that may impact improperly on the outcome of its events and competitions and (ii) establishing a mechanism of enforcement and sanction for those who, through their corrupt conduct, place the integrity of the sport at risk.

The ITTF is committed to taking all practical steps within its power to prevent corrupt practices undermining the integrity of the sport of table tennis. This commitment shall include:

- (a) raising awareness of these rules at all levels, including using existing and/or suitably adapted educational programmes and tools to provide information and educational materials to the widest possible target audience;
- (b) establishing the best means of monitoring sports betting at International Competitions under the jurisdiction of the ITTF, including monitoring any irregular betting patterns that may occur;
- (c) establishing the best means for the receipt of third party information on a confidential basis, for example, by establishing an information 'hot-line';
- (d) establishing and, where appropriate, making use of effective channels for the exchange of intelligence and information related to the investigation and/or prosecution of violations under these rules;
- (e) co-operating with competent national and international authorities where information in its possession may also amount to or evidence infringements of other applicable laws or regulations; and
- (f) exchanging information with partners in the Olympic and Paralympic Movement (through ASOIF, SportAccord, IOC, IPC or otherwise) on acknowledged areas of best practice in relation to combating corruption in sport.

National Associations and Continental Federations should put in place similar rules and regulations to safeguard the integrity of competitions held under their respective jurisdictions.

Notice under these rules to a participant who is under the jurisdiction of a National Association may be accomplished by delivery of the notice to the National Association

concerned. The National Association shall be responsible for making immediate contact with the participant to whom the notice is applicable.

6.1 APPLICATION AND SCOPE

6.1.1 These rules shall apply to all participants who participate or assist in an international competition and each participant shall be automatically bound by, and be required to comply with, these rules by virtue of such participation or assistance.

6.1.2 It is the personal responsibility of every participant to make himself or herself aware of these rules including, without limitation, what conduct constitutes a violation of the rules and to comply with those requirements. Participants should also be aware that conduct prohibited under these rules may also constitute a criminal offence and/or a breach of other applicable laws and regulations. Participants must comply with all applicable laws and regulations at all times.

6.1.3 Each participant submits to the exclusive jurisdiction of any hearing panel convened under these rules to hear and determine charges brought by the ITTF and to the exclusive jurisdiction of CAS to determine any appeal from a hearing panel decision.

6.1.4 Each participant shall be bound by these rules until a date 6 months following his or her last participation or assistance in a competition. Each participant shall continue to be bound by these rules in respect of his or her participation or assistance in competitions taking place prior to that date.

6.2 RULE VIOLATIONS

The following conduct shall constitute a Violation of these Rules (in each case whether effected directly or indirectly):

6.2.1 Betting

6.2.1.1 Participation in, support for, or promotion of, any form of betting related to an event or competition including betting with another person on the result, progress, outcome, conduct or any other aspect of such an event or competition. This rule applies to any form of betting related to an event or competition in which the participant is directly participating or that is otherwise taking place in the participant's sport or that is taking place in another sport at an international competition hosted by a major event organisation in which the participant is participating.

6.2.1.2 Inducing, instructing, facilitating or encouraging a participant to commit a violation of 6.2.1.

6.2.2 Manipulation of Results

- 6.2.2.1 Fixing or contriving in any way or otherwise improperly influencing, or being a party to fix or contrive in any way or otherwise improperly influence, the result, progress, outcome, conduct or any other aspect of an event or competition.
- 6.2.2.2 Ensuring or seeking to ensure the occurrence of a particular incident in an event or competition which occurrence is to the participant's knowledge the subject of a bet and for which he or she or another person expects to receive or has received a benefit.
- 6.2.2.3 Failing in return for a benefit (or the legitimate expectation of a benefit, irrespective of whether such benefit is in fact given or received) to perform to the best of one's abilities in an event or competition.
- 6.2.2.4 Inducing, instructing, facilitating or encouraging a participant to commit a violation of 6.2.2.

6.2.3 Corrupt Conduct

- 6.2.3.1 Accepting, offering, agreeing to accept or offer, any bribe or other benefit (or the legitimate expectation of a benefit, irrespective of whether such benefit is in fact given or received) to fix or contrive in any way or otherwise to influence improperly the result, progress, outcome, conduct or any other aspect of an event or competition.
- 6.2.3.2 Providing, offering, giving, requesting or receiving any gift or benefit (or the legitimate expectation of a benefit, irrespective of whether such benefit is in fact given or received) in circumstances that the participant might reasonably have expected could bring him or her or the sport into disrepute.
- 6.2.3.3 Inducing, instructing, facilitating or encouraging a participant to commit a violation of 6.2.3.

6.2.4 Misuse of Inside Information

- 6.2.4.1 Using inside information for betting purposes or otherwise in relation to betting.
- 6.2.4.2 Disclosing inside information to any person with or without benefit where the participant might reasonably be expected to know that its disclosure in such circumstances could be used in relation to betting.
- 6.2.4.3 Inducing, instructing, facilitating or encouraging a participant to commit a violation set out in 6.2.4.

6.2.5 Other Violations

- 6.2.5.1 Any attempt by a participant, or any agreement by a participant with any other person, to engage in conduct that would culminate in the commission of any violation of this Rule shall be treated as if a violation had been committed, whether or not such attempt or agreement in fact resulted in

such violation. However, there shall be no violation under this rule where the participant renounces his or her attempt or agreement prior to it being discovered by a third party not involved in the attempt or agreement.

- 6.2.5.2 Knowingly assisting, covering up or otherwise being complicit in any acts or omissions of the type described in 6.2 committed by a participant.
- 6.2.5.3 Failing to disclose to the ITTF or other competent authority (without undue delay) full details of any approaches or invitations received by the participant to engage in conduct or incidents that would amount to a violation of this rule.
- 6.2.5.4 Failing to disclose to the ITTF or other competent authority (without undue delay) full details of any incident, fact or matter that comes to the attention of the participant that may evidence a violation under this rule by a third party, including (without limitation) approaches or invitations that have been received by any other party to engage in conduct that would amount to a violation of this rule;
- 6.2.5.5 Failing without compelling justification to cooperate with any reasonable investigation carried out by the ITTF or other competent authority in relation to a possible breach of this rule, including failing to provide any information and/or documentation requested by the ITTF or by the competent competition authority that may be relevant to such investigation.
- 6.2.6 The following are **not relevant to the determination of a violation of these rules**:
 - 6.2.6.1 Whether or not the participant was participating, or a participant assisted by another participant was participating, in the specific event or competition;
 - 6.2.6.2 The nature or outcome of any bet at issue;
 - 6.2.6.3 The outcome of the event or competition on which the bet was made;
 - 6.2.6.4 Whether or not the participant's efforts or performance (if any) in any event or competition at issue were (or could be expected to be) affected by the acts or omissions in question;
 - 6.2.6.5 Whether or not the results in the event or competition at issue were (or could be expected to be) affected by the acts or omissions in question.

6.3 BURDEN AND STANDARD OF PROOF

- 6.3.1 The ITTF or other prosecuting authority shall have the burden of proving that a violation has occurred under these rules. The standard of proof shall be whether the ITTF or other prosecuting authority has proved a violation to the comfortable satisfaction of the hearing panel, a standard which is greater than the mere balance of probability but less than proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

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- 6.3.2 Where these rules place the burden of proof on the participant alleged to have committed a violation to prove facts or circumstances, the standard of proof shall be by a preponderance of the evidence.
- 6.3.3 The hearing panel shall not be bound by judicial rules governing the admissibility of evidence. Facts related to violations of rule 6.2 may be established by any reliable means, including but not limited to, admissions, evidence of third parties, witness statements, expert reports, documentary evidence and other analytical data or information.
- 6.3.4 The hearing panel shall have discretion to accept any facts established by a decision of a court or professional disciplinary tribunal of any competent jurisdiction which is not subject to a pending appeal as irrefutable evidence against the participant to whom the decision relates unless the participant establishes that the decision violated the principles of natural justice.
- 6.3.5 The hearing panel shall be entitled to draw an inference adverse against any participant who is accused of committing a violation if that participant fails to appear in front of the hearing panel if requested to do so a reasonable time in advance of the hearing, or fails to comply with any information request that has been submitted in accordance with these rules.

6.4 INVESTIGATING A BREACH

- 6.4.1 Any allegation or suspicion of a violation 6.2 shall be reported to the ITTF for investigation and possible charge in accordance with this rule. The ITTF may conduct an investigation into the activities of any participant that it believes may have committed a violation of these rules and may appoint one or more persons for this purpose. Such investigation may be conducted in conjunction with relevant competent national or international authorities (including criminal, administrative, professional and/or judicial authorities) and all participants must co-operate fully with such investigations. The ITTF shall have discretion, where it deems it appropriate, to stay its own investigation pending the outcome of investigations conducted by other competent authorities.
- 6.4.2 As part of any such investigation, if the ITTF reasonably suspects that a participant has committed a violation of these rules, it may make a written demand to such participant for information that is related to the alleged violation and/or require the attendance of such participant for interview, or a combination of the two. Any interview shall be at a time and place to be determined by the ITTF and the relevant participant shall be given reasonable notice in writing of the requirement to attend. Interviews shall be recorded and the participant shall be entitled to have legal counsel and an interpreter present.

6.4.3 By participation in a competition, each participant shall be deemed to have agreed for the purposes of applicable data protection laws and other laws, and for all other purposes, to have consented to the collection, processing, disclosure or any other use of information relating to his or her activities (including without limitation personal information) to the extent permitted under these rules and shall confirm such agreement in writing upon demand.

6.5 ISSUING A NOTICE OF CHARGE

6.5.1 Where following an investigation the ITTF determines that there is a case for the participant to answer under 6.2, the ITTF shall issue the participant with a written notice of charge setting out the following:

6.5.1.1 The specific violation(s) that the participant is alleged to have committed;

6.5.1.2 The facts upon which such allegation(s) are based;

6.5.1.3 The range of sanctions applicable under the rules for such violations;

6.5.1.4 Details relating to the participant's response to the notice of charge within a specified deadline; and

6.5.1.5 The participant's right to have the matter determined by a hearing.

6.5.2 The notice of charge shall also specify that, if the participant wishes to exercise his or her right to a hearing, he or she must submit a written request for a hearing so that it is received by the ITTF as soon as possible but in any event within 14 days of receipt of the notice of charge. The request must state how the participant responds to the charge and must explain (in summary form) the basis for such response.

6.5.3 If the participant fails to file a written request for a hearing by the specified deadline, he or she shall be deemed to have:

6.5.3.1 waived his or her right to a hearing;

6.5.3.2 admitted that he or she has committed the violation(s) specified in the notice of charge; and

6.5.3.3 acceded to the range of applicable sanctions specified in the notice of charge.

6.5.4 Where the participant requests a hearing in accordance with 6.1, the matter shall proceed to a hearing in accordance with 6.3. Where the participant is deemed to have waived his or her right to a hearing and to have admitted the violation(s) in accordance with 6.2, any hearing held at the ITTF's discretion shall be limited to determining the applicable sanctions only.

6.5.5 In any case where the ITTF decides to charge a participant with a violation under these rules, the ITTF shall have discretion, in circumstances where it considers that the integrity of the sport could otherwise be seriously

undermined, to provisionally suspend the participant pending the relevant tribunal's determination of whether the participant has committed a violation. A provisional suspension shall be effective from the date of notification to the participant in accordance with these rules. Alternatively, the participant may accept a voluntary suspension from competition provided that it is confirmed in writing to the ITTF. A voluntary suspension shall be effective only from the date of receipt of the participant's written confirmation of such to the ITTF.

6.5.6 A decision to impose a provisional suspension on a participant shall not be subject to appeal.

6.5.7 If a participant retires whilst a disciplinary procedure under these rules is underway, the ITTF shall retain jurisdiction to complete the relevant procedure. If the participant retires before any disciplinary procedure has begun, the ITTF shall nevertheless have jurisdiction to conduct the relevant procedure.

6.6 RIGHT TO A FAIR HEARING

6.6.1 Where the ITTF alleges that a participant has committed a violation of these rules and the participant denies the allegation and/or disputes the sanctions to be imposed for such violation, then the matter shall be referred to a hearing before the hearing panel.

6.6.2 The hearing panel shall be appointed by the ITTF in accordance with the principles set out in 6.6.3 below, the members of the hearing panel shall have had no prior involvement with the case and shall not, unless otherwise agreed between the parties, be from the same country as the participant alleged to have violated these rules.

6.6.3 The hearing process shall respect the following principles: a timely hearing, a fair and impartial hearing panel, the right to be represented by counsel (at the participant's expense), the right to respond to the asserted anti-corruption rule violation and range of resulting sanction; the right of each party to present evidence, including the right to call and question witnesses (subject to the hearing panel's discretion to accept evidence by telephone or written submission), the participant's right to an interpreter at the hearing (with the hearing panel to determine the identity and responsibility for the cost of the interpreter) and a timely, written reasoned decision specifically including an explanation of the reason(s) for the sanction imposed.

6.6.4 Once the parties have made their submissions, the hearing panel shall determine whether a violation has been committed. Where the hearing panel determines that a violation has been committed and these rules specify a range of possible sanctions for such violation, the hearing panel

shall also fix the appropriate sanction within that range after considering any submissions on the subject that the parties may wish to make.

- 6.6.5 The hearing panel shall issue a decision in writing, with reasons, as soon as possible after the conclusion of the hearing. The decision will set out and explain:
 - 6.6.5.1 the hearing panel's findings as to whether any violation has been committed;
 - 6.6.5.2 the hearing panel's findings as to what sanctions, if any, are to be imposed;
 - 6.6.5.3 the date that any period of ineligibility shall commence; and
 - 6.6.5.4 the rights of appeal described in 6.8.

6.7 SANCTIONS

- 6.7.1 A violation of 6.2 by an athlete occurring during or in connection with an event in which the athlete is participating shall lead to disqualification of the athlete and the annulment of all the athlete's results obtained in that event with all consequences, including forfeiture of all titles, medals, computer ranking points and prize and appearance money.
- 6.7.2 If a member of a doubles pair or a team is found to have committed a violation under 6.2, the doubles pair or the team shall be automatically disqualified from the event in question and any title, medal, computer ranking points and prize shall be withdrawn.

6.7.3 Ineligibility and Financial Sanctions

- 6.7.3.1 The hearing panel shall have discretion to impose a period of ineligibility on participants in accordance with the bands set out in 6.7.3.2. In imposing any period of ineligibility, the hearing panel shall be entitled to consider whether any aggravating and/or mitigating factors should be taken into account.
- 6.7.3.2 The respective period of ineligibility for a violation set out in:
 - Rule 6.2.1 (betting), shall be a minimum of two [2] years and a maximum of four [4] years;
 - Rule 6.2.2 (manipulation of results), shall be a minimum of two [2] years and a maximum of four [4] years;
 - Rule 6.2.3 (corrupt conduct), shall be a minimum of two [2] years and a maximum of four [4] years;
 - Rule 6.2.4 (misuse of inside information), shall be a minimum of two [2] years and a maximum of four [4] years;
 - Rule 6.2.5 (other violations) shall be a minimum of two [2] years and a maximum of four [4] years.

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- 6.7.3.3 The period of ineligibility shall commence on the date the decision of the hearing panel is published and shall end on date stated in the published decision. The hearing panel may at its sole discretion reduce the period of ineligibility imposed by any period of provisional suspension already served by the participant prior to the decision being reached.
- 6.7.3.4 No participant shall participate in any capacity in any event or competition during his or her period of ineligibility as imposed by the hearing panel.
- 6.7.3.5 If a participant violates any prohibition on participation imposed in accordance with 6.7.3.2, such participant shall be disqualified immediately from the relevant event or competition and the period of ineligibility originally imposed in accordance with these rules shall recommence from the date of such violation.
- 6.7.3.6 These rules shall continue to apply to any ineligible participant and any violation committed during a period of ineligibility shall be treated as a distinct violation and separate proceedings shall be brought against the participant in accordance with these rules.
- 6.7.3.7 In addition to the imposition of a period of ineligibility as set out above, the hearing panel shall have discretion to impose a fine of up to a maximum amount of the value of any benefit received by the participant out of, or in relation to, the violation(s) of 6.2.

6.7.4 Aggravating and Mitigating Factors

- 6.7.4.1 In order to determine the appropriate sanction to be imposed in each case the hearing panel shall assess the relative seriousness of the violation, including identifying all relevant factors that it deems to aggravate or mitigate the nature of the violation committed.
- 6.7.4.2 Aggravating factors which may be considered by the hearing panel shall include (without limitation and where applicable):
- 6.7.4.2.1 failure to co-operate by the participant with any investigation or requests for information;
 - 6.7.4.2.2 any previous violations by the participant;
 - 6.7.4.2.3 the participant receiving or being due to receive a significant Benefit in connection with the violation;
 - 6.7.4.2.4 the violation having or having the potential to affect the course or result of an event or competition;
 - 6.7.4.2.5 the participant displaying a lack of remorse (including, for example, refusing to take part in anti-corruption educational programs organised by the ITTF); and
 - 6.7.4.2.6 any other aggravating factor the hearing panel deems relevant.

- 6.7.4.3 Mitigating factors which may be considered by the hearing panel shall include (without limitation and where applicable):
- 6.7.4.3.1 co-operation by the participant with any investigation or requests for information;
 - 6.7.4.3.2 a timely admission of guilt by the participant;
 - 6.7.4.3.3 the participant's clean disciplinary record;
 - 6.7.4.3.4 the youth or inexperience of the participant;
 - 6.7.4.3.5 the violation not having affected or not having the potential to affect the course or result of an event or competition;
 - 6.7.4.3.6 the participant displaying remorse (including, for example, agreeing to take part in anti-corruption educational programs organised by the ITTF; and
 - 6.7.4.3.7 any other mitigating factor the hearing panel deems relevant.

6.7.5 Reinstatement

- 6.7.5.1 Once the period of the participant's ineligibility has expired, he or she will become automatically re-eligible to participate provided that he or she has
- 6.7.5.1.1 completed to the ITTF's reasonable satisfaction any official betting and anti-corruption education or rehabilitation programme that might be imposed on him or her
 - 6.7.5.1.2 has satisfied, in full, any fine imposed under this rule and/or award of costs made against him or her by any tribunal and
 - 6.7.5.1.3 has agreed to subject himself/herself to any reasonable and proportionate monitoring of his or her future activities as the ITTF may reasonably consider necessary given the nature and scope of the violation that he or she has committed.

6.8 APPEALS

- 6.8.1 The following decisions made under these rules may be appealed either by the ITTF or the participant who is the subject of the decision (as applicable) exclusively to CAS:
- 6.8.1.1 A decision that a charge of breach of 6.2 should be dismissed on procedural or jurisdictional grounds;
 - 6.8.1.2 A decision that a violation of 6.2 has been committed;
 - 6.8.1.3 A decision that a violation of 6.2 has not been committed;
 - 6.8.1.4 A decision to impose a sanction, including a sanction that is not in accordance with these rules;
 - 6.8.1.5 A decision not to impose a sanction;

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- 6.8.1.6 Any other decision that is considered to be erroneous or procedurally unsound.
- 6.8.2 The time for filing an appeal to CAS shall be twenty-one days (21) from the date of receipt of the decision by the appealing party.
- 6.8.3 Any decision and any sanctions imposed shall remain in effect while subject to the appeal process, unless CAS directs otherwise.
- 6.8.4 The decision of CAS shall be final and binding on all parties and on all National Associations and Continental Federations and there shall be no right of appeal from the CAS decision. No claim may be brought in any other court, tribunal or via any other dispute resolution procedure or mechanism.

6.9 RECOGNITION OF DECISIONS

- 6.9.1 It shall be a condition of membership and affiliation of the ITTF that all National Associations and Continental Federations shall comply with, recognise and take all necessary and reasonable steps within their powers to enforce and give effect to these rules and to all decisions and sanctions imposed hereunder.
- 6.9.2 Final decisions of a major event organisation in relation to a participant that are within the major event organisation's jurisdiction and based on the same or similar illegal betting and anti-corruption rules as these rules shall be recognised and respected by the ITTF upon receipt of notice of the same. Any disciplinary process, so far as determining a participant's sanction beyond the sanction imposed by the major event organisation is concerned, shall be determined by the ITTF in accordance with these rules.

6.10 STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

- 6.10.1 No action may be commenced under these rules against a participant for a violation of these rules unless such action is commenced within eight (8) years from the date on which the violation occurred.
- 6.10.2 Subject to 6.10.1 above, the ITTF may temporarily suspend any investigations under the rules to avoid prejudice to and/or to give precedence to, investigations conducted by the relevant authorities into the same or related matters.

6.11 AMENDMENTS AND INTERPRETATION

- 6.11.1 These rules may be amended from time to time by the Board of Directors.
- 6.11.2 Betting and anti-corruption rules are, by their nature, competition rules governing the conditions under which the sport of table tennis is to be held.

They are not intended to be subjected to or limited by the requirements and legal standards applicable to criminal proceedings or employment matters. The policies and standards set out in these rules as a basis for the fight against corruption in the sport of table tennis represent a broad consensus of those with an interest in fair sport and should be respected by all courts and not by reference to existing law or statutes.

- 6.11.3 The headings and sub-headings in these rules are for convenience only and shall not be deemed to be part of the substance of these rules or to affect in any way the language of the provisions to which they refer.
- 6.11.4 The definitions in Appendix 1 shall be considered an integral part of these rules.
- 6.11.5 If any rule or provision of these rules is held to be invalid, unenforceable or illegal for any reason, it shall be deemed to be deleted and the rules shall otherwise remain in full force and effect.
- 6.11.6 These rules have come into full force and effect on 1 June 2013.

APPENDIX DEFINITIONS

"Athlete" means any athlete who participates or is selected to participate in an event or competition;

"Athlete Support Personnel" means any coach, trainer, manager, athlete representative, agent, team staff member, official, medical or para-medical personnel, family member or any other person employed by or working with an athlete or the athlete's National Association participating in a competition.

"Benefit" means the direct or indirect receipt or provision (as relevant) of money or money's worth (other than prize money and/or contractual payments to be made under endorsement, sponsorship or other contracts);

"Bet" means a wager of money or any other form of financial speculation;

"Betting" means making, accepting, or laying a bet and shall include, without limitation, activities commonly referred to as sports betting such as fixed and running odds, totalisator/toto games, live betting, betting exchange, spread betting and other games offered by sports betting operators;

"CAS" means the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland;

"Competition" means an event or series of events conducted over one or more days under one ruling body (e.g., World Championships).

"Event" means a single, race, match or contest.

"Hearing Panel" means the panel appointed by the ITTF to perform the functions assigned to it in these rules.

"Inside Information" means any information relating to any competition or event that a participant possesses by virtue of his or her position within the sport. Such information includes, but is not limited to, factual information regarding the competitors, the conditions, tactical considerations or any other aspect of the competition or event, but **does not include** such information that is already published or a matter of public record, readily acquired by an interested member of the public or disclosed according to the rules and regulations governing the relevant competition or event;

"International Competition" means any competition mentioned in clause 3.1.2.3 of the ITTF Handbook.

"National Association" means the member of the ITTF to which a participant under these rules is affiliated directly or through a club or another body affiliated to the member.

"Major Event Organisation" means any international multi-sport organisation that acts as the ruling body for any continental, regional or other international competition.

"Participant" means any athlete, athlete support personnel, umpire, referee, delegate, commissioner, jury of appeal member, competition official, National Association team or delegation member and any other accredited person;

"Person" shall include natural persons, bodies corporate and unincorporated associations and partnerships (whether or not any of them have separate legal personality);

"Sanction" means any sanction that the hearing panel has the right to impose in accordance with 6.7; and

"Violation" means a violation of these Rules as set out in 6.2.