

# ADVANTAGE

Official Newsletter of the USTA/PNW Tennis Officials Organization  
Issue #48 January 15, 2008

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## Happy New Year!

By Dave Muhich



Greetings my fellow officials! Hope you all had a wonderful holiday season, and the New Year is off to a good start for you, as well. 2008 looks to be another great year for tennis across the US and in the PNW, with record attendance at the 2007 US Open (over 700,000), and with USTA memberships on the rise nationally (including a 4.5% increase in the PNW, for a total of over 23,000 members). The US' recent Davis Cup victory after such a long title drought can only help to increase the popularity of the game in the US, so our job as officials of this great game will only become that much more important, with all the new faces we will see out there this year.

Here's wishing you all a great and prosperous 2008. See you on the courts!

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## New PNW Tournament Evaluation Process

By Dave Muhich

As the new year begins, and with it a growing slate of junior and adult tournaments across the section, it becomes increasingly important that the quality of service remain at its current high level that we, as members of the tournament staff, provide to the players. Part of that cycle of service quality is the ability to promptly and easily give and receive feedback on our experiences at our tournament assignments, and also to be able to recognize individual boys and girls whom we think best exemplify the ideals of good sportsmanship.



To that end, Becky Tallent, Tournament Management Coordinator of the USTA PNW Section, has introduced 2 new forms to the tournament evaluation process to better help us provide feedback to the section on our experience at that particular tournament, and also to provide a mechanism for tournament directors to evaluate our performance at their event, as well. I have included copies of the 2 new forms along with this article, for you to review. Pay special note to the bottom of the form that is ours to fill out (called `Tournament_Evaluation_(Officials).doc`); there is a place for 1 boys name and 1 girls name, to inform the section of those players who deserve notice for excellent sportsmanship on court.

If you have any questions or feedback on these forms, please direct them to John ([tennisracq@wa.net](mailto:tennisracq@wa.net)), and he will forward them on to Becky or others within the PNW Section, as appropriate.



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## 2008 PNW Officials Annual Training

By John Rodenberg



In 2008, all USTA Officials Schools are scheduled for two days. The Saturday classes are for the experienced officials, those with 5+ years of experience. The USTA Sectional, the Referee and the ITA classes will all be held on Saturday. Those officials with less than 5+ years of experience cannot attend Saturday morning classes, but can attend Saturday afternoon. The Sunday USTA Sectional class will be for the less experienced officials (0-4 years).

In 2008, there will be no tests given during the classes. All tests must be downloaded from the web site, taken at home and the answer sheet brought to class. If you do not bring the completed answer sheet to class, you will NOT receive credit for the class. Please click [here](#) to go to USTA.com where you can download the pre-tests. They are open book and are to be completed using the 2007 Friend at Court. If you do not have a copy of the 2007 Friend at Court, you may access a copy online by clicking [here](#). By

taking the test at home, less time will be lost during class. **TAKING THE ONLINE TEST IS REQUIRED.**

Below is the logistical information for the Washington and Oregon classes. If you have any questions on the class, or are unsure which, if any, class you are signed up for, feel free to contact me at [tennisracq@wa.net](mailto:tennisracq@wa.net).

### **WASHINGTON**

Saturday, February 9 and Sunday, February 10

Central Park Tennis Club, 12630 NE 59th St, Kirkland WA 98033, (425) 822-2206.

**Parking:** Upon arrival at Central Park Tennis Club, park in overflow parking west of the main lot. Enter main entrance and go to back of lot. Please leave room for members.

### **SCHEDULE**

Saturday morning class will be 8 a.m. to Noon; lunch will be Noon-1 p.m.; Saturday afternoon is Referee class 1-3:15 p.m.; ITA class is 3:15-5:30 p.m.

Sunday class is 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a working lunch Noon-1 p.m.

\*Pre-ordered lunch is hosted both days, but bring or buy your own drinks. There is a restaurant in the club.

### **INSTRUCTOR**

Martin Brown

### **LODGING**

Baymont Inn-Kirkland, 12223 NE 116th St Kirkland, WA 98034, 800-804-6835.

Directions to Central Park Tennis Club: I-405 North, then exit #17 from 405, veer right, then left, then past the dump and right again.

## **OREGON**

Saturday, April 5 and Sunday, April 6

USTA Pacific Northwest office, 4840 SW Western Ave, Beaverton, OR 97005.

## **SCHEDULE**

Saturday morning will be 8 a.m. to Noon; lunch will be Noon-1 p.m.; Saturday afternoon is Referee class 1-3:15 p.m.; ITA class is 3:15-5:30 p.m.

Sunday class is 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., with a working lunch Noon-1 p.m.

\*Lunch is hosted both days, but bring or buy your own drinks.

## **INSTRUCTOR**

Tony Nimmons

## **LODGING**

Contact Courtyard by Marriott at (503) 641-3200, or Contact Embassy Suites at (503) 644-4000.

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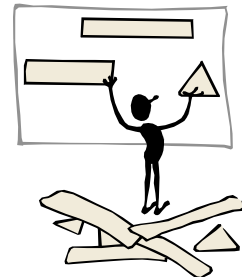
## **2008 ITA Rule Changes**

By John Rodenberg

It is time to start thinking ITA season, and you should review the ITA section of your 2008 FAC as soon as you receive it (or click [here](#) to access it online). Here is a summary of the ITA rule changes for 2008.

*The following were adopted/clarified but will not appear in published edition of 2008 Friend at Court:*

***New wording in bold***



ITA Rule I.J.3&4 – Who may coach in men's tennis / Who may coach in women's tennis. BOTH rules will now read as follows. **Coaching is permitted by the head coach and two designated coaches, who may be an assistant coach and/or a registered volunteer coach and/or player. Two coaches may coach on the same court at one time. Note: Division I Rule only for 3 men's coaches (non Division I men's tennis remains 2 coaches)**

[Discussed during December ITA Convention. D1 coaching rules now consistent for men and women. 3 coach change on D1 men's side due in part to policy at NCAA Championships in Tulsa this May]

ITA Rule I.J.5 *Where a coach may coach* . "The coach may sit or stand near the net post and must stay within the area where the players chairs or benches are or should be provided. The coaches movement should be limited so that he/she does not distract the players...."

ITA Rule I.L.1 a....**The ball change in Division I men's and women's tennis in singles is a can of balls for each set (3 balls per set), and four balls (4) must be used in doubles pro-sets.**

ITA Rule II.I.2 "Team penalty for being late" *Team penalty for being late*. If a team is not ready to begin its team match at the specified starting time, each player on the starting lineup in singles shall begin one game down and shall be deemed to have lost the toss. **If a team is not ready to begin the match within 15 minutes of the specified starting time it will lose the doubles point(s). If a team is not ready to begin within 1 hour of the specified start time it will forfeit the remaining singles matches.**

ITA Rule II.K.5 Removing players from the team line-up: **Before the start of the dual-meet match, the coach must submit the three doubles and eight/ (or all) singles players available to play and they must be listed in order of strength. For Doubles see rule K.6. If a singles player is not listed or (in the top eight ), he or she may not be inserted into the singles lineup at anytime. The coach may remove a singles player/players from their initial list**

after the doubles has been completed, and each player listed below the removed player must move up the appropriate amount of spots.

*The following were adopted/clarified and will appear in 2008 edition of FAC:*

**ITA Rule I.C.3 "Feinting...."** 3. *Feinting, changing position, and intentional distraction* . **A player may feint with the body while the ball is in play. A player may change position at any time, including while the server is tossing the ball. Any movement or sound that is made solely to distract an opponent, including, but not limited to, waving the arms or racket or stamping the feet, is not allowed.** The receiver's partner shall not stand in the receiver's service box before or during the serve. If a player does so, he shall be warned that if he does so he is subjected to being penalized under the ITA Point Penalty System.

**ITA Rule I.G.3 "Match starts with warm-up"** Match starts with warm-up. The official start of a match is marked when the on court warm-up begins between the two opponents (for two doubles teams). **It is mandatory to warm-up with the opponent/opposing doubles team.**

**ITA Rule II.K.4 "Line-up changes in back-to-back dual matches" (p. 255)** In back-to-back dual meet matches (two consecutive dual meet matches played regardless of time between matches), the team line-up (as played) may be changed. A player may move up or down one position in this situation. The lineup must still stay in order of ability. ~~**Prior to the start of the match and during the line-up exchange, it is the responsibility of the opposing coach to appeal any player being moved two or more positions in the line-up (from the previous match)"**~~

**ADVANTAGE** is the Official Newsletter of the PNW-USTA Officials Organization. **John Rodenberg**, Contributing Editor and **Dave Muhich**, Managing Editor. Send comments to [tennisracq@wa.net](mailto:tennisracq@wa.net) and [davemu21@hotmail.com](mailto:davemu21@hotmail.com). We're committed to deliver you the "ADVANTAGE" when it comes to officiating in the PNW Section.