

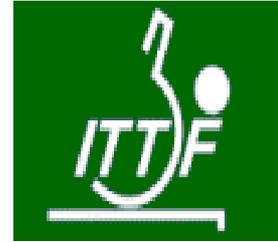
# Racket Control

## Directives of Procedures

Chemin de la Roche 11, 1020 /Renens Lausanne, Switzerland

Tel. +41 21 340 70 90 Fax +41 21 340 70 99

E-mail: [ittf@ittf.com](mailto:ittf@ittf.com)



---

## Chapter 1: Introduction

The purpose of this Technical Leaflet is to describe how the tournament officials may check and measure that a racket is legal and does not release volatile solvent vapours, except water. All technical details are provided in the Technical Leaflet T9 of the ITTF Equipment Committee.

During a tournament the umpires, the referees and racket controllers contribute to an efficient inspection of the rackets. Before the event starts, the tournament organisers provide and equip the needed facilities, and deliver them the latest one day before the competition starts.

## Chapter 2: The Laws of Table Tennis

The Laws of Table Tennis relating to the racket are:

### 2.4 THE RACKET

- 2.4.1. The racket may be of any size, shape or weight but the blade shall be flat and rigid.
- 2.4.2. At least 85% of the blade by thickness shall be of natural wood; an adhesive layer within the blade may be reinforced with fibrous material such as carbon fibre, glass fibre or compressed paper, but shall not be thicker than 7.5% of the total thickness or 0.35mm, whichever is the smaller.
- 2.4.3. A side of the blade used for striking the ball shall be covered with either ordinary pimples rubber, with pimples outwards having a total thickness including adhesive of not more than 2mm, or sandwich rubber, with pimples inwards or outwards, having a total thickness including adhesive of not more than 4mm.
  - 2.4.3.1. Ordinary pimples rubber is a single layer of non-cellular rubber, natural or synthetic, with pimples evenly distributed over its surface at a density of not less than 10 per sq. cm and not more than 30 per sq. cm.
  - 2.4.3.2. Sandwich rubber is a single layer of cellular rubber covered with a single outer layer of ordinary pimples rubber, the thickness of the pimples rubber not being more than 2mm.
- 2.4.4. The covering material shall extend up to but not beyond the limits of the blade, except that the part nearest the handle and gripped by the fingers may be left uncovered or covered with any material.
- 2.4.5. The blade, any layer within the blade and any layer of covering material or adhesive on a side used for striking the ball shall be continuous and of even thickness.

- 2.4.6. The surface of the covering material on a side of the blade, or of a side of the blade if it is left uncovered, shall be matt, bright red on one side and black on the other.
- 2.4.7. The covering material should be used as it has been authorised by the ITTF without any physical, chemical or other treatment, changing or modifying playing properties, friction, outlook, colour, structure, surface, etc.
  - 2.4.7.1. Slight deviations from continuity of surface or uniformity of colour due to accidental damage or wear may be allowed provided that they do not significantly change the characteristics of the surface.
- 2.4.8. At the start of a match and whenever he changes his racket during a match a player shall show his opponent and the umpire the racket he is about to use and shall allow them to examine it.

## **Chapter 3: Regulations for International Competitions**

The Regulations for International Competitions of Table Tennis relating to the racket are:

### **3.2 EQUIPMENT AND PLAYING CONDITIONS**

#### **3.2.1 Approved and authorised equipment**

- 3.2.1.3. The covering material on a side of the blade used for striking the ball shall be of a brand and type currently authorised by the ITTF and shall be attached to the blade so that the supplier and brand names and the ITTF logo plus the ITTF number (when applied) are clearly visible near the edge of the striking surface.  
List of all approved and authorised equipment and materials are maintained by the ITTF Office and details are available at the ITTF web site.

#### **3.2.4 Gluing**

- 3.2.4.1 It is the responsibility of each player to ensure that racket coverings are attached to their racket blade with adhesives that do not contain harmful volatile solvents.
- 3.2.4.2 Tests for harmful volatile solvents shall be carried out at World and Olympic title competitions, Pro-Tour tournaments and World Junior Circuit events, and a player whose racket is found to contain such a solvent is liable to be disqualified from the competition and reported to his Association.
- 3.2.4.3 At all ITTF events a properly ventilated area shall be provided for the attachment of racket coverings to rackets, and liquid adhesives shall not be used anywhere else at the playing venue.  
“Playing venue” means the whole establishment in the playing building and the ground where the playing building stands, which contains the doorway, the parking lot and related facilities.

## **Chapter 4: Voluntary and compulsory controls and racket inspections. Consequences if defaults reported.**

### **Voluntary racket controls**

The day before the tournament as well as during the event, voluntary testing should be available. Each player can present maximum 2 rackets for a voluntary test.

The rackets submitted shall be examined very carefully.

All measurements or observations during a voluntary test shall be recorded in the normal form "Racket Control Report". All defaults identified shall be recorded in a special form, which will be signed by the player as a record that the player was informed about the irregularity found. The member of the racket control team shall then inform the player about the consequences of a failed glue-test during the competition and, for any other default identified, shall invite him/her to seek the referee's decision if the racket is acceptable.

There is no risk of disciplinary action against a player whose racket does fail in a voluntary test. If requested, the pre-named records are handed to the referee or to the jury; otherwise they are confidential.

### **Compulsory racket control**

Racket controls may be mandatory during any event; they may include before-match and/or after-match examination of any kind.

#### **Before the match**

Before each match the table umpire shall carefully examine the rackets using the ITTF-list of authorized coverings and his netgauge. He/she shall detect racket coverings that are not authorized, glossy or too thick, and check if the racket is flat, not damaged and not post-treated or powdered. If he has any doubt, he will submit the racket to the referee, who will decide about the compliance with the regulations; the referee may ask the racket control panel for a precise and decisive measurement.

Any violation of the above specifications should be discovered before the match; the referee will not allow the player to use the failed racket, having to use another one which also shall be checked by the umpire.

In case of a compulsory racket control before the match, including glue test, a racket failing any of the specifications described in the Rules of Table Tennis or the Regulations for International Competitions shall be reported to the referee, who will decide that the racket can not be used and must be changed by another one, which also shall be tested after the match.

If the player's racket fails the glue test, the next match of this player shall be also tested. In case that the racket fails again the glue test, the referee may disqualify the player for a match, an event or the competition.

The tested racket can not be replaced by another one before the match starts, unless it is accidentally damaged (the second racket has to be checked after the match).

## **After the match**

A player, whose racket fails the glue test after the match, had won the match, the referee may decide that the player forfeited the match.

If the player who forfeited the match, still would have to play in a different event (single or double), shall be controlled at least one more time. If the player fails other test the referee may disqualify him/her for this other event or the competition.

If the player who forfeited the match, still would have to play in the same event (round robin system), shall gain 0 points instead of 1 point for a loss in a played match, and shall be controlled at least one more time. The referee shall decide.

No sanction against a player should be taken after a match for the other irregularities, except for a transgression that was intentionally done and hidden by the player. Cheating may lead to disqualification, even when found out after the match. The racket control panel will inform the referee, who will decide.

## **Chapter 5: The practical organisation of the racket control**

The practical process of the racket control should interfere as little as possible with the preparation time of the players just before the match and it should not delay the start of a match. Nevertheless the referee may have the time to make his/her decision according to the rules.

Every day, the chief of the racket control panel shall make the draw and schedule of racket controls for the next day, and shall report to the referee and the competition manager of the competition. The referee shall endorse the schedule and may, in any moment, change this schedule by adding or removing matches to be controlled.

### **Team events**

In case of team events, the captains shall be informed directly by a member of the racket control panel during the draw for the selection of letters and sequence of play. All the players of each team who are going to play in the match shall be controlled.

The players who have to play the first individual match must submit their rackets to the racket control room 20 minutes before the scheduled match time. If the racket is found illegal, the player has to play the match with another racket, which shall be tested after the match.

The players who have to play the second individual match must submit their rackets to the racket control room before the previous individual match starts. The same procedure for subsequent individual matches.

The tested rackets shall be given directly by the racket tester to the umpires, who only shall give them back to players when they come into the playing area.

The spare racket shall be also submitted to the racket control room at the end of the match to be tested if a player had to change it before play due to failing the first racket test or during play due to damaging the racket accidentally.

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 there will be only after-match controls at designated ITTF events. At other events the usual pre-match racket check will be conducted by the umpires / Referees as usual.

### **Singles or doubles events**

In case of single or doubles events, the racket controls shall be before the matches till 30 June 2009. The spare racket shall be also submitted to the racket control room at the end of the match to be tested if a player had to change it before play due to failing the first racket test or during play due to damaging the racket accidentally.

If the schedule allows from quarterfinals on all the matches will be controlled.

For a before-match test players shall be informed in advance, and they have to submit the rackets at least 20 minutes before the scheduled match time to the racket control room. If the racket is found illegal, the player has to play the match with another racket, which shall be tested after the match.

When all the rackets of a match have been tested, they shall be given to the umpires, who only shall give them back to players when they come into the playing area to start the match.

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 there will be only after-match controls at designated ITTF events. At other events the usual pre-match racket check will be conducted by the umpires / Referees as usual.

For an after-match test, the umpires of the match shall be informed in advance, and they have to collect the rackets of both players or pairs just after the match finishes. If any of the players has had to change the racket during play, the umpires shall collect both the damaged racket and the spare one. Rackets will be submitted to the racket control panel for testing and players may collect their rackets at the racket control room ten minutes later. For Team events, members of the racket control panel shall come to the playing area to take all the rackets for testing and players may collect their rackets at the racket control room ten minutes later.

### **Previous information. Handling rackets. Data recorded.**

Before the tournament all delegations and officials including umpires will be given details of the racket control procedure. This information includes voluntary and compulsory controls, procedure of the controls, necessity of correctly airing new rubbers, location of the racket preparation area and the racket control room, sanctions encountered in case of a racket failure, and procedure for appeal at World Championships and Olympic Games.

During voluntary and compulsory controls only the player and one designated accompanying person (coach, official or teammate) can stay in the Racket Control room beside the controllers.

Racket controllers or umpires must cautiously take the rackets by the handle, add a notice with the name of the player and bring them to the racket control room.

If the player covered the side of the blade and the sponge with a trimming, the tester cautiously must take off half of the trimming while keeping in mind to attach it correctly later on. Then he/she shall place the racket in the Enez box and shall start the glue-test. The other measurements shall be done as required.

All data about the rubbers are recorded as requested by the racket control report form.

Any disciplinary action and decision related to the racket control during the tournament is the authority of the Referee.