



# **THE OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS OF TEQBALL**



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## TECHNICAL DETAILS

Effective date: 1 January, 2023.

Scope: The Official Rules and Regulations of Teqball apply to all events and all competition organizers. Specific implementation requirements may be provided for in the text applicable to National Federations.

Definitions (irrespective of whether the terms in these Regulations appear with lower or upper case form):

**Net:** A net, plexiglass or similar part fixed to the TEQ™ table in line with the service line of the Teqball court.

**Competition organizer:** FITEQ or any other entity or person organizing an event, including but not limited to National Federations, State Federations, Clubs or commercial entities.

**Event:** A Teqball sporting event/competition organized by Competition organizer.

**FITEQ event:** Teqball competitions organized by FITEQ including but not limited to world championships.

**Local organizing committee:** In case of a joint organization with FITEQ, it means an operational committee responsible for the planning and overall delivery of the event locally as per the applicable other event organizational guidelines.

**Technical Officials:** the Competition Manager, the Chief Referee, the Main Referee, the Assistant Referee and the Reserve Referee.

**Team Officials:** Coaches, medical staff of the athlete/team.

**National Federation:** The national governing bodies of the sport of Teqball in their jurisdiction duly recognized by FITEQ.



**State Federation:** In case of a country of a federal structure, the state governing body duly recognized by the National Federation.

**Club:** Legal entity duly established and operated in accordance with the laws of their country.

**Affiliate:** any FITEQ organizational body with a separate legal entity or other FITEQ integrated entity, such as confederations.

# 1 THE OFFICIAL TEQ™ TABLE

## 1.1 THE SPECIFICATION OF THE TEQ™ TABLE

1.1.1 Length: 3,000mm (horizontal).

1.1.2 Width: 1,500mm (without the net).

1.1.3 Width: 1,700mm (including the net).

1.1.4 Height: 900mm (including the net).

1.1.5 The curvature of the playing surface of the TEQ™ table is determined by the distance of the highest and lowest points of the surface and by the horizontal distance from the lowest (farthest) point of the TEQ™ table to the height of the net. The highest point of the playing surface – as measured from the ground – is 760mm, while the lowest point is 565mm. The horizontal distance between the lowest part of the TEQ™ table and the net is 1,490mm.

1.1.6 The material of the TEQ™ table's playing surface is HPL (High-Pressure Laminate), composed of a resin impregnated kraft paper, a decorative paper and a clear melamine overlay. These sheets are bonded at high pressures and temperatures.



## 1.2 THE SPECIFICATION OF THE NET

1.2.1 Width: 1,700mm

1.2.2 Thickness: 20mm

1.2.3 Height: 140mm (measured from the surface of the TEQ™ table).

1.2.4 The net must be permanently fixed to the TEQ™ table and must be made from PMMA (plexi), a transparent thermo-plastic, lightweight or shatter-resistant alternative to glass.

1.2.5. These specifications describe the TEQ™ One table, which is one of the three types of tables recognised by FITEQ.

1.2.5.1 TEQ™ One - Official "Class A - high-level" sport equipment. This type of tables used at official FITEQ tournaments.

1.2.5.2 TEQ™ Smart - Official "Class B - professional-level" sport equipment. This type of tables used at national and club level tournaments.

1.2.5.3 TEQ™ Lite - Official "Class C - recreational-level" sport equipment. This type of tables used at amateur tournaments.

# 2 THE TEQBALL COURT

## 2.1 COURT MARKINGS

### 2.1.1 Court surrounds

2.1.1.1 The court must be rectangular and marked with surrounds with a minimum height of 500mm and a maximum height of 1,500mm.



2.1.1.2 The court surrounds belong to the areas of which they are boundaries. Court surrounds requirements vary in different competitions.

2.1.1.3 The official TEQ™ table is in the exact middle of the court with the net being parallel to the shorter sides' perimeters.

2.1.1.4 During competitions, the colour of the TEQ™ table, the colour of the floor, the colour of the court surrounds and the colour of the ball must all be different.

## 2.1.2 Halfway line

2.1.2.1 The halfway line must be in the middle of the Teqball court, dividing it into two equal halves (see illustration).

2.1.2.2 The halfway line must be indicated by a clearly visible stripe, with a minimum thickness of 20mm and a maximum thickness of 50mm, in a colour different from that of the flooring.

## 2.1.3 Service line

2.1.3.1 The service line must be parallel to the net and 3.5 meters away from the middle of the table. Therefore, it is 2 meters away from the reflection of the end of the table on the ground.

2.1.3.2 The thickness of the service line must be a minimum of 20mm and a maximum of 50mm, in a colour different from that of the flooring.

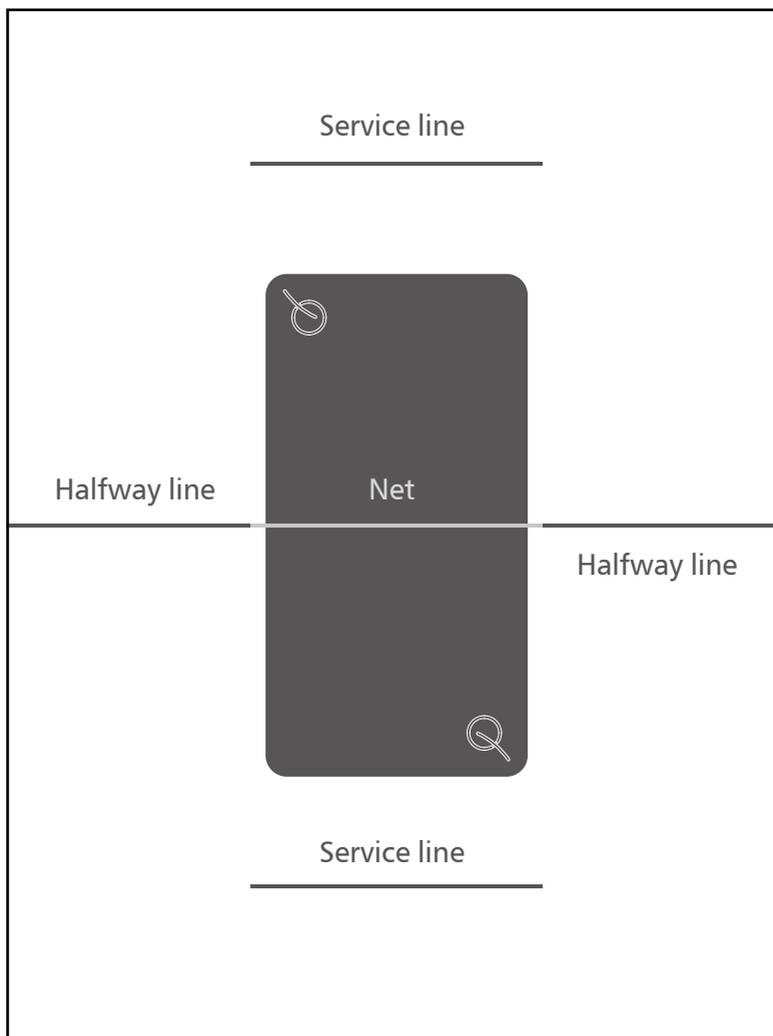
## 2.1.4 Dimensions

2.1.4.1 The official competition size of a Teqball court is a minimum of 12 meters wide by a minimum of 16 meters long by a minimum of 7 meters high.



2.1.4.2 The sides parallel to the net must be a minimum of 12 meters long; the other two sides must be a minimum of 16 meters long.

2.1.5 Referees are deemed as part of the Teqball court.





## 3 THE OFFICIAL BALL

### 3.1 QUALITIES AND MEASUREMENTS

3.1.1 Spherical.

3.1.2 Made of leather or another suitable material and has a latex bladder with a butyl valve.

3.1.3 Has a circumference of not less than 67cm and not more than 69cm (size 5 ball).

3.1.4 Weighs no more than 400g and no less than 370g at the start of the match.

3.1.5 Has a pressure of between 0.3 and 0.5 atmospheres at sea level.

3.1.6 Measuring is the responsibility of the competition organizer.

### 3.2 REPLACEMENT OF A DEFECTIVE BALL

3.2.1 If the ball bursts or becomes defective during a match, the game is stopped. The Main Referee takes possession of the defective ball and provides the players with a new one.

3.2.2 After the ball has been changed, the game continues from exactly where it was stopped, which means the score remains and the same service preceding the rally that was stopped must be repeated. Where the rally was started with a second service attempt, the player continues with their second service attempt after a 1 minute warm-up with the new ball.



## 4 PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

### 4.1 PLAYERS

4.1.1 The number of players varies according to the two different match types (see: *Match types*, 20):

4.1.1.1 Singles: one player per side.

4.1.1.2 Doubles: two players per side.

4.1.2 One of the players must be selected as captain of a team for an official game. In singles, the players themselves are the captains. It is the captain's responsibility to participate during the coin toss.

4.1.3 Home player/team is the player/team listed first for the respective match in the draw.

4.1.4 Guest player/team is the player/team listed second for the respective match in the draw.

### 4.2 CLOTHING

4.2.1 Playing clothing consists of a short-sleeved or sleeveless shirt; shorts or skirt or one-part sports outfit; wristbands; cap; headband; and socks and shoes. Unitard or tight-fitting costume may cover the elbows and knees and should be worn underneath the short-sleeved or sleeveless shirt or shorts or skirt (See *Diagram*). The unitard must be of the same primary colour as the outer uniform and must be clearly distinguishable from their opponents. Clothing must not gain any advantage for the players and must not violate the regulations of the competition organiser.

4.2.2 All items of jewellery (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather wristbands and rubber wristbands, etc.) or any unauthorised dangerous equipment are forbidden.



4.2.3 Head apparel is allowed, but must not have any parts extending out from the surface.

4.2.4 Players may wear glasses or lenses at their own risk.

4.2.5 Numbers or letterings may appear on the shirt to identify a player, their association or club; advertisements are also permitted (see: *Markings and advertisements, 43*).

4.2.6 Any markings or trimming on the front or side of a playing garment and any objects (e.g. jewellery) must not be so conspicuous or brightly reflecting as to affect the opponent's vision. Where the Main Referee decides that it is disturbing, the player can be ordered to take off or cover the offending item.

4.2.7 Players/teams are not allowed to wear clothing of the same colour as their opponent/s. The colour of the clothing must clearly distinguish the opponents from each other.

4.2.8 All players in the same team must be dressed same colour, same shape, same design and same type of clothing during all matches of a competition. Exception can be made due to religious reasons. Each player/team must have two sets of clothing of clearly different colours.

4.2.9 The Main Referee decides about the legality or acceptability of a player's clothing.





## 4.3 TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

### 4.3.1 Competition Manager

4.3.1.1 For each event, a Competition Manager must be appointed.

4.3.1.2 The duties of the Competition Manager are:

4.3.1.2.1 collection of the entries for the events from the FITEQ entry system;

4.3.1.2.2 checking the eligibility of the participants (players, coaches, etc.);

4.3.1.2.3 preparation of the general schedule and allocation of the matches;

4.3.1.2.4 checking the playing equipment and playing conditions before the start of a competition. It is the Competition Manager's responsibility to ensure to maintain the approved conditions during a competition;

4.3.1.2.5 preparation and supervision of the draws together with the Chief Referee;

4.3.1.2.6 main contact between FITEQ and the local organizing committee during the competition (if the event is a FITEQ event); and

4.3.1.2.7 supervision of the daily operations of the whole competition.

### 4.3.2 Team Officials

4.3.2.1 Coaches and other persons (e.g. physiotherapists) are allowed to sit next to the Teqball court in the designated area. The number of team officials varies in different competitions, but must not exceed a total of three persons.



## 4.4 TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

### 4.4.1 Chief Referee

4.4.1.1 The Chief Referee is responsible for organising a pre-tournament briefing for all the referees.

4.4.1.2 For each competition, a Chief Referee must be appointed. The Chief Referee is responsible for conducting the draw of the competitions, together with the Competition Manager.

4.4.1.3 The Chief Referee appoints the referees to each table and decides on their roles.

4.4.1.4 The Chief Referee has responsibility for verifying the eligibility of all involved participants (players, coaches, assistants, etc.) for the designated competition.

4.4.1.5 The Chief Referee must be positioned near the ongoing matches and supervise them.

4.4.1.6 The Chief Referee may decide about replacing a referee at any time.

4.4.1.7 The Chief Referee decides:

4.4.1.7.1 whether the match should be suspended in the case of an emergency;

4.4.1.7.2 whether statutory warm-up time may be extended;

4.4.1.7.3 on any question of interpretation of the rules or regulations, including the acceptability of clothing, playing equipment and playing conditions;

4.4.1.7.4 whether, and where, players may practise during an emergency suspension of the match; and



4.4.1.7.5 whether taking disciplinary action for misbehaviour or other breaches of regulations is needed as per Section 33.

4.4.1.8 If the Chief Referee is unable to fulfil their duties, their responsibilities should be transferred to an assigned replacement. The Chief Referee, or a responsible deputy appointed to exercise authority in their absence, shall always be present during the match.

4.4.1.9 The Chief Referee must have:

4.4.1.9.1 appropriate clothing (see in *The Official Dress Code for Teqball Referees*);

4.4.1.9.2 a watch;

4.4.1.9.3 two coins; and

4.4.1.9.4 two pens and a notepad.

4.4.2 Main Referee

4.4.2.1 For each match, a Main Referee must be appointed.

4.4.2.2 The Main Referee is responsible for the continuity of the game and the application of the rules and regulations.

4.4.2.3 The Main Referee is responsible for checking the acceptability of the equipment and playing conditions and must report any deficiency to the Chief Referee.

4.4.2.4 The Main Referee conducts the coin toss for the choice of serving, receiving and sides.

4.4.2.5 The Main Referee must control the order of service, receiving and sides, and correct any errors therein.



4.4.2.6 The Main Referee must decide each rally as a point or a repeated rally and call the score by the specified procedure.

4.4.2.7 If the opponents are wearing similar garments to the home players, the Main Referee must instruct the guest player/team to change shirt/s.

4.4.2.8 The Main Referee also has rights and obligations with respect to taking disciplinary measures as per Section 33.

4.4.2.9 The Main Referee must have:

4.4.2.9.1 appropriate clothing (see in *The Official Dress Code for Teqball Referees*);

4.4.2.9.2 a watch; and

4.4.2.9.3 a coin.

4.4.2.10 The Main Referee must position themselves in the imaginary line of the net and keep moving from there as the gameplay requires. They must make clear and confident decisions.

4.4.2.11 The Main Referee must report to the Chief Referee immediately in the case of any violence or inappropriate behaviour during a match.

4.4.3 Assistant Referee

4.4.3.1 The Assistant Referee's task is to help the Main Referee with their tasks described above.

4.4.3.2 The Assistant Referee must decide if the execution of a service is valid.

4.4.3.3 The Assistant Referee is responsible for measuring the time of the warm-up and time outs.



#### 4.4.3.4 The Assistant Referee must have:

4.4.3.4.1 appropriate clothing (see in *The Official Dress Code for Teqball Referees*);

4.4.3.4.2 a watch; and

4.4.3.4.3 a coin.

4.4.3.5 The Assistant Referee must position themselves in the imaginary line of the net, opposite the Main Referee.

4.4.3.6 The Assistant Referee must sign to the Main Referee if they see something that is against the rules, thus, the Assistant Referee also has tasks in accordance with the rules on disciplinary measures under Section 33.

4.4.3.7 The Assistant Referee must follow the results.

4.4.3.8 The Assistant Referee is also responsible for leaving the Teqball court clean and clear after the match has finished.

#### 4.4.4 Reserve Referee

4.4.4.1 The number of Reserve Referees varies between competitions.

4.4.4.2 The responsibility of a Reserve Referee is to always be ready to come in either as a Main Referee or an Assistant Referee if required and requested by the Chief Referee.

4.4.4.3 The Reserve Referee must have:

4.4.4.3.1 appropriate clothing (see in *The Official Dress Code for Teqball Referees*);



4.4.4.3.2 a watch; and

4.4.4.3.3 a coin.

4.4.4.4 The Reserve Referee must position themselves near the Teqball court.

4.4.4.5 The Reserve Referee must be aware of the protocol and role of every referee.

4.4.4.6 The Reserve Referee should help the Main Referee in any way needed, and also keep the Teqball court clean.

4.4.4.7 The Reserve Referee must not vocalise decisions when spectating a match.

4.4.4.8 The Reserve Referee must report to the Chief Referee if anything unusual is observed.

## 4.5 COIN TOSS

4.5.1 The coin toss is conducted by the Main Referee straight before the match. This decides the serving player, the receiver and the sides.

### 4.5.2 The coin

4.5.2.1 For the coin toss process, referees should use the official FITEQ coin.





4.5.2.2 In case a FITEQ coin is not available, a regular coin must be carried by the Main Referee for use during the coin toss. It must have a minimum diameter of 25mm [appropriate examples: 2 € (EUR) / 1 \$ (USD) / 1 ¥ (CNY) coin] and a maximum of 35mm. The background of the coin must be visible to the players and for the broadcast as well (if applicable).

#### 4.5.3 The process

4.5.3.1 The home player chooses one side of the FITEQ coin (or heads or tails).

4.5.3.2 The winner of the coin toss chooses:

4.5.3.2.1 side; or

4.5.3.2.2 serving and receiving team;

4.5.3.2.3 the other captain chooses the other one.

4.5.3.3 The receiving team selects the receiver first, then the serving team selects the server.

## 5 MATCH TYPES

### 5.1 THREE TYPES OF MATCHES:

5.1.1 Singles: a match in which two players compete against each other. Gender restrictions vary in different competitions.

5.1.2 Doubles: a match in which two × two-player teams compete against each other. Gender restrictions vary in different competitions.



5.1.3 Mixed doubles: a match in which two × two-player teams, comprised of a male and a female player, compete against each other.

## 6 THE RALLY

### 6.1 DEFINITION

6.1.1 The rally is the period during which the ball is in play.

6.1.2 Every rally begins with a service; the receiving team must then return the ball to the opponent's playing surface.

6.1.3 A valid rally ends with a point awarded to one of the players/teams.

### 6.2 SCORING SYSTEM

6.2.1 Each set is played until one side reaches 12 points, except for the final set.

6.2.2 Each match is played until a best-of-three-set. The number of sets is also specified in the regulations of each competition.

6.2.3 The final, decisive set must be won by at least a two-point margin; all other sets can be won by scoring 12 points first.

## 7 REPEATED RALLY

A rally must be repeated in three different cases:

### 7.1 EDGEBALL



7.1.1 In the case of an edgeball, no point is awarded and the rally must be repeated (see: *Edgeball*, 31).

## 7.2 NET + THREE BOUNCES

7.2.1 If the ball bounces a minimum of three times on the opponent's playing surface after touching the net, the rally must be repeated; no point is awarded (see: *Net + three bounces*, 31).

## 7.3 FORCE MAJEURE

7.3.1 Force majeure occurs when the referee stops the game during a valid rally.

7.3.2 The match can be stopped by the referee if the rally is disturbed by:

7.3.2.1 any person who is not an official player;

7.3.2.2 a ball other than the match one is played with; or

7.3.2.3 any event that may affect the outcome of the rally.

7.3.3 Where a force majeure occurs during service, only the interrupted service must be repeated. This means that if the force majeure occurs after a second service attempt, the serving players must repeat their second service attempt.

# 8 THE SCORE

8.1 A point is awarded to the player/team, if:

8.1.1 the opponent is unable to return the ball to the player's/team's playing surface;

8.1.2 the opponent player returns the ball and it touches the side of the table (see: *Sideball*, 32);



8.1.3 the ball bounces a minimum of twice on the opponent's playing surface (except *Net + three bounces, 31*);

8.1.4 the opponent touches the ball consecutively with the same body part (see: *Double touch, 37*);

8.1.5 the opponent returns the ball consecutively with the same body part (see: *Repeated return, 37*);

8.1.6 the opponent touches the ball more than three times (see: *Too many touches, 33*);

8.1.7 the opponent touches the ball with their hand or arm (see: *Handball, 39*);

8.1.8 the opponent commits a double fault (see: *The service, 25*);

8.1.9 the opponent touches the ball after a return before it lands on the table (see: *The return, 27*);

8.1.10 the opponent or any item on them touches the TEQ™ table or the net (see: *Table touch, 38*);

8.1.11 the opponent touches the player during the rally (see: *Touching the opponent, 38*);

8.1.12 the opponent does not touch the ball in the correct order in doubles after the service, meaning that the non-receiving player touches the ball first (see: *The order of play, 27*);

8.1.13 the opponent player's point of touch or the body part in contact with the ground is not on their own side at the moment of returning the ball (see: *Illegal attack, 32*);

8.1.14 after the opponent's touch, the ball flies underneath the extended imaginary line of the top of the net, whether it lands on the playing surface or not (see: *Illegal return, 33*);

8.1.15 the player returns the ball to the opponent's playing surface and the ball spins back to the player's playing surface without being touched by the opponent player; or



8.1.16 after the opponent's touch, the ball touches any other equipment or person inside or outside the Teqball court, except for the player's playing surface or the net, except if the player/team touches the ball before it would have bounced on the table.

8.1.17 If both players/teams commit a fault, then the player/team who committed the fault first loses the rally.

8.1.18 See the scoring system in *Scoring system, 17*.

## 9 TOUCHES

9.1 Valid touches must meet the following points:

9.1.1 Players are allowed to touch the ball with any of their body parts except for the hands and arms.

9.1.2 A maximum of three touches are allowed during a return (see: *Too many touches, 33*). Unintentional touches are also counted.

9.1.3 It is forbidden to hold the ball between two body parts (see: *Too many touches, 33*).

9.1.4 It is forbidden to hold the ball on body parts.

9.1.5 Consecutive touches with the same body part per person are forbidden (see: *Double touch, 37*).

9.1.6 Consecutive returns with the same body part are forbidden (see: *Repeated return, 37*).

9.1.7 If the ball hits the net during gameplay, all the rules still apply regarding the touch except for the double touch (see: *The net bounce, 39*).



## 10 THE SERVICE

### 10.1 BASICS

10.1.1 The service starts with the ball being in the server's hand.

10.1.2 The server must toss the ball from their hand and serve it from the air.

10.1.3 The service must be undertaken with one touch with any part of the body, except for the hands and arms.

10.1.4 A server has two attempts to execute a successful service.

10.1.5 Two failed service attempts in succession constitute a double fault.

10.1.6 The second service must be undertaken with one touch with any part of the body, except for the hands and arms and feet.

10.1.7 All players must be on their own side of the Teqball court at the moment of the service.

10.1.8 If the ball is in the possession of the server, the opponent is ready to receive the service and the referee has made the signal for the service, the server has a maximum of 5 seconds to undertake the service.

10.1.9 The opponents change service after every 2 points.

### 10.2 THE LOCATION OF THE SERVER

10.2.1 The service line is 2 meters away from the table.

10.2.2 The service must be undertaken with at least one body part touching the ground at the moment of contact with the ball.



10.2.3 The server must undertake the service by having all body parts that are touching the ground behind the service line.

10.2.4 The service is considered legal if none of the body parts of the player touches the service line at the moment of serving.

10.2.5 The body part(s) that are on the ground must be in between the extended imaginary lines of the sides of the table.

### 10.3 THE BALL

10.3.1 The trajectory of the ball after a service is unimportant (upwards or downwards).

10.3.2 The ball must bounce first on the opponent's playing surface of the table.

10.3.3 The ball can bounce anywhere on the opponent's playing surface.

10.3.4 If the ball touches the net during service, this constitutes a service fault.

### 10.4 SITUATIONS:

10.4.1 If a service results in an edgeball, this results in a new service attempt, but two consecutive occasions like this constitute a service fault.

10.4.2 In doubles, only the receiving player can touch the ball first after a service. If the non-receiving player touches the ball first after a service, a point is awarded to the serving player/team.

10.4.3 If the ball touches the net first during a service, it constitutes a service fault.



10.4.4 Where a server is disturbed during a service, they are allowed to catch the ball or let it fall on the ground. This is allowed once per service attempt.

## 11 THE RETURN

11.1 A return is legal if:

11.1.1 the receiving player touches the ball first after the service;

11.1.2 the ball has bounced exactly once on the player's/team's playing surface before the first touch;

11.1.3 no fault is made during the return (see: *Headlines, 16-26, 27*); and

11.1.4 the ball bounces on the opponent's playing surface after the valid touch(es) of the player/team, or the ball bounces on the net (any number of times) and then bounces on the opponent's playing surface, after the valid touch(es) of the player/team.

## 12 THE ORDER OF PLAY

12.1 SIDES AND ROLES

12.1.1 Before each match, the sides are selected by the players after a coin toss made by the Main Referee (see: *Coin toss, 18*). Players also select their roles regarding the serving and receiving players.

12.2 THE GAMEPLAY

12.2.1 A match starts by TeamA-Player1 serving to TeamB-Player1. The service is strictly made by TeamA-Player1 and only TeamB-Player1 is allowed to receive the ball.



After 2 points, a change of service is undertaken.

TeamA-Player1 and TeamA-Player2 must change positions, which means that TeamA-Player2 is the receiving player and TeamB-Player1 is going to start serving.

After 2 points, a change of service is undertaken.

TeamB-Player1 and TeamB-Player2 must change positions, which means that TeamB-Player2 is the receiving player and TeamA-Player2 is going to start serving.

After 2 points, a change of service is undertaken.

TeamA-Player2 and TeamA-Player1 must change positions, which means that TeamA-Player1 is the receiving player and TeamB-Player2 is going to start serving.

After 2 points, a change of service is undertaken.

TeamB-Player2 and TeamB-Player1 must change positions, which means that TeamB-Player1 is the receiving player and TeamA-Player1 is going to start serving, which is exactly how the match started, so the whole scenario is repeated.

12.2.2 In the second set TeamB-Player1 is going to start serving to TeamA-Player1.

12.2.3 Before the final set the sides and serving are selected by the players after a coin toss made by the Main Referee (see: *Coin toss*, 18). Players also select their roles regarding the serving and receiving players, just like before the first set. The player/team who earned more points during the first two sets should be considered as the winner of the coin toss. If the points are equal, a coin toss must be made.

12.2.4 In the final set, if the score gets to 12-12, the players/teams must change service after every point, with the same procedure.





12.2.5 In a best-of-three-set game, the first set is played to 12 points, which means that 12-11 can be a final score (see: *Scoring system, 21*).

12.2.6 After each set, the players/teams must switch sides. In the final set, when 6, 12 and 18 points are reached by the leading team, they must also switch sides.

### 12.3 THE GAMEPLAY (Mixed Doubles)

12.3.1 A match starts by TeamA-MalePlayer serving to TeamB-MalePlayer. The service is strictly made by TeamA-MalePlayer, and only TeamB-MalePlayer is allowed to receive the ball.

After 2 points, a change of service is undertaken.

TeamB-MalePlayer starts serving to TeamA-MalePlayer.

After 2 points, a change of service is undertaken.

TeamA-FemalePlayer starts serving to TeamB-FemalePlayer

After 2 points, a change of service is undertaken.

TeamB-FemalePlayer starts serving to TeamA-FemalePlayer.

After 2 points, a change of service is undertaken.

TeamA-MalePlayer starts serving to TeamB-MalePlayer, which is exactly how the match started, so the whole scenario is repeated.

12.3.2 In the second set, TeamB-MalePlayer is going to start serving to TeamA-MalePlayer.

12.3.3 Before the final set, the sides and serving player are selected by the players after a coin toss made by the Main Referee (see: *Coin toss, 18*). The player/team who earned more points during the first two sets should be considered the winner of the coin toss. If the points are equal, a coin toss must be made.

12.3.4 In the final set, if the score gets to 12-12, the players/teams must change service after every point, with the same procedure and gender-specific serving.

12.3.5 In a best-of-three-set game, the first set is played to 12 points, which means that 12-11 can be a final score (see: Scoring system, 21).

12.3.6 After each set, the players/teams must switch sides. In the final set, when 6, 12 and 18 points are reached by the leading team, they must also switch sides.

## 13 ERRORS IN THE ORDER OF PLAY

### 13.1 CHANGE OF SERVICE

13.1.1 If a player serves or receives out of turn, the play shall be interrupted by the referee as soon as the error is discovered, and the rally shall resume with the correct players serving and receiving, according to the sequence established at the beginning of the match. (see: *The gameplay*, 29)

13.1.2 After the first return, any player in the team can touch the ball first.

13.1.3 All points scored before the discovery of an error must be valid.

### 13.2 SWITCH SIDES

13.2.1 If the players have not switched sides when they should have done, this must happen immediately after the rally during which it was realised. The rally shall resume with the players being at the sides where they should be, according to the sequence established at the beginning of the match. Switch sides occurs according to 12.2.6.

13.2.2 All points scored before the discovery of an error must be valid.

## 14 NET + THREE BOUNCES

### 14.1 DEFINITION

14.1.1 The three bounces rule is when the ball touches the net at least once and then bounces at least three times on the opponent's playing surface without being touched by anybody or anything.

### 14.2 DECISION

14.2.1 Repeat the rally from the first service.

14.2.2 See all details about what happens when the ball hits the net in (see: *The Net bounce*, 39).

## 15 EDGEBALL

### 15.1 DEFINITION

15.1.1 An edgeball is when the ball hits the edge of the opponent's playing surface without anything or anybody touching it in the air after a legal return or service. The ball must then bounce on the ground or touch anything but the players or the table in order to consider it an edgeball.

### 15.2 DECISION

15.2.1 Repeat the rally

15.2.2 Decision during a service: repeated service attempt, two consecutive service attempts resulting in an edgeball constitute a service fault.

15.2.3 Decision during gameplay: replay the rally from the first service; no point is awarded.



## 16 SIDEBALL

### 16.1 DEFINITION

16.1.1 A sideball is when the ball hits the side of the table below the playing surface after a legal return and bounces downwards.

16.1.2 If the ball hits the side and the edge of the table as well and then bounces downwards, it is always considered a sideball, except for if the ball flies from above the playing surface.

### 16.2 DECISION

16.2.1 Point awarded to the opponent.

## 17 ILLEGAL ATTACK

### 17.1 DEFINITION

17.1.1 An illegal attack is when the returning (attacking) player's leaning body part(s) or the point of touch with the ball crosses the extended imaginary line of the net at the moment of a return.

17.1.2 Leaning body part(s) are the body parts that are touching the ground.

17.1.3 Stepping on or touching the halfway line during a return is also considered as an illegal attack. This applies to the returning player only.

17.1.4 Players are allowed to cross the extended imaginary line of the net, but only to pass the ball back to their teammates or themselves.



## 17.2 DECISION

17.2.1 Point awarded to the opponent.

# 18 ILLEGAL RETURN

## 18.1 DEFINITION

18.1.1 An illegal return occurs when during a return the ball flies underneath or crosses the extended imaginary line of the top of the net before bouncing on the opponent's playing surface.

## 18.2 DECISION

18.2.1 Point awarded to the opponent.

# 19 TOO MANY TOUCHES

## 19.1 DEFINITION

19.1.1 The too many touches scenario occurs when the player/team touches the ball more than three times to return the ball.

19.1.2 Unintentional touches must also be counted.

If in doubles, one player uses three touches, it is considered as too many touches, even before their teammate touches the ball.

19.1.3 If the ball bounces back from the net during game-play players/teams must obey the rule of using a maximum of three touches (taking into account the touches both before and after the bounce on the net).

19.1.4 If a player holds the ball between any two body parts, it is considered immediately as being too many touches.



## 19.2 DECISION

19.2.1 Point awarded to the opponent.

# 20 NO PASS

## 20.1 DEFINITION

20.1.1 A no pass occurs in doubles when only one player of a team touches the ball before the return is made.

## 20.2 DECISION

20.2.1 Point awarded to the opponent.

# 21 BODY PARTS

In Teqball, nine body parts are distinguished.

## 21.1 THE NINE DIFFERENT BODY PARTS

21.1.1 Head: The upper part of the body from above the top of the neck.

21.1.2 Left shoulder: The upper joint of each arm and the part of the body between this and the neck.

21.1.3 Right shoulder: The upper joint of each arm and the part of the body between this and the neck.

21.1.4 Back: The rear surface of the body from the shoulders to the hips, including the rear part of the neck and the buttocks as well.

21.1.5 Chest: The front surface of the body from the shoulders to the hips, including the front part of the neck as well.

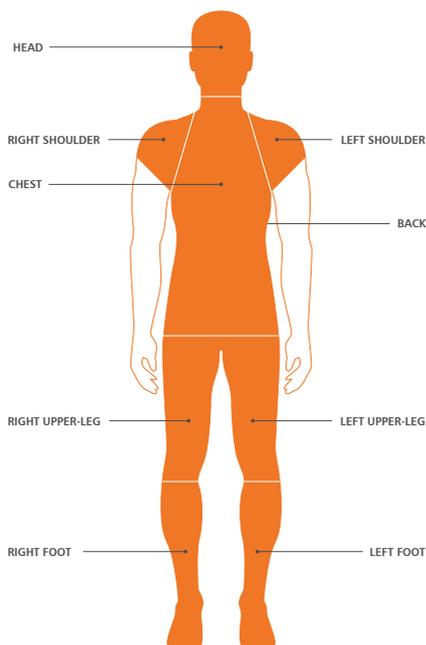
21.1.6 Left upper leg: the part of the body between the hips and the middle of the knee, excluding the buttocks.

21.1.7 Right upper leg: the part of the body between the hips and the middle of the knee, excluding the buttocks.

21.1.8 Left foot: the part of the body below the middle of the knee; this means that the inside of the foot is the same body part as the outside of the foot.

21.1.9 Right foot: the part of the body below the middle of the knee; this means that the inside of the foot is the same body part as the outside of the foot.

21.1.10 Touches made exactly with the border of two different body parts are considered according to the intention of the move.



## 22 DOUBLE TOUCH

### 22.1 DEFINITION

22.1.1 A double touch is made when a player touches the ball consecutively with the same body part without anybody or anything else touching it between the touches.

22.1.2 This applies per person only. In doubles, a double touch applies only per players, meaning that if a player passes the ball to their teammate, their teammate may use the same body part as the one the pass was made with.

22.1.3 If a player holds the ball on any of their body parts, it is immediately considered a double touch.

### 22.2 DECISION

22.2.1 Point awarded to the opponent.

## 23 REPEATED RETURN

### 23.1 DEFINITION

23.1.1 A repeated return is made when the player/team returns the ball with the same body part consecutively within the same rally. The service is not considered a return.

23.1.2 In doubles, a repeated return applies per team, meaning that if a player returns the ball, their teammate is not allowed to return the ball with the same body part as the previous return was made with.

### 23.2 DECISION

23.2.1 Point awarded to the opponent.



## 24 TABLE TOUCH

### 24.1 DEFINITION

24.1.1 A table touch is made when, during a rally, a player touches any part of the table with any part of their body, either intentionally or unintentionally.

24.1.2 A table touch made with any equipment worn by the player is also considered a fault.

### 24.2 DECISION

24.2.1 Point awarded to the opponent.

## 25 TOUCHING THE OPPONENT

### 25.1 DEFINITION

25.1.1 Touching the opponent occurs when a player touches the opponent during a rally.

25.1.2 Players must always give space to the player/team in possession of the ball to play the ball. If the player/team does not have the intention to give space to the attacking team, the point must be awarded to the attacking team if touching the opponent occurs.

### 25.2 DECISION

25.2.1 Point awarded to the opponent.



## 26 HANDBALL

### 26.1 DEFINITION

26.1.1 A handball is when a player touches the ball intentionally or unintentionally with their hand or arm during a rally.

### 26.2 DECISION

26.2.1 Point awarded to the opponent.

## 27 NET BOUNCE

### 27.1 THE NET BOUNCE IN DIFFERENT SITUATIONS

27.1.1 During service, if the ball hits the net, it is always considered a fault.

27.1.2 During gameplay, if the ball hits the net, the rally continues, but all the other rules still apply. The ball can bounce on the net any number of times during gameplay.

27.1.3 If the ball bounces back from the net, the player/team can play the ball again within the number of touches allowed. The player/team can touch the ball with the same body part they hit the ball to the net with. Therefore, in this case, double touch is not punished but repeated return still applies.

27.1.4 If the ball bounces to the opponent's playing surface as a result of a valid return, the outcome depends on the number of bounces on the table:

27.1.4.1 Net + one bounce is considered a legal return.



27.1.4.2 Net + two bounces results in a point to the team making the return.

27.1.4.3 Net + three or more bounces results in a repeated rally and no point is awarded.

27.1.4.4 Net + the ball rolling on the opponent's playing surface (i.e. no bounces once the ball crosses the net) results in a repeated rally and no point is awarded.

27.1.5 If a legal return spins back to the net from the player's playing surface, it can remain in-game according to the rules. However, one more bounce on the playing surface constitutes a point to the opponent.

## 28 BREAKS AND TIME OUTS

In Teqball, there are different stoppages and periods during a game.

### 28.1 WARM-UP

28.1.1 Warm-up time is 1 minute long, during which players are allowed to practice before the match commences.

### 28.2 BREAKS

28.2.1 There are breaks between all sets which are also 1 minute long. During this period, players are not allowed to play on the table.

28.2.2 During breaks, players are not allowed to leave the Teqball court without the permission of the Main Referee.

28.2.3 Players must switch sides during breaks.



## 28.3 TIME OUT

28.3.1 Players/teams may request a time out during each game. Players/teams have one time out opportunity during a best-of-three game. Time out is 1 minute long.

28.3.2 Anyone can request a time out, including both players of a team and the team official(s), by forming a "T" sign with their hands.

28.3.3 Time outs can be requested consecutively. During a time out, players are not allowed to leave the Teqball court without the permission of the Main Referee.

## 28.4 INJURY BREAK

28.4.1 If a player is injured during the match, the captain (or the player) may request an injury break from the Main Referee.

28.4.2 The Main Referee must evaluate and decide whether the injury break is required. If it is, the Main Referee shows a "T" sign and calls "Injury Break".

28.4.3 The 3-minute injury break must be measured by the Main Referee, using their watch or a separate stopwatch.

28.4.4 If the injury happens during a rally (e.g. the player accidentally heads off the net or kicks the table hard), the Main Referee must immediately stop the game. This may lead to the replay of the rally (so no point is awarded) or a point being scored. The Main Referee is responsible for determining the situation and making a decision about it.

28.4.5 The 3-minute injury break might be less but must not exceed 3 minutes in total.

28.4.6 Neither the Main Referee nor the Assistant Referee can touch the injured player(s), except in the case of an emergency where lifesaving first aid action is required.



In all other cases, they should wait for medical support to arrive.

28.4.7 During the 3-minute injury break, the players are not allowed to leave the Teqball court without the permission of the Main Referee, nor is any person allowed inside the Teqball court except for the competition's official medical team and the team official. In the case of a serious injury, the medical team of the players/teams may be allowed to examine the injured player inside the Teqball court.

28.4.8 Upon the medical team's recommendation or the players'/teams' request, this 3-minute period can be extended to a 10-minute injury break by the Main Referee. (See Injury break - extension below). The Main Referee has the final decision about the extension of the injury break.

28.4.9 Once the player is ready to continue the match, the game continues, as instructed by the Main Referee.

28.4.10 Players/teams can only request two 3-minute injury breaks in one match. If a third injury break is requested, the Main Referee must end the game. The opponent wins the match, but all previously earned points by the injured player remain valid.

## 28.5 INJURY BREAK - EXTENSION

28.5.1 The previously requested 3-minute injury break may be extended by the Main Referee to a 10-minute injury break. This is the maximum amount of time that can be applied in Teqball as a break.

28.5.2 The Main Referee calls the decision by raising one hand in the air and saying out loud, "10-minute injury break!". The 10-minute injury break may be shortened, but must not exceed 10 minutes.

28.5.3 The time is measured by the Main Referee on their watch or a separate stopwatch.



28.5.4 The 10-minute injury break can only be given once per player/team per match. If the player/team is given a 10-minute break, they cannot request any further injury breaks. If another injury break is requested, the Main Referee must end the match. The opponent wins the match, but all previously earned points by the injured player stay.

28.5.5 During the 10-minute injury break, the competition's official medical team can enter the Teqball court, as can the medical team of the injured player.

28.5.6 After the 10-minute injury break players may warm-up on the table for a maximum of 1 minute.

## 29 INTERRUPTED COMPETITION

If a competition is interrupted due to unforeseen circumstances, e.g. a power outage, 1 hour is allowed for acceptable playing conditions to be restored. However, the Chief Referee may dissolve the waiting obligation if it becomes evident that a resumption within 1 hour is not possible. The results of matches, sets and rallies that have already been finished shall remain valid.

## 30 MARKINGS AND ADVERTISEMENTS

### 30.1 GENERAL TECHNICAL RULES

30.1.1 Markings and advertisements (together: advertisements) may be placed on both the inside and outside walls of the surrounds. They must not be the same or similar colour to the TEQ™ table, the ball or the players' shirts.



30.1.2 With the exception of LED (light-emitting diode) and similar devices, advertisements on the surrounds of the sides of the playing area, and fluorescent, luminescent or glossy colours shall not be used anywhere in the playing area, and the background colour of the surrounds shall remain dark.

30.1.3 Advertisements on surrounds shall not change during a match from dark to light and vice versa.

30.1.4 LEDs and similar devices on surrounds shall not be so bright as to disturb players during the match, and shall not change when the ball is in play.

30.1.5 Advertisements on LED and similar devices shall not be used without prior approval from the competition organizer.

30.1.6 Lettering or symbols on the inside of surrounds shall be clearly different from the colour of the ball in use; no more than two colours are permitted.

30.1.7 There may be two advertisements on the net on each side of the table. They must not be placed closer than 30mm to the top edge of the net, must not obscure visibility through the net and cannot disturb the players.

30.1.8 Advertisements can be placed on the floor, the table and the garments of the players.

## 30.2 RULES REGARDING ADVERTISEMENTS AND IP RIGHTS

30.2.1. Advertisements placed in connection with an event (including but not limited to advertisements in or next to the Teqball court, on players' and team officials' clothing) must always comply with the applicable laws of the country of the event. In general, the (direct, indirect) advertisement of tobacco products, alcohol, harmful drugs, illegal products, guns or other firearms, sexual content and services are prohibited. Similarly, it is prohibited to

display advertisement that may be deemed discriminatory, degrading, humiliating or otherwise violating or prejudicial to the principle of human dignity, the reputation of Teqball as a sport and that of FITEQ and the intellectual property of FITEQ.

30.2.2. The Executive Board has the right to issue brand guidelines and other similar guidelines (e.g. sponsorship and advertising guidelines).

## 31 DOPING CONTROL

Anti-doping is governed by the relevant and in force FITEQ Anti-Doping Rules.

## 32 APPEALS

Appeals may be made only in compliance with Section 32.1.

### 32.1 CRITERIA FOR AN APPEAL

32.1.1 No agreement between players or team members can alter a decision made by the responsible technical official on a question of interpretation of The Official Rules and Regulations of Teqball.

32.1.2 Appeal may be made against the decision made by the responsible referee as follows: i) the appeal is decided on by the Chief Referee, ii) appeal may also be brought against the decision of the Chief Referee to the Competition Manager. The decision of the Competition Manager shall be binding and final.

32.1.3 The appeals procedure set out herein should be processed in approx. 10 minutes pending the match, if possible.



32.1.4 In singles competitions, an appeal may be made only by a player participating in the match in which the question has arisen. In doubles competitions, an appeal may be made only by the captain of a team participating in the match in which the question has arisen.

## 33 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

### 33.1 BASIS OF DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

33.1.1 Disciplinary actions may be taken in connection with a match or competition for violations of the FITEQ Integrity Policies set out in Section 34 hereof and these Rules. Disciplinary actions may be taken during a match or after the match based on the event report/records.

33.1.2 Unsporting conduct occurs inter alia when a player or a team official makes any inappropriate verbal remark or non-verbal gesture to the opponent players, team officials, technical officials, spectators or any other stakeholders who are part of the match/tournament or when the player or team official breaches the rules set out herein, including the rules of the FITEQ Integrity Policies and any other applicable FITEQ Rules, regulations and policies.

#### 33.1.2. Examples (non-exhaustive):

##### 33.1.2.1. Player's unsporting conduct:

- a. Player(s) intentionally cheating – evading the rules.
- b. Inappropriate verbal and non-verbal communication.
- c. Any communication with the opponent or the referee during a rally.
- d. Making disturbing noise – players shouting in the direction of the opponent and disturbing them intentionally.
- e. Attempting to intentionally deceive the referees.
- f. Attempting to intentionally waste time.
- g. Refusing to change roles according to the order of play.



- h. Acting in a manner that shows a lack of respect for the sport.
- i. Verbally distracting the opponent in between rallies.
- j. Attempting to intentionally move the TEQ™ table or the service line.
- k. Deliberately using a trick to circumvent the rules.
- l. Celebrating in an inappropriate/offensive way, or removing the shirt, or covering the head with the shirt (after winning a point, set, match).
- m. Dissenting by protesting the referees' decision, either verbally or non-verbally in an immoderate manner.
- n. Racist and other offensive behavior.
- o. Evading or otherwise circumventing the eligibility rules (whether material or procedural) – e.g. not registering or impersonating a registered player.

#### 33.1.2.2. Team official's unsporting conduct

- a. Leaving the coaching area during the match.  
(If they leave, they are not allowed to return).
- b. Intentional or unintentional disturbance of the match (including verbal communication).
- c. Making verbal comments regarding the referees' decisions.
- d. Overdramatic or dangerous reactions to the referees' decisions.
- e. Inappropriate communication with the spectators or with any other stakeholders.
- f. Racist, sexist and other offensive behavior.
- g. Evading or otherwise circumventing the eligibility rules (whether material or procedural) – e.g. not registering or impersonating a registered team official.

33.1.2 The detection, assessment and categorization of the unsporting conduct and the taking of disciplinary measures is the responsibility of the referees and the competition manager taking into account all aspects of the given situation, as per Section 33.2 hereof.



## 33.2 GENERAL RULES

33.2.1. Technical officials must evaluate the specific situation and penalize accordingly. The Assistant Referee may indicate any unsporting conduct, after which the Main Referee shall issue a warning to the player as per Section 33.3.2.

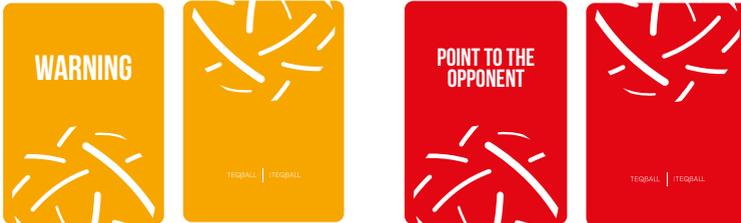
33.2.2. Serious unsporting conducts shall be reported to the offender's Club and National Federation, State Federation (if such State Federation exists) and FITEQ.

33.2.3. Technical officials must issue their decisions to dismiss and to disqualify in writing (including in electronic format).

## 33.3. SANCTIONS AND THE CARD SYSTEM

33.3.1. To facilitate effective communication, the following cards are used:

- "Warning" card (yellow);
- "Point to the opponent" card (red).



33.3.2. If the Main Referee considers the player's conduct to be unsporting, they may sanction the player according to the following five steps:

1. **Warning card** – for the first unsporting conduct detected

The Main Referee must issue a warning card to the offending player, without awarding a point, unless the opposing player/tam is clearly going to win the point. If the opposing



player/team wins the point after unsporting conduct, the point must be awarded, and a warning card must be issued afterwards. Warning card can only be issued once.

**2. Point awarded to the opponent card** – for the second unsporting conduct detected OR in case the first unsporting conduct detected is deemed to be serious.

The Main Referee must award a point to the opponent player/team. This measure may be taken several times, subject to the discretion of the Main Referee, if a player continues with unsporting conduct.

**3. Dismissal** – in case of an extreme offence or continuous unsporting conduct, provided that the level of offence does not reach the gravity of a disqualification.

The Main Referee must report the unsporting conduct to the Chief Referee. The dismissal must be made by the Chief Referee. After the dismissal, the opposing player/team wins the match, but all previously earned points by the dismissed player remain valid.

Before, during or straight after the match, an extreme offence or continuous unsporting conduct leads to instant dismissal from the match from the competition – subject to the assessment of the Chief Referee.

The dismissed player must leave the Teqball court. Match is considered to be lost. All previously earned points remain valid.

**4. Disqualification** – in case of an extreme offence or continuous unsporting conduct, provided that the level of such offence is deemed by the referee to surpass the gravity of a dismissal.

The Chief Referee shall decide whether to disqualify the dismissed person from the competition. If a player is disqualified from a competition for any reason, they shall automatically forfeit any associated title, medal, prize money or ranking points.



Before, during or straight after the match, an extreme offence or continuous unsporting conduct leads to instant disqualification from the competition – subject to the assessment of the Chief Referee.

The disqualified player must leave the Teqball court. The disqualified player cannot participate in the entire tournament (term of the disqualification).

## 5. Imposing a fine

The Chief Referee shall decide whether to impose a fine up to 500 EUR on a player based on the player's unsporting conduct(s).

33.3.3. With the divergences set out herein, the rules provided for in Section 33.3.1.-2. are applicable to team officials (including in particular coaches):

- If a coach is dismissed, they must also leave the coaching area. In this case, the match continues from the point where the Main Referee stopped the game.
- If a coach refuses to leave the coaching area, the Main Referee can end the match with a score of 12-0 in each set won, in favor of the opponent team.

33.3.4. Any and all disciplinary measure imposed on any of the players of team officials based on these Section 33.1-3 shall also apply to their team.

## 33.4. ETHICS AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE'S PROCEDURE

33.4.1. In addition to the disciplinary measures taken by the technical officials, unsporting conduct that are classified as serious and extreme may also give rise to the disciplinary procedure conducted by the Ethics and Disciplinary Committee based on the relevant Integrity Policy(ies).

The disciplinary procedure conducted by the Ethics and Disciplinary Committee may be initiated within 1 year following the occurrence of the relevant unsporting conduct.

However, the disciplinary measures taken by the technical



officials as per this Section cannot be subject to an appeal by the Ethics and Disciplinary Committee.

33.4.2. In case of alleged violations occurring during a match: Athletes, team officials, spectators and any other participant of an event may report alleged violations of a FITEQ Integrity Policy to the Chief Referee or the Competition Manager. In case of alleged violations became known after the relevant match: Athletes, team officials, spectators and any other participants may report such alleged violations to FITEQ's Ethics and Disciplinary Committee using FITEQ's whistle-blowing system (email: [integrity@fiteq.org](mailto:integrity@fiteq.org) ; or other similar platforms as set out in the applicable Integrity Policy).

33.4.3. The procedure of the Ethics and Disciplinary Committee is governed by the applicable Integrity Policy/ies.

### 33.5. APPLICABILITY OF SECTION 32-33 FOR NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

33.5.1. Sections 32 and 33 should be considered as FITEQ's Disciplinary Policy for addressing unsporting conduct occurring during and in connection with events. Therefore, National Federations should duly implement the provisions of these Sections into their own governance structures within 6 months following the entry into force of these Official Rules and Regulations. The implemented rules shall be at least as protective as those set out herein and shall be in compliance with the local laws of the National Federation.

33.5.2. Based on Section 33.5.1., any and all reference to FITEQ's Ethics and Disciplinary Committee should be understood as a reference to the National Federation's own ethics and disciplinary committee or a comparable body. This, however, does not preclude the given National Federation to conclude a separate agreement with FITEQ in which the National Federation relies on FITEQ's Ethics and Disciplinary Committee to investigate and decide on the relevant cases that are otherwise fall under the jurisdiction of its ethics and disciplinary committee.



## 34 INTEGRITY

34.1 Players and team officials shall comply with the FITEQ Integrity Policies.

34.2 The FITEQ Integrity Policies include the following regulations:

34.2.1 Code of Ethics

34.2.2 Anti-Corruption Policy

34.2.3 Equality and Anti-Discrimination Policy

34.2.4 Safeguarding and Welfare Policy

## 35 REGULATIONS FOR COMPETITIONS

35.1 TYPES OF TOURNAMENTS – applicable to FITEQ Events

The rules and regulations enshired herein apply to the following tournaments below.

35.1.1 The international tournament types are from time to time designated by FITEQ Executive Board.

35.1.2 An international tournament may include players of more than one country.

35.1.2.1 An open tournament is open to the players of all countries.

35.1.2.2 A restricted tournament is restricted to specified groups of players other than age groups.



35.1.2.3 An invitation tournament is restricted to specified countries or players, individually invited.

35.1.2.4 A reference to the place of the tournament means indoors, outdoors or beach tournament.

## 35.2 EVENTS – applicable to FITEQ Events

35.2.1. Open international tournaments, besides gender equitable events, can include men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles, women's doubles and mixed doubles events.

35.2.1. All events shall be played on a group qualification and knockout basis but may be played only on a knockout basis if approved by FITEQ.

## 35.3 SEEDING BY RANKING

35.3.1 Where there are a high number of entries, there may be players who are directly seeded to the knock-out stage.

35.3.2 The highest-ranked entries in an event shall be seeded so that they cannot meet before the closing rounds.

35.3.3 The number of entries to be seeded shall not exceed the number of entries in the first round proper of the event.

35.3.4 The entry ranked #1 shall be placed at the top of the first half of the draw and the entry ranked #2 at the bottom of the second half, but all other seeded entries shall be drawn among specified places in the draw, as follows:

35.3.4.1 the entries ranked #3 and #4 shall be drawn between the bottom of the first half of the draw and the top of the second half;

35.3.4.2 the entries ranked #5-#8 shall be drawn among the bottom places of the odd-numbered quarters of the draw and the top places of the even-numbered quarters;



35.3.4.3 the entries ranked #9-#16 shall be drawn among the bottom places of the odd-numbered eighths of the draw and the top places of the even-numbered eighths; and

35.3.4.4 the entries ranked #17-#32 shall be drawn among the bottom places of the odd-numbered sixteenths of the draw and the top places of the even-numbered sixteenths.

35.3.5 Seeding by ranking shall follow the order of the latest world ranking list published by FITEQ.

35.3.6 Draws shall be undertaken in advance of or during the tournament – subject to the tournament regulation.

35.3.7 Draws shall be undertaken by the Competition Manager and Chief Referee of the given tournament.

#### 35.4 SEEDING BY COUNTRY NOMINATION

35.4.1 Nominated players and pairs of the same country shall, as far as possible, be separated according to 35.4.1.3 and 35.4.1.4, unless otherwise stated in the specific regulations for such particular event or group of events.

35.4.1.2 Countries shall list their nominated players and pairs in descending order of playing strength, starting with any players included in the ranking list used for seeding, in the order of that list.

35.4.1.3 The entries ranked #1 and #2 shall be drawn into different halves.

35.4.1.4 The remaining entries shall be separated only in the group stage, but not in further rounds.

35.4.1.5 Any doubles pair consisting of players from different countries may be considered a pair of both countries.



35.4.1.6 In a group stage, entries from the same country, up to the number of qualifying groups, shall be drawn into separate groups in such a way that qualifiers are, as far as possible, separated.

## 35.5 DRAWS - GROUP COMPETITIONS

35.5.1 Seeded players are placed in order at the top of the groups.

35.5.2 In a group, or round robin competition, all members of the group shall compete against each other and shall gain 2 match points for a win, 1 for a loss in a played match and 0 for a loss in an unplayed or unfinished match; the ranking order shall be determined primarily by the number of match points gained. If a player is defaulted after the completion of a match for any reason, they shall be deemed to have lost the match, which shall subsequently be recorded as a loss in an unplayed match.

35.5.3 If two or more members of the group have gained the same number of match points, their relative positions shall be determined only by the results of the matches between them, by considering successively the numbers of match points, the ratios of wins to losses, games and points, as far as is necessary to resolve the order.

35.5.4 If at any step in the calculations the positions of one or more members of the group have been determined while the others are still equal, the results of matches in which those members took part shall be excluded from any further calculations needed to resolve the equalities, in accordance with the procedure of 35.5.1 and 35.5.2.

35.5.5 If it is not possible to resolve equalities by means of the procedure specified in 35.5.1-3, the relative positions shall be decided by lot.

35.5.6 Unless otherwise written in the event specification, if one player or pair is to qualify, the final match in the group shall be between the players or pairs numbered 1 and 2;



if two are to qualify, the final match shall be between the players or pairs numbered 2 and 3; and so on.

### 35.6 DRAWS – KNOCKOUTS/BYES AND QUALIFIERS

35.6.1 The number of places in the first round proper of a knockout event shall be a power of two.

35.6.2 If there are fewer entries than places, the first round shall include enough byes to make up the required number.

35.6.3 If there are more entries than places, a qualifying competition shall be held such that the number of qualifiers and the number of direct entries together make up the required number.

35.6.4 Byes shall be distributed as evenly as possible throughout the first round, being placed first against seeded places, in seeding order.

35.6.5 Qualifiers shall be drawn as evenly as possible among the halves, quarters, eighths or sixteenths of the draw, as appropriate.

### 35.7 DRAW ALTERATIONS

35.7.1 A completed draw may be altered only with the permission of the responsible Competition Manager and, where appropriate, the agreement of the representatives of those countries directly concerned.

35.7.2 The draw may be altered only to correct errors and genuine misunderstandings in the notification and acceptance of entry; to correct a serious imbalance, as provided in Redraw; or to include additional players or pairs, as provided in 35.8 Redraw; or to include additional players or pairs, as provided in 35.9 Additions.

35.7.3 No alterations other than necessary deletions shall be made to the draw of an event after it has started; for the



purpose of this regulation, a qualifying competition may be regarded as a separate event.

35.7.4 A player shall not be deleted from the draw without their permission unless they are disqualified; such permission must be given either by the player if they are present or, if they are absent, by their authorized representative.

35.7.5 A doubles pair shall not be altered if both players are present and fit to play, but injury, illness or absence of one player may be accepted as justification for an alteration.

### 35.8 REDRAW

35.8.1 Except as provided in 35.7.2, 35.7.5 and 35.8.2, a player shall not be moved from one place in the draw to another. If for any reason the draw becomes seriously unbalanced, due to the absence of several players from the same section of the draw.

35.8.2 Exceptionally, where the imbalance is due to the absence of several seeded players or pairs from the same section of the draw, the remaining seeded players or pairs only may be renumbered in ranking order and redrawn to the extent possible among the seeded places, taking account as far as is practicable the requirements for seeding by country nomination.

### 35.9 ADDITIONS

35.9.1 Players not included in the original draw may be added later, at the discretion of the responsible competition management and with the agreement of the Chief Referee.

35.9.2 Any vacancies in seeded places shall first be filled, in ranking order, by drawing into them the strongest new players or pairs; any further players or pairs shall be drawn into vacancies due to absence or disqualification and then into byes, other than those against seeded players or pairs.



35.9.3 Any players or pairs who would have been seeded by ranking if they had been included in the original draw may be drawn only into vacancies in seeded places.

## 35.10 SCORING SYSTEM

35.10.1 FITEQ events: Competition organisers must provide either manual scoreboards for each table, or tablets to operate with the FITEQ TeqRef application.

35.10.2. For events other than FITEQ events: Competition organisers may use appropriate scoreboards.

## 35.11 Results management

### 35.11.1 FITEQ events:

Competition organisers have to use the results management system provided by FITEQ for the official notifications. However, if locally for internal use, any other result management system may be used at the same time. Competition organisers must provide a high-speed internet connection to the competition management free of charge.

### 35.11.2 For events other than FITEQ events:

Competition organisers may use other result management systems. However, they shall report the results to FITEQ.

## 35.12. CHALLENGE SYSTEM

### 35.12.1. For FITEQ Events

36.12.1. The challenge system is defined by a challenge protocol for each FITEQ event by the Executive Board.

## 35.13. ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS

35.13.1. The eligibility rules, including procedural matters (e.g. accreditation procedure and rules related to medical fitness) applicable to players, team and technical officials shall be laid down in separate implementing documents issued by the Executive Board.

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