

## WITHDRAWING FROM AN LTA OFFICIAL COMPETITION – WITHDRAWAL PENALTY POINTS

4.1 Except in relation to Red Ball tennis (in which Withdrawal Points will not be incurred) and subject to paragraph 4.19, below, in respect of an LTA Official Competition, a Player (including a Player who is on the reserve list for a competition) who:

- (a) Withdraws from the competition after the Withdrawal deadline specified in the competition information pursuant to paragraph 3.8, above (which includes Withdrawing during the competition); or
- (b) fails to appear at the competition venue ready and prepared to play in his/her relevant matches without having Withdrawn;

will incur the following automatic Withdrawal Points:

Conduct	Withdrawal Points
Withdrawal in the period between the Withdrawal deadline and 8:00pm on the day before the start of the competition.	2
Withdrawal in the period between 8:00pm on the day before the start of the competition and the end of the competition.	3
Failing to appear at the competition without having Withdrawn.	5

4.2 For the avoidance of doubt:

- (a) if a Player Withdraws from or fails to appear at a competition in which he/she had entered more than one event, he/she will incur only one set of Withdrawal Points pursuant to paragraph 4.1, above;
- (b) where a doubles pair Withdraws from or fails to appear at a competition, both Players in the doubles pair will incur Withdrawal Points pursuant to paragraph 4.1, above, unless it is made clear to the Organising Committee and/ or the Referee at the time of the Withdrawal or the failure to appear that the Withdrawal/failure to appear is solely due to only one of the Players (in which case only that Player will incur Withdrawal Points);
- (c) a Player who retires during a match (after the first serve of the first point has been struck) due to sickness or injury or who is ruled by the Referee to be unable to compete due to serious sickness or injury pursuant to paragraph 5.40, below, will not incur Withdrawal Points;

*Explanatory note: Pursuant to paragraphs 4.2(e) and 5.16, below, if a Player is not ready to play within 15 minutes after his/her match has been called, that Player may be deemed to have failed to appear by the Referee and, if so, will incur five Withdrawal Points. In practice, it is anticipated that Referees will be pragmatic and, before deeming that a Player has failed to appear, will consider all relevant factors including, for example, whether the Player has made any attempt to notify the Referee that he/she will be arriving late and of the time when he/she is likely to be ready to play; whether the Player's match can be easily rescheduled without disruption to the competition; whether the Referee is satisfied that the Player has done all he/she reasonably can to be ready to play on time; whether the Player's notification should in fact be treated as a Withdrawal.*

*Explanatory note: A Player who retires during a match against another Player with a lower Rating will, however, incur a qualifying loss for Ratings purposes pursuant to paragraph 1.8(c) of Appendix Five.*

- (d) a Player who Withdraws from a competition as a result of being suspended (i.e. where a Player was accepted for a competition and subsequently suspended for a period covering the competition) will not incur Withdrawal Points for that Withdrawal; and
- (e) the Referee will submit details of Withdrawals and failures to appear to the LTA pursuant to paragraphs 5.56 and 5.57 and, subject to paragraphs 4.7 and 4.8, below, it will be for the Referee and/or the Organising Committee to determine whether and when a Player has Withdrawn and whether a Player has failed to appear.

4.3 Where a Player incurs Withdrawal Points, the LTA will notify the Player by email as soon as reasonably practicable, and the Withdrawal Points will be shown in the Player's profile in the members' area of the LTA Website.

4.4 A Player may only challenge the imposition of Withdrawal Points:

- (a) where such imposition was a result of the Player having been wrongly identified as the offending Player ('mistaken identity'); and/or
- (b) where the Player can show exceptional circumstances.

4.5 If a Player wishes to challenge the imposition of Withdrawal Points pursuant to paragraph 4.4, above, the Player must provide written notice of the challenge, with details of the evidence that will be provided in support of the challenge, to the LTA Disciplinary Officer within 72 hours of receipt of the notification of the Withdrawal Points pursuant to paragraph 4.3, above (see paragraph 10.6, below, for contact details). For the avoidance of doubt, unless the Player notifies the LTA Disciplinary Officer (and provides details of the relevant evidence) pursuant to this paragraph, the player will not be entitled to challenge the imposition of Withdrawal Points during the course of any subsequent disciplinary proceedings.

4.6 Upon receipt of any such notification, the LTA Disciplinary Officer will obtain comments thereon of any person(s) that the LTA Disciplinary Officer deems appropriate. Copies of such comments will be sent to the Player.

4.7 The LTA Disciplinary Officer may at his/her discretion investigate any challenge to the imposition of Withdrawal Points and, where he/she

(a) is satisfied that the challenge should be upheld, and

(b) considers it appropriate to deal with the matter without the need for it to be determined by the Disciplinary Panel pursuant to paragraph 4.8, below, may adjust the Player's Withdrawal Points record accordingly. However, the LTA Disciplinary Officer will only investigate such challenges in very exceptional cases; in the vast majority of cases the notification of Withdrawal Points and, where applicable, notification of the Player's challenge and any comments thereon will be kept on file by the LTA Disciplinary Officer and considered pursuant to paragraph 4.8, below.

4.8 Subject to paragraph 4.12, below, when a Player accumulates ten Withdrawal Points within any rolling 12-month period:

(a) where the Player has not challenged the imposition of any of those Withdrawal Points pursuant to paragraph 4.5, above, the Player will receive an automatic suspension of:

(i) three weeks, for a first application of this paragraph; or

(ii) four weeks, for subsequent applications of this paragraph in relation to the same 12-month period; and the LTA will notify the Player accordingly;

And

(b) where the Player has challenged any of those Withdrawal Points pursuant to paragraph 4.5, above, the LTA Disciplinary Officer will refer the matter to the Disciplinary Panel for consideration pursuant to paragraph 4 (or its successor) of the LTA's Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures. If the challenge(s) are not upheld, the Disciplinary Panel will impose the suspensions set out in paragraph 4.8(a)(i) and (ii), above. If the challenge(s) are upheld, the Player's Withdrawal Points record will be adjusted accordingly.

*Explanatory note: For example, if a Player has accumulated nine (unchallenged) Withdrawal Points between 1 January 2012 and 30 September 2012, and then incurs a further three (unchallenged) Withdrawal Points on 1 October 2012, making 12 Withdrawal Points in total, he/she will receive an automatic suspension of three weeks pursuant to paragraph 4.8(a)(i), above (for the accumulation of ten Withdrawal Points within a 12-month period). He/she will effectively begin another 12-month period on 1 October 2012 and will be treated as having incurred two Withdrawal Points on that day (i.e. the two points that did not count towards the ten for the purposes of paragraph 4.8(a)(i)). And if he/she incurs a further eight (unchallenged) Withdrawal Points before 31 December 2012 (making a total of 20 Withdrawal Points in the original 12-month period, 1 January – 31 December 2012), he/she will receive a further automatic suspension of four weeks pursuant to paragraph 4.8(a)(ii), above.*

4.9 In determining when the period of suspension will commence, the LTA or Disciplinary Panel (as the case may be) will take into consideration all playing consequences of the suspension and will exclude any periods of inactivity for the Player and any periods in which the Player is not fit, available and expected to play so as to ensure that the suspension is effective and meaningful. However, in order to avoid disruption to other competitions, any suspension imposed will not ordinarily commence before the third Monday following the accrual of the tenth Withdrawal Point or the determination of the Disciplinary Panel (as the case may be).

4.10 The decision of the Disciplinary Panel pursuant to paragraph 4.8, above, may be appealed by the Player and/or by the LTA Disciplinary Officer in accordance with paragraphs 5 and 10 (or their successors) of the LTA's Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures.

4.11 The LTA may publish the decisions of the Disciplinary Panel and Appeals Committee made pursuant to paragraphs 4.8 and 4.10, above (or a summary thereof), and details of suspensions imposed pursuant to paragraphs 4.8 and 4.10, above (including details of the Withdrawal Points received).

4.12 In any case where a Player incurs Withdrawal Points pursuant to paragraph 4.1, above, the LTA may elect not to count such Withdrawal Points for the purpose of the aggregation pursuant to paragraph 4.8, above, but instead to deal with the matter under the LTA's Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures.

*Explanatory note: It is anticipated that this discretion is more likely to be exercised for particularly serious incidents or for repeated incidents of a similar nature.*

4.13 A Player who Withdraws from an event at any stage, or who fails to appear at the competition venue ready and prepared to play in his/her relevant matches without having Withdrawn, is ineligible to participate in a consolation draw relating to that event. A Player who retires during a match due to sickness or injury or who is ruled by the Referee to be unable to compete due to serious sickness or injury pursuant to paragraph 5.40, below, may participate in other events in the competition (including a consolation draw relating to that event) provided he/she is sufficiently recovered.