



TENNIS REGULATIONS

Last Update 26.06.2026

1. Organization

- a. The Sports Department of the 22nd Maccabiah will be responsible for the Tennis competitions of the 22nd Maccabiah.
- b. Participation in the competition is open to any athlete who is in possession of a Participant Card issued by the Organizing Committee of the 22nd Maccabiah and is registered for the Tennis competitions.
- c. Tennis competition shall be subject to the International Tennis Federation (ITF) Rules of Tennis. In any case of a missing rule or regulation the referee / supervisor will refer to the relevant ITF rulebooks (Masters, Open, Juniors), any new decision will be made in conjunction with the Maccabiah Sports Department.

2. Entries

- a. Each participating country may enter a maximum of 12 players (6 men and 6 women) in each of the following age groups:

Male

U15

U17

U19

Open

Masters 35-39

Masters 40-44

Masters 45-49

Masters 50-54

Masters 55-59

Masters 60-64

Female

U15

U17

U19

Open

Masters 35-39

Masters 40-44

Masters 45-49

Masters 50-54

Masters 55-59

Masters 60-64

- b. Each participating country may enter a maximum of 16 players (8 men and 8 women) in each of the following age groups:

Male

Grand Masters 65-69

Grand Masters 70-74

Grand Masters 75+

Female

Grand Masters 65-69

Grand Masters 70-74

Grand Masters 75+

- d. Any of the registered players may be included in either singles, double or mixed doubles draws. Nonetheless, U17, U19, Masters and Grand Masters players may enter a maximum of two events.
- e. All players must sign a declaration of commitment to fulfil all their matches.
- f. Players are not allowed to play another sporting event (i.e. padel, pickleball, basketball etc.)
- g. An older master athlete can compete in a younger masters age group. In doubles, players will be entered into the age group of the younger player.





- h. It is not allowed to sign-in for doubles in a category that plays in the other venue.

3. Venues and Times

- a. The Sports Department of the 22nd Maccabiah will determine the venues and times of the Tennis competitions and teams will be notified accordingly.
- b. All tournament courts must be approved by the organizing committee and follow the ITF measurements guidelines.
- c. An athlete may compete only in one venue.
- d. The Referees are authorized to change times and their decision is final.
- e. The order of play (OOP) will be released daily by the referee for the following day's matches and will be posted at the Tennis venues and accommodation centers as early as possible to allow players optimal preparation. Only the order of play released and signed by the referees are binding. Any match on any court may be moved (from the original OOP)
- f. Matches shall not start after 22:00 unless approved by the Sports Department. At 00:00 the referee may suspend play
- g. Players should have at least 12 hours rest between a singles match and the next singles match
- h. Players entered into the 22nd Maccabiah Tennis competition must be available to play at any time, according to the OOP, during the full duration of the tournament. There will be no exception to this rule. Punctuality and No-show regulations will be strictly enforced in all categories.

4. Match Balls

All matches must be played with balls provided by the tournament staff. Matches will be played with a minimum of 3 balls, in some cases the referee / supervisor can decide to play with 4 balls. In case a full final set is played there will be a ball change after the 2nd set.

5. The Racket

Only ITF approved rackets are allowed.

6. Scoring Definitions

- a. Games:
 - 1) Standard game - "love", "15", "30", "40", "game" / "advantage"
 - 2) No Ad game: A deciding point will be played at deuce; the receiver will decide the side of the court in the deciding point (deuce / ad court)
 - 3) Tie-break: the first player to reach 7 points (0,1,2,3...), 6-6 to 8, 7-7 to 9 etc.
- b. Sets:
 - 1) Tie-break set: the first player / double to win 6 games. At 5 games tied, it will go to 7. At 6 games tied, a Tie-break will be played.
 - 2) 10-point match tie-break: the first player / double to win 10 points (0,1,2,3...), 9-9 to 11, 10-10 to 12 etc.
 - 3) Short set- same as a tie-break set, the tie-break will be played at 4-4.





- c. Retirement from the round robin will count as 6-0, 6-0. Retirement during a match in the round robin will be completed to 6-0 not excluding sets and games won by retired player, effecting match, set and games count.
- d. Specific scoring formats will be detailed in section "System of competition".

7. **Artificial Lighting**

Playing time is allowed with artificial lighting provided there is a minimum of 500 lux evenly distributed over the court surface. All courts approved for play with artificial lighting will be checked prior to the event by the Maccabiah Sports Department.

8. **Breaks**

- a. **Extreme Heat.** The referee will periodically check the heat stress level according to the Maccabiah extreme heat guidelines. In case extreme heat rule is in effect (Starts at 34.0°C or 93.2°F), there will be a 10-minute break between the 2nd and 3rd sets (only if full sets are played), and players will be allowed to quickly drink between even games. In case of dangerous heat conditions (Starts at 40.1°C or 104.2°F) matches will be stopped at the first possible moment and will resume only when the conditions allow.
- b. **Successive Matches.** In case a player has to play more than one singles match per day, the referee will allow the player to have a reasonable rest period between the matches. Guidelines for rest period are:
 - 1) After no more than 60 min. of play- 30 min. rest
 - 2) After no more than 90 min. of play- 60 min. rest
 - 3) After 2 hours or more- 90 min. rest
 - 4) In case a player has to play doubles after singles, or two doubles matches, the rest period shall not be longer than 45 min.
- a. **Toilet Break.** A player is allowed to request permission to leave the court for a reasonable time for a toilet break / change of attire break. Toilet breaks should be taken on a set break and can be used for no other purpose. Change of attire breaks must be taken on a set break. In all singles matches one toilet break is allowed, in all doubles and mixed doubles two breaks per team are allowed, in juniors players are not allowed to leave for a toilet break before a match tie break.

9. **Sign-in, Alternates and Substitutes**

- a. **Sign-In.** Sign in for specific events (Singles, Doubles or Mixed Doubles) will be open for players until closing of Entry Form #3. After that, players will be able to sign in only as alternates and could play only in case of a retirement from their age group. Doubles and Mixed Doubles will have an on-site sign in as well, and the on-site sign in deadline will be published by the referee. In case players signed in for Doubles in advance, and could not find a partner, they can sign in on site for Mixed Doubles instead. The same applies to Mixed Doubles players without partners.
- b. **Alternates and Substitutes.** In Doubles and Mixed Doubles in case a team member retires he can be replaced by an alternate or by a player that did not sign in for Doubles or Mixed Doubles in advance (only if that player does not exceed the allowed number of events, or if that player has been already eliminated from an event).

10. **Draws**





- a. The referee, in conjunction with the Maccabiah Sports Department will determine the draw size and format for each age category after the players lists are finalized.
- b. When making the draws for a knock-out format of competition, the referee will shall separate players from the same country in an optimal manner, according to the following rules:
 - 1) 2 players from the same country- 1 player in each half of the draw.
 - 2) E. 3-4 players from the same country- 1 player in each quarter of the draw.
 - 3) 5 and above- 1 player in each section of the draw, as spread as possible.
 - 4) Players from the same country should not play each other at the first round.
- c. When making the draws for a round robin format of competition, the referee will shall separate players from the same country in an optimal manner, according to the following rules:
 - 1) Players from the same country should be placed in different groups if possible.
 - 2) In case there are multiple groups with play-offs the referee will follow the knockout guidelines written above if possible.
- d. In order to determine the seeding in the knockout stage the referee will use games won to games lost ratio from the round robin stage and will implement country separation if possible.
- e. In case there are one, two or five players or teams in a category they be joined with the adjacent age group according to the decision of the Sports Department to allow a group stage. In case of three or four players a single group round robin, six or more- 2 teams or more RR and knock out.
- f. Draws ceremony. A draw ceremony for all categories will take place at the Technical Meeting before the tournament starts (appendix B).
- g. Draw sizes and seeded players:
 - 1) 5 or less players – 1 seeded player
 - 2) 6-15 players – 2 seeded players
 - 3) 16 players – 4 seeded players
 - 4) 32 players – 8 seeded players
 - 5) 64 players – 16 seeded players
- h. Seeding. All the information about the players for seeding purposes shall be submitted to the referee by delegation heads one week prior to the technical meeting. Information sent after this date will not be considered (information may be current ATP, WTA, ITF, UTR, national and college rankings and 21st Maccabiah medals). The referee shall determine the final seeding and present it at the technical meeting. In case of a disagreement a review will be conducted by the organizing committee, their decision is final.





11. System of Competition

SYSTEM A: Open Category

- a. Singles: Participants will be drawn in groups of 3 players, leaving a minimum number of groups of 4 to allow changes in case of retirements (possible until start of play). A single round robin will be played within each group, with matches being played at the best of three sets, with 2 Tie-Break sets and one 10 point Super Tie-Break. After the group stage, the two best ranked players in the group will advance to the Gold draw (best out of 3 Tie-Break sets). The rest (one or two players) will be relegated to the Bronze draw (best of three sets, with 2 Tie-Break sets and one 10 point Super Tie-Break. Otherwise, both Gold and Bronze are knock out draws.
- b. Doubles: Participants will be drawn in groups of 3 players, leaving a minimum number of groups of 4 to allow changes in case of retirements (possible until start of play). A single round robin will be played within each group. After the group stage, the best double from each group will advance to the knock-out stage. All matches will be played at the best of three sets, with 2 Tie-Break sets and one 10-point Super Tie-Break, with No Ad scoring.
- c. Mixed Doubles- Regular knock-out draw. All matches will be played at the best of three sets, with 2 Tie-Break sets and one 10-point Super Tie-Break, with No Ad scoring and in the deciding point, server shall serve to the opponent of same gender.
- d. System of merit. To determine the standings in the group stage, the following rules shall apply:
 - 1) Number of matches won
 - 2) Result of the head-to-head match
 - 3) Best sets won to sets lost ratio
 - 4) Best games won to games lost ratio (for example: player A- 30W divided by 10L makes the ratio 3, player B- 64W 32L=2 means player A advances)

SYSTEM B: Junior Categories

- a. The Junior tournaments (singles, doubles and mixed doubles) will be played in three categories:
 - U15- 2011-2012
 - U17- 2009-2010
 - U19- 2007-2008
- b. Singles: Participants will be drawn in groups of 3 players, leaving a minimum number of groups of 4 to allow changes in case of retirements (possible until start of play). A single round robin will be played within each group, with matches being played at the best of three sets, with 2 Tie-Break sets and one 10 point Super Tie-Break. After the group stage, the two best ranked players in the group will advance to the Gold draw (best out of 3 Tie-Break sets). The rest (one or two players) will be relegated to the Bronze draw (best of three sets, with 2 Tie-Break sets and one 10 point Super Tie-Break). Otherwise, both Gold and Bronze are knock out draws.
- c. Doubles and Mixed Doubles: Participants will be drawn in groups of 3 players, leaving a minimum number of groups of 4 to allow changes in case of retirements (possible until start of play). A single round robin will be played within each group. After the group stage, the best double from each group will advance to the knock-out stage. All matches will be played at the best of three sets, with 2 Tie-Break sets and one 10 point Super Tie-Break, with No Ad scoring. In Mixed Doubles, in the deciding point, server shall serve to the opponent of same gender.
- d. The “no let rule” is in effect only for Junior tournaments.





SYSTEM C: Masters Categories

- a. The Master tournaments (singles, doubles and mixed doubles) will be played in the following age categories:
- 1) 35-39
 - 2) 40-44
 - 3) 45-49
 - 4) 50-54
 - 5) 55-59
 - 6) 60-64
- b. Singles: Participants will be drawn in groups of 3 players, leaving a minimum number of groups of 4 to allow changes in case of retirements (possible until start of play). A single round robin will be played within each group, with matches being played at the best of three sets, with 2 Short Tie-Break sets and one 10 point Super Tie-Break. After the group stage, the two best ranked players in the group will advance to the Gold draw (best out of 3 sets, with 2 Tie-Break sets and one 10 point Super Tie-Break). The rest (one or two players) will be relegated to the Bronze draw (best of three sets, with 2 Tie-Break sets and one 10 point Super Tie-Break). Otherwise, both Gold and Bronze are knock out draws.
- c. Doubles and Mixed Doubles: Participants will be drawn in groups of 3 players, leaving a minimum number of groups of 4 to allow changes in case of retirements (possible until start of play). A single round robin will be played within each group (matches being played at the best of three sets, with 2 Short Tie-Break sets and one 10 point Super Tie-Break). After the group stage, the best double from each group will advance to the knock-out stage. All matches in the knock-out stage will be played at the best of three sets, with 2 Tie-Break sets and one 10 point Super Tie-Break. No Ad scoring rule will apply to all games. In Mixed Doubles, in the deciding point, server shall serve to the opponent of same gender.

SYSTEM D: Grand Masters Categories

- a. The Master tournaments (singles, doubles and mixed doubles) will be played in the following age categories:
- 1) 65-69
 - 2) 70-74
 - 3) 75+
- b. Singles: Participants will be drawn in groups of 3 players, leaving a minimum number of groups of 4 to allow changes in case of retirements (possible until start of play). A single round robin will be played within each group. After the group stage, the two best ranked players in the group will advance to the Gold draw. The rest (one or two players) will be relegated to the Bronze draw. Otherwise, both Gold and Bronze are knock out draws. All matches will be played at the best out of 3 sets, with 2 Short Tie-Break sets and one 10 point Super Tie-Break.
- c. Doubles and Mixed Doubles: Participants will be drawn in groups of 3 players, leaving a minimum number of groups of 4 to allow changes in case of retirements (possible until start of play). A single round robin will be played within each group (matches being played at the best of three sets, with 2 Short Tie-Break sets and one 10 point Super Tie-Break). After the group stage, the best double from each group will advance to the knock-out stage. All matches in the knock-out stage will be played at the best of three sets, with 2 Tie-Break sets and one 10 point





Super Tie-Break. No Ad scoring rule will apply to all games. In Mixed Doubles, in the deciding point, server shall serve to the opponent of same gender.

- d. The referee may decide to shorten the format of the doubles and mixed doubles gold draw due to weather and other scheduling issues.

12. Umpiring

- a. The Sports Department in conjunction with the Israeli tennis association will appoint the officiating team for the 22nd Maccabiah Tennis competitions, including supervisor, referees, roving umpires and chair umpires.
- b. Matches will be played without a chair umpire unless it is decided by referee / organizing committee to appoint a chair umpire to a match.
- c. Roving umpires will assure the matches are played according to the event's rules and regulations following the ITF's "matches without a chair umpire".
- d. The referee is the final authority on all questions of tennis law and the referee's decision is final.
- e. In matches where a chair umpire is assigned, the chair umpire is the final authority on all questions of fact during the match. The players have the right to call the referee to court if they disagree with a chair umpire's interpretation of tennis law.
- f. Rulings not covered in any of the regulations will be resolved by a Court of Appeals comprising the supervisor, referee and four heads of delegation to be appointed at the draw ceremony, five members will be selected in case of a head of delegation whose country is involved in the appeal. In the event of a tied vote the supervisor will make the final decision.

13. General

- a. These regulations must be read and reviewed along with the Appendixes that follow.
- b. These regulations are but one part of the complete 22nd Maccabiah regulations and must be read along with the instructions found in the Maccabiah Basic Regulations.
- c. In the event of a discrepancy between the regulations written here and those appearing in the Maccabiah Basic Regulations, the regulations written here will prevail, apply and be binding.





Appendix A

Basic requirements for hosting the tournament

Match courts

All courts used for the Maccabiah matches are approved in advance by organizing committee and meet the ITF measurements and standards for competitive play.

Lights

All lights are measured, min. of 500 lux.

Court fixtures and equipment

Single sticks, shaded two benches or 4 chairs, wind blocks (back drops), court separation (side stops), maintained nets with straps, parasols, umpires' chairs (open and juniors, minimum 4 chairs), ice box, trash bin.

Off court

- Strong, solid wifi network suitable for a large number of users
- Sitting / dining area with chairs and tables
- Available power sockets
- Spectators chairs and shaded areas between the courts

Additional requirements

- Cafeteria- opens 30 min. before matches, closes after the last match has gone on court
- Pro shop- opens 30 min. before matches, closes afternoon
- Well maintained toilets and showers, cleaned regularly during every day

*In case the tournament site is very close to a hosting hotel or "Maccabiah Hub" the organizing committee may change the requirements.





Appendix B

Draw Ceremony, Technical Meeting

Draw ceremony – singles only

The Maccabiah will host a unified draw ceremony for all categories; Masters, Open and Juniors. The ceremony will take place one week prior to the commencement of the Maccabiah tennis tournament on July 2nd at 14:00 Jerusalem time. Each draw will be conducted by the event's referee using software and will be supervised by the 22nd Maccabiah organizing committee. The ceremony will be open to the public and streamed online.

Five heads of delegations will be appointed for court of appeals.

Technical meeting

An online technical meeting for each category will take place one day before the draw ceremony on July 1st at 14:00 Jerusalem time. The meetings will be conducted by the referees and will include a brief regulations explanation, review of the planned schedule, match days and special events (opening / closing ceremony etc.), special scheduling requests by captains (planned late arrivals, planned trips, activities etc.), seeding of players and general questions. A maximum of two participants are allowed from each country, in case of a single player delegation that player is allowed to participate.

Making the draws

Singles

All draws will be made by software according to the Maccabiah regulations. The seeding of the players will be determined the day before at the technical meeting taking into consideration; current or recent ITF ranking, UTR ranking, college ranking (open category only), national ranking and previous Maccabiah results. In case there are not enough ranked players according to "**Draw sizes and seeded players**" rule, all remaining players will be randomly drawn keeping the guidelines of country separation.

Doubles and Mixed doubles

The doubles and mixed doubles' draw will be made on site by the referee shortly after the sign-in deadline. Seeding in the doubles and mixed doubles will take into consideration the same metrics as the singles seedings, for the Open category Pro ITF doubles ranking should be taken into account. The referee will announce when the draw is made and allow captains to attend.





Appendix C

Code of Conduct

The supervisor / referee together with the organizing committee shall be the final authority for the interpretation of this Code of Conduct and the Rules of Tennis as to all matters arising that require immediate resolution at the tournament site.

This Code of Conduct is in order to maintain fair and reasonable standards of conduct by players, Related Persons, Covered Persons and the organizers of the Maccabiah, and to protect their respective rights, the rights of the public and the integrity of the Sport of Tennis.

“Related Person” is defined as any coach, trainer, therapist, physician, management representative, agent, family member, Tournament guest, business associate or other affiliate or associate of any player, or any other person who receives accreditation at the Maccabiah Tournament at the request of the player or any other Related Person.

“Covered Persons” is defined as any player, and any player’s coach, trainer, manager, agent, medical or para-medical personnel and/or family member, tournament guest, or other similar associate of any player, and any tournament personnel, such as an official, tournament director, staff, volunteer, sponsor, health care provider, Maccabiah staff member and members of the media that accredited to attend the Maccabiah.

Dress and Equipment

Every player shall dress and present himself/herself for play in a professional manner. Clean and customarily acceptable tennis attire shall be worn.

Players are required to wear tennis shoes generally accepted for play on clay courts or granular surfaces. The Supervisor has the authority to determine that a tennis shoe’s sole does not conform to such customs and standards and can prohibit its use at clay court tournaments.

All players have to wear the team official uniform for the medal ceremony.

Player’s Prohibited behavior

AUDIBLE OBSCENITY- Players shall not use audible profanities or obscenities within the precinct of the tournament site.

VISIBLE OBSCENITY- Players shall not make obscene gestures of any kind within the precincts of the tournament site.

VERBAL ABUSE- Players shall not at any time directly or indirectly verbally abuse any official, opponent, sponsor, spectator, or other person within the precincts of the tournament site.

PHYSICAL ABUSE- Players shall not at any time physically abuse any official, opponent, spectator, or other person within the precincts of the tournament site.

ABUSE OF BALLS- Players shall not violently, dangerously or with anger hit, kick, or throw a tennis ball within the precincts of the tournament site except in the reasonable pursuit of a point during a match (including the warm-up).

ABUSE OF RACQUETS OR EQUIPMENT- Players shall not violently or with anger hit, kick, or throw a racquet or other equipment within the precincts of the tournament site. In case a player or related player caused damages to public equipment that player’s delegation will have to pay for the damages caused, the amount will be set by the referee and tournament director.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT- Players shall at all times conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and give due regard to the authority of officials and the rights of opponents, spectators, and others.





PRESENTS AND GIFTS- Players and teams must not offer any gift or present to the officiating team during and after the matches or after the completion of the tournament. Small or symbolic gifts such as flags, pins etc. are allowed. In case a team wishes to make a larger gesture to the officiating team this must be authorized with the organizing committee, failing to do so will consist as aggravated behavior.

PUNCTUALITY- If a player is late to arrive on court by more than 20 minutes, he/she may be defaulted according to the referee's decision.

If such violations occur during a match (including the warm-up), the player shall be penalized in accordance with the Point Penalty Schedule below.

In circumstances that are flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a tournament, or are singularly egregious, a single violation of this section shall also constitute as "Aggravated Behavior" and shall be subject to the additional penalties such as defaults and bans.

Point Penalty Schedule

The Point Penalty Schedule to be used for players' violations as follows:

FIRST offence- WARNING

SECOND offence- POINT PENALTY

THIRD and each subsequent offence- GAME PENALTY

However, after the third Code Violation, the supervisor shall determine whether each subsequent offence shall constitute a default. The imposition of a penalty under the Point Penalty Schedule shall be final and unappealable.

Defaults

The Supervisor may declare a default for either a single violation of this Code of conduct (Immediate Default) or pursuant to the Point Penalty Schedule set out above. In all cases of default, the decision of the supervisor shall be final and unappealable. In case of a default situation the referee must contact the organizing committee before announcing a default

Aggravated Behavior

No player or Related Person at the Maccabiah tennis Tournament shall engage in "Aggravated Behavior" which is defined as follows:

1. One or more incidents of behavior designated in this Code as constituting "Aggravated Behavior";
2. One incident of behavior that is flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of the Maccabiah tennis Tournament, or is singularly egregious;
3. A series of two or more violations of this Code during the Maccabiah event which singularly do not constitute "Aggravated Behavior", but when viewed together establish a pattern of conduct that is collectively egregious and is detrimental or injurious to the Maccabiah tennis tournament.

Off Court Violations

This code of conduct is in effect off the courts at any time matches are in progress and before or after the matches while on site, at the official hotel, official tournament transportation and official events.





Appendix D

Medical Time-Out

A Medical Time-Out is allowed when the Sports Physiotherapist has evaluated the player and has determined that additional time for medical treatment is required. The Medical Time-Out takes place during a change over or set break, unless the Sports Physiotherapist determines that the player has developed an acute medical condition that requires immediate medical treatment, the length of the treatment shall not exceed 3 minutes.

A total of two consecutive Medical Time-Outs may be allowed by the referee for the special circumstance in which the Sports Physiotherapist determines that the player has developed at least two distinct acute and treatable medical conditions. This may include: a medical illness in conjunction with a musculoskeletal injury, two or more acute and distinct musculoskeletal injuries. In such cases, the Sports Physiotherapist will perform a medical evaluation for the two or more treatable medical conditions during a single evaluation and may then determine that two consecutive Medical Time-Outs are required.

The referee may extend the treatment for a single injury to five minutes.

Cramping

A player who has stopped play by claiming an acute medical condition but is determined by the Sports Physiotherapist and/or Tournament Doctor to have muscle cramping, shall be ordered to resume play immediately. If the player cannot continue playing due to severe muscle cramping, as determined by the Sports Physiotherapist and/or Tournament Doctor, he/she may forfeit the point(s)/game(s) needed to get to a change of ends or set-break in order to receive treatment. There may be a total of two (2) full change of ends or set-break treatments for muscle cramping in a match, not necessarily consecutive. If it is determined by the Chair Umpire or ITF Supervisor that gamesmanship was involved, then a Code Violation for Unsportsmanlike Conduct could be issued.

Bleeding

If a player is bleeding, the match must stop play as soon as possible, and the Sports Physiotherapist must be called to the court by an umpire for evaluation and treatment. The Sports Physiotherapist, in conjunction with the Tournament Doctor if appropriate, will evaluate the source of the bleeding, and will request a Medical Time-Out for treatment if necessary. Treatment for bleeding shall not exceed five minutes.

