



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **ITF AND TENNIS CANADA IMPLEMENT ON-COURT COACHING STANDARDS**

**Montreal, March 28, 2019** – The International Tennis Federation (ITF) will implement new on-court coaching protocols for tournaments at Grade A and Grade 1 on the 2019 ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors. Tennis Canada have also put in place standard certification levels for Canadian coaches who deliver on-court coaching.

Sylvain Bruneau's pep talk during the BNP Paribas Open final helped inspire 18-year-old Bianca Andreescu to win the title, showing the tremendous impact on-court coaching can have. With a vision to become a world-leading tennis nation, Tennis Canada will allow qualified coaches only to deliver on-court coaching.

Not all coaching certification systems around the world are identical and Tennis Canada prides itself on maintaining the highest possible standards. **Therefore, Canadian coaches will have to be certified at least as a coach 3 to be allowed to deliver on-court coaching at Grade A and Grade 1 tournaments.**

The ITF's new on-court coaching standards for the World Tennis Juniors include protocols for coaches and players, with strict guidelines relating to penalties. They are outlined below:

### **Coaches**

- All nominated and approved coaches must register with the Referee and sign the on-court coaching protocol prior to their player's first match of the tournament.
- Each player will be permitted one designated on-court coach for the duration of the tournament.
- The coach must also have a coaching qualification recognised by his/her National Association and/or the ITF.
- Coaches are subject to the same on-court Code of Conduct provisions as players.
- Coaches will be subject to the same clothing identification requirements as players in regards to commercial identifications when going on-court. The ITF's Guidelines Regarding Authorised Identifications can be found below and in full in the 2019 ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors Regulations: <https://www.iftennis.com/juniors/tournaments/rules-regulations.aspx>
- Coaches will be expected to dress and present themselves in a professional manner. The coach must use the official court entrance to get onto the court, unless otherwise decided by the Referee.
- Coaches may only provide assistance/advice during the on-court coaching period and are not permitted to bring anything onto the court (e.g. Food, drinks, equipment, medical supplies) unless this has been approved by the Chair Umpire. The coach can bring notes to the court but is not permitted to leave them with the player.

1 Shoreham Drive, Suite 100 t. 416.665.9777 / 1.877.2TENNIS  
Toronto, ON / M3N 3A6 f. 416.665.9017

285 rue Gary-Carter t. 514.273.1515 / 1.855.TENNIS.0  
Montréal, QC / H2R 2W1 f. 514.276.0070



- The coach must leave the court immediately upon the Chair Umpire announcing “Time”.

### **Penalties**

- A player will be penalised under the Point Penalty Schedule (“Delay of Game”) if play has not commenced within 30 seconds of “Time” being called as a result of their coach leaving the court.
- If an on-court violation occurs during a match the coach will not be allowed to participate in on-court coaching for the remainder of the tournament.
- Coaches are subject to the normal coaching rules outside the on-court coaching procedure and may be penalized in accordance with the Point Penalty Schedule for Coaching.

### **Players**

- Players can request their coach once per set only, either on a changeover or at the end of a set. If a player has received on-court coaching during the first set they may not call their coach again at the end of the first set. If a player has received on-court coaching during the second set they may call the coach again at the end of the second set, but in this case they will not be allowed to call the coach during the third set.
- The player must request their coach through the Chair Umpire. The Chair Umpire will immediately announce the request.
- A player can only request one of the following at the same time during the match (changeover / set break): either request the coach, or ask for the trainer, or ask for a toilet/change of attire break.

### **Penalties**

- A player will be penalised under the Point Penalty Schedule (“Delay of Game”) if play has not commenced within 30 seconds of “Time” being called as a result of the coach leaving the court.
- If an on-court coaching violation occurs the player will not be allowed to receive on-court coaching (and may not designate a different coach) for the remainder of the tournament.

### **Chair Umpire**

- Prior to the play on day one, each Chair Umpire will receive the list of the approved coach for each player.
- During the pre-match meeting, the umpire will include a brief explanation of the on-court coaching procedures and confirm that both, one or none of the players/teams have a designated coach for the match.
- When on-court coaching is used:
  - The player shall request through the Chair Umpire to have his/her designated coach on court. The Chair Umpire will confirm to the player whether the request is granted or not.
  - The Chair Umpire shall immediately announce the request.
  - The Chair Umpire will monitor the timing of the changeover or set break as per normal procedure, and will call “Time” in the normal way. If a player receiving on-court coaching is not ready to play



within 30 seconds of the umpire calling “Time” as a result of the coach leaving the court, the delay is penalised in accordance with the Point Penalty Schedule (“Delay of Game”).

- Any concerns about on-court coaching/personnel on-court should be communicated directly to the Referee.

### **About Tennis Canada**

Founded in 1890, Tennis Canada is a non-profit, national sport association with a mission to lead the growth of tennis in Canada and a vision to become a world-leading tennis nation. We value teamwork, passion, integrity, innovation and excellence. Tennis Canada owns and operates the premier Rogers Cup presented by National Bank WTA and ATP World Tour events, 9 professional ITF sanctioned events and financially supports 13 other professional tournaments in Canada. Tennis Canada operates junior national training centres/programs in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and Calgary. Tennis Canada is a proud member of the International Tennis Federation, the Canadian Olympic Committee, the Canadian Paralympic Committee and the International Wheelchair Tennis Association, and serves to administer, sponsor and select the teams for Davis Cup, Fed Cup, the Olympic and Paralympic Games and all wheelchair, junior and senior national teams. Tennis Canada invests its surplus into tennis development. For more information on Tennis Canada please visit our Web site at: [www.tenniscanada.com](http://www.tenniscanada.com) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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### **Information:**

Valérie Tétreault  
Director, Communications  
[vtetreault@tenniscanada.com](mailto:vtetreault@tenniscanada.com) or 514-273-1515, ext. 6259

Victoria Jaklin  
Coordinator, Communications and Media Relations  
[vjaklin@tenniscanada.com](mailto:vjaklin@tenniscanada.com) or 514-273-1515, ext. 6291