



MEMORANDUM

Chapter Headquarters

TO: Certified Special Olympics Texas Tennis Coaches

CC: Area Program Directors; Regional Managers; Competition Directors; Field Services; Chapter SMT

FROM: Mark Hanken, Director of Competition and Games

DATE: March 11, 2003

RE: Two-Bounce Singles and Doubles Tennis – EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

The Special Olympics Texas Sports Management Team has approved a new level of singles and doubles tennis for area and chapter level competition – *two-bounce tennis*. The two-bounce events will be governed by all of the Special Olympics Texas tennis rules with the following modifications:

1. Implementation of the Two-Bounce Division
 - a. Determining in which division to enter an athlete
 - i. One-bounce division
 1. Athlete level of physical conditioning permits consistent and comfortable
 - a. Movement to shots (at least 3-4 steps);
 - b. Movement with ease to shots (up, back, and sideways);
 - c. Movement to cover very high-bouncing shots;
 2. Athlete is able to handle/return hard-hit balls, and shots hit with varying spins with consistency;
 3. Athlete is able to return random shots hit with varying depth and height, both from the standpoint of understanding where to move or how to move, but also being able (or willing) to move to these shots;
 - ii. Two-bounce division
(IMPORTANT note: Two bounces are not *required* in rallies; they are *permitted* as needed by the athletes.)
 1. Athletes are not able (or willing) to move to shots that are high-bouncing, hard-hit, and with varying spins, sufficiently well to achieve more than two or three-shot rallies (if that);
 2. Mobility or level of understanding may be lessened due to one or more factors (age, physical condition, height of the athlete, skill level, and so on);
 3. Athletes are able to actually have some rallies of more than two or three shots, when they are permitted to have two bounces as needed;
 - iii. Rationale for the two-bounce division
 1. Athletes will be enabled to have longer rallies, and thus, begin to develop an understanding of strategy not possible when rallies are very short.

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2. Athletes will be enabled to compete against athletes who have similar capabilities in terms of movement and physical conditioning, plus be able to achieve a much greater degree of success.

3. Athletes will have a division in which they may compete at the Area and State levels in Texas, thus eliminating confusion that was occurring when an athlete could have two bounces at Area (Area 10 has been piloting two-bounce for several years), and yet had to switch back to one bounce at State.
4. Beginning athletes have an avenue to begin to compete in tennis. The two-bounce division will help to bridge the gap between skills and competition.
5. The two-bounce division is not open to athletes who intend to qualify for upcoming World Games competitions.
6. Athletes may play in EITHER the one-bounce or the two-bounce division, but not both.

iv. The event codes are as follows:

1. TNSIN2 – Two-Bounce Tennis Singles
2. TNDU2 – Two-Bounce Tennis Doubles

Two-Bounce Tennis is NOT appropriate for Unified Sports™ tennis competition and will not be offered.