

# INDOOR TAMBURELLO

## RULES FOR INTERNATIONAL GAMES

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### ARTICLE 1

#### **The Court – Lines – Safety and Neutral Zones – Area of Play**

- 1.1 The dimensions of play of the Court are those of a rectangle, 34 m x 16 m. The minimum height of the Court is of 7m, although greater height is recommended.  
A Centre Line, parallel to the Back Lines, divides the court into two equal parts, each measuring 17 m x 16 m.
- 1.2 The lines at either end of the Court are called the Back Lines; those along the sides of the Court are called the Side Lines. The line dividing the Court into two equal parts is called the Centre Line.
- 1.3 On either side of, and parallel to, the Centre Line, at a distance of two metres from it, there are Service Lines. The space enclosed by these two Service Lines and the corresponding parts of the Side Lines is called the Neutral Zone.
- 1.4 All lines on the Court are 5 cm wide.
- 1.5 The perimeter lines (Side Lines and Back Lines) form part of the playing area of the Court; the Service Lines form part of the Neutral Zone.

- 1.6 At both ends of the Court, there are Safety Zones of width three metres running the length of the Back Line. There are also Safety Zones of width two metres running along both sides of the Court beyond the Side Lines.
- 1.7 The surface of the Court must be smooth, of synthetic material, tiles, wood or other material approved by the FIBT.
- 1.8 The Neutral Zone is only active during service; once the ball has been returned, this Zone immediately becomes a standard part of the Court.

## **ARTICLE 2**

### **The Ball**

- 2.1 Only official FIBT balls of diameter 65 – 68 mm, and weight, 38 – 40 g – may be used in Indoor competitions.
- 2.2 Balls should be of a colour that makes them clearly visible on the Court, ensuring that they also stand out against the background.
- 2.3 A ball, when dropped from a height of 2m, should bounce to a height of 85 – 100 cm

## **ARTICLE 3**

### **Bats**

- 3.1 Tamburello / Tambourin bats should be constructed of a circular ring, of diameter 26 cm or 28 cm, with or without straps for handles. A skin is stretched over this ring.
- 3.2 The use of 'sound' (noisy) bats is obligatory in all competitions.
- 3.3 Competitions at all levels require the use of equipment (bats, balls, etc) approved by the FIBT.

## **ARTICLE 4**

### **Games and Matches – Points in Championships**

- 4.1 Matches consist of 13 games.  
Each game consists of a succession of points, called '*fifteens*', in the order of 15, 30, 45, *game*: the first team to get to *game* wins the game. There is no 'deuce' at '45 – 45.'
- 4.2 The first team to win 13 games wins the match.  
In the case of a score of 12 – 12, a 'Deciding Game' will be played. The first to win this game, and hence 13 games, wins the match.

- 4.3 In the case of the Deciding Game, a new draw for service and ends will take place before the Deciding Game begins. Service will then alternate with each point (*fifteen*) during the Deciding Game, from one team to another.
- 4.4 Winning teams receive 3 points in the Championship classification if the score is 13 – 10 or less. If the score is 13 – 11 or 13 – 12, then 2 points go to the winner and 1 point goes to the losing team.

## **ARTICLE 5**

### **Composition of the Teams – the Minimum Number of Umpires**

- 5.1 Whether the teams be male or female, they are to consist of a maximum of 5 players, of whom 3 play on Court, and 2 are reserves.
- 5.2 Due to accident or through being sent off, a match may continue with only 2 players on Court in either or both teams.
- 5.3 To umpire a match, a minimum of four umpires (*1st umpire, 2nd umpire, two linespersons*) is required.

## **ARTICLE 6**

### **Draw for Service and Ends**

- 6.1 The umpire should first verify that the identity documents of the players match their Tamburello / Tambourin membership cards, and that they are members of the team for whom they are playing.
- 6.2 Before play commences, the Umpire summons the Captains of each team and asks one to choose Heads and the other Tails. He then throws a coin in the air, letting it fall on the ground or catching it in his hand. S/He who wins may choose to have service (or not); his/her team also has choice of end.

## **ARTICLE 7**

### **Service and Return**

- 7.1 Service may be from any point on the Back Line.
- 7.2 Only one ball is allowed for each service.
- 7.3 Service may only take place after the Umpire has blown his or her whistle.
- 7.4 The Umpire will blow the whistle when both teams are ready to play.
- 7.5 The player has 10 seconds from the end of the Umpire's whistle in which to serve. If the player does not serve within this period, a point (*fifteen*) will be awarded to the opposing team.

- 7.6 A change of player taking the service may not take place during a game – with the exception of the player taking service being unable to continue (due to being sent off or through accident).
- 7.7 Teams serve in turn. Service alternates between teams, at the end of each game (apart from in the Deciding Game).
- 7.8 No player of either team may cross the Service Lines and enter the central Neutral Zone until the service has taken place and the ball been returned.

## **ARTICLE 8**

### **Pauses ('Time Out') – Change of Ends – Change of Players**

- 8.1 Each team has two opportunities during a match, to request a pause or 'time-out'; each such pause to be of 1 minute's duration.
- 8.2 Change of end takes place after every three games.
- 8.3 Players may be substituted at any time – with the permission of the umpire – so long as the ball is not in play. The player taking service may only be substituted at the end of the game in which s/he was taking service.
- 8.4 Teams are allowed 1 minute to change ends.

## **ARTICLE 9**

### **Faults: what are and are not faults; lets (re-taking balls); breaking bats; game continues**

- 9.1 **It is a fault and the point is lost when...**
  - 1. the ball, after being hit by a player's bat, subsequently hits a fixed structure in the building housing the Court;
  - 2. the player taking service touches, directly with his/her body or indirectly with the bat or ball, the Back Line from which s/he is serving, thereby invading the Court;
  - 3. during service, the ball is hit but does not go beyond the Neutral Zone (this zone is only valid during service, and reverts to being an standard part of the Court once the ball has been returned);
  - 4. a ball being returned touches or does not go beyond the Centre Line;
  - 5. the ball either at service or when returned flies beyond the Back or Side Lines, out of the Court;
  - 6. the ball is hit after a second bounce;
  - 7. the ball is returned using any part of a player's body, excluding that of the forearm holding the bat;
  - 8. the ball is returned after being hit by a bat not held in the player's hand;

9. the ball is hit consecutively by two or more players of the same team, before being returned to the other half of the Court;
10. a player, even if he is not taking part in the action of the game, steps over or even touches the Centre Line of the Court with any part of his body or equipment. Such an 'Invasion of the Court' is also considered to have taken place when a bat escapes from a player's hand and lands in the other side of the Court or touches the Centre Line;
11. a player, following the breaking of his bat, goes to get another and touches the Centre Line or steps into the other side of the Court (Invasion of the Court);
12. a player intentionally serves with a dirty or wet ball;
13. a ball touches an Umpire standing, correctly, outside the Side Line.

**9.2 It is not a fault and the point is won when...**

1. the ball touches the Back or Side Lines;
2. the bat escapes from the player's hand after he has hit the ball with the bat, so long as it lands in his/her own half of the Court;
3. two or more players touch, so long as the ball is hit by the bat of one player alone;
4. the ball is hit by the back or side of the bat;
5. the ball spins as a result of hitting the back or side of the bat, before landing in the other half of the Court, so long as such spinning is not intentional;
6. the strap of a bat breaks or comes undone;
7. the ball breaks, so long as this is not into two separate pieces;
8. the bat is held with two hands;
9. a player, in hitting the ball, goes beyond the Centre Line but is outside one of the Side Lines (and hence the area of play); in such circumstances, there is no Invasion of the Court;
10. a player, intending to hit the ball, goes beyond the Side or Back Lines;
11. the ball is hit using the player's forearm holding the bat.

**9.3 The point is void and a let should be played (the point should be played again) when...**

1. the ball breaks in two separate pieces, so long as this break does not occur on impact with a place on (or outside) the Court at which the point would have been lost;

**9.4 Play is not stopped when...**

A player's bat breaks (be it handle, skin or ring).

Substitute bats should be kept in reserve near the benches of each team.

The player whose bat has broken may go immediately to take a substitute bat from the reserve and may be handed one so long as this does not interrupt the game or involve the Invasion of the Court by other persons.

Bats must be handed to the player: they may not be thrown.

**9.5 The point is replayed (a let is played) when...**

- although aimed at the other side of the Court, the ball hits an umpire or linesperson who is inadvertently straddling the centre line.

In any case, play always stops when a ball hits an umpire or linesperson.

- A player's action, in the absolute judgement of the umpire, is disturbed by some situation external to the Court.

**ARTICLE 10**

**Persons outside the Court**

- 10.1 No persons, authorized or otherwise (including trainers, reserve players, etc.) may stand behind either of the Back Lines, even if beyond the Safety Zones. Authorized persons may stand only behind the Safety Zones to the sides of the Court, taking care not to impinge on the activities of either umpires or linespersons.

**ARTICLE 11**

**The right of the FIBT to change the Rules**

- 11.1 The FIBT reserves the right to change these rules without notice, although it will make every effort to communicate such changes to interested parties.

**ARTICLE 12**

**Validity**

- 12.1 These rules were approved by the FIBT at its meeting on 14 November 2008 in Gignac la Nerthe, and are valid from 1 January 2009.

These rules to be sent to all affiliated National Federations and Associations by whom they should be recognized and applied.

*Translated by Oliver Tringham,  
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