

## Alternative scoring systems

(This article is taken from the ITF's Play Tennis Manual)

Tennis competition can be great fun. Players of all abilities can compete and formats and scoring systems exist that suit all lifestyles. The ITF encourages coaches to ensure that all starter players compete (serve, rally and score) from the first lesson and that starter players that cannot play on a full court with a normal ball play competition using the slower red orange and green balls on smaller courts.

Playing competition offers the chance for starter players to meet other players of similar abilities and to mix in a fun and friendly atmosphere. For starter players the ITF recommends formats that involve players playing more than one match (round robin/feed in events/compass draws etc.). The ITF does not recommend single elimination formats for starter players.

The rules of tennis now allow many new and alternative scoring systems

These changes introduced since 2000 allow clubs and coaches to tailor the competition to the needs and lifestyles of the players including time constraints:

- **No-Ad scoring method: at deuce:** one deciding point is played to determine the winner of the game. The receiver decides to which service court the last point is to be played.
- **Short sets:** the first player/team who wins four games wins that set, provided there is a margin of two games over the opponent(s). If the score reaches four games all, a tiebreak game shall be played
- **Deciding Tie break game (7 points):** when the score in a match is one set all, or two sets all in a best of five sets matches, one tie-break game shall be played to decide the match. This tiebreak game replaces the final deciding set. The player who wins seven points shall win this match tiebreak and the match provided that there is a margin of two points over the opponent(s)
- **Deciding match tiebreak (10 points):** when the score in a match is one set all, or two sets in a best of five sets match, one tie break game shall be played to decide the match. This tiebreak game replaces the final deciding set. The player who wins ten points shall win this match tiebreak and the match provided that there is a margin of two points over the opponent(s)