

2023 Off-Court Coaching Trial Procedures - World Tennis Tour

Summary

- Off-Court Coaching will be trialled at selected tournaments on the ITF WTT in 2023.
- Off Court Coaching will only be permitted from rounds where matches are intended to have Chair Umpires.
- Any support team member (parent, friend, fellow competitor etc) authorised by the player to sit in the 'designated coach seats' must comply with the conditions below. In this circumstance they are deemed as a 'coach'.
- Any coach who sits in the designated coach seats must be accredited and wear the official tournament accreditation.

Off-Court Coaching

During play, Off-Court Coaching will be allowed in a nondisruptive manner under the following conditions:

- Coaching is only allowed from the designated coach seats.
- Best efforts will be made to locate the designated coach seats near the baseline or back area of court on the same end as the player's seat.
- Brief and discreet verbal coaching is allowed only when the player is at the same end of the court as their designated coach seats.
- Subtle, non-verbal coaching, defined as hand signals or gestures that do not hinder the opponent is allowed when the player is at the same or the opposite end of the court as their designated coach seats.
- Coaches may NOT speak to their player when the player leaves the court for any reason (except as permitted during a rain delay).
- Players may NOT approach their coach or engage in conversation with their coach at changeovers or set breaks. Exceptions – players may approach their coach or engage in conversation with their coach ONLY during the opposing player's medical time out (including the time period when the Physiotherapist was called, and the player is waiting for the Physiotherapist and during the evaluation time) or a Bathroom break / change of attire break or during the last 90 seconds of a heat break.
- If a Coach's verbal coaching, hand signals, or gestures begin to interrupt play or become a hindrance to the opponent(s), the Supervisor will notify the coach of the escalation prior to action being taken against the player. Should the distractions persist, the player may be subject to coaching penalties and fines.

NOTE:

- Coaches are expected to dress professionally, in appropriate and clean tennis attire, when seated in the designated coach seats.
- A coach can coach more than one player during a tournament, but coaching is only allowed from the designated coach seats of the relevant court.
- A player may be penalised under the Code of Conduct if there is failure to meet the trial procedures.
- Off-court coaching is not permitted where an off-court official is required to go on court to umpire the remainder of a match.