

USTA SC Inclement Weather Policy for USTA SC Sanctioned Tournaments

Purpose: Tournament Directors and Referees have several options when faced with inclement weather or heat advisories on tournament dates. The **Referee** is responsible for the final decision. Player safety shall be the top priority!

Policy:

1. The **Referee** may do **one or more** of the following:
 - a. Use no-ad scoring
 - b. Use match tie break in lieu of third set
 - c. Cancel the consolation rounds of singles and/or doubles
 - d. Cancel doubles main draw events (only after consolation events have also been cancelled)
 - e. Reschedule the tournament (with approval from the Sanction and Schedule Committee)
 - f. Cancel the tournament (in coordination with the Competition Manager of either USTA SC or USTA Southern)
2. These options are listed **in the order** that they should be used. For example, a tournament director should use no-ad scoring before he/she cancels the consolation, etc.
3. The use of any option not shown on the list above, including short sets, must be approved by the Competition Manager or the Chairman of the Officials Committee of USTA SC. This can be done by telephone or electronically.
4. Tournament Directors and Referees should weigh the options above in their effort to “complete” a tournament against the desire to maximize play. It is NOT necessary to complete all the rounds of a tournament, either main draw or consolation. Using available court time to get in as many matches as possible for all the players still in the tournament should always be a consideration. To the extent possible, emphasis should also be placed on getting an equal number of rounds played in all divisions.

Information below is not policy, but suggestions for your committee to consider before your event:

The USTA and the Sport Science Committee have developed the Emergency Care Guidelines to serve as a resource for tournament directors as they prepare to run an event. All tournament directors should be prepared for a medical emergency or a disaster should one occur.

The topics covered by the Emergency Care Guidelines include:

- . Emergency phone numbers
- . Supplies to have on-hand
- . Universal precautions
- . Heat illness
- . Allergic reactions
- . Thunderstorms and lightning

These Emergency Care Guidelines outline some reasonable steps that tournament directors can, and should, take to ensure the health and safety of the players and spectators at their events. Please download the **Emergency Care Guidelines** to use and distribute available from the National web site: www.usta.com – Coaching Education-Resources. This information is also printed in the 2009 FAC beginning on page 225.