

Rules of the Circuit

TAP World Tour





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I. Organization Description of Stand up Tennis.

Adaptive Tennis in Standing Position Organization (TAP) has as a priority to promote, develop and provide opportunities to physical disabilities like: amputee people, Hemiplegics, hemi paralysis, congenital malformation and cerebral palsy and other who can move upright and do not want to sit in a wheelchair to play this modality internationally, both recreationally as well as competitively.

The TAP creates new opportunities for people who want to practice this sport because, before 2012 there was no entity in the world that governed this modality.

The Adaptive Tennis in Standing Position (Stand up Tennis) focuses on working together with the tennis world federations and physical therapy institutions to develop and implement programs to promote it so that the sport adoption increases in each country by carrying out different promotional activities to promote it.

The vision of the TAP (**Adaptive Tennis in Standing Position**) organization is to be the worldwide leader in the development and international competition, to joining the International Tennis Federation and also become a Paralympics sport.

The goal for this to be achieved is to significantly increase the participation on the sport in the different countries, following the standards set by TAP, to have a considerable number of players and have the Paralympics games accept this modality.

Also, this discipline has an international circuit where all categories are included and can play in different tournaments around the world.

II. Adaptive Tennis in Standing Position

This discipline is a way of playing tennis for people with different kinds of disabilities but that are able to play in standing position (nor cognitive, degenerative or sensorial) on a normal court with some adjustments depending on the mobility the player has, Is played with one bounce.

Who participates:

People with amputations, Hemiplegics, Hemi paralysis, congenital malformation, cerebral palsy and other.



1. History

Enzo Amadei was born in Chile in 1986, at the age of 5 years a tumor was found in his brain, which was operated in the United States, in the city of Memphis at Saint Jude Children's Hospital, as a consequence of that operation he suffered a right side hemiparesis, at that time, the chances of being able to walk and talk again were minimal but with intense rehabilitation, support from his family, his beliefs and values he was able **to achieve it**.

Enzo began in tennis since very young, thinking that his disability was not going to limit him from doing what he wanted, which is why Adaptive Tennis in Standing Position history begins with an idea and interest in 2008, the founder of the modality at a competitive level, Mr. Enzo Amadei, being 21 years old, saw that there was no discipline in which he could compete with other people who were in the same condition, that is, with people who have physical disabilities and who can move on foot, due to this situation, he decided to research and specialize in shaping this new discipline, traveling to different countries for training and become acquainted with all Tennis modality, mainly his most important trip was conducted in 2011 traveling to the United States since there is a great development adapted sports in that country, and maintaining constant contact and relationships until today with all the persons and entities related to tennis he got to know.

Once Enzo returned to Chile at the beginning of 2012 he created a program of this type with the support of the Chilean Tennis Federation with the intention of searching for players and creating a circuit in the future.

Over time this initiative gathered increasing momentum, holding different activities, and in 2013 Enzo Amadei founded sports club, he also assembled his working team that has a physical therapist specialist, Ana Maria Rodriguez, specialist in Neurorehabilitation and Josefina Meza, Current Product manager, both amateur tennis players.

In 2014 Enzo Amadei was appointed as the General Coordinator of TAP in South America (South American Tennis Confederation)

By **COSAT** providing him with benefits for the development of the modality and allowing him to travel to countries such as Bolivia and Ecuador during that year.

Since 2008 until today Enzo Amadei has always been searching for players, individuals and bodies like Tennis Federations interested in this modality, creating a wide network of contacts to generate international development.

In 2015 Enzo Amadei and his team succeeded in forming the first Adaptive Tennis in Standing Position Foundation in the world, which will allow further international development, with this, great objectives have been achieved, such as creating an International Circuit "**TAP World Tour**", holding several championships.



III. Circuit TAP World Tour

What is:

This competitive modality of tennis is for the people with different kind of disabilities but that are able to play in standing position (nor cognitive, degenerative or sensorial) on a normal court with some adjustments depending on the mobility the player has, Is played with one bounce

Who participates:

- People with amputations,
- Hemiplegics,
- Hemi paralysis,
- Congenital malformation,
- Cerebral palsy

Circuit TAP World Tour was created by Enzo Amadei in collaboration with Ana Maria Rodriguez in the year 2015 in Santiago, Chile, Enzo as the founder of the Adaptive Tennis in Standing Position and Ana Maria as a Physiotherapist.

The Circuit is created from the need to gather the TAP players in the entire world, who did not wanted to spend the time just training on their training places but also wanted to compete head to head with other players with similar physical disabilities.

Not existing in any country a competition model for persons with physical disabilities that played on standing position, the Circuit is created, which records all related with the International Championships, Players, Official Ranking, Regulations and TAP Rules – Adaptive Tennis in Standing Position.

The first International Championship of this Circuit is held in Santiago-Chile the days April 10th and 11th of 2015, counting with the participation of 32 players of different countries such as Mexico, Peru, Argentina and Chile, competing in different game categories.

2. Missions

- To join internationally all the TAP players in their country or an organization as a foundation, club or other that organizes together with the circuit the promotion and national development of their country.
- Generate, Organize and manage the competitions and Championships with Worldwide Level Scores for Adaptive Tennis in Standing Position to carry the record in the Official Ranking that shows each player of this modality in their different games categories and with that to increase its development.

3. Championship Rules

Each country representative will be able to present a Championship proposal, indicating place, dates, schedules, budget, amongst others.

The Circuit Organization will review the proposals to see all the possibilities and feasibilities to perform that proposed championship.

3.1 Basic Rules

The championships will be published four months before the date of materialization.

If there are new players (that have not played before previous circuit championships) must be classified in one of the games categories. A video playing tennis will be requested with certain technical actions and movements and a complete sheet.

3.2 Benefits for Players

- Have score in the Official Ranking.
- Help to promote its history with pictures and videos.
- Awards.
- Compete head to head with other players.
- Gain experience.

3.3 Championships and Scores

The international championship score of the Circuit TAP World Tour is based in the same one than conventional tennis, only that this one has only one division where the players compete in their different categories, in a future according to the development of the modality greater number of championships will be created which will have different scores.

The circuit will last a definite time of 4 years,(2015 – 2018) among which all the scores of the players will be added, year by year, in 2019 they will be a new period, this is the last year that the player added point, they defended in the following years.

IV. General rules

Adaptive Tennis in Standing Position is played in the dimensions of a tennis court and are adjusted according to the degree of functional mobility that the persons has. There are different game categories and in all it is played with one bounce.

In this modality it is played today through a unitary system, there are no men and women competitions in separate, nor by ages (in the future we could separate by age and gender).

V. Functional Classification

Each player will be evaluated in the court or with a video by an evaluating committee of the Circuit TAP World Tour.

¿How are players classified into different categories?

The players are not classified by pathology or medical diagnosis since there are many physical disabilities, some players will display the same physical condition but we know that each person is affected in a very different and individual way, we also rely on functional criteria, which is what is being done in adapted sports for years. Currently TAP as a new modality in the competitive area has attracted players with different physical disabilities and since there still are few global players, all need to be included.

4. Minimum to qualify:

The minimum to qualify to compete in the **TAP World Tour** circuit will be given when the player displays a motor impairment of a segment of either the upper or lower body affecting his/ her functional mobility in Tennis and if the player is not semi-professional or professional.

4.1 Evaluation of the player:

- Medical diagnostics, functional diagnostics, and life history will be requested.
- Video of the player where he/she can be seen playing spontaneously, and that shows the movements within the court, such as:
 - > From the baseline to the net
 - > From the net to baseline
 - > Playing at or along the baseline

5. Categories

Which are the categories of the match ?

A1: Players with optimal functional mobility with motor impairment below the knee or motor impairment of one upper limb. E.g.-a player who has an amputation or other disability below the knee or a player who has an amputation of one arm at joint level or who displays a congenital malformation in one arm.

A: Players with optimal functional mobility with impairment above the knee of one or both lower extremities and with or without alterations in one or two upper extremities. E.g.-amputation above the knee, hemiplegic, hemiparesis, congenital malformation and cerebral palsy.

B: Player with an intermediate functional mobility to move about in a normal court. The court size is 60 x 21 feet and an orange ball is used. (May be to 5 sets of 7 points)

C: Player with a functional disability to move about in a normal court. The court size will be of 36 x 18 feet and a red ball will be used. (May be to 5 sets of 7 points)

*EEl: Inferior extremities.

Note: *“The development of Championships is practically just beginning, we know that changes may come in the future, to increase the number of players or for other reasons, this is why we are always observing the results to provide the best for the players and make the championships as fair as possible, where each player feels an important part and has the opportunity to compete on equal terms”*

6. Rules and game adaptations by categories

Adaptive Tennis in Standing Position will be played using the following rules based on the functional classification.

A1 Category:

It will be played with the same rules as the traditional tennis, to the best of three sets (depend of the format of the tournaments)

A Category:

It will be played with the same rules as the traditional tennis, only that to the best of one or three sets. For these categories all the sets will have tie break to seven points, if they tie to 6 games. The rules can vary if it is a championship final.(Also depend of the tournament)

B Category:

The balls that will be used will be orange of low pressure, 50% less than regular balls, making the game easier for players from this category; the ball will have a size of 6 – 6,858 centimeters and a weight of 36 to 46 grams.

The original court will be reduced in size with a length of 60 feet x 21 feet in width.

C Category:

The balls that will be used will be red of low pressure, 75% less than regular balls, making the game much easier for players from this category due to their functional mobility, the ball will have a size of 6,90 – 8.00 centimeters and a weight of 32 - 42 grams. The original court will be reduced in size with a length of 36 feet x 18 feet in width.

7. Players game adaptations

The rules are almost the same than for conventional tennis in some categories, only with some of the following details.

8. Disability case and player in competence

- It will be allowed in all categories to do the service with one hand, if they are not able to do it in the conventional way, throwing the ball with the hand or with the racquet.

- **This is the only adaptation rule that the A1 Category has.**

- It will be permitted to use any apparatus such as crutch, orthotic or another that the player needs for their movements.

- Any of these apparatus will be considered as a part of the body, so it is established that all the rules that apply to a conventional tennis player apply to the apparatus

9. The service

The service will be performed in the following way for each category.

1). The player must be with the feet and apparatus behind the base line allowing them to move without crossing it before performing it.

2). In **B, A and A1** categories the service will not have changes when performing it, it will be the same as conventional tennis with the exception of:

2.1) The player throws the ball with one hand or puts it in the racquet when throwing it.

2.2) In A and B category: The player that has an amputation in both arms and cannot serve in the conventional way, will serve leaving the ball bounce a couple of times out of the court and then hitting it to perform the serve.

3). In C Category the player will serve from below letting first the ball to bounce once out of the court and then hitting the ball with forehand or backhand to serve.

10. Racquet adaptations

The racquets will have the rules of use of conventional tennis, there could be some adaptations as adding devices so they can have better mobility but only on persons with congenital malformation or amputations in the arm that is used for the racquet, also racquets with 3 centimeters more in length can be fabricated for categories C, B and A.

11. Balls and court dimensions

Player in categories B and C will play with different balls that have lower pressure than regular balls and also the dimensions of the court will be reduce. **See Rules and game adaptations per categories (ITEM 19)**

12. Playing with conventional or wheelchair tennis players

The Adaptive Tennis in Standing Position player follows the same rules that are established for its mobility as the same as conventional or wheelchair tennis players follow theirs, given that they are playing against or in couples in this modalities.

13. TAP World Tour Player Profile in competition

The following points are considered to classify each player.

- The player must have only a physical disability to be able to compete, with special attention when this disability y very low and does not affect in any way his playing, (making it possible to be classifiable)
- The player is classified for 4 categories depending on the functional mobility.

VI. Championship Regulations of the worldwide Circuit TAP WORLD TOUR.

14. Rules to follow the regulations.

Everything related to the worldwide TAP WORLD TOUR Circuit as competitions will be definitely mandatory and the organization and TAP circuit will be in charge of fulfilling them.

In the case of a request out of time of any event, the organization board will analyze it and will ask all the requirements that the event involves to give an answer.

15. Emergency case (Cancellation)

If by any reason an event or activity is cancelled, the TAP organization board will analyze the case and will give a solution depending on what they decide.

VII. Championships Organizations

The TAP organization will catalogue the different championships though Adaptive Tennis in Standing Position directors, members or coordinators determined by the organization, and by the players of these modality.

For the championship organization the following points will be considered:

- Assistance table
- Meals
- First Aid
- Match Schedule
- Accrediation

16. Registration deadline

3 weeks before, with the exception, after the deadline, of invited players with a Wild card.

17. Length of the tournament

The length of the tournament will depend on the number of players, to be considered a major (the 8 more important championships) they will have to last at least two days or more, the same as the final master of the TAP tour.

18. Championship organizers and directors rules

The organizers and directors of the tournament will supervise so this is developed according to the established standards, always previously informing the organization of the planning of this event, in the case the TAP organization directors assist, meetings will be held to promote the development of this modality

19. Training courts

There will be one or more training courts for every 32 participants for them to practice.

The courts must all be in perfect conditions to be used in the championship before the match begins, as well when a match finishes and the players are prepared to play the next one.

20. Arbitration

In the championships all the matches must have an umpire that understands tennis rules.

21. Awards in trophies

All of the championships must have awards in trophies for each category.

22. Financial awards

The 4 most important championships (majors) beginning 2019 or after could have awards in money for the first players of each category, being that in the future the money awards will increase considerably.

23. Championship information

All the championship information must be coordinated before it is carried out with the organization officers and the Circuit TAP World Tour TAP, once it has finished a report must be sent with the details of the championship to the following mail Eajtenis@hotmail.com , contacto@fundaciontap.com or contact@tapworldtour.com

24. Basic rules player

All activities, events and championships will be based in the basic rules of the ITF Tennis and the TAP rules – Adaptive Tennis in Standing Position for its performance in the TAP World Tour, it will be mandatory that each player is informed and have the rules clear for the competition.

25. TAP player number

Beginning the following years each player will have an identification number and must register to play in the Circuit TAP World Tour if he wants to play, paying a membership for the year to participate in them.

26. Wild Card

A special invitation will be given to another person or to the same one, if for one reason a player cannot come after the registration deadline to the championship.

VIII. Game Conditions

27. Warm up

In the competitions the warm up will not be longer than 5 minutes.

28. Continuous game

The rules for this will be based in the 2011 conventional tennis rules, with some exceptions as this one.

It is allowed if a player wants to take a break of 5 minutes every time a set finishes in categories B and C.

If a player of any category due to important reasons, as to need health assistance, physical therapist, doctor, etc. can take 5 minutes

29. Coach advices during the match

It will be strictly prohibited to guide a player talking to him during the match. The coach will be disciplined and expelled from the match if he continues to do so.

30. Balls in game and training

The minimum balls needed for a game or training will be 3.

31. Break

The break between games for Adaptive Tennis in Standing Position will vary according to the format, if it is to three sets they will be:

Extension	Break
Up to 1 hour	30 minutes
Up to 1 hour and a half	1 hour
More than 1 hour and a half	1,5 hour and a half minimum

32. Care of the court

The organizer or referee will be in charge of any imperfection of the court and will have the authority to cancel the match for the benefit of the players.

33. Meteorology and TAP

In extreme weather conditions the umpire, director or organizer will define the decisions that will be taken, in extreme heat conditions they will also decide to give extra time once in the match in between any of the sets, of 12 minutes if only one player wants it in categories C, B and A.

During this time the player can request medical assistance, go to the restrooms, training will not be allowed or conversations with the coach and the extra medical assistance time may not be requested after the 12 minutes have elapsed.

If after the 12 minutes have elapsed the player does not return, the other player will advance to the following round.

In A 1 category no break measures will be taken if there is extreme heat, only match cancellation.

Matches:

- Category A1
- Category A
- Category B
- Category C

If the championship is going to be with Round Robin and a tie is produced, this will follow the rules of conventional tennis format according to the numbers of sets won (Category A 1 and Category A) in the case that this happens again the games won will be looked at for each one and if there is still a tie, a tie break to 10 points will be played, for the case of Category B and C the rule is the same, but considering games and points only.

34. Draw arrangement

In relation with the draw arrangement the most adequate is that there are 8, 16, 32, 64 players because in that way there will be a parity among all, it is very probable that because of the development and this modality being so new the adequate draws maybe will not be fulfilled, But will be the responsibility of the organizer with the TAP organization officers to arrange all the draws and that this does not bother the rest of the players if they are not as how it is mentioned.

35. Seedings

The seeded will be included in the official draw of the championship according to the current ranking that they have.

36. Special guests: (Wild card)

The special guests will be included only by the organizer of the championship together with the TAP organization officers according to the number of players in the draw.

37. Organization mistakes

The mistakes in organization being of any type, will have to be exclusively coordinated with the TAP organization officers so that only they give the authority to solve the situation.

38. Awards

All the championships must have awards such as trophies or others for each category.

39. Financial awards

The 4 most important championships (majors) beginning the 2019 or after will have awards in money for the first players of each category, being that in the future the money awards will increase considerably.

40. Championships scores

There will be 8 TAP Majors Open as minimum which will give the highest scores; this will be of 2000 points for the winner every 4 years. After 2019 this would be change.

All of the other championships will give 1000 points to the winner.

There will also be made championships called TAP MASTER FINAL that will give 1500 points in some years.

IX. Classification to the Final master

Starting the next years as it could be possible for the second TAP Final Master this championship will have two formats described as follows:

- 1). All players can participate including new one in all categories.
- 2). A separate draw will be made, from the 8 best ranked in all categories and it will be played as Round Robin.

It will be arranged as it is done in conventional tennis format, it will be divided in 2 draws of 4 players, from the two best ranked one will be in one draw and the other player will be in the second draw, according to this the rest of the players will be divided in both draws.

X. Rules of the team world cup

This competition will be held the following years, could be in 2020 or 2021, it is completely managed by the TAP organization and World Tour TAP Circuit in coordination with the coordinator of the designated country where it will be held.

The team cup will be organized 1 or 2 times during the period of 4 years and will have seat in a different country each time is done, so there is more variety and all the player can have the opportunity to compete in the first years.

The minimum players per country will be 2 and the maximum will be 4, each team will have a captain and he will have to be a player or the coach, it also could be that the captain is 1 member of the team.

The game format will be to three sets each match, the matches will be by draw among the players of each team, in the following order:

- Individual (Player 1 vs Player 1)
- Individual (Player 2 vs Player 2)
- Doubles (Players 1-2 vs Players 1-2)
- Individual (Player 1 vs Player 2)
- Individual (Player 2 vs Player 1)

No points will be distributed in the World Tour TAP Circuit for each player; only the countries will be recorded that participated for their places. Awards in money will be given for each winning country.

Doubles:

Beginning the following years the doubles circuit will begin in the 4 categories of this modality, with the rules previous stated for each one.

XI. Doubles Categories

A1: (Advanced) It will be played at the best of three sets.

A: It will be played at the best of one set, two sets (if they tie, with tie break of 10 point in the third set) or the best of three sets.

B: It will be played at the best of 1 set, with tie breiak of 7 points (court and ball modification).

C: This category in doubles has ball and court dimension modifications which are detailed as follow:

The balls that will be used will be orange of low pressure, 50% less than regular balls, making the game easier for players from this category, the ball will have a size of 6.000 – 6,858 centimeters and a weight of 36 to 46 grams.

The dimensions of the court in the 4 service rectangles that will measure 6.40 meters in length and 4,115 meters in width. It will be played to the best of 1 set with Tie break of 7 points.

XII. TAP Code of conduct

This point is very important for the players and organizers of the championships or any event, they must obey as an obligation the regulations and rules established by the TAP organization officers.

The codes of conduct will be as in the conventional tennis with some exceptions of the TAP organization.





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