

55 & Over Mixed Doubles 2026 National Invitational March 12-14, 2027, Phoenix, AZ

Officials:

There will be roving Certified Tournament Umpires onsite throughout all match play.

Players are encouraged to play tennis without the need for umpires to be present for matches. In the case of disputed calls and upon the request of the player, a Tournament Referee may be requested to assist players as needed. If players cannot work out a dispute, one of them may come to the tournament desk to request an official. Please note that captains, teammates and bystanders may not be involved with decision making or requesting an official. Spectators have no place in a match.

Directly From Friend at Court:

- Player makes calls on own side of net. A player calls all shots landing on, or aimed at, the player's side of the net.
- Opponent gets benefit of doubt. A player should always give the opponent the benefit of any doubt. When a match is played without officials, the players are responsible for making decisions, particularly for line calls. There is a subtle difference between player decisions and those of an on-court official. An official impartially resolves a problem involving a call, whereas a player is guided by the principle that any doubt must be resolved in favor of an opponent. **A player in attempting to be scrupulously honest on line calls frequently will keep a ball in play that might have been out or that the player discovers too late was out. Even so, the game is much better played this way.**
- Ball touching any part of line is good. If any part of a ball touches a line, the ball is good. A ball 99% out is still 100% good. A player shall not call a ball out unless the player clearly sees space between where the ball hits and a line.
- Ball that cannot be called out is good. Any ball that cannot be called out is considered to be good. A player may not claim a let on the basis of not seeing a ball. One of tennis's more infuriating moments occurs after a long hard rally when a player makes a clean placement, and an opponent says: "I'm not sure if it was good or out. Let's play a let." Remember, it is each player's responsibility to call all balls landing on, or aimed at, the player's side of the net. If a ball cannot be called out with certainty, it is good. When a player says an opponent's shot was really out but offers to replay the point to give the opponent a break, it seems clear that the player actually doubted that the ball was out.

Coaching:

Coaching is NOT permitted; not by captains, teammates, or spectators. Cell phones or electronic devices are not allowed on court. All smart watches must be set to airplane mode. Please work out problems on court as best as you can, exhibiting good sportsmanship and fair judgment. Gather at the net to discuss, instead of shouting from the baselines. It is assumed that you are receiving coaching if you check your phone during a match.