

Men's Players Committee Report

The men's players committee has the objective of improving men's tournament experiences, as well as being a sounding board for men's issues regarding nrts and presidents cup.

- **Major issues:**

2017-18 major issues revolved around backdraws: points and format, as well as default penalties and procedures.

- **Mid-season changes:**

We did not want to make any major changes mid season regarding penalties or formats, so the biggest change we made was for Grand Prix requiring a default to be made "in person" to Shannon.

The rankings committee also chose to change the points format for nationals, which I've only heard positive reviews about. I would like to have a closer relationship between players committee and rankings committee for the immediate future, like the women's committees have.

A survey was given out to all nrt players regarding many issues, and the players committee met to discuss post-season changes...

- **Post-season players committee recommendations:**

After studying the players survey results and voting on changes, we came up with the following recommendations

All nrts should have a backdraw feed in:

Feed in for 5th if the amount of teams is 48 or less

Feed in for 9th if the amount of teams is more than 49 or more

The above **is pending a discussion with the rankings committee** to make backdraws have more points and less differentials between places. Feeding in adds one more match to the back draw, but makes back draws more enticing for teams that feel they should've went further in the main draw or received an unlucky draw. We believe this will encourage more teams not to default, having the opportunity to finish 5th/9th. Since this will be one extra match for backdraw players, we also believe...

All backdraws third set should be a 10 point super tiebreaker. This will allow backdraws to finish on time as well as make backdraws less daunting to finish since most backdraw schedules are very cramped.

Our objective was to reduce defaults by making backdraws more enticing, however the committee still feels that all **backdraw matches should be mandatory**, for

fairness and so players who are traveling are getting as many matches as they can. We believe a fair penalty for finishing a previous match and not starting your next match aka “defaulting” or “forfeiting” is that you **forfeit all of your points for that current tournament**. It will count as a zero and a tournament played. This includes qtr reprieves. We are no longer having any “ban” from the tournament for defaulting purposes, and any players who are currently banned for defaulting will have their ban removed. If a player gets “injured”, they should not be finishing their match. Finishing a match in our opinion means you are fit to play your next match. Stopping a match due to injury will not be considered a default.

The players committee heard some issues from nationals (and other nrts) about communication to players. The major issues were that **players felt uninformed towards rule changes** and players felt that when a match is not going to start on time that the **system for notifications of changes to court/time needs to be improved**. The players committee is recommending that for a tournament to be considered an nrt there MUST be live scoring, and we were hoping it would be possible to timestamp the results so players can know when the match ended and when they should expect their opponents. With regards to rule changes, a more aggressive approach is necessary, maybe having a section in “hot off the wires” for rules changes, or direct emails to players simply stating a rules change.

Next is more of a rules committee issue but there seems to be no written rule about **coaching during matches**. The players committee recommends that coaching be allowed **only between sets**, as long as the sets start on time.

- **Goals for next season**

We hope that our recommendations will be considered and the changes will be made for next season. We plan on re-evaluating these changes midway through the year.

We are constantly striving to improve player’s tournament experiences, and hope to develop a closer relationship with all nrt players as their sounding board.