

Rules Chair Report 2017-2018 Season

This past season has been challenging with the ongoing discussions of paddle color and what shade of green and yellow should not be approved/allowed for the paddle face color due to inability to see the ball come off the paddle clearly.

Our original rule was:

1. As of January 15, 2017, no paddle racquet face can have yellow or green graphics similar to the ball color in any condition, (with or without flocking), that exceeds 20% of the total surface area and may not be in one block area, most importantly not the center.
2. Paddles with more than 20% of the referenced yellow or green color manufactured prior to January 15, 2017 (which include Viking Reignite Lite, Reignite Prodigy, Ozone Lite, Ozone Pro; Wilson Lite Stick and Blade Lite) are permitted to be used until April 30, 2020. After this date these paddles may no longer be used in APTA sanctioned events.
3. Manufacturers must receive approval from the APTA, if they are considering yellow or green graphics, or any color similar to the ball.
4. If manufacturers produce a paddle that exceeds the 20% limit or block area, and does not get prior approval, the APTA will ban the paddle for use in APTA sanctioned events.

Proposed wording.

As of January 1, 2018, green or yellow on the face of the paddle, that is the color of the paddle ball in any condition, is prohibited. A green or yellow, on the face of the paddle, that is not the color of the ball in any condition, will need approval from the APTA before production. Any accent color, that is similar to the ball in any condition, shall be kept at a minimum and shall receive prior APTA approval. However, [paddles manufactured prior to December 31, 2017, or paddles which have had their design approved by the APTA by that date are](#) (“grandfathered”) allowed and exempt from this new rule; however, no paddles manufactured after that date with green or yellow on the face will be allowed to be used in any APTA sanctioned events.

With much thought, I and my committee felt the parameters were too far reaching and too complex. We decided on the below ruling.

New and final Approved Rule by Rules Committee in December 2017

1. As of April 30, 2020, no paddle racquet face can have yellow or green graphics similar to the ball color in any condition, (with or without flocking), that exceeds 20% of the total surface area and may not be in one block area, most importantly not the center.
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Approved Paddles and Balls:

Baseline Racquet Sports –

1. Platform Ball
2. X-Factor Power Play Platform Tennis Paddle Racquet
3. X-Factor Pro Tour Edition Platform Tennis Paddle Racquet

Master Paddle –

- 1.M1
- 2.M1 Tour Edition
- 3.M1 Woody
- 4.M1 Tour Edition Pink
- 5.S1
- 6.S1 Tour Edition
- 7.S1 Tour Edition Pink
- 8.M2
- 9.S2 - paddle was approved during the 2017/2018 season but not produced.

Viking Paddle –

1. Ozone Pro
2. Ozone Lite

Wilson –

1. Blade Pro
2. Ultra Lite (white/pink and black/blue)
3. Steam Smart

4. Blade Smart
5. Blade Lite

Engage Sporting –

1. Paddle Racquet – Encore Lite

Paddle Player

1. Blue paddle (no name)
2. Orange paddle (no name)

Please discuss a proposed ruling on the following. If a ball bounces inbounds then goes through a snowboard, outside of the court, deeming the point unplayable, should a let be called?

Thank you,

Lisa Rudloff