

DATE: October 1, 2022

TO: Tennis Ball Industry

FROM: Ryan Ferrera

CC: Suresh Ponnusamy

SUBJECT: 2023 USTA Tennis Ball Testing

The 2023 USTA tennis ball testing program is planning to begin on ~November 1, 2022.

The standard ball testing fee will remain at \$1,900, while the transition (Stage 1,2,3) ball testing will remain at \$800 for 2023. We are working very hard to assure that the testing fees remain reasonable and allow for the marketplace to stay competitive.

The USTA “Approved by Logo” mark can be used on your packaging and promotional materials.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions as it relates to the ball testing program.

Ryan Ferrera
718-760-6392
ferrera@usta.com

We look forward to working with you throughout the testing process and welcome any questions or comments you may have. Thank you for your participation and cooperation.

2023 Guidelines to apply for USTA Tennis Ball Approval

Tennis ball manufacturers applying for 2023 USTA Tennis Ball Approval, must adhere to the following application procedure:

•APPLICATION FORM

- A. Each ball type must be submitted on a separate 2023 ball testing application form.
- A. You must use the current 2023 application form for all submissions.
- B. The ball brand and production country should be listed on the application form in the exact manner you wish the brand to appear in publication.
- C. If the same brand is manufactured at multiple locations, each location must be listed on a separate application.

- D. Each approved ball will have an approval listing detailing the manufacture, brand, color (where applicable), production location and ball type.
- E. No testing will be performed without a fully completed application form and the full paid testing fee.

II. TESTING FEE

- A. The testing fee is \$1,900 for standard ball types for each color, for each brand, and for each manufacturing location, in each country.
- A. The testing fee is \$800 for transition ball types for each color, for each brand, and for each manufacturing location, in each country.
- B. Electronic bank transfers are preferred and acceptable if the transfer fees are included and you notify the USTA prior to transferring. A check in U.S. dollars or a U.S. money postal order (no cash) can accompany the USTA application(s) for testing of tennis balls. **Checks are made payable to the USTA, C/O Ryan Ferrera, 124-02 Roosevelt Avenue Flushing NY 11368.** If you require an account number, please contact the USTA, Jason Allen at Jason.allen@usta.com.
- C. No testing will be performed without receipt of testing fee, application form, and manufacturer signed criteria and test sample.
- D. **Wire Transfer Details:**
 - JPMorgan Chase Bank
 - New York, NY 10017
 - ABA # 021 000 021
 - Acct# 612070026
 - Swift Code: CHASUS33

III. TEST SAMPLE

- A. **Standard Tennis Balls:** Sample size – four (4) dozen tennis balls for standard ball types are required for each brand, for each color, for each manufacturing location, and for each country. These balls will be used for approval testing as well as other studies conducted by the USTA.
- A. **Transition Tennis Balls:** Sample size – two (2) dozen tennis balls for transition ball types are required for each brand, for each color, for each manufacturing location, and for each country. These balls will be used for approval testing as well as other studies conducted by the USTA.
- B. All tennis ball test samples provided become the property of the USTA.

IV. SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

A. State on the application form the following: method of shipment, number of packages shipped, date of shipment, and bill of lading number (if required).

A. ALL postage, shipping, brokers, and customer charges MUST be prepaid or package will be refused.

B. Please ship all tennis balls with signed application form to:

**United States Tennis Association
Ryan Ferrera / Suresh Ponnusamy
Attn: Tennis Ball Testing Lab
Arthur Ashe Stadium - 124-02 Roosevelt Avenue
Flushing NY 11368**

V. SUBMISSION TIMELINE

Tennis ball samples for 2023 testing will be accepted beginning on ~October 2022.

VI. TESTING PROCEDURES

All testing is performed in accordance with Rules of Tennis - Appendix I, of the 2022 ITF Rules of Tennis (see below).

VII. RESULTS OF TESTING

A. The ball type submitted will be tested and approved as conforming to the specifications outlined in Appendix I of the Rules of Tennis as issued by the ITF (see attached). Test results will be sent to the manufacturer within 60 days of a completed test.

B. All test results are stated in terms of **PASS/FAIL**, and specific measurements will be released on ball size, weight, rebound, durability and forward and reverse deformation.

VIII. RE-TESTING

A. Only **one** resubmission for re-testing will be offered in any one approval year.

A. The resubmission must be within 60 days of the date of the letter of notification that the original test failed.

B. All re-testing will be considered a **NEW** request for testing. It will be subject to the same fee schedule of \$1,900 (standard) and \$800 (transition), for each brand, for each manufacturing location, for each country, accompanied by a four (4) dozen sample or a two (2) dozen sample.

IX. APPROVALS

The 2023 USTA tennis ball approvals are for that calendar year and are automatically withdrawn on **December 31, 2023**. Approvals can be withdrawn during the calendar

year if the ball fails to meet ITF specification and/or USTA specifications during off-the-shelf testing.

X. CORRECT LABELING

Any use of the logo must be pre-approved by the USTA. Prior to reproducing the USTA logo in any format please submit the proposed can design and any POP materials electronically to the USTA at: ferrera@usta.com

We would appreciate your agreement and cooperation by distributing copies of this letter throughout your organization to anyone who has any responsibility as to labeling tennis balls.

Thank you in advance.

XI. USTA CONTACT

If you have any questions, please contact Ryan Ferrera 718-760-6392 or ferrera@usta.com.

THE RULES OF TENNIS – Rule 3 and APPENDIX I – THE BALL
Effective from 1 January 2022
Courtesy ITF

For all measurements in Appendix I, SI units shall take precedence.

- a. The ball shall have a uniform outer surface consisting of a fabric cover except for the Stage 3 (Red) foam ball. If there are any seams they shall be stitchless.
- b. The ball shall conform to one of the types specified in the table immediately below or in the table in paragraph (d).

TABLE 1: TENNIS BALL SPECIFICATION

	TYPE 1 (FAST)	TYPE 2 (MEDIUM)¹	TYPE 3 (SLOW)²	HIGH ALTITUDE³
WEIGHT (MASS)	1.975-2.095 ounces (56.0-59.4 grams)	1.975-2.095 ounces (56.0-59.4 grams)	1.975-2.095 ounces (56.0-59.4 grams)	1.975-2.095 ounces (56.0-59.4 grams)
SIZE	2.57-2.700 inches (6.54-6.86 cm)	2.57-2.700 inches (6.54-6.86 cm)	2.76-2.87 inches (7.00-7.30 cm)	2.57-2.700 inches (6.54-6.86 cm)
REBOUND	54-59 inches (138-151 cm)	53-58 inches (135-147 cm)	53-58 inches (135-147 cm)	48-53 inches (122-135 cm)

FORWARD DEFORMATION¹	0.22-0.291 inches (0.56-0.74 cm)	0.220-0.291 inches (0.56-0.74 cm)	0.220-0.291 inches (0.56-0.74 cm)	0.220-0.291 inches (0.56-0.74 cm)
RETURN DEFORMATION¹	0.291-0.425 inches (0.74-1.08 cm)	0.315-0.425 inches (0.800-1.080 cm)	0.315-0.425 inches (0.800-1.080 cm)	0.315-0.425 inches (0.800-1.080 cm)
Color	White or yellow	White or yellow	White or yellow	White or yellow

Notes:

¹ This ball may be pressurised or pressureless. The pressure less ball shall have an internal pressure that is no greater than 1 psi (7 kPa) and may be used for high altitude play above 4,000 feet (1,219 m) above sea level and shall have been acclimatised for 60 days or more at the altitude of the specific tournament.

² This ball is also recommended for high altitude play on any court surface type above 4,000 feet (1,219 m) above sea level.

³ This ball is pressurised and is specified for high altitude play above 4,000 feet (1,219 m) above sea level only.

⁴ The deformation shall be the average of a single reading along each of three perpendicular axes. No two individual readings shall differ by more than .031 inches (.08 cm).

c. In addition, all ball types specified under paragraph (b) shall conform to the requirements for durability as shown in the following table:

TABLE 2: TENNIS BALL DURABILITY SPECIFICATIONS

	WEIGHT(MASS)	REBOUND	FORWARD DEFORMATION	RETRUN DEFORMATION
MAXIMUM CHANGE ¹	0.014 ounces (0.4 grams)	1.6 inches (4.0 cm)	0.031 inches (0.08 cm)	0.039 inches (0.10 cm)

Notes:

¹ The largest permissible change in the specified properties resulting from the durability test described in the current edition of *ITF Approved Tennis Balls, Classified Surfaces & Recognised Courts*. The durability test uses laboratory equipment to simulate the effects of nine games of play.

d. Only the ball types specified in the table below can be used in 10 and under tennis competition.

**SPECIFICATIONS FOR STAGE 3 (RED), STAGE 2 (ORANGE),
STAGE 1 (GREEN) INTRODUCTORY TENNIS BALLS**

Courtesy ITF

	Stage 3 (Red - foam)	Stage 3 (Red - standard)	Stage 2 (Orange)	Stage 1 (Green)
WEIGHT (MASS)	0.882-1.517 ounces (25.0-43.0 grams)	1.270-1.728 ounces (36.0-49.0 grams)	1.270-1.654 ounces (36.0-46.9 grams)	1.658-1.817 ounces (47.0-51.5 grams)
SIZE	3.15-3.54 inches (8.00-9.00 cm)	2.76-3.15 inches (7.00-8.00 cm)	2.36-2.70 inches (6.00-6.86 cm)	2.48-2.70 inches (6.30-6.86 cm)
REBOUND HEIGHT	33-41 inches (85-105 cm)	35-41 inches (90-105 cm)	41-47 inches (105-120 cm)	47-53 inches (120-135 cm)
FORWARD DEFORMATION¹	--	--	0.551-0.650 inches (1.40-1.65 cm)	0.315-0.413 inches (0.800-1.050 cm)
Color²	Any	Red and yellow, or yellow with a red dot	Orange and yellow, or yellow with an orange dot	Yellow with a green dot

¹The deformation shall be the average of a single reading along with each of three perpendicular axes. There is no limit on the difference between individual forward deformation readings. There is no specification for return deformation.

²All colored dots shall be reasonable in size and placement

e. All tests for rebound, mass, size and deformation shall be made in accordance with the regulations described in the current edition of *ITF Approved Tennis Balls, Classified Surfaces & Recognised Courts*.

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