

## USATT Rules Committee Memorandum - Broken Balls

December 13, 2016

Dear Players, Coaches and Officials,

The rules committee has observed that interpretation of the rules has varied widely regarding the handling of a broken ball in the middle of play. The committee has agreed on the following non-binding guidance:

1. The principal determination that must be made is: When did the ball break? If the ball broke after the rally was over, the point stands.
2. If the ball broke during the rally, then:
  - a. In most cases, a let should be called, because a broken ball often affects play.
  - b. In some cases, the fact that the ball broke did not affect the outcome of the rally, and in those cases the point stands. For example, if a player hit the ball with the edge of her racket, causing the ball to break and the ball to fly high up and backwards, it is likely that the player would have lost the point regardless of whether the ball was broken by the edge of the racket. In that case, her opponent should win the point.

The relevant rule is:

**2.9.2.4 (Play may be interrupted) because the conditions of play are disturbed in a way which could affect the outcome of the rally.**

Kagin Lee, Chair, USATT Rules Committee