

Technical Directive

For selection of balls used within a match

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Description of the problem:

The shape, material composition and inflation pressure of the ball, as well as personal preference, all play a crucial role in the success of the shot. The choice of balls on extreme ends of the spectrum may be unfair to an opponent who is unaware of the use of such a ball, or who may not have experience of playing with such a ball. Its use may result in an unfair competitive advantage and is therefore contrary to the principles of fair sporting competition.

Official specification:

Players should always try to find a common ground when choosing balls. Here we recommend the use of balls outside the extremes and once again appeal to fairness.

All balls should be of the same make and model throughout a match and the tournament as a whole. Players must use the balls provided and approved by the tournament and should not use their own personal balls unless otherwise approved. Before the start of each match, the teams should select balls to use, removing balls that are not mutually agreed on. If the teams cannot agree on the use or exclusion of certain balls, the tournament director/committee or observers will make the final decision.


If a new ball is introduced into the match midgame, as is common at roundnet events, any player can ask to inspect the new ball before the start of the point and, if necessary, discuss excluding it from play. Again, if this cannot be agreed upon by the teams then the tournament director/committee or observers will have the final say. Additionally, if a ball that has been approved by teams prior to the start of play is altered or adjusted in any way, players have the right to review the ball before it is again put into play.

We assume that balls within the normal range of experience will not give any player an unfair advantage or disadvantage.

This technical guideline applies to all IRF events. It is recommended that it be adopted at national and continental level.

Approved by the IRF board on June 23, 2023.

Jack Scotti



President, IRF