



PROHIBITED SERVICE RETURN ZONE ('NO-BLOCK ZONE') implemented for 2019

ITF Beach Tennis

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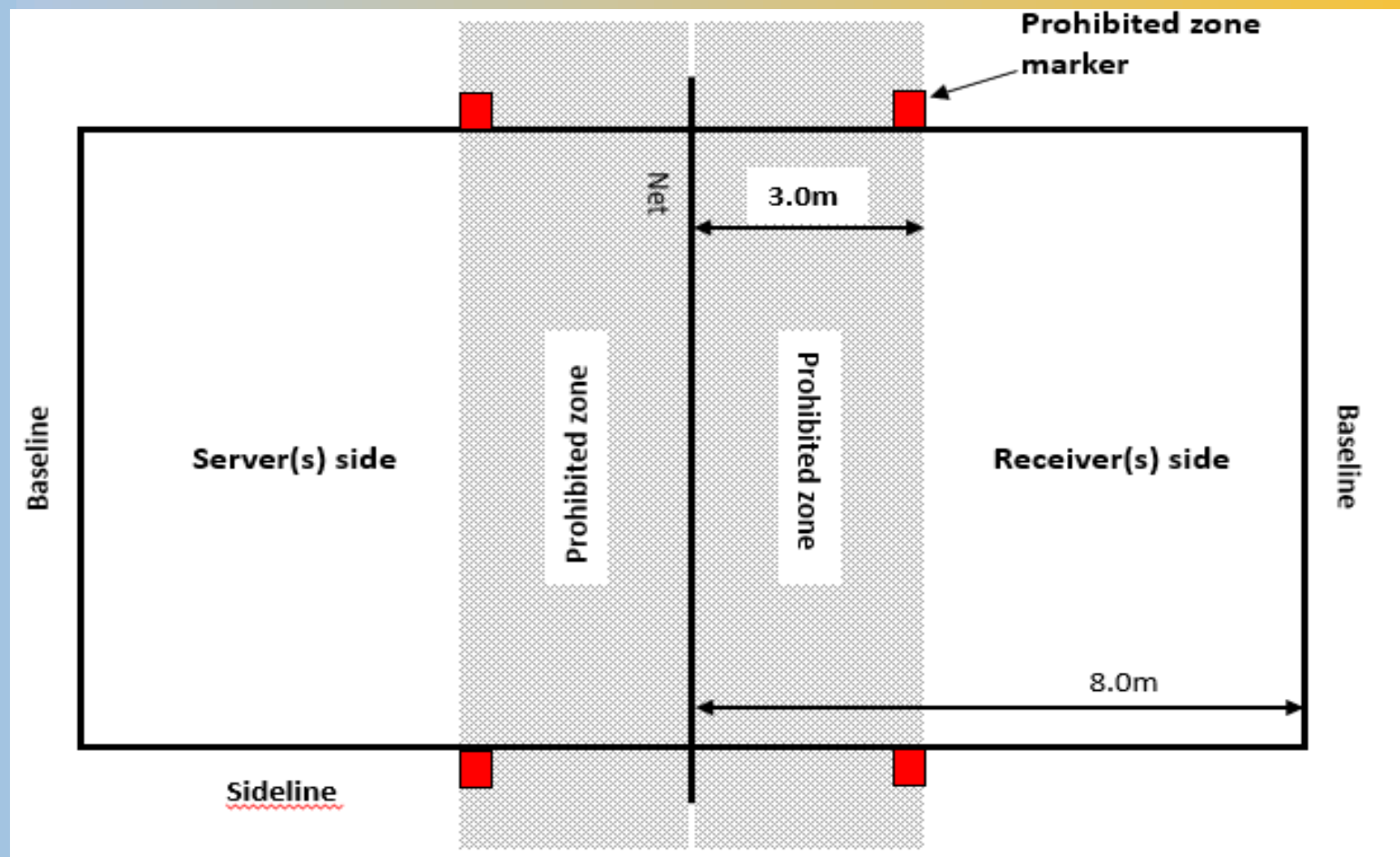
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OVERVIEW

The ITF has implemented the no-block zone as a mandatory rule for all ITF Beach Tennis events in 2019.

The no-block zone is the 3 meter prohibited area either side of the net. It is marked by an imaginary line parallel to the net which extends indefinitely beyond the side-lines





WHY HAS THE PROHIBITED SERVICE RETURN ZONE BEEN IMPLEMENTED?

- The prohibited 3 meter area prevents players of the receiving team from standing close to the net to block the serve, a technique which is often used on court.
- The restriction of the immediate block following a serve allows for longer rallies to take place.
- The ITF introduced a trial period of the no-block zone between July and December 2018 and the feedback received from players, Tournament Organisers and Referees was very positive.
- ITF Beach Tennis believes that the implementation of the rule will improve the standard of play both on-court and as well as increasing the sport's TV and Streaming appeal.

MARKING THE PROHIBITED SERVICE RETURN ZONE

The 3 meter zone can be marked either with tape on the court lines, or with soft cones placed just outside of the side lines (see photo below).



Photo Credit: TSA

FIVE FACT SUMMARY

1

The Prohibited Service Return Zone is a 3 meter prohibited area either side of the net, marked clearly by tape on the side-lines or soft cones placed just outside of the court.

2

The prohibited area reduces the chances of blocks immediately following a serve, allowing for longer rallies and improving the general flow of the game.

3

No player of either the serving or receiving team should physically touch any part of the court within the prohibited zone until the ball is in play.

4

No additional lines or markers should be placed within the court area.

5

The Prohibited Service Return Zone should be implemented at all ITF Beach Tennis Tour tournaments.

