



2022 WTA TOILET BREAK / CHANGE OF ATTIRE RULE – Procedure

- **Authorized Breaks:**
 - 1 per player in singles
 - 2 per team in Doubles (partners leaving the court together counts as one)
- **Authorized TOILET BREAK allowed only at set break or before own serve**
 - 3 minutes from the time entering the toilet facility to the time exiting the facility
- **Authorized CHANGE OF ATTIRE ONLY or CHANGE OF ATTIRE + TB allowed only at set break**
 - 5 minutes from the time entering the toilet/changing facility to the time exiting the facility
- Walking from court to toilet/changing facility and back is not timed, and reasonable time is allowed.

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- **Authorized Breaks:**
 - 1 per player in Singles
 - 1 per team in Doubles (partners leaving the court together counts as one)
- **Authorized TOILET BREAK allowed only at set break**
 - 3 minutes from the time entering the toilet facility to the time exiting the facility
- **Authorized CHANGE OF ATTIRE may only be taken in conjunction with a Toilet Break at a set break unless provisions of “equipment out of adjustment” take precedent.**
 - Players will only be allowed to leave the court on a set break to change wet shorts/underwear.
 - Shirts, socks, and shoes must be changed on court.
 - A maximum of two minutes from the time the player enters the off court changing area/toilet will be allowed in addition to the 3 minutes per Toilet Break (to a **maximum of 5 minutes in total**) from the time entering the toilet/changing facility to the time exiting the facility.
- Walking from court to toilet/changing facility and back is not timed, and reasonable time is allowed.

Authorized Breaks On-court Procedure:

- The Chair Umpire and the Line Umpire accompanying the player, will communicate via walkie talkie, which the LU will pick up from the CU before leaving the court with the player.
The Chair Umpire oversees the timing of the break, the LU will inform the CU when to start the clock (when player is entering toilet/changing facility). The LU will confirm the time remaining to the player, as announced on the walkie by the CU.
 - Chair Umpire starts the time and will count down 2 min/1 min/30 seconds remaining on the walkie.
 - Line Umpire will inform the Chair Umpire when the player is leaving the toilet/changing area.
 - If a player is exceeding the allowed time (3 or 5min) in the toilet/changing facility, the Chair Umpire will communicate the time via walkie to the LU.
 - The LU needs to make sure that the Player is aware of having exceeded the allowed time by stating to the Player “The allowed time is over”
 - During the delay, the Chair Umpire will inform the opponent and announce to the crowd:
 - “Due to the Player’s delay during the authorized break, she/he will be penalized with time violations once she will return to the court”.
 - The Chair Umpire should announce the time violations and new score (if applicable) once player is back on court.
 - When player is coming back late to the court, the CU will inform the player of the penalties given and the new score (if applicable).
 - Delays will be penalized with back-to-back time violations, regardless of the player being the server or receiver:
 - Warning or Point* (30 sec), Point (25 sec), Point (25 sec), Point (25 sec)
- * If the player has received time violation(s) previously in the match, the first violation will result in a point penalty.

Additional Breaks:A player leaving the court for an Additional Break (i.e., a break taken either (a) after having already taken an Authorized Break, (b) not on a set break, or (c) not before a player’s own serve – **WTA provision only**) will also be penalized with back-to-back-to back time violations until she/he returns to the court. If not leaving on a changeover, the first violation occurs after 25 sec. The time keeps running, it does not start once the player leaves the court.

Notes

- Spending time in the facility to wash hands, adjust hair, etc. should be counted within the 3/5 min.
- If there was a clear abuse of the Authorized Break (e.g., time was spent doing other things or not using the toilet during a TB break), the LU should report to the CU who may assess a Code of Conduct Violation (Delay of Game or Unsportsmanlike Conduct).
- If when the LU arrives with the player at the toilet/changing facility and it is busy, the clock does not start until player can actually enter the facility.
- Time should start as soon as player enters the toilet/changing facility.
- Match is paused and not suspended during a TB and/or change of attire.

Updated January 7th, 2022

- **If a player request a Toilet break During / After the warm-up:** will count as the one Authorized Break, with the associated 3 min limit ;
- **If a player request a Toilet Break or Change of attire , the penalty time will start immediately after the max allowed time has elapsed.**

When the player walks back on court will get 30s to resume play once the umpire calls "time".

Scenario 1

Clock Starts for 3min > 2 min remaining > 1 min remaining > 30s remaining > 0s - Line Umpire says "The allowed time is over" > after 30s, if player still in toilet, issue TV > clock keeps running until the player starts walking back > [clock suspended when player walks back] > player enters the court, clock restarts with potential additional TV until he/she is ready to serve or receive

Scenario 2

Clock Starts for 3min > 2 min remaining > 1 min remaining > 30s remaining > 0s - Line Umpire says "The allowed time is over" > after 10s, player ready to walk back > [clock suspended when player walks back] > player enters the court, clock restarts, player has 20s to be ready to serve or receive > after 20s has elapsed, if not ready, issue TVs until he/she is ready to serve or receive.

- **Player goes to toilet on set break. Arrives in 30 seconds. Do we start 3 minutes straight away or wait for set break time to be expired?** The 3 or 5 min should start straight away, this would allow to treat all players the same, irrespective of the distance to the bathroom / changing facility.
- Regardless the time spent in the toilet if for other reasons when back on court, the play is still waiting to resume play a penalization should not be given (opponent not on court, watering, etc).
- **In a Double match, both players of same team take a toilet break:** since we are penalizing the team with TV's if late, the clock should keep running until the 2nd player of the team walks back to the court and is ready to serve/receive (that's if they are not walking back together) ; a Time Violation is asses to the team.
- **When leaving the court for a Change of Attire Break, the player is allowed to take his/her clothes and whatever else needed in a bag. Can the player bring the bag to the stall?** : A player can bring only the clothes and not the bag inside the stall.