

Grand Slam rule changes explained

Tennis authorities are introducing a number of significant rule changes to Grand Slam tournaments in an effort to increase the speed and integrity of the game and appeal to a younger audience



*Shot clock trialed
at 2017 U.S. Open
qualifying round*

SERVE / SHOT CLOCK*

▶ Counts down in between points to ensure players serve within 25 seconds. Umpire chooses when to start timer. **Warning issued for first violation, then fault (server) or point penalty (receiver) for further violations**

PRE-MATCH ROUTINE

▶ Strict timetable enforced, requiring players to be ready for coin-toss within one minute of walking on court. Warm-up restricted to five minutes, then match starts one minute later. **Violation of timing may subject player to fine of up to \$20,000**

FIRST-ROUND RETIREMENT

▶ Any main draw singles player who retires or performs below professional standards may be fined – **up to total amount of first-round prize money**

WITHDRAWAL

▶ Any main draw singles player who is unfit to play and who withdraws on-site after 12 noon on Thursday before start of main draw will receive 50 percent of first-round prize money. **Replacement “lucky loser” gets remaining 50 percent**

SEEDED PLAYERS

▶ 2018 majors will retain 32-seed format that came into effect in 2001. **Grand Slams intend to revert to 16 seeds in 2019**

*Will be used in Australian Open qualifying round, and may be introduced in main draw. Other three slams will allow 25 seconds but are not currently scheduled to have shot clocks