

**ITTF Rubber decision from 2008 WTTC Ghangzhou  
(Ron Keyhoe ITTF Equipment Committee)**

**ITTF Rule 2.4.3.1 (Also read 2.4.3 and 2.4.3.2)**

“Ordinary pimped rubber is a single layer of non-cellular rubber, natural or synthetic, with pimples evenly distributed over its surface at a density of not less than 10 per cm<sup>2</sup> and not more than 30 per cm<sup>2</sup>.

**AGM Decision on Rule 2.4.3.1**

**Explanation: The racket covering should be used as it has been authorised without any physical, chemical or other treatment (except normal wear) – changing or modifying playing properties, friction, outlook, colour structure, surface etc.**

**NB. 90% of all the Delegates at the ITTF AGM voted in favour of this explanation.**

ITTF Racket Control Actions –

1. From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008, all ‘treated’ pimped rubbers will be deleted from the ITTF Authorised Racket Coverings List. The brands likely to be removed are indicated on the ITTF Authorised Racket Coverings List dated 1 October 2007 – 31 March 2008.
2. In all ITTF International competitions, from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008, rackets will be randomly tested using the ‘ENEZ’ machine to ensure that rackets are VOC (Volatile Organic Compound) FREE. All substances (including glues, cleaners etc) as per Explanation above, will need to be VOC FREE.
3. The Equipment Committee have decided that 4.00mm thickness of rubber and sponge will continue to be enforced. ITTF Rule 2.4.3 Thickness and flatness problems caused by ‘boosters’ will almost certainly result in the failure of the racket being tested.

NB. As from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008, in all ITTF International Junior competitions, all rackets must be VOC FREE.

**Umpires and Racket Control Personnel who detect suspect rackets will refer the rackets to the Referee, who is responsible for all decisions relating to playing equipment. (Rule 3.3.1.2.10)**

The generally accepted procedures are that any player, who is discovered to have an illegal racket PRIOR to his/her match, will be requested to change their racket.

Any player who is discovered to have had an illegal racket during their previous match, is most likely to have their match awarded to the opposition player or pair, **AND** may be disqualified by the Referee for any or all of the remainder of the tournament. A report to the player’s association/club should follow after any action by the Referee.

**Footnote:**

**Most of the present day glues, cleaners etc. contain VOCs, and will be likely to cause racket failure at any event where the ‘ENEZ’ machine is used for racket control.**

**Each country will make their own decision at their national level in regard to these matters.**

**Each country may commence their actions at a date later than 1st September 2008.**

