



October 15, 2020

The Umpires and Referees Committee (URC) wishes to call your attention to the ITTF/USATT service rules, particularly "hidden serves." The rule's intent is to place responsibility for compliance on the server.

"Legal" serves are good sportsmanship and give everyone a fair and level game.

Below is a link to the short ITTF training video which explains and demonstrates the hidden service rule in detail.

<https://youtu.be/v08Qob3bc-U> - Illegal Service

The video is on the long side but it gives the perspective of what we, as umpires, are looking for when players are serving. There will be a learning curve on this until everyone is up to speed on this matter. We are looking for consistency from all officials when making the calls.

You may like to review the ITTF Handbook, Chapter 2, starting on page 36, where it explains the service. You may also review the ITTF Handbook for Match Officials, starting on page 14 – 15. Below is the link to the ITTF webpage to get the above listed references:

<https://www.ittf.com/committees/umpires-referees/documents/>

It is not the responsibility of officials to teach the players the procedures as to a correct serve. It is up to your coaches and others that may be helping you in your development as a player. We are there to enforce the laws of tables tennis as consistently as possible.

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Chair, USATT URC