Seminar for Umpires

Checks of equipment and clothing Service
Equipment and clothing

• Before a match the umpire has a huge job; anything he/she will not check at that moment may put him, the colleagues or the tournament into trouble; anything wrong he/she finds out but does not act in order to correct it, may do the same harm!

• As he/she is the official “at table, or in call area”, the umpire has a high responsibility!
Clothing

Call area - Playing clothes: normal outfit, colour of the ball, shirts of different colours (TV!), uniformity for team = same shirts and shorts, doubles*, back number*, * referee’s instructions!

At table – Playing clothes (if not verified at call area):
Advertisements “on player”
No (part of) track suit
Other garments
Equipment

Call area: Personal equipment and balls

- **Racket coverings:** Limits of covering material (*oversize shall be corrected immediately*), ITTF logo, ITTF List (LARC), Flatness, Thickness, Colour, Surface damaged ?, Continuous layers, Tolerances (*also disabled players*)
- **Blades:** Damages, Continuity of layers
- **Rackets:** Can both sides be used to strike the ball? If not, confirm with player!
- **Ball choice:** match and spare balls, correct brand name and colour
Equipment at match table

Rackets: At table, U looks at match rackets! Why?
- Recognize them!
- Damage accepted by referee?
- Can both sides be used?

Common equipment and conditions:
- Table: (height), horizontal, clean surface, no damage
- Net: tension, height
- Surrounds: presentation, no hidden ball
- Flooring: even, no trap, no debris
- Dazzling back or side light? Wind?
Equipment at match table

- Inside playing area: only normal and authorized equipment
- Advertisements?
- Score boards:
  - how handle them?
  - is the set of numbers complete and undamaged?
- Time-out markers
3.2.2 Clothing

What action should the umpire take? Why?

a) Yvonne says it is cold and she wants to wear her track suit while playing.

b) Before the third game, Alan changes his shirt. The new one is the same colour as Xavier’s.

a) Refer the matter to the referee

b) Advise Alan to select a different coloured shirt. If he refuses, refer the matter to the referee.
Service

Purpose: 1. server shall start the rally in a visible way! 2. The receiver shall not be surprised or deceived!

- Free hand for presentation: stationary, open, ball on palm (also for projection)
- Projection of the ball out of the palm: near vertical, at least 16 cm
- Do not hide the ball: under table, behind free arm, behind any part of the body
- Strike the ball while it is falling
Service

The server has to observe other restrictions. No disturbance by either server or receiver!

- Projection without spin
- Ball always behind the server’s end line
- Doubles: right half courts (also server’s)
- Wheelchair: singles, doubles
- Disturbing by screaming, bouncing, delaying, chatting with double partner
Service

Get service right! Protect the receiver!

Doubtful service: U or A-U

- Informal remark between 2 rallies or games, can be repeated
- Formal warning: interrupt the rally by calling “let” [U] or “stop” [A-U], explain, no debate

Faulty service: U or A-U

- **Always** call “fault”, interrupt rally, score, explain, fault any other wrong service
- No debate, no appeal for decision of fact
Service

Time-wasting or other bad behaviour during service: U only

• Friendly ask the player to “please play”, or not to disturb the opponent (do not just repeat score, spectators do not understand!)

• Second time: be firmer and, if necessary, explain that you will apply PPS at next offence

• Next time(s): PPS, otherwise U loses authority (players, public)
**Service**

**Condition:** First class knowledge, understanding and application of the service law!

Discretion? Flexibility? Judgement!

- Disabled player
- Open free hand, Spin
- Verticality: Height of ball projection
- Free arm out of the space between ball and net
- Ball not always or completely behind end line or below the level of table surface

*does not release umpires from calling obvious faults!*
Service : 30+...

- Serve after score call?
- Score shown correctly?
- Correct server (dbls)?
- Correct receiver (dbls)?
- Receiver ready?
- Moisture on racket?
- Moisture on ball?
- Moisture on table?
- Free hand open?
- Was the ball free?
- Is the ball above table?
- Is the ball behind end line?

- 16 cm toss?
- Toss: near vertically?
- Is spin imparted by hand?
- Touch anything before striking?

Choice or ALL?
Service: 30+ ...continued

- Ball on palm, not on finger?
- Did the server pause before projecting the ball?
- Was the ball struck on the way down?
- Was it struck behind the end line?
- Was it struck by side of racket with authorized rubber?
- Did the ball touch server’s court?
- Did it touch the net?
- Did it touch the receiver’s court?
- Right court to right court (dlbs)?
- Ball hidden by server?
- Ball hidden by doubles partner?
- Free arm moved away immediately after throwing the ball?
- Umpire (or assistant umpire) can see service action?
Service 30+...continued

- Can the receiver see the ball?
- Disturbing opponents?
- Delaying play?
- Wheelchair Rules?
  - Ball leaves by the receiver’s side line?
  - Ball returns to the direction of net?
  - Ball comes to rest on receiver’s court?
  - Wheelchair protrudes beyond the centre line (dbls)?
  - Receiver strikes ball before it left playing surface?