

*Your decision ?*



## **Referee Guidelines**

Compilation prepared by:  
Heather Wallace  
Keith Fagan

*This booklet was written as a follow-up to the Squash Rules Clinic run by Heather Wallace on June 13, 2023.*

*The clinic was requested by the members after numerous discussions on the interpretation of certain of the singles rules.*

*This document forms an addition to the Squash Skills program that was conceived in 2012 and which has been used continuously within the Junior programs.*

*This version is directed at the mature player who has a good knowledge of the game but has requested clarification and is an addendum to the document outlining the summary of the rules clinic*

## **Guidelines provided to Referees**

(information for those who play in tournaments)

This is a quick guide to the protocol that a referee would need follow should any incidents listed below occur during a match.

### **Conduct:**

- Should a conduct Stroke, Game or Match be awarded then the appropriate form needs to be filled out and returned to the tournament referee. This is available from the tournament referee.
- The completed form should then be submitted to the tournament referee within 24hrs, who will then complete and submit the online form to the PSA office within the allotted time frame.

The referee determines the level of conduct required depending on the severity of the offence committed.

### **Bleeding:**

- When bleeding occurs, play must stop and the player must leave the court and attend to the bleeding.
- Reasonable time for the bleeding is allowed.
- Play may resume once the bleeding has stopped and where possible, the wound has been covered.
- If the bleeding was accidentally caused by the opponent, then conduct must be applied.
- If the bleeding is the result of the opponent's deliberate or dangerous play or action, then the match is awarded to the injured player.
- If blood is again visible during play, no further recovery time is permitted and the player must concede the game in progress and use the 2 minute interval between games for further treatment. If the bleeding has not then stopped, the player must concede the match.

## **Injury:**

- If the referee is not satisfied that the injury is genuine then they must advise the player to either resume play immediately or concede the game in progress and take the 2 minute interval between games and then resume play, or concede the match. Only 1 game may be conceded.
- If the referee is satisfied that the injury is genuine, they must advise both players of the category of the injury and of the time permitted for recovery. Recovery time is permitted only at the time the injury takes place.
- If the referee is satisfied that this is a recurrence of an injury sustained earlier in the match, the player must be advised to decide whether to resume play immediately or concede the game in progress and take the 2 minute interval between games, or concede the match. Only 1 game may be conceded.

## **Categories of injury:**

Self-inflicted: where the injury is the result of the player's own action. This includes a muscle tear or sprain, or a bruise resulting from a collision with a wall or falling over.

### Branding 2 of 2

The player is permitted 3 minutes to recover and, if not then ready to resume play, must concede that game and take the 2 minute interval between games for further recovery. Only 1 game may be conceded. The player must then resume play or concede the match.

### Contributed:

where the injury is the result of accidental action by both players. The injured player is permitted 15 minutes to recover. This may be extended by a further 15 minutes at the discretion of the Referee. If the player is then unable to continue, the match is awarded to the opponent. The score at the conclusion of the rally in which the injury occurred, stands.

### Opponent-inflicted:

where the injury is caused solely by the opponent.

Where the injury is accidentally caused by the opponent, conduct must be applied. The injured player is permitted 15 minutes to recover. If the player is then unable to resume play, the match is awarded to the injured player.

Where the injury is caused by the opponent's deliberate or dangerous play or action, if the injured player requires any time for recovery, the match is awarded to the injured player. If the injured player is able to continue without delay, conduct must be applied.

### Illness:

A player who suffers an illness that involves neither an injury nor bleeding must either continue play immediately, or concede the game in progress and take the 2 minute interval between games to recover. This includes conditions such as a cramp, nausea, and breathlessness, as well as asthma. Only one game may be conceded. The player must then resume play, or concede the match.

If a player's vomiting or other action causes the court to become unplayable, the match is awarded to the opponent.

### Fallen Object:

- ✓ If the object fell from a player without any contact with the opponent, the opponent wins the rally.
- ✓ If the object fell from a player because of contact with the opponent, a let is allowed, unless the striker has struck a winning return, or requests a let for interference.

### White Ball:

When using a white ball only, either player may request a new ball at the end of the third game. The new ball must be requested as a player leaves the court at the end of the third game and cannot be requested when returning to court for the start of the fourth game

# Rules Quiz

(courtesy of UK Squash Association)

*answers are in the section following*

Question	Answer
<p>1 <b>PLAYER A LOB-SERVES.</b> The ball goes high and bounces on top of the glass back wall and back into the court. There is no marker's call, but Player B stops while a surprised Player A is ready to continue. What is the referee's decision? a) Let; b) Fault; c) Out; d) Stroke to A</p>	
<p>2 <b>STRUCK CORRECTLY</b> A player runs for a difficult ball and just gets her racket under it before it bounces twice. She gets it onto the front wall, drags the ball slightly on the racket, but doesn't hit it twice. What is the marker's call? a) Down; b) Not up; c) Carried; d) There is no call (good ball).</p>	
<p>3 <b>OFFICIAL WITH TWO HATS</b> At the Canary Wharf Classic 2016 a single official was used to officiate. At one stage a player appealed a maker's call and was told there was no appeal. What do the rules say? Can a single official review and over-rule their own call? a) A single official can consider an appeal on their own call. b) A single official cannot consider an appeal on their own call. c) The official's decision is final and cannot be changed</p>	

**4 WINNING SHOT PRINCIPLE**

Player A boasts from the back of the court and races forward to cover the drop-shot. Player B executes a drop-shot and it dead-nicks, but he stands in the way so that A, who appeals, cannot get through. What is the referee's decision?

a) Stroke to A; b) No let; c) Let.

**5 ONE FOOT IN BOX REQUIRED**

Player A does a tennis-style, overhead serve, jumping forward and leaving the floor as he hits the ball. The serve goes above the service line and lands in the opposite service quarter. Player B appeals to the referee that it is a fault. What is the referee's decision?

a) No let; b) Let; c) Fault.

**6 RESUMING MATCH AFTER INJURY**

Two players collide on court. One feels quite faint and is unable to play on. They wish to play later in the day and to start the match again. What is the referee's decision?

a) If the injured player is unable to continue within 15 minutes (this may be extended by another 15 minutes at the referee's discretion), the match is awarded to the opponent.

b) The players can arrange to play at any time that day, but the score must start at 0-0.

c) The players can play later that day if the time schedule for the competition allows, but the score must stand.

- 7 You are a single official acting as both Marker and Referee. After calling a ball 'Not Up' during a rally, the player appeals against the call. You change your mind and decide that a 'Yes Let' decision is more appropriate. The player's opponent then appeals on the grounds that you cannot change your decision.

What is the referee's action & why?

- 8 During a match, play is suspended by the referee due to sweating wall surfaces on the court. Eventually play is resumed the next day.

At what score does the match recommence?

- 9 On his/her follow through, a player's racket accidentally slips from his/her hand and hits the opponent who is on the opposite side of the court. The opponent suffers a head injury which is bleeding. The injured player indicates that he/she is prepared to continue the match after receiving treatment.

What is the referee's action & why?

- 10 The server serves from the right box and moves to the T. The ball hits the side and rear walls so that the ball travels behind the receiver, who then plays the ball on his/her forehand in the backhand rear quarter of the court. The ball strikes the server on its way to the front wall.

What is the referee's decision & why?



- 11 After the second game, both players arrive on court after 15 seconds is called by the referee. As the referee calls 'time' one player suddenly leaves the court area without saying anything and returns some 35 seconds later stating that he/she had to replace a racket with broken strings.

What is the referees action & why?

- 12 After throwing the ball into the air, the server becomes off balance and makes no attempt to strike the ball. Is it a fault? If not, why not?

What is the referees decision and why?

- 13 The striker plays at and misses the ball, which then hits the opponent who was standing behind the striker, without crowding. The striker runs back for another attempt, which would have been possible.

What is the referees decision and why?

- 14 During the first game, a player suffers a bleeding nose. There has been no contact or cause from the opponent. What does the referee announce to the audience? How long does the player have to recover? If after recovery play should resume and later the nose starts to bleed again, how long would the player have to recover?

What is the referees decision and why?

- 15 If, after having missed the ball initially and then made a further attempt, a player hits the opponent with the ball which might or might not be a good return, what call, if any, should the marker make and what happens next?
- 16 The server serves quickly before the receiver is ready to take the service, then collects the ball and moves quickly to the other service box. The receiver plays no stroke and appeals claiming not to have been ready. What action would the referee take?
- 17 A player stops playing and claims that noise from outside the court has caused a distraction. What action would the referee take?
- 18 A player hits a good length shot that lodges in the nick between the rear and sidewall. What is the referee's decision?

## QUIZ Answers

Question	Answer
<p>1 <b>PLAYER A LOB-SERVES.</b> The ball goes high and bounces on top of the glass back wall and back into the court. There is no marker's call, but Player B stops while a surprised Player A is ready to continue. What is the referee's decision?</p> <p>a) Let; b) Fault; c) Out; d) Stroke to A</p>	<p><b>Appendix 1</b> of the rules states: <b>OUT</b> is a return that: hits the wall on or above the out-line; or hits any fixture above the out-line; or hits the top edge of any wall of the court; or passes over a wall and out of the court; or passes through any fixture.</p> <p>The correct answer c).</p>
<p>2 <b>STRUCK CORRECTLY</b> A player runs for a difficult ball and just gets her racket under it before it bounces twice. She gets it onto the front wall, drags the ball slightly on the racket, but doesn't hit it twice. What is the marker's call?</p> <p>a) Down; b) Not up; c) Carried; d) There is no call (good ball).</p>	<p><b>Appendix 1</b> of the rules states: <b>CORRECTLY:</b> When the ball is struck with the racket, held in the hand, not more than once and without prolonged contact on the racket.</p> <p>So the ball must be hit correctly, not dragged, scooped or carried. The marker's call for a ball hit incorrectly is 'not up' and again this is mentioned in the definitions.</p> <p>The correct answer: b).</p>

### 3 OFFICIAL WITH TWO HATS

At the Canary Wharf Classic 2016 a single official was used to officiate. At one stage a player appealed a maker's call and was told there was no appeal. What do the rules say? Can a single official review and over-rule their own call?

- a) A single official can consider an appeal on their own call.
- b) A single official cannot consider an appeal on their own call.
- c) The official's decision is final and cannot be changed

Marker calls the play and a referee answers appeals. The referee's decision is final. So can a single official review his own call? Yes, as he is in effect performing two roles - or wearing two hats.

#### **Rule 3.2 states:**

If there is only one official, that official is both the marker and the referee. A player may appeal any call or lack of call made by that official as marker to that same official as the referee.

The correct answer: a).

### 4 WINNING SHOT PRINCIPLE

Player A boasts from the back of the court and races forward to cover the drop-shot. Player B executes a drop-shot and it dead-nicks, but he stands in the way so that A, who appeals, cannot get through. What is the referee's decision?

- a) Stroke to A; b) No let; c) Let.

Section 8.6 sets out the overall provision and rule 8.6.2 specifically states: "If there was interference, but the striker would not have been able to make a good return, no let is allowed." Or for those who still use the old referee's 'line of thinking': "Could the obstructed player have reached the ball, made a good return and was he making every effort to do so?" No? Then no let. This winning shot principle is the over-riding one here. It is behind many rules.

**5 ONE FOOT IN BOX REQUIRED**

Player A does a tennis-style, overhead serve, jumping forward and leaving the floor as he hits the ball. The serve goes above the service line and lands in the opposite service quarter. Player B appeals to the referee that it is a fault. What is the referee's decision?

a) No let; b) Let; c) Fault.

In brief, to be good, a serve must: 1. Be hit correctly; 2. Be executed with one foot touching the floor within the service box and not on a line; 3. Be hit directly to the front wall above the service line; 4. Land within the opposite 'quarter-court' and not on a line (half-court or short line); 5. Not be out.

**6 RESUMING MATCH AFTER INJURY**

Two players collide on court. One feels quite faint and is unable to play on. They wish to play later in the day and to start the match again. What is the referee's decision?

- a) If the injured player is unable to continue within 15 minutes (this may be extended by another 15 minutes at the referee's discretion), the match is awarded to the opponent.
- b) The players can arrange to play at any time that day, but the score must start at 0-0.
- c) The players can play later that day if the time schedule for the competition allows, but the score must stand.

This situation is covered under rule 14: Illness, injury and bleeding. Our assessment here is that it is a contributed injury. Rule 14 gives the injured player 15 minutes to recover which "may be extended by a further 15 minutes at the discretion of the referee."

- 7 You are a single official acting as both Marker and Referee. After calling a ball 'Not Up' during a rally, the player appeals against the call. You change your mind and decide that a 'Yes Let' decision is more appropriate. The players opponent then appeals on the grounds that you cannot change your decision.

As a single official you will act as both Marker and Referee. Any call made by you as the Marker can be appealed against but in your role as Referee you can uphold or change any decision you have previously made as Marker. No appeal is allowed against a referee's decision.

What is the referees action & why?

- 8 During a match, play is suspended by the referee due to sweating wall surfaces on the court. Eventually play is resumed the next day.

The match score will stand if recommenced at a later date.

At what score does the match recommence?

- 9 On his/her follow through, a player's racket accidentally slips from his/her hand and hits the opponent who is on the opposite side of the court. The opponent suffers a head injury which is bleeding. The injured player indicates that he/she is prepared to continue the match after receiving treatment.

Referee would categorize this injury as 'Opponent Inflicted'. Because the injured player would require time for treatment, the match would be awarded to him/her. In cases of 'Opponent Inflicted' injury the referee has discretion to use any Code of Conduct penalty but can only use penalties less than 'Conduct Match' when the player can resume immediately.

What is the referees action & why?

- 10 The server serves from the right box and moves to the T. The ball hits the side and rear walls so that the ball travels behind the receiver, who then plays the ball on his/her forehand in the backhand rear quarter of the court. The ball strikes the server on its way to the front wall.
- What is the referees decision & why?
- 11 After the second game, both players arrive on court after 15 seconds is called by the referee. As the referee calls 'time' one player suddenly leaves the court area without saying anything and returns some 35 seconds later stating that he/she had to replace a racket with broken strings.
- What is the referees action & why?
- 12 After throwing the ball into the air, the server becomes off balance and makes no attempt to strike the ball. Is it a fault? If not, why not?
- What is the referees decision and why?
- 13 The striker plays at and misses the ball, which then hits the opponent who was standing behind the striker, without crowding. The striker runs back for another attempt, which would have been possible.
- What is the referees decision and why?
- Stroke to Server. Opponent has 'mentally turned' by allowing the ball to pass behind and around him/her. By playing and striking his opponent with the ball after turning or mentally turning this is considered dangerous and a stroke is awarded against him/her.
- Referee would give a Code of Conduct Warning or Penalty. Players must be able to resume play when 'time' is called by the referee. A change of equipment is permissible only if the player requests permission to do this and, can also satisfy the referee that there is a genuine need to do so.
- No, it is not a fault, as the player was not 'committed to the shot'. He/she has made no attempt to strike the ball after it has been released.
- Let, as the player would have been able to recover and get to the ball and return it to the front wall on the second attempt had the ball not hit the opponent.

- 14 During the first game, a player suffers a bleeding nose. There has been no contact or cause from the opponent. What does the referee announce to the audience? How long does the player have to recover? If after recovery play should resume and later the nose starts to bleed again, how long would the player have to recover?
- What is the referees decision and why?
- Bleeding – unlimited time is allowed to stop bleeding for the first instance. Any repeat however has no time permitted. The player must concede the current game and take 90 seconds interval. If they are not ready to play on they must then concede that match. No bleeding or blood stained clothes are allowed on court
- 15 If, after having missed the ball initially and then made a further attempt, a player hits the opponent with the ball which might or might not be a good return, what call, if any, should the marker make and what happens next?
- Marker calls 'not up'. If the referee considers the return may or would have been good, Yes Let. If the return would not have been good, opponent wins rally
- 16 The server serves quickly before the receiver is ready to take the service, then collects the ball and moves quickly to the other service box. The receiver plays no stroke and appeals claiming not to have been ready. What action would the referee take?
- Retake serve from correct side (yes let).
- 17 A player stops playing and claims that noise from outside the court has caused a distraction. What action would the referee take?
- Decide whether there was such a distraction. If so, Yes Let
- 18 A player hits a good length shot that lodges in the nick between the rear and sidewall. What is the referee's decision?
- Yes Let.