



OFF COURT UMPIRE (ASSISTANT REFEREE/ROVING OFFICIAL)

1.1 DEFINITION

An Off Court Umpire is an appointed Official to exercise his/her jurisdiction over more than one court. The Official is entitled to award Code Violations and ensure the correct interpretation of Tennis Rules, Regulations, Code of Conduct and Procedures from outside the court.

1.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1.2.1 Report to the venue at least 30 minutes before play starts.
- 1.2.2 Ensure that assigned courts are ready for play.
- 1.2.3 Conduct the coin toss for each match and make the players aware that you are the official responsible for their court.
- 1.2.4 Ensure that the warm-up period is adhered to, and advise the players as to when they have two (2) minutes and one (1) minute remaining in the warm-up.
- 1.2.5 Enforce the Code of Conduct (Clothing / Time Violations and Code Violations).
- 1.2.6 Be visible between the courts.
- 1.2.7 Call Foot Faults, over rule incorrect line calls and solve general disputes that may arise during the match.
- 1.2.8 Allow players to call "Lets" as appropriate.
- 1.2.9 Control spectators, parents and coaches

1.3 COMMON PROCEDURES

- 1.3.1 Illegal Attire: The Off Court Umpire must check all clothing worn by the players. Any illegal attire must be changed immediately.

Prior to the start of the match, a player has fifteen (15) minutes to change into correct attire. If the match has commenced and then the error is discovered, the player should be informed after the completion of the match that he/she will not be permitted to play the next day if the attire is not corrected.

- 1.3.2 Score Dispute: If players cannot agree on the score, the official should discuss the relevant points or games with the players and try to establish the points or games that both players agree on. All points or games which the players agree on stand, and only those in dispute are replayed.

Example: Player A claims that the score is 40-30, Player B claims that the score is 30-40. You discuss the points with the players and discover that they disagree on who won the first point of the game. The correct decision is to continue the game from 30-30, since both players agree that each have won two (2) points in that game. The same procedure will thus apply when games are being disputed.

1.3.3 Foot Faults: The Off Court Umpire is expected to call foot faults that occur during the match. The official goes onto court during the change-over and informs the player concerned about the foot fault. The player is advised that should this occur again, the foot fault will be called from outside the court. To call a foot fault the official must be opposite the line in question (outside the court) or on the court.

1.3.4 Incorrect Line Call: If the Off Court Umpire sees a player make an incorrect call, the official may go onto court, inform the player about the incorrect call and overrule the call. In this case the new call shall stand and the point shall not be replayed.

If the official observes continual incorrect calling from outside the court and believes this may be “Blatant” a Code Violation for Unsportsmanlike Conduct may be awarded to the player concerned.

In cases of overruling line calls, the official need not be on the court, but must be in the best possible position outside the court. i.e. Close Calls – Opposite the line, Clear Calls – Good Position.

1.3.5 Call not Made: The only way to make a call during a non-umpired match is to make an audible call that is audible enough for the opponent to hear. The timing of such a call is also important. Calls must be made in such a manner that the result of the return or shot is not first determined.

Example: Player A returns the serve into the net and after the ball has hit the net and claims the ball was out. In this case the point stands as player waited to see the result of his/her return.

1.3.6 Let's / Not Up's & Foul Shots: The Off Court Umpire should try to establish from the players what happened and either confirm the call or replay the point, whichever is deemed to be more appropriate. It is important that when making the above calls, that these are done immediately and not after the conclusion of the point.

Officials may assist with these calls from outside the court, if they see the incident occurring.

Note: The basic principal is that a player should not be awarded two chances to win a point. However, as the Off Court Umpire is not on court and is responsible for a number of courts, this may not always be possible and is the only time that a Let can be played for the above three (3) scenarios.

A player is also not permitted to hinder him or herself, only the opponent can be hindered i.e. cap falling off or ball falling from the pocket.

An outside hindrance i.e. paper blowing onto court is deemed to be a 3rd party and will result in the point being replayed if this occurs during the rally.

Again, as in so many cases, these calls are judgement calls and the timing of the incident is important when considering the decision.

- 1.3.7 Toilet Breaks: See Code of Conduct for specific information pertaining to toilet breaks. The following relates to the toilet break procedure for non-umpired matches:

- a) Court Monitor should be notified or another official
- b) The opponent should be notified when a toilet break is taken
- c) If the toilet break cannot be taken at the end of the set, it must be taken during or prior to the commencement of the player wishing to go to the toilet's service game i.e. not during the opponents serve.

- 1.3.8 Code of Conduct: Any Code Violations issued during a match need to be reported to the Referee. In cases where a Game Penalty has been awarded this needs to be reported to the Referee immediately (while match is still in progress).

If any off court interference occurs, the relevant Code Violations must be issued and the Referee notified i.e. Coaching / Parent Interference.

- 1.3.9 Always try to prevent getting into the Umpires Chair or staying on court. If the situation is of such a nature that an Umpire is required, this needs to be approved by the Referee before staying on court.

1.4 NECESSARY EQUIPMENT

An Off Court Umpire should have the following with him/her at all times:

- a) Tape measure
- b) Stopwatch
- c) Notebook
- d) Pens and Pencils

