

SETTLING DISPUTES

Disagreements between players on line calling and scoring are common within competitive tennis. When disputes occur within official competitions it's important that they are handled in a fair, consistent and efficient manner. The following steps detail how to settle disputes.

LINE CALLS

This involves a player making a subjective decision which ultimately could have a big effect on the outcome of the match. This is a hot issue particularly for Juniors who for many reasons, often do not accurately see the ball in relation to lines.

Witnessed Line Calls

If an referee or court supervisor witnesses a blatantly incorrect call, they can go on-court and tell the player that the incorrect call, was an unintentional hindrance to his/her opponent and the point will be replayed, unless it was a point-ending shot and therefore the point will be awarded to the opponent. In the case of matches played on a clay court, the point is awarded to the opponent regardless of whether it is a point-ending shot or not.

Unwitnessed Line Call Dispute (non-clay courts):

- Ask the player whose call it was, if they are sure of their call.
 - If yes, the call stands.
 - If no, then the point should be replayed.
- If you think it would be beneficial to have the match supervised (and this is possible), have the Supervisor stay on the court for the remainder of the match. Advise players that he/she will correct any **clearly** incorrect calls.
- If it is not possible to allocate an adult to supervise the match, you should watch the next few points from off the court and then keep a discreet but watchful eye on the rest of the match.
- If you see a **blatant** incorrect call, you should tell the player making the call that their incorrect call was a 'Hindrance' and the point has to be replayed. The player should be informed that if you see any further **blatant** incorrect calls they will lose the point and may receive a Code Violation for Unsportsmanlike Conduct see below.

Unwitnessed Line Call Dispute (clay courts):

- Ask the player if they 'have the mark' and ask the opponent if they agree on the mark.
 - If there is no mark, deal with the dispute as above.
 - If they agree on a mark, you should "read it" to decide whether the ball was in or out.
- If they do not agree on the mark, ask what type of shot was played (ie. smash, crosscourt shot, down the line shot, etc).
- If a mark in the vicinity tallies with the shot description, you should accept it and award the point accordingly.
- If you are unable to find a mark, then the original call stands.

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CODE VIOLATIONS

A code violation should be issued in extreme or persistent cases of bad calling when you are absolutely sure the call is incorrect. See the LTA Competition Regulations for full details.

SCORE DISPUTES

Scoring disputes are either a genuine mix up or a deliberate act. In both situations you should use the same procedure:

1. Establish what each player thinks the score is. If the dispute is:
 - a. over the score in a game, work through the game, point by point.
 - b. over the score in a set, go through the set game by game.
2. Establish which point(s) or game(s) the players cannot agree on. These point(s) or game(s) should be disregarded and the score adjusted to include the points or games they agree on.
3. Play resumes from the station according to the new score.
4. Following all disputes remind the players that the server should call the score clearly before every point.

Eg. Player A (serving) says score is 40/30, Player B says is 30/40. They agree they have each won 2 points. Play should resume from the score 30 All.

Eg. Player A (serving) says she won the game, Player B says score is 40/30. They agree that Player A won the first 2 points of the game, then Player B won 1 point, they disagree on who won the next point, and agree that Player A won the last point. Your decision is that play resumes from 40/15.