

Competitions conducted at Southern Table Tennis Inc. on Wednesday and Thursday nights are subject to:

- Southern Table Tennis Competition By-Laws
- ITTF Laws of Table Tennis (most elements)
- ITTF Regulations for International Competitions (some elements)

It needs to be realised that there are no accredited umpires appointed to officiate on competition nights and there is no Referee appointed to manage aspects normally referred to a Referee.

In the absence of qualified officials..... players, player-umpires, team captains & the stadium official on the night need to work together on appropriately managing some elements of the game.

There are 2 main areas of officiating which attract the most discussion, these being;

- ❖ the service rule, and
- ❖ the legality of a bat being used in competition



Both these elements of officiating will be the focus on that discussed in this quick briefing session.

Commencing January 2020, player baskets have been placed either side of the umpire chair for player towels, water bottles and other such items brought on court. Please use these baskets and refrain from draping towels over barriers or under the table. Bats to be left on the table during approved intervals (between games / time-out / towelling down).

Key reference documents have been placed in a plastic folio on each table down the centre isle. A5 size copies of the 'ITTF Laws of Table Tennis' can also be found for your personal retention in the display rack in front of the canteen. A full copy of the 'ITTF Regulations for International Competitions' can also be found in the display rack (reference only).

The full 'ITTF Handbook' can be found at www.ittf.com (go to the bottom of the main page and click on 'handbook').

Law 2.6 The Service

It takes less than a second to serve the ball, and the umpire must be on the lookout for about 30+ things which could make a service result in a let or a point.

Score shown correctly?	Ball touch anything before being struck?
Serve after score call?	Was ball struck on the way down?
No delay of service?	Free arm and hand removed immediately after projecting ball?
Correct server (dbs)?	Was it struck behind the end line?
Correct receiver (dbs)?	Was it struck by side of bat with legal covering?
Receiver ready?	Did the ball touch server's court?
Moisture on bat?	Did it touch the net?
Moisture on ball?	Did it touch the receiver's court?
Moisture on table?	Doubles: right court to right court?
Free hand open?	Ball hidden from receiver by server?
Was the ball free?	Ball hidden by doubles partner?
Is the ball above table?	Umpire <u>or assistant umpire</u> can see service requirements complied with?
Is the ball behind end line?	Did the server pause before projecting the ball?
Ball on palm, not on fingers?	16 cm toss?
Toss: near vertical?	
Was spin imparted to ball?	

Intent of the Rule

1. That the BALL be clearly visible to the receiver from the moment the service starts until the moment it is struck in service
2. There should be no possibility to hide or camouflage the BALL at any time
3. The receiver's line of vision should be clear enabling the receiver full view of the BALL during the service

Serving Sequence:

Stationary BALL:

- ❖ *resting freely*
- ❖ *on open palm of free hand*

BALL projected:

- ❖ *near vertically upwards*
- ❖ *without spin*
- ❖ *to rise at least 16cm after leaving palm*
- ❖ *fall without touching anything*



From start of service until struck, BALL shall:

- ❖ *be above level of the playing surface, and*
- ❖ *be behind server's end line, and*
- ❖ *shall not be hidden from receiver by:*
 - *server or doubles partner, or*
 - *anything they wear or carry*

As soon as BALL has been projected, server's free arm AND (free) HAND shall be removed from the space between ball and net

[space between ball and net = space between ball, net and indefinite upward extension of net]

QUESTION: Is the player who is serving in a doubtful or illegal manner gaining an advantage from the serve? Thus, does it warrant taking action? **Education takes priority over penalising.** *If of an illegal nature, call a let and provide feedback to the offending player.*

A Legal Bat:

Firstly.....it is not expected player umpires will check a bat covering to verify if the rubber being used appears on 'ITTF LARC' [list of approved racket coverings]. However, player umpires should check for obvious deformities such as;

- *is the covering to the edge of the bat or is their wood exposed,*
- *on a pimped bat, is the cluster of pimples missing from the rubber,*
- *on a sandwich rubber, is it torn / damaged / pieces missing (beyond 2mm),*
- *are the rubbers matt back on one side, red on the other, sitting flat on blade, and*
- *is the rubber affixed to the blade of the bat.*

If a quick inspection of the bat satisfies the above, that's the best which can be expected of a player-umpire.

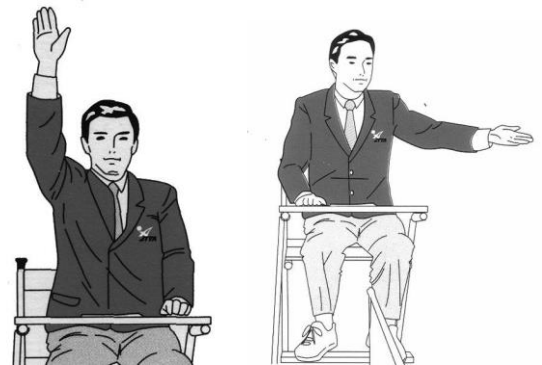
Once the use of poor standard bat is brought to a players' attention, the player is expected to correct the situation prior to the next competition date. Education again taking precedence over penalising a player.

Remember, at the beginning of the match both the umpire and opponent has a right to inspect your bat. Similarly, every time a bat is changed (practice period / accidental damage), the same requirement applies.

Your Role When Sitting In The Umpires Chair:



- Check players bat and apparel for compliance
- Undertake the toss (choice of serving / receiving or ends)
- Monitor time restrictions in respect to pre match 2 minute warm up period, 1 minute between games and the time out rule (max 1 minute).
- Call and maintain a record of the score
- Ensure games are continuous and towel down periods are not abused
- Monitor legality of serving, behaviour at the table, receiving of advice, timewasting and exercise warnings as appropriate.
- Determine a point (service, a let, side / edge)...make a decision.
- Use hand signals to indicate a 'let' and 'service change'.
- Other areas include.....relaxing serving requirements due to disability, player obstructing the ball, conditions of play are not disturbed, operate the scorer, managing injury and blood in the playing area.



Let

**Service
Change**

Players shall be under the jurisdiction of the umpire from the time they arrive in the playing area until they leave it.

Reminder: Southern's Hot Weather Policy & Competition By-Laws provide that if the temperature is 40 degrees celcius for Noarlunga according to the Bureau of Metropolitan (BOM) website 2 hours prior to scheduled competition commencing, competition for that night is cancelled.

Should there be any elements of officiating you wish to discuss further, contact me on 0411 042 320 or send me an email at juniors@southerntabletennis.org.au

Maurice Quinn

*National Accredited Umpire, State Accredited Referee
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