



Doubles Officiating Newsletter - June 2020

I hope everyone is safe and well during this uncertain and unusual time with the COVID19 outbreak. Our 2019-20 season was cut short in mid-March and squash in Canada (and around the world) came to a grinding halt. Both our Canadian Doubles and Mixed Doubles Championships were postponed after all the efforts by the tournament committees to prepare for their respective events. I wish to say thank you to the tournament committees and hope the events can be played next year as much of work has already been done. Despite the shortened season, from an officiating perspective, there was much that was accomplished. This newsletter is to review the past season and to keep certified doubles squash officials "in the loop" with respect to doubles officiating.

In the 2019-2020 season, the Squash Canada Doubles Squash Officiating Committee (SCDOC) reviewed and dealt with the following items:

- 1) On the Squash Canada (SC) website there is a section on doubles officiating.
Link: <http://squash.ca/en/doubles-officiating> - There are several items that are useful reference materials for NEs, NRs and PRs. Items include: Doubles Squash Officiating Administration Manual, Quality Control Program, Assessment Form, Scoresheets, Referee Tips, Line of Thinking, List of NEs/NRs and the "Turning Rule". Tony Swift provided an article on "Fair Play" that is an excellent reminder for us to be good sports. It is also on the website. The Doubles Rules are already on the SC website under "[Rules of the Game](#)".
- 2) Committee member Mark Warren is working on a handout outlining some of the key differences between singles and doubles. The handout should be ready in the Fall of 2020.
- 3) Committee members Bart Sambrook and Mark Warren prepared a turning example from the back of the court that was approved by the officiating committee. It will make a great handout for tournament participants and especially helpful for new doubles players coming from the singles game. The example is on the above officiating site.
- 4) A Canada/United States sub-committee was established to review and update doubles rules if necessary. There are some amendments proposed that are going through the review process by Squash Canada and US Squash before going to the World Squash Federation (WSF) for final approval. More on changes if approved at a later date.
- 5) Squash Canada provided information on our doubles officiating program to US Squash to assist them in starting up their doubles officiating program. I am happy to report that US Squash has created an exam, PowerPoint presentation and an officiating structure on club, regional, national and professional referees. Canadian referees will be recognized (qualified) to referee in US doubles squash events. This should bring consistency to doubles officiating on both sides of the border. It should be noted that our officiating program has been in operation since 2003 and thank you to Squash Canada for allowing us to provide information to US Squash to help them out.
- 6) We updated our doubles referee assessment form to assist assessors in evaluating candidates for PRs and NRs.
- 7) The clinic exam and answer key were amended. Currently, the clinic PowerPoint presentation and administration manual are being reviewed. Also, Squash Canada tournament hosting guidelines are being reviewed as it relates to duties of the Tournament Referee in regards to Doubles Championships



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Four clinics were held this past season:

- Greg Desaulniers and Brian Covernton conducted a rules certification clinic at the Vancouver Lawn Tennis and Badminton Club on January 18 in Vancouver with 10 participants. Four were new participants and six were there for a refresher.
- Jorge Rabacal and Jack Hoogstraten held a rules clinic at the Edmonton Squash Club on October 19 with 10 attendees.
- Robert Dube held a rules clinic in November at Richmond Hill Squash Club with 5 attendees (women only).
- On June 4, 2020, Mark Warren organized the first online rules certification clinic with the able assistance of Lynsey Yates of Squash Ontario. Robert Dube assisted with part of the clinic as well. It was a success with 20 people attending and 16 passed the written exam (three did not take the exam and one did not pass). SCDOC will be reviewing the feedback and looking to perhaps expand the online option in other parts of the country.

Our new Provincial Referees for 2019-20 include:

- Mark Porter (ON), Peter Neelands (ON), Robert Baird (ON) & Gary O'Neil (ON)

Our new National Referee for 2019-2020 include:

- Laura Ramsay (BC)

I would like to thank the members of the Squash Canada Doubles Officiating Committee for their dedication to ensuring doubles officiating in Canada continues to make significant progress. Committee members this season: Jorge Rabacal (Calgary), Ruth Castellino (Vancouver), Nathan Hall (Winnipeg), Bart Sambrook (Montreal), Robert Dube (Toronto), Mark Warren (Toronto), Tim Mallory (Toronto), Robin Clarke (Toronto) and Brian Covernton (Vancouver), Chair.

Representing Squash Canada on the Committee was Geoffrey Johnson (Squash Canada Programs Manager) and Keith Flavell (Squash Canada Board representative).

Ruth Castellino (BC), Nathan Hall (MB) and Robin Clarke (ON) are stepping down from the Squash Canada Doubles Officiating Committee. I thank them for their service and commitment to doubles squash officiating.

The success experienced by doubles officiating would not be possible without the time and effort put in by all those involved in the Squash Canada Doubles Officiating Program. We hope for your continuing support in the coming seasons.

I would also like to thank all our officials who refereed tournament and league matches during this past season.

Sincerely,

Brian C Covernton, Chair
Squash Canada Doubles Squash Officiating Committee