

BEHIND THE GLASS

Squash Canada's Officiating Newsletter

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Welcome to this edition of the program's newsletter, still not nominated for a Pulitzer Prize – but we carry on nonetheless with cutting-edge officiating journalism. In these pages you'll find news items, technical articles, announcements - - - and a smidgen of humour. And by the way – how about that new name - eh?

Our plan is to publish 'Behind the Glass' 3 times a season – but occasionally we might issue a 'Flash' edition should an important bit of information need to be circulated quickly.

THE SCOD!

Fear not! It's just the acronym for the **SQUASH CANADA OFFICIAL DATABASE** – the website where you can sign in and find your assessments, all kinds of program documentation, the many forms we use, courses, manuals, and a bunch of video modules touching on just about every topic relating to decision making. Eventually, you will be able to keep track of all your activity, and so do away with paper records. If you don't already have a profile, sign up today and start tracking your assessments and gain access to other resources today!

Visit the SCOD at www.squashcanadaofficial.com

SCOC PROGRAM UPDATES

Another acronym! The **Squash Canada Officiating Committee** (SCOC for short!) is plugging away on several fronts:

- **Program revision:** Over the past couple of years, a great number of people have contributed to updating our national program – touching on everything from Referee-level designations, Referee progression, Assessor progression, and of course, the required competencies (*psssstt: learn all about the program updates on the SCOD*).
- **SCOD Site Updating:** As the (very) old saying goes, "The only constant is change". The SCOD site is a living thing, never completed – and so will always be subject to updating with better features and more information.

A few years ago, Australian Anthony Hill is stopped in mid-play by a ref's call of 'Not up'. He starts arguing that the ball was indeed good – but the ref nonetheless says: "Play Squash, Mr. Hill!". Hill retorts with: "That's what I was doing until you stopped me!"

- **Assessor Training Course (ATC):** So far, over 90% of current active Assessors have qualified under the program’s new criteria - by having taken this new course and passed its exam. The goal is to improve standardization (conforming closely to WSF standards) - which in turn should contribute to consistency of assessments across Canada. And beyond the WSF’s version, this course also contains a great deal of rules-interpretation information to further ensure that Assessors are on the same page.
- **Training Modules:** Yet another video module has been added to the collection at the SCOD site, bringing the total to 10, so far – and a couple more are in the works. Spread the word, because repeated viewing among our Referees can only lead to improved consistency in decision-making across the country.

RULES: THE NITTY GRITTY

THIS ISSUE’S TOPIC: ‘PATH OF THE BALL’ INTERFERENCE

In a previous edition, we dealt with decision-making relating to the swing. This time, we’ll deal with ‘ball’ interference (a.k.a. front-wall interference) – situations where the non-striker is (or could be) hit with the ball.

We’re all familiar with the basic rules on this topic; it’s a stroke to the striker who hits (or would have hit) the opponent with a ball going directly to the front wall, or to the side wall if that return would have been a winner (a rarely applied provision). We also know that if the striker first turned and hit the opponent, then a stroke is awarded to the non-striker (included to encourage safety). Yet, if the striker hits the opponent with a further attempt - only a Let is awarded. Life is full of such mysteries!

Anyway, it’s worth mentioning a few interesting points about this kind of interference:

- **Clearing effort:** Unlike for most interferences, the non-striker’s clearing effort is immaterial to the decision; he/she is either in the way or not.
- **Timing:** A decision must be made, not based on when the call of “Let” was made – but rather on the moment the ball could have been hit.
- **Borderline cases:** Avoid awarding strokes in borderline situations, thinking that you will encourage better clearing. Players are usually already clearing desperately in those situations - so awarding easy strokes will only encourage more interruptions looking for strokes.
- **Caution:** There are 2 areas where you can get swayed into giving a Stroke incorrectly: first – you need to measure the ‘danger zone’ from the ball’s viewpoint – not the striker’s (often standing right behind the non-striker); second – simply because a ball was hit loose is not adequate justification; the opponent must clearly be in the danger zone.



Click on the video which emphasizes this last bullet point - and the error therein <https://youtu.be/dP7dhnuCioQ>

A convention: Finally, here’s an observation that borders on heresy: you will rarely see a stroke awarded in such cases if the ball has come to the striker after first hitting a side wall and then the back wall. This is a ‘convention’ of sorts in the game, for which you will have to decide your own parameters. It’s worth reviewing the ‘Danger Zone Convention’ module on the SCOD site to get a better grasp on this issue.

THEY DID IT! LATEST OFFICIALS TO REACH A NEW DESIGNATION

Squash Canada has a few more folks to be proud of:

- **Rod McDougall**, from Alberta, has achieved National Assessor status
- **Viano Oghenekevwe** (pronounced 'oh-gen-a-kay-way') from Quebec is now a Provincial Assessor
- **Noman Nadeem** from Ontario has also reached Provincial Assessor status.



To achieve Provincial Assessor level, candidates must have completed the Assessor Training Course and passed its exam, had a consultation session with a National Assessor to review the Certification Clinic, co-presented a Rules Clinic with a National assessor, and finally be successfully evaluated while assessing and debriefing a Referee seeking an upgrade. Whew; that's a heck of a way to make a living!

WHAT ARE YOU?

No, this isn't an existential question – but one about where you fit in terms of the designation in the revised program. You are now either a Club, Local, Provincial, or National Referee. No longer is there an appended number to indicate Marker competency - because that has now been integrated into the Referee designation. If you don't already know what you are, then simply refer to the "Equivalency" document on the SCOD site to figure out both your level and which competencies are credited to you based on the accumulated signatures you had recorded. **INSIDERS TIP:** *contact Dave Howard (dave.squash@sympatico.ca) if you need help & he'll help you get all set up!*



You're reading that right. If you go to the 'Resources' area of the SCOD site, not only will you find all of our program's video modules available to download – you are also able to immediately play them on our restricted YouTube site.

TIP FOR USE: *Simply click on the camera icon to the right of the title.*

NATIONAL EVENTS: CALLS FOR OFFICIALS

Be on the look out, with the Canadian Championships season right around the corner, national events happening across Canada will be looking for officials. For dates & locations for all 2018 National Championships visit:

<http://squash.ca/en/events>

Stay tuned for upcoming nation-wide call for officials for:

- **Canadian Junior Championships** – April 19th to 22nd, Mayfair Club Lakeshore, Toronto, ON.
- **Canadian Squash Championships** – May 1st to 5th, Glencoe Club, Calgary, AB.

NOTE: These two events are typically open to Provincial & National Referees - some funding may be available to encourage participation by Referees from all provinces.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS: NEW OFFICIATING SYSTEM

If you follow the world tour, you no doubt are aware of **the 3-Referee System** which has been used for many years now – and will continue to be in certain circumstances. However, the PSA has recently tested and adopted a new system known as the **PSA Referee System** which is essentially a 2-Referee system. A 2-Referee system was trialed back in the 90s – but this one has a twist. For the first time ever, it features a real-time audio link between the Match Referee and the Video Referee – who can consult on aspects of a decision. Here in Canada we are considering adopting a version of this PSA-RS for events where such technologies (video replay & audio links) are not available.

INITIAL CERTIFICATION

You are no doubt aware that initial certification as ‘Club Referee’ can now be done online – even if you yourself came from the original system of a live course & assessment. So, if you know people who might make good Referees, refer them to the Squash Canada link where they can get started: <http://squash.ca/en/getting-started>



THE SQUASH CANADA OFFICIATING COMMITTEE



The SCOC is a 5-person committee (plus Squash Canada & WSF representatives), appointed by the board of Squash Canada, using recommendations from the provinces & territories - as well as from current committee members. The 5 are Dave Howard (ON) (Chair), John Roche (BC), Les Homme (ON), Joe Ellis (AB), & Barry Faguy (QC). The Squash Canada reps are Director at Large, Steve Wren and Programs Manager, Britany Gordon, and the WSF rep is Wavne Smith.

ROUGH DAY AT THE COURT!



INTERNATIONAL NEWS: PSA PLAYER REFEREEING UPDATE

The PSA has distributed their October 2017 bulletin.

Read the entire 'PSA Player Refereeing Update #8' at <http://squash.ca/en/officiatingnews>

A foot fault is called, and the player queries: "Aren't you going to warn me first about that?" The ref answers: "And are there any other rules you'd like me to warn you about?!"

FEEDBACK & INPUT

That's it for now, but don't despair – because our next edition will appear early in the new year. Meanwhile, if you've got something to say - email Britany Gordon (Squash Canada Programs Manager) at: britany.gordon@squash.ca