

BEHIND THE GLASS

Squash Canada's Officiating Newsletter

Published by: Squash Canada's Officiating Committee

WINTER 2018

This is our mid-season edition, and would you believe it – we're still not nominated for a Pulitzer. While waiting for that award, we once again present a buffet of contributions – including news, announcements, technical stuff, updates - and a yes, a laugh or two; too; two; 2.

DATA MINING AT THE DATABASE!

The **Squash Canada Officials Website** has got plenty to keep you busy for a while sharpening your skills. Beyond all the documentation referring to program elements, you'll find some very interesting video modules in the Resources section on a bunch of topics, including:

- Access Interference: a clear approach to solving dilemmas relating to the most common of all interferences.
- Crossing the Flight – Misjudgments: tips on avoiding reflexive judgments for potential 'ball' interference cases.
- Ethics: it wouldn't be right to not have this one in there. 😊
- Improving Explanations: if you've ever messed up while trying to clear things up – this is for you.
- Injury, Illness: this one covers the whole gamut of medical misfortunes that befall players.
- Position of Advantage: if ever a teaching aid helped get rid of poor thinking – this is it.
- Swing Interference: the greatest challenge to Referees is broken down and simplified.
- The Danger Zone Convention: this one clarifies the question – but not the answer.
- Turning and Its Variations: no going 'around' in circles with this one; it will definitely make your life easier.

On top of that, the site has had recent updates to improve sorting and filtering of documents, as well as easing the entering of assessment competencies. Even more improvements are on the way for the production of reports which will allow P/Ts and individuals to clearly see where they are in their progression to next level.

HELPFUL TIP FOR ASSESSORS

Our final SCO website topic concerns an app that a couple of people have found useful. It's called 'Office Lens' – its big advantage being that it can take a picture of an assessment sheet, automatically cropping, enhancing, rectifying, & "normalizing" it. All of that means that if you take a picture of the page on an angle - it processes the picture to make it look as if you took it directly above the page – making the whole thing more readable. Anyway, if you want to give it a shot, here are the links:

For Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.microsoft.office.officelens&hl=en>

For Apple: <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/office-lens/id975925059?mt=8>

Visit the SCO website at www.squashcanadaofficial.com

RULES: THE NITTY GRITTY

THIS ISSUE'S TOPIC: ACCESS INTERFERENCE

So far, we've dealt with interference to the swing and to the ball; this time it's all about access – the most common form of interference. 'Access' accounts for almost two thirds of interference decisions, and that's because it deals with movement of the entire body - necessarily the slowest of the involved elements.

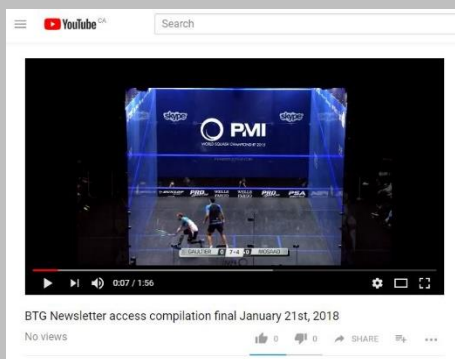
General considerations

- There is a broad range of possibilities – from a major blockage to a minor deflection.
- The 'major' end of the scale typically makes continuing play unfeasible.
- The 'minor' end of the scale is more susceptible to the rule on 'minimal interference', as well as to demands for the striker to play through such minor inconveniences.
- The call of 'Let' stops the players' movements but does not stop your consideration of what then happens to the ball – specifically for cases where the ball could only have been reached some time later.
- The shot selection, potentially causing repeated requests for let, is not a recognized decision-making factor.
- With the 2014 rules, the 'non-striker' may now request a let for access interference before the ball has reached the front wall. This was adopted because player speed can sometimes exceed ball travel.

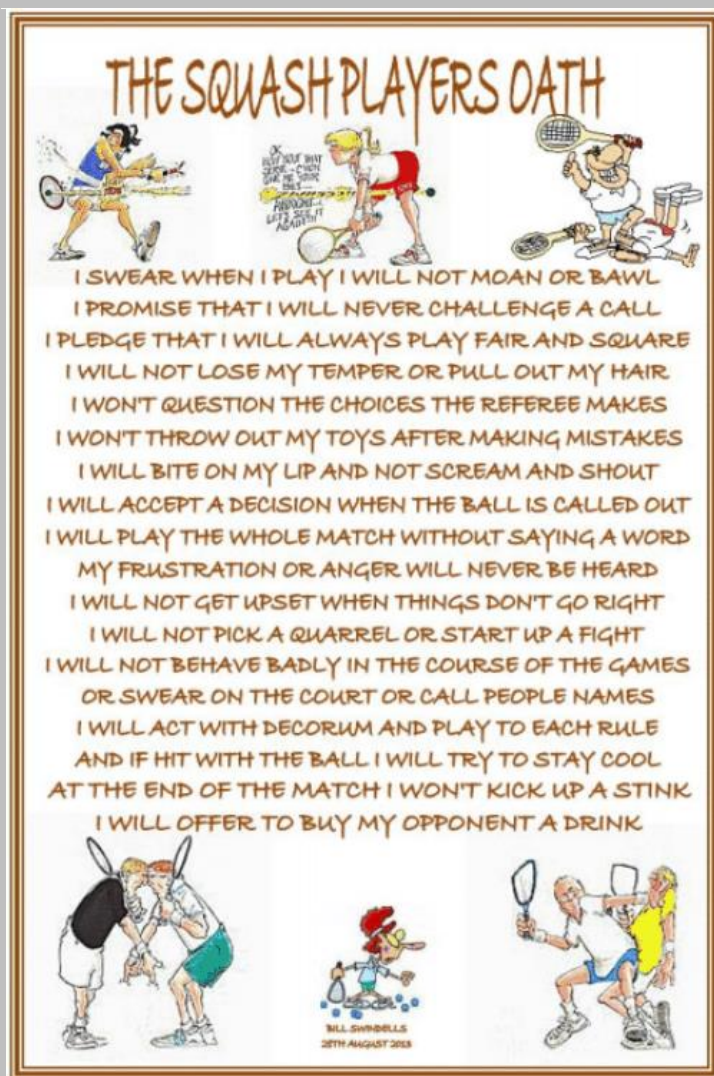
Two similar, but importantly different concepts:

- Trapping – is a neutral action that is typically a major, 'total-obstruction' type of scenario which usually stops all movement. It occurs when the striker's incoming motion is so fast that it does not allow the non-striker the opportunity to start or continue what would have been an appropriate clearing effort.
- Blocking – is a punishable action (either deliberate or accidental) that occurs when the non-striker's clearing effort is either too slow, or in the wrong direction, or non-existent. It can range from minor to major.

The following 2-minute clip demonstrates those 2 concepts:



<https://youtu.be/-qll9WQ4WGE>



RULES: THE NITTY GRITTY, continued:

Decision making

YES, LET is the correct decision if:

- The non-striker's clearing effort was good, and the striker still needed a step or more to play the ball.
- The Referee was uncertain about any of the elements of the situation.

STROKE is the correct decision if:

- The non-striker failed to make an appropriate effort to clear in terms of speed or direction.
- The striker's access was essentially complete – meaning that the interference is simultaneously one of access, combined with a prevented swing.

NO LET is the correct decision if:

- There was no interference in concert with no reasonable fear of injury.
- The interference was minimal - meaning that playing through would not have compromised the return.
- The striker did not make enough effort to play through a non-compromising amount of interference.
- The striker played through the interference and then requested the let.
- The striker created the interference.
- The striker would not have been able to make a good return.

THEY DID IT! LATEST OFFICIALS TO REACH A NEW DESIGNATION

It's always a treat to announce the accomplishments of some of our own:

- **Christina Yap** (BC), **Ted Horbulyk** (AB) & **Curtis Gillespie** (AB) have achieved 'National Referee' status
- **Nigel Meakon** (ON) moves up to the 'Provincial Referee' level
- **Jeff Scriber** (BC) has made it to 'Local Referee'
- **Jack Dale** (AB) has become a 'Provincial Assessor'

And it's a big welcome to Roozbeh Amirian, who has moved from Ireland – er, we mean Iran, to Ontario. Our program has a foreign equivalency protocol which allows his experience to date to qualify him for 'Provincial Referee' status (along with significant credits towards National Referee). Bienvenu Roozbeh!

A ref denies a let to a player – so the player then quips: "You don't know how fast I think I am!"

THE PSA 2-REFEREE SYSTEM VARIATION

For about a year now, the Professional Squash Association has been using a different appeal system which features 2 Referees instead of the usual 3 – but with an additional twist. For the first time ever, there is a real-time audio link between the Match Referee and the Video Referee (usually hidden down deep in the technology room) – enabling the two of them to consult on aspects of a decision if it is appealed.

... AND A VARIATION ON A VARIATION

We here in Canada will soon be trialing a modification of the above-mentioned PSA 2-Referee System – a version intended for use in events where no video-review technology is available. The key features of this no-tech version are that players are (as for the original system) allowed to appeal to a second Referee – and that those 2 Referees will be seated in proximity to each other, allowing them to consult before issuing a final decision. If you are involved in such a trial, you'll be sent the protocol details beforehand.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Here's a chance for you to see if your observational skills and subsequent thinking are in line with other officials. Some international diplomacy at its finest has given us Canadians the opportunity to participate in U.S. Squash's 'Summer Assessments' program – wherein a designated match on Squash TV is subjected to review both by regular and PSA/WSF officials. Once everyone's input is received, you would then receive a spreadsheet with the 'experts' comments and 'correct' calls. If you want to participate, you'll need to buy a subscription to PSA Squash TV – which you can do using this link:

<https://psaworldtour.com/accounts/register>

Joe Ellis is our contact guy for participation, and you can contact him at: joeellis610@gmail.com.

He can also supply you with a number of past match assessments should you want to get the ball rolling faster.

At a local event, the ref denies a Let to a player appealing on an attempt to get to the ball. He then starts to complain vociferously – but just then his wife, who was watching, interrupts with: “No dear – you couldn't have got to it!”

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 Wayne Smith.

FEEDBACK & INPUT

So that's a wrap for this edition. However, don't despair, because our final edition will appear sometime around the Nationals in early May.

Meanwhile, if you've got something to say - email Britany Gordon (Squash Canada Programs Manager) at: britany.gordon@squash.ca