Refereeing – Its Place Within Squash

Chris Sinclair
WSF World Referee

How can refereeing attract people to:
- Dress differently to everyone else
- Be abused by spectators, parents, coaches and players, then
- Pay them nothing for their efforts

Problems for refereeing
- Parents
- Coaches
- Players
- Referee position

How can Administrators help refereeing?
- Encourage grant applications
- Nominate referees for awards
- Include referees on committees
- Thank referees
- Plan and budget for referees
- Closer seating

How can coaching help refereeing?
- Assist WSF with annual review
- Stamp out poor behaviour
- Learn illness, injury and blood rules
- Don’t coach during play
- Provide only constructive criticism to referees
- Help referees with tactical knowledge
- Refrain from public criticism of referees
- Encourage parents to respect referees

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Please teach your players

- The rules
- Plan to hit the ball - then move
- Don’t cheat
- Thank the referee and marker
- Play the ball
- Don’t exaggerate swing to “fish” for strokes
- Don’t block
- Admit to poor behaviour
- Don’t use the referee as an excuse for losing

We teach referees

- Be prepared to discuss decisions with coaches
- Accept negative feedback without argument
- Listen - don’t offer a defence
- Don’t approach players or coaches immediately after a match
- Ask for advice
- Watch players practice

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WSF Referees and Assessors

by age

(18 male, 2 female)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ages</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(non-refereeing) Assessors (3) - ages 67, 68, 70

WSF Referees by Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>World</th>
<th>International</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 (4 England, 1 Wales)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 (all Australian)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panamerica</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 (2 Canada, 1 USA)</td>
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</tbody>
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(7) (13)

Budgets for refereeing at events

- WSF - 1 or 2 Assessors to Europe and Asia
- Member Nations - pay Assessor accommodation, allowances
- PSA and WISPA – no contribution.
  - World Championships: 3 or 4 WSF referees
  - PSA and WISPA major events: 2-4
  (Will need to increase with 3-referee system)
- Events – fares, accommodation, meals, allowances

Regional refereeing budgets

- Panamerica – Countries pay costs if hosting events, and to send their referees to events. Canada $35,000 budget
- Oceania – AS250 annually (£125)
- Asia – US$2000 covers Convenor’s airfares to major events e.g. ASF AGM. Countries fund clinics and assessments.
- Europe -
- Africa -
What WSF is doing to improve the standard of refereeing

- CBTA programmes
- Programmes for Assessors
  - 2 Senior assessors
- 3-Referee System

CBTA Refereeing Framework

- Country administered
  - Introductory
  - National
  - Regional administered
  - Regional
  - WSF administered
    - International
    - World

Pre-requisites for International

- Pass WSF Rules Theory Examination
- Sign WSF Code of Conduct
- 20-20/corrected vision, good hearing

International Referee Assessment

- Matches between men top 150, women top 75
- 4 games, 25 decisions, 90% correct
- 4 assessments in 3 years on 3 men’s matches including 2 between top 30 players
- By 2 different assessors – one from outside own region

Competencies

- Know the rules, correct decisions, consistency
- Understand player movement, swing interference, a winning shot
- Demonstrate good match management, composure
- Good communication with the players

International Referee Assessment Standards

- All areas – no more than 10% error.
- No more than 3 marginal differences
- No totally wrong decisions
Referees are referred to
(Australian Sports Commission’s on-line)

Officiating General Principles

Developing Officiating Skills
Performance Analysis
Mental Skills
Managing Risk

Minimising Conflict
Insurance for Officials
Leading a Team of Officials
Effective Communication

Paul Reiffel – (ex) Australian Test cricketer

- Undertook minimal training - assumption that he would know the rules because he played at the top level.
- Generally accepted by the players from the outset and given more respect than other new referees.
- Initially did not feel respected by the other officials (seen as getting an easy ride).

Paul Reiffel – (ex) Test cricketer, now top level umpire

His observations

- Referees appear to often be an after-thought
- Culture of society is of challenging the referee
- In the eyes of players or coaches, one mistake by a referee means a disastrous match
- Officials have to be perfect to be satisfactory

We advise prospective referees

- Matches are for the players
- Referees are there to assist, not control
- Not noticed? Then you’ve done a good job!
- Remember squash is only a game
  There are more important things in life
- If we lose the sense of fun then it’s time to find some other enjoyable activity

We all need to share our knowledge and experiences, because the more we understand each other, the better it is for the players and the sport

Thank you