

9th World Squash Coaching and Development Conference - 2009 Hong Kong
Refereeing – Its Place Within Squash





9th World Squash
Coaching and Development Conference
Hong Kong May 2009

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Chris Sinclair
WSF World Referee





Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission



- Refereeing can work with you to help your players, and coaching can help refereeing
- The more we understand each other and work together, the better for our sport, its players and our Olympic profile





Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission





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





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Problems for refereeing

Parents
Coaches
Players
Referee position





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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





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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
 (in Australia)

- 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

WSF Referees by Region

	World	International
Africa	1	1
Asia	1	6
Europe	2	3 (4 England, 1 Wales)
Oceania	1	2 (all Australian)
Panamerica	2	1 (2 Canada, 1 USA)
	(7)	(13)






WSF Referees and Assessors
 by age

(18 male, 2 female)

Ages	Number
40-49	6
50-59	8
60+	6

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






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 – A\$250 annually (£125)
- Asia – US\$2000 covers Convenor's airfares to major events e.g. ASF AGM. Countries fund clinics and assessments.
- Europe -
- Africa -







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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







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Referees are referred to
(Australian Sports Commission's on-line)





Officiating General Principles

Developing Officiating Skills	Minimising Conflict
Performance Analysis	Insurance for Officials
Mental Skills	Leading a Team of Officials
Managing Risk	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*



(in Australia)

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

