

Officials' View

News and Views From Zagreb

By Dr. Azmy

I was hesitant to write this article as none of the rules considered in Zagreb are official yet, as they have to be approved first by the Rules Committee and then by the ITTF Executive Committee. However, I have heard that rumors have started that the service rule has been passed. I also heard that some tournament managers are imposing their own service rule.

At the time of this writing, none of the rules recommended at Zagreb had passed yet.

So please wait till we get the final word, which may be for some time. In this article I will try to give you some ideas of how the wind was blowing in Zagreb. **Please remember these rules are not approved yet.**

Regarding the service rule, a small working group will be working on the wording of the final version of the rule. They will also write the wording for the Handbook, which will be accompanied by an explanation of the purpose and intention of the Law, and possibly illustrated with a diagram. The main goal of the new service rule is to eliminate the practice of hiding the ball from the receiver at contact during the serve.

The expedite system will go back to the way it used to be. That means that if the expedite rule is not introduced in a game which lasts over 10 minutes, it does not automatically come into operation at the start of the next game. If a game reaches 10-10, the expedite rule cannot be introduced.

The umpire can give a warning on a questionable serve **only** if he is umpiring without an assistant umpire. That means when two umpires are there, there is no warning on a questionable serve.

The jurisdiction of the Referee will be on players within the whole arena; the jurisdiction of the umpire will be within the playing area.

At the change of the serve the umpire need not call the name of the next server.

The final decision on when to take a time-out will be by the individual players in regular singles or doubles matches, and the team captain in a team match.

If both sides wanted to take a time-out at the same time, the duration will be one minute only, and no further time-out will be taken later.

There will be no more than six advertisements on the front side and shoulder within an area of 600 cm², and two on the back in an area of 400 cm².

Age eligibility will be determined by the December 31 preceding the date of the tournament.