



USATT Umpire/Referee Memo 2005-1

August 25, 2005

SUBJECT: New Service Law and Let

The ITTF is still in the process of finalizing the wording of the new Laws and Regulations. The following draft of the service law and let is provided so you can enforce the appropriate provisions effective September 1, 2005. USATT will receive copies of the ITTF Handbook and Rules manual when they are published.

2.6 THE SERVICE

- 2.6.1 Service shall start with the ball resting freely on the open palm of the server's stationary free hand.
- 2.6.2 The server shall then project the ball near vertically upwards, without imparting spin, so that it rises at least 16cm after leaving the palm of the free hand and then falls without touching anything before being struck.
- 2.6.3 As the ball is falling the server shall strike it so that it touches first his court and then, after passing over or around the net assembly, touches directly the receiver's court; in doubles, the ball shall touch successively the right half court of server and receiver.
- 2.6.4 From the start of service until it is struck, the ball shall be above the level of the playing surface and behind the server's end line, and it shall not be hidden from the receiver by the server or his doubles partner and by anything they wear or carry.
- 2.6.5 As soon as the ball has been projected, the server's free arm shall be removed from the space between the ball and the net.
 - The space between the ball and the net is defined by the ball, the net and its indefinite upward extension.
- 2.6.6 It is the responsibility of the player to serve so that the umpire or the assistant umpire can see that he complies with the requirements for a correct service.
 - 2.6.6.1 If the umpire is doubtful of the legality of a service he may, on the first occasion in a match, declare a let and warn the server.
 - 2.6.6.2 Any subsequent service of doubtful legality of that player or his doubles partner will result in a point to the receiver.

2.6.6.3 Whenever there is a clear failure to comply with the requirements for a correct service, no warning shall be given and the receiver shall score a point.

2.6.7 Exceptionally, the umpire may relax the requirements for a correct service where he is satisfied that compliance is prevented by physical disability.

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2.9 A LET

2.9.1 The rally shall be a let

2.9.1.1 if in service the ball, in passing over or around the net assembly, touches it, provided the service is otherwise good or the ball is obstructed by the receiver or his partner;

2.9.1.2 if the service is delivered when the receiving player or pair is not ready, provided that neither the receiver nor his partner attempts to strike the ball;

2.9.1.3 if failure to make a service or a return or otherwise to comply with the Laws is due to a disturbance outside the control of the player;

2.9.1.4 if play is interrupted by the umpire or assistant umpire;

2.9.1.5 if the receiver is in wheelchair due to a physical disability and the ball

2.9.1.5.2 leaves the receiver's half after touching it in the direction of the net ;

2.9.1.5.3 comes to rest on the receiver's half;

2.9.1.5.1 in singles leaves the receiver's half after touching it by either of its sidelines.

2.9.2 Play may be interrupted

2.9.2.1 to correct an error in the order of serving, receiving or ends;

2.9.2.2 to introduce the expedite system;

2.9.2.3 to warn or penalise a player or adviser;

2.9.2.4 because the conditions of play are disturbed in a way which could affect the outcome of the rally.

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