

Managing the repetitive let

This could be described as an advanced level action for a referee

When there is no need to come in



- You are awarding strokes or no lets
- There are player queries
- Your responses can clarify the reasoning
- Even without queries you can help eg
“Stroke to A – must clear”

When the need does arise



- A number of lets for similar reasons are being awarded
- The referee recognises that a pattern is emerging
- The referee recognises that without action, the sequence will repeat and repeat and.....

Why?

- To help the game to flow
- To recognise that without intervention, players will opt not to play the ball
- To remind players of their responsibilities

Pre - requisites

- A confident referee
- To handle the risk of being perceived to alter decisions
- To have the confidence to narrow parameters
- To have good communication skills with players
- To recognise the need to intervene

Example mid court 1(a)



- Player A is not playing ball down the middle
- He is looking to “win “ the stroke if opponent not clear
- There have been a number of lets for “Opponent had cleared (but there was a fear of injury)”

Example mid court 1 (b)



- Referee : “ Mr A : I need you to play that ball – you are risking the no let if I see your opponent clear”
- Should player A say that he was unsure of opponent’s position, this is irrelevant – it is part of the game to know where his opponent is at all times.

Example mid court 2(a)



- Player A is clearing from deep left (say)
- However he keeps running close to player B's back swing
- B keeps asking but they are lets as A is not preventing a shot
- A number of similar situations have resulted in stoppages

Example mid court 2 (b)

- Referee : “Mr A – I need you to clear your opponent’s swing more effectively. You are not making every effort to clear on the correct line. You risk giving away the stroke”.
- The referee is accepting that A is making every effort to clear– but not on the correct line
- The referee is narrowing his parameters

Example deep court

- Player A stops whenever he perceives interference from player B exiting from deep court areas.
- The number of lets is increasing
- Referee : “Mr A – I need to see you make every effort to get to and play that ball. The interference is close to minimal and you risk the no let”.

Example front court

- Player A is clearing straight back to the T
- But player B is some way from the ball, and the let is correctly given
- Pattern emerging
- Referee : “Mr A – watch your clearing line – you must allow your opponent direct access to the ball”

Example front court (cont)



- It may be that you believe both players are responsible for the repeated lets
- Hence “Gentlemen, one of you has to clear and one of you has to make every effort to play the ball”.

Follow up

- Having made such comments you must follow up
- You need to tighten your parameters
- You need to make the calls about which you have warned

Rationale



- In the match you have seen a pattern emerge
- The play is regularly stopping
- It is your responsibility to manage the match
- In light of the play you need to adjust your parameters
- You have alerted the players as to your intentions