

Mid-court interference

(created by Ian Allanach)

Theory and practice

Understanding paired indicators

Video illustrations

Description/definition

- This interference takes place around the T area.
- It may be slightly left of, right of, or, most commonly, behind the T
- It is unlikely to be in front of the T
- It is unlikely to be wider than the inner service box lines

Specific issues associated



1

- The interference can develop very quickly – may seem instantaneous
- Both players may see the potential situation simultaneously
- Can lead to two opposing rapid player movements – one clearing, one looking to appeal
- Striker's motion can be dramatic, spinning and holding racket up in posed position

Specific issues associated

2

- Often results from surprise of front-wall nick shot or a “loose” shot
- Striker may delay shot and non-striker does not move
- Non-striker may concede point – no need to call “Stroke to..”
- Referee position foreshortens distance between players
- Problem of a generous line – too many strokes

Forms of interference

- All three decisions are possible
- Experience/statistics show that the main choice for the referee in mid-court is **Yes let** or **Stroke**
- The following 8 indicators reflect that choice
- Again – they are only indicators

The indicators

- The pairs of indicators cover a wide range of possibilities
- An attempt is made to identify **priority indicators**
- Any one **priority indicator (***)** should be sufficient to direct the decision

Mid-court interference A



Stroke

1. Striker static

2. Striker in place, racket ready

Yes let

1. Striker is still moving

2. Striker reaching out to put racket to ball***

Mid-court interference B



Stroke

3. Opponent static/little effort to clear

4. Opponent moving into swing

Yes let

3. Opponent moving, trying to clear

4. Opponent moving out of swing

Mid-court interference C



Stroke

Yes let

5. Striker racket in position, able to hit

5. Striker racket not quite there for strike***

6. Ball within arm's length of striker

6. Ball some distance from striker***

Mid-court interference D



Stroke

Yes let

7. Held swing not excessive – reasonable

7. Held swing is extended/excessive***

8. Strike position level or in front of striker

8. Strike position is behind striker ***

No let situations

- These are relatively rare as fear of injury on the swing applies
- Can be given when player repeatedly holds shot but opponent clear
- We know the striker is “fishing” but do not use the phrase

It's a classic scenario

- Ball down middle from loose or nick shot
- Striker sees possible interference – prepared?
- Non-striker sees – cleared?
- In 0.5 seconds!!
- Be wary of generous strokes in mid-court