

THE THREE JUDGE SYSTEM

By Tony Swift

The best system for officiating singles and doubles squash matches is the three judge system.

Whilst taking nothing away from the overall authority and control from the central (Head) Referee, this system enhances his decision making. Without the ongoing confrontation between a single Referee and players, the Referee can give a more relaxed, and often better decision, knowing that he has back up in the form of line judges.

The process of handling the appeal from a player should be completed in a matter of seconds thereby avoiding any delay in the flow of the game.

The central Referee is responsible for all initial decisions on whether a ball is up or down, in or out as well as decisions on Lets, No Lets and Points (Strokes in the International softball game).

A player may appeal directly to the central Referee on any of his decisions; through the Referee and NOT to either Line Judge! So the only communication should be between the players and the Referee or the Referee and the Line Judges!

On appeal by a player, the Referee should then go to the Line Judge who has the best view, for his decision. If the Line Judge agrees with the Referee, then the Referee's decision is upheld.

If, however, the first Line Judge disagrees with the Referee then the other Line Judge is asked for his decision.

For the Referee to be overruled both Line Judges must agree.

The positioning of the Line Judges is important so that they have direct vision and can communicate with the Referee.

The Referee must always have the overall authority and he controls the match.

The only time there would be no appeal on a Referee's decision is when his decision is given under the Code of Conduct Rule, such as warnings or the award of points, games or even the match, in which case the Referee's decision is final!