



*"It is the goal and responsibility of every player and referee to make each game we participate in, flow to the best of our ability, helping to improve the image and watchability of our uniquely exciting, dynamic and demanding sport"* – **PSA Refereeing mission statement**

## Update #8

Dear Player/Referee/Coach,

Re: October 2017 Refereeing Update

This is an important update in an effort to further reduce a few perceived grey areas associated with refereeing after some good discussion points at the 2017 US Open and other recent events. It is an important process for us to continue to gain/share information and feedback from these events.

### Use of the Body:

During the daily meetings held before play commenced at the 2017 US Open **use of the body** was one of the main talking points. Many examples reviewed, showed players using either their body or movement in the shot to move their opponent away from direct access or to prevent the opponent from having access.

It is important to note the following from the Rules:

**8.1** – a player must make every effort to clear

So that...

**8.1.2** – the opponent has unobstructed direct access to the ball

Please also note that, the quality of the opponent's previous shot is not referenced at any point and is therefore not relevant in this situation.

The **Referee** has the following considerations:

- Was it poor movement and was the player making every effort to clear?
- Was it deliberate poor movement and was there a lack of effort to clear?

**Stroke** – can be awarded against a player if every effort is not being made to provide 'unobstructed direct access to the ball'; even if it is deemed to be a 'winning return'.

**No Let** – can still be awarded if there was interference (that the player was making every effort to avoid) but the striker would not have been able to make a good return.

**Yes Let** – will still be awarded if there was interference that the opponent was making every effort to avoid and the striker would have been able to make a good return,

In the case of 'poor movement' being deemed deliberate, the referee can award a **Stroke** as described above, **and also** use 'Conduct' rule **15.5** stating that players must not behave in a manner that is **unfair**, dangerous, abusive, offensive, or in any way detrimental to the sport.

Therefore it can be a **2 point** penalty if the Referee deems the action to be deliberate.

Please remember that players are always welcome to join the referee meetings at events to discuss the talking points and watch the clips being reviewed.

We hope the above helps to provide an understanding of what is being discussed at events or behind the scenes and will offer clarity in relation to what is required of each party in certain scenarios.

Kind Regards,

Lee

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Roy

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**Roy Gingell | Director  
WSF Referees Committee**

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