

Etiquette – Referees

The referee's function is to see that *“a fair and equal contest is conducted within the framework of the Rules and Regulations”*. Also take into consideration: *“that it is not enough to adhere to the letter of the law one must embrace it in spirit”* (the quotation was about William Blake's illustrations of the Book of Job).

1. **Be impartial** and appear to be impartial.
2. **Be courteous** and respectful to players and expect to be treated with respect.
3. **Remember you are a referee** and need to observe the principles of refereeing when you are a player (as well as when you are a referee) – be a positive role model in behaviour and appearance.
4. **Never give advice** to a player during a game. If offering advice after the game, preferably do so in the presence of the opponent.
5. **If a player appeals** against a referee's decision on a fact, use an alternative method, if possible, to confirm the original test but reconfirm the decision calmly.
6. **When going onto the court** to watch a shot, avoid walking across the line of aim of the game or any double banked game, as your footprints could affect a soft court.
7. **Avoid** casting your shadow across the shot to be played.
8. **Do not voluntarily** sit or hold lengthy conversations with spectators, but do answer any reasonable number of questions about Rules and Regulations both on and off the court with either side – be open to discussion and interaction at appropriate times.
9. **Do not conduct** loud conversations or move in a way to distract the striker.
10. **Do not run** onto the court but move promptly with dignity.
11. **Do not use** marking techniques that distract the striker.
12. **Use plastic markers** only, do not use coins as they will damage mower blades if left on the court.
13. Always **stand** where you can see clearly, consistent with safety.
14. **Make players aware** of any known safety concerns about the court, place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.
15. **When adjudicating** a stroke, never speak or move.
16. Always **give a verbal decision**, never just walk away.