

# Tennis New Zealand Self-Umpiring Code

## POLICY

Tennis New Zealand has adopted the following policy for self-umpiring of national events:

Matches shall not be umpired (except as otherwise stated in the event regulations) and players shall call their own lines. Every player has the right to appeal to the referee who will observe play and may appoint an umpire if necessary. Singles finals and other feature matches should have an umpire who (unless the person is a qualified umpire), will call the score and adjudicate on disputes but the players will continue to call all lines.

## ON-COURT RULES FOR MATCHES PLAYED WITHOUT UMPIRES

- All calls on your side of the net are **your** responsibility (i.e. you cannot ask an opponent for a let because you do not agree with their call). If you have any doubt as to whether a ball is out or good, you must give your opponent the benefit of the doubt and play the ball as good. You should **not** play a let.
- Any 'out' call must be made instantaneously (i.e. made before either an opponent has hit the return or the return has gone out of play); otherwise, the ball continues in play. The call should be made both verbally and by using a hand signal.
- Do **not** enlist the aid of spectators, including parents, in making calls.
- If a player incorrectly calls a ball 'out' and then realises that ball was good, the player who called the ball 'out' loses the point, unless it was the first incorrect 'out' call made by the player in the match **and** it was not a point winning shot. In this circumstance, the point should be replayed.
- To avoid controversy over the score, the Server should announce the set score (e.g. 5-4) before starting a game and the game score (e.g. thirty-forty) prior to serving each point. Game scores must also be recorded on each end change and at the end of each set.
- If players cannot agree on the score the referee is to be called. The referee will discuss the relevant points or games to find out the points or games that the players agree on. All points or games which the players agree on stand and only those in dispute will be replayed.
- Foot faults are not allowed. If an opponent persists in foot faulting after being warned not to do so, the referee should be informed. The Referee may call foot faults from the side of the court.
- Be courteous to your opponent, do not stall, sulk, complain or practice gamesmanship.
- If a dispute cannot be settled then the player should get a spectator to go and get the referee or tournament manager. One of two things will happen
  - 1) The official will stay and observe, and if satisfied there is no problem, the game is to continue self-umpired; or
  - 2) The official will stay and observe and if necessary, after warning an offending player, an adjudicator or chair umpire will be appointed.

The above principles and guidelines shall apply in any match conducted without on court officials.

