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# SCOTTISH SQUASH AND RACKETBALL

1936 - 2011

75 YEARS OF RACQUET SPORTS

PROMOTING, FOSTERING AND DEVELOPING SQUASH AND RACKETBALL IN SCOTLAND

A ' BROSACHADH AGUS A ' TOIRT PISEASCH AIR SQUAIS AGUS RACKETBALL ANN AN ALBA



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# 'BUILDING TO THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2014' INITIATIVE

## DISCUSSION PAPER 5

### KEY TOPICS

Turning, Blocking, Created Interference  
and Minimal Interference



# KEY TOPICS PRESENTATION

This presentation looks at the following key topics that concern referees when officiating a match:

1. Turning – Slide 4
2. Blocking – Slide 8
3. Created Interference – Slide 14
4. Minimal Interference – Slide 17



# TOPIC 1 – Turning

- Turning is not allowed
- Physical turning, mental turning
- Turning is NOT – shaping, playing behind back, playing between legs
  
- Professionals do it safely
- Others do not
- If it goes wrong – the following are suggested



# Player turns and Hits Opponent – 1

- Point to opponent
- Conduct warning to player
- Judge whether it is enough to go with  
“Mr X – you must not play that ball on turning, you endanger your opponent ( - if it happens again it will be a Conduct Stroke)”
- Suggest same action if near miss

# Player Turns and Hits Opponent – 2

- Point to opponent
- Conduct stroke against player
- Warning that he will lose the match if it happens again
  
- Suggest same action if ball misses opponent but passes close



# Player Turns and Hits Opponent – 3

- Conduct Match
- Even if ball passes close to opponent for the second time – suggestion is conduct match
- Reason = persistent dangerous play, accident waiting to happen

# TOPIC 2 - BLOCKING

## What is it?

### The Simplest Block

- Player A plays the ball, stands still and makes no effort to move clear
- Player A is on the direct line that Player B is allowed to take the ball
- This is the shot of a beginner or less experienced player





# Blocking 2

## The Most Common Block

- Player A plays the ball, moves, but still is on the opponent's direct line to the ball
- Player A either moves back on the direct line OR does not move sufficiently to clear
- This can be accidental, poor play or deliberate



# Blocking 3

## The Professional Block

- Player A plays the ball and moves deliberately into opponent's line
- Player A may make it look as though the movement was a necessary follow on from their swing/shot. The block was 'disguised'.
- It can look as though the opponent has simply turned into Player A.

# Happens when?

- Front court – following a drop – as opponent moves in to take a short ball
- Mid to deep court – following a drive – as opponent, having come forward, needs to go back to good length ball
- Mid court – as opponent, off T, tries to move across to take the ball on the volley



# Outcomes from Blocking

- Give ‘stroke’ whenever possible.
- Fair to give ‘let’ if distance from ball.
- Give ‘stroke’ if it is a deliberate block even if distance involved.
- Caution against saying “(deliberate) block” – “He would have reached it” or maybe “his route was blocked”.



# Blocking is not when.....

- Opponent's position has him turning into striker before striker has opportunity to clear
- Happens with anticipation or poor positioning
- This could be a let
- This could be created interference and a “no let”



# TOPIC 3 – CREATED INTERFERENCE

- Guideline G11
- If the direct line to ball is available but opponent makes the interference – No Let
- Normally this means body interference
- But watch for
  - Racket drag
  - Foot contact



# Explanations

- **Racket drag** : striker holds racket a little wide or a little low in order that racket makes contact with opponent en route to ball
- **Foot contact** : claim for let when striker makes the contact with his own foot on opponent's foot – sometimes when changing direction
- **Outcome** – “No let – you made the contact”



## A Difficult One.....

- Player A midcourt, right of T, plays length forehand side. Moves back to T
- Player B to his left, moves across to cut the ball off on the volley – contact!
- Blocking? winning shot?, created interference?
- Look at the quality of the shot, would B have reached to volley, was he trying to get back deep?





# TOPIC 4 – MINIMAL INTERFERENCE

- This is a helpful phrase for some No Lets
- You accept there was interference – but “minimal at best”
- “Yes – I saw it but it was minimal”
- However on racket contact, no such thing as minimal interference – give the let “Contact - yes let – affected swing”



# What is Meant by Minimal Interference?

- No significant effect on player line to ball
- No effect on racket carry or strike position
- No effect on player balance
  
- (Often – ball tight or striker is there to play)





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## SPORT AT ITS BEST



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