



Dual Referee Option

In an increasing number of tournaments, the Tournament Director or the Head Referee choose to use a Dual Referee Option, one acting as the Lead Referee and the other as the Second Referee. **Teamwork is essential to the success of the Dual Referee Option.** This refereeing option can be used, with or without Line Judges.

Goals :

1. Increase the accuracy of calls involving the NVZ and Players crossing the plane of the net.
2. Support the Lead Referee in officiating all aspects of the match.
3. Assure the accuracy of Referee calls.

Lead Referee Responsibilities:

The Lead Referee has the same responsibilities as usual and makes all final decisions regarding the resolution of any disagreements and the assessment of penalties. During the serve, the Lead Referee will concentrate on the Server's service motion and the proper ball release.

Second Referee Responsibilities:

The Second Referee's primary responsibility is to assist the Lead Referee in calling faults for non-volley zone and plane of the net violations occurring on both sides of the net. The Second Referee will also observe all other Player activity on and around the court and specifically during dead ball times. The Second Referee will focus on the placement of the Server's feet or wheelchair during the serve.

Calls:

The Second Referee will call immediately any of the following violations:

1. NVZ faults
2. Plane of the net faults
3. Service foot faults
4. Short serves
5. Player safety issues

The Second Referee will signal other violations, in particular any of the following, by a raised hand after the rally:

1. Out of position Players
2. Incorrect Server or Receiver
3. Paddle thrown
4. Unsafe return of ball
5. Ball deliberately damaged

Positioning: The Second Referee stands on the opposite end of the net from the Lead Referee.





Scorekeeping: The Second Referee will not maintain a scoresheet.

Appeals:

All Player appeals should be directed to the Lead Referee. If the Lead Referee did not clearly see the action being appealed, and cannot make a decisive call, the Lead Referee should solicit the opinion of the Second Referee. If the Second Referee can make a decisive call, the Second Referee's call will stand.

Conflicting Calls and Disagreements:

If there is a simultaneous or conflicting call (e.g., Lead Referee calls crossing the plane fault on one team and Second Referee calls touching of the net fault on opponents), or if the Second Referee makes a fault call with which the Lead Referee disagrees, the Lead Referee will call a Referee time-out. Both Referees will meet at the center of the net to discuss a solution. The Lead Referee has the responsibility to make the final decision and to notify the Players. **Note:** Overruling of a Second Referee fault call is expected to be extremely rare and should be done only if the Lead Referee is absolutely certain that there was an error, in which case there will be a replay of the rally.

Pre-Match Briefings

Referees: Prior to the pre-match briefing with the players, the Lead Referee will brief the Second Referee on the expectations for how they will work together as a team. The Head Referee should observe this briefing to make sure both Referees (who may have never worked together) understand their respective responsibilities and their obligation to get each call correct and to uphold the professional reputations of each other and the Referee community as a whole.

Players: The Second Referee will attend the pre-match briefing with the Players. The Lead Referee will explain the role of the Second Referee and advise the Players to direct all calls and appeals to the Lead Referee.

