

Distribution:- All registered players via Team Captains

Welcome,

It's some time since we issued our last newsletter, however it would seem appropriate to reiterate the rules applicable to the 'Service' as our message of 2002 seems to still to waning in some quarters.

We have recently issued to all team captains the latest edition of the "**Laws of Table Tennis**" which govern all our play.

However, if there is one area which causes aggravation as well as concern, it is how we all serve the ball. If you continually receive a service which you believe is illegal and are loosing points to it, then it causes aggravation and leads to the loss of even more points. Then when it is pointed out to the server, he then also feels aggrieved because often he's never been pulled up before.

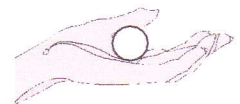
Therefore it's best that we all know what the rules are and do our best to follow them, and if you aren't, then PLEASE don't get upset if you're called up on your service.

The 'INTENT of the SERVICE RULE is

- (a) *that the ball be clearly visible to the receiver from the moment the service starts (i.e. When the ball first leaves the hand) until the moment it is struck in service.*
- (b) *there should be no possibility to hide or camouflage the ball at any time*
- (c) *the receivers line of vision should be clear enabling the receiver full view of the ball during the service*

Basically the requirements for a GOOD SERVICE are as follows:-

1. At the start of service the ball shall be, resting freely on the **open palm** of the servers **stationary** free hand, **behind the end line and above the level of the playing service.**



2. The ball shall then be projected **near vertically upwards**, without imparting spin and rising at least 16 cm (6 inches) after leaving the hand and struck when **falling.**



3. From the start of the service until it is struck the ball shall be clearly visible to the receiver. Not hidden from the receiver by any part of the body or clothing of the server or his doubles partner.
4. The ball shall be above the level of the playing surface from the moment at which the ball is stationery before being projected, until it is struck.



5. When the ball is struck it should still be behind the end line.
6. As soon as the ball has been projected, the server's free arm and hand shall be removed from the area between the ball and the net.
7. It is the player's responsibility to serve so that the umpire or the assistant umpire can see that he complies with the requirements for a good service.
8. If there is no Assistant Umpire and the umpire is doubtful of the legality of a service, but unsure, he may on the first occasion warn the server without awarding a point.
9. If subsequently a service by that player (or his doubles partner) is of dubious legality, for the same or any other reason, the receiver shall be awarded a point.
10. Where there is a clear failure to comply no warning shall be given and the receiver shall score a point.

As an Association we have striven for a long time to eradicate poor serving, especially where players are gaining an advantage and causing grievances with others. **We have adopted this attitude to ensure that our new players are encouraged to play correctly and that we all end up enjoying our sport, rather than getting aggravated over possible abuse.** It makes no matter what division is involved, no player should gain unfair advantage of the Service Rules.

Bad practices include

**Serving straight of the hand, without projecting the ball upwards,
Cupping the hand, which could well impart additional spin
Hiding the ball during the service, which disguises the spin and even the time of being struck.**

If players continue to adopt these bad practices, then they should expect to be called up for a **'FOUL'** service and subsequently suffer points loss.

If anyone is in doubt or requires advice, please contact me and I shall be pleased to discuss the matter.

Colin Wiles

(Hon General Secretary)