

Umpire Competency Checklist for Umpire Trainers

Umpires should have a basic knowledge of the rules, and have a basic knowledge of positioning (ie. where to stand on the court)

Umpires should exhibit competency in the following areas:

MINOR INFRINGEMENTS:

Throw ins
Centre pass
Replayed ball
Short pass
Foot work/stepping
Over a third
Held ball

MAJOR INFRINGEMENTS:

Obstruction
Contact

Umpires also need to know

How to set sanctions
Areas of control

Basic on court skills required are:

Which area they control of the court
Possession of a whistle, and something to keep track of centre passes
Check nails and jewellery before game
Know who blows the whistle for centre passes and when

Basic knowledge of main rules:

Throw-ins:

When the ball is deemed out of court
Where it is taken
When it is your decision

Offside:

When it is offside
Where the free-pass is taken

Centre Pass:

Breaking
Double breaking
Untouched/over a third

Replayed Ball:

Understanding of what a replayed ball is

Short Pass:

When it is
Where the free pass is taken

Footwork/Stepping:

When it is a step
When it is a drag

Over A Third:

Understand when it is over a third
Where the free pass is taken

Held Ball:

How to count and when

Obstruction:

- What is obstruction
- When to sanction
- Where the sanction is taken
- Ensure sanction is set with player out of play

Contact:

- What is contact
- When it becomes an infringement
- Where the sanction is taken
- Ensure sanction is set with player out of play

Infringements and Penalties:

- Differentiate between minor and major infringements
- How they are sanctioned - Free pass vs Sanction pass/pass or shot
- Where they are taken

It is understood that the umpire may not necessarily be able to sanction all of these infringements but they must have some knowledge of the rules and understand when and why to sanction these.

FURTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR FEEDBACK TO UMPIRES:

Contact:

- Contact decisions show an understanding of the difference between interference and coincidental contact
- Appropriate recognition and management of contact infringement
- Good use of hand signals as re-enactment
- Look carefully at contact decisions, as the defensive player is not always the infringer
- When sanctioning, ensure that the infringer is out of play correctly, beside and away, until the ball is released
- When players closely contest the ball, only sanction when you can clearly see interference
- When players are contesting the ball, allow for natural body movements, not all body contact is a "contact" sanction
- Make sure you sanction the correct player

Obstruction:

- Try to apply the same distance all over the court, including at throw-ins and centre passes
- Make sure, when need be, you readjust your position on the court to get the best possible view of the defenders distance
- After sanctioning an obstruction, always look for a second infringement
- Always double check distance under and around the goal post, often if your view is obstructed by the post, it can look different
- Use of hand signals as a re-enactment

Positioning and Vision:

- Make sure you *teach* the umpire where they need to be on the court, and why they need to be there
- Try and be where the ball is as it is caught
- Look wide** when on the goal line- to be able to see the movement of the players in the goal circle and around the ring
- Look long** when on the side line- to be able to see the movements of the players ahead of the ball
- Look often**- things change in a split second, so you need to be aware of what all players are doing all of the time
- Remember to reposition yourself when you can't see everything clearly
- Sometimes a change of pace is required- when the ball moves faster and longer, you need to run faster to get to where the play is/will be
- Good positioning will enable the umpire to make correct decisions, because they can see all the players and their movements
- Everytime the ball moves, so should the umpire
- It is important to use peripheral vision
- Don't watch the ball- it doesn't break the rules- the players do!
- Umpires can only sanction what they see, so it is vitally important to see as much as possible!

USE COMMON SENSE!!!