



# Conduct on court



- ◆ Using the code of conduct
- ◆ Anticipating the need to use the code of conduct – defusing situations (where possible)
- ◆ You cannot defuse a serious incident of indiscipline – deal with it



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# What is defusing about?

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- ◆ Aware of the potential for more difficulty
- ◆ Not quite at conduct rule stage
- ◆ Early intervention
- ◆ Being alert, not “afraid” to come in
- ◆ Match management – your responsibilities to the players, the spectators, the sponsors, the game.



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# When is defusing useful?

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- ◆ You are not always refereeing professionals
- ◆ You have a responsibility to educate
- ◆ **Defusing applies to all** but may be more effective with juniors, developing players



# Abuse of equipment



- ◆ Low key instances : throwing racket in air or tapping it on side wall
- ◆ Striking ball unnecessarily at end of rally (low level of force)
- ◆ Hitting glass wall with hand (low level of force)

# Referee comment

- ◆ “Stop – Mr Smith– that’s twice you have struck the wall with your racket (or equivalent statement). Don’t do it again please”.
- ◆ **Usefulness – medium** : situation may warrant immediate Conduct Rule



# Verbal or visible dissent



- ◆ Arguing, trying to analyse positions on court – “I was here, he was there”, saying “no way”, “you’re joking” or similar
- ◆ Shaking head, laughing at referee, making pointing gestures with racket, standing and staring at referee with hands on hips.

# Referee comment

- ◆ “Stop – Mr Smith – You have now argued with a number of decisions – no more dissent on court please.”
- ◆ “Stop – Mr Smith – there have been a number of situations where you have shown your dissent on court – no more please”.
- ◆ Either of the above could be after **one** incident if **high** level
- ◆ **Usefulness – very high** – should stop debates

# Abuse of official, opponent, spectators

- ◆ Saying “rubbish” or “poor decision” or “that’s bad refereeing”, etc
- ◆ Glaring at opponent, making comments such as “Get out of the way” or “Watch it – no need for that”, not returning ball courteously.
- ◆ Telling audience to “Shut up “ or making pointing gestures at them.



# Referee comment

- ◆ “Stop – Mr Smith – I need to see more respect for others when you are on the court. No further comments to (your opponent, etc)”
- ◆ **Usefulness – medium** : necessary in some contentious professional matches

# Time - wasting

- ◆ Could be late back on court. Amount dictates action but if 15 seconds or so “Mr Smith – you were 15 seconds late – on court on time please”.
- ◆ Could be tiring player. “Mr Smith – play must be continuous”. (Careful if both players tired)
- ◆ **Usefulness – low** – not many incidents that warrant defusing as opposed to the use of the conduct rule

# Physical contact

- ◆ Barging into opponent, pushing off opponent, hefty contact, etc
- ◆ “Stop – Mr Smith – I see you making the effort to play the ball – but watch the physical contact with your opponent.”
- ◆ **Usefulness – medium** – but useful early in some games



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# What is the follow up?

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- ◆ You have attempted to prevent a deteriorating situation
- ◆ Any more and Conduct Rule is applied (allowing for time-lapse).
- ◆ The players should get the message
- ◆ The spectators appreciate your actions



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# Defusing summary

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- ◆ The previous guidelines are for minor lapses in behaviour
- ◆ You are dealing with this behaviour at an appropriate level
- ◆ You are not coming in too early, you don't wait too long, you monitor, you manage.

# Applying Rule 17

- ◆ A “Guidelines” handout is being made available
- ◆ These “Guidelines” are also on the WSF website
- ◆ Summary of Offences with Minor and Major categories
- ◆ Minor = Conduct Warning
- ◆ Major = Conduct Stroke



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# Abuse of equipment

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- ◆ Minor – throwing racket on floor after losing game, hitting ball hard at end of rally
- ◆ Major – deliberately breaking racket, smashing racket against wall, hitting ball out of court, throwing racket out of court



# Dissent

- ◆ Minor – questioning a decision
- ◆ Major – prolonged or repeated questioning of or disagreement with decisions
- ◆ **(Defusing appropriate)**



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# Audible or visible obscenity

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- ◆ Minor – muttered expletive, blaspheming
- ◆ Major – audible obscenity
- ◆ **Defusing inappropriate**

# Abuse of official

- ◆ Minor – unflattering comments about official or decisions
- ◆ Major – pejorative comments about ...
- ◆ **But**
- ◆ Severe – hitting ball at official or spectators, throwing racket at..., = Conduct Game or Match depending on severity and danger



# Time wasting



- ◆ Minor – a few seconds late to court, taking excessive time to serve
- ◆ Major – very late back to court, prolonged discussion with referee

# Excessive physical contact

- ◆ Minor – running into opponent
- ◆ Major – physical abuse of opponent
- ◆ But
- ◆ Severe – injuring, dangerous play which injures = Conduct Game or Match depending on severity and extent of injury



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# Unsporting conduct

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- ◆ Minor – negative comments to opponent
- ◆ Major – repeated negative comments, any attempt to intimidate opponent
- ◆ **Defusing appropriate**



# Coaching

- ◆ Minor – first occurrence
- ◆ Major – second occurrence – expulsion of offending person in addition to Conduct Stroke



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# Repeated and excessive bad conduct

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- ◆ Second occurrence – referee can apply same penalty or a more serious one
- ◆ But
- ◆ Third occurrence – a Conduct Stroke is mandatory – this assumes the first two penalties were both warnings

# Referee tone

- ◆ The Conduct Rule is part of decision-making
- ◆ Not apologetic or aggressive or emotional
- ◆ Decisive, controlled, clear
- ◆ Make sure player hears – “(Stop) Mr Smith – Conduct stroke for.....”



# Importance



- ◆ It is essential that conduct be managed successfully
- ◆ This is a key factor in distinguishing good referees from very good referees



# And now?

- ◆ Slides handout
- ◆ Video illustrations
- ◆ Questions?