

Mid-court interference

- ◆ Theory and practice
- ◆ Paired indicators for mid-court interference
- ◆ Video illustrations

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Description/definition

- ◆ This interference takes place around the T area.
- ◆ It may be slightly left of, right of, or, most commonly, behind the T
- ◆ It is unlikely to be in front of the T
- ◆ It is unlikely to be wider than the inner service box lines

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Specific issues associated 1

- ◆ The interference can develop very quickly – may seem instantaneous
- ◆ Both players may see the potential situation simultaneously
- ◆ Can lead to two opposing rapid player movements – one clearing, one looking to appeal
- ◆ Striker's motion can be dramatic, spinning and holding racket up in posed position

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Specific issues associated 2

- ◆ Often results from surprise of front-wall nick shot or a "loose" shot
- ◆ Striker may delay shot and non-striker does not move
- ◆ Non-striker may concede point – no need to call "Stroke to.."
- ◆ Referee position foreshortens distance between players
- ◆ Problem of a generous line – too many strokes

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Forms of interference

- ◆ All three decisions are possible
- ◆ Experience/statistics show that the main choice for the referee in mid-court is **Yes let** or **Stroke**
- ◆ The following 8 indicators reflect that choice
- ◆ Again – they are only indicators

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The indicators

- ◆ The pairs of indicators cover a wide range of possibilities
- ◆ An attempt is made to identify **priority indicators**
- ◆ Any one **priority indicator (***)** should be sufficient to direct the decision

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Mid-court interference A

- | ◆ Stroke | ◆ Yes let |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Striker static | 1. Striker is still moving |
| 2. Striker in place, racket ready | 2. Striker reaching out to put racket to ball*** |

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Mid-court interference B

- | Stroke | Yes let |
|---|--|
| 3. Opponent static/little effort to clear | 3. Opponent moving, trying to clear |
| 4. Opponent moving <u>into</u> swing | 4. Opponent moving <u>out of</u> swing |

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Mid-court interference C

- | ♦ Stroke | ♦ Yes let |
|--|---|
| 5. Striker racket in position, able to hit | 5. Striker racket not quite there for strike*** |
| 6. Ball within arm's length of striker | 6. Ball some distance from striker*** |

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Mid-court interference D

- | ♦ Stroke | ♦ Yes let |
|--|--|
| 7. Held swing not excessive – reasonable | 7. Held swing is extended/excessive*** |
| 8. Strike position level <u>or</u> in front of striker | 8. Strike position is behind striker *** |

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No let situations

- ♦ These are relatively rare as fear of injury on the swing applies
- ♦ Can be given when player repeatedly holds shot but opponent clear
- ♦ We know the striker is “fishing” but do not use the phrase

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It's a classic scenario

- ♦ Ball down middle from loose or nick shot
- ♦ Striker sees possible interference – prepared?
- ♦ Non-striker sees – cleared?
- ♦ In 0.5 seconds!!
- ♦ Be wary of generous strokes in mid-court

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And now

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