



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR BALLPERSONS

A ballperson is used on the tennis court to save the players time and energy. In his/her proper position is considered a permanent fixture whilst play is in progress. They are an integral part of any game that they are working.

A good Ballperson is one who moves quickly, efficiently and attracts as little attention as possible, is always aware of the games progress, always knows where all the balls on court are and responds immediately when needed.

### Basic Rules

1. Always arrive 'on time' and plan to remain for the duration of the matches or for an agreed time.
2. Always pay attention to the game.
3. Stand quietly and still in the **military** stance, i.e.: feet slightly apart and hands behind your back. **Never** lean against the fence, fidget, or play with the balls you may have in your hands.
4. NEVER throw or roll a ball during play.
5. Make sure the player is looking at you when you throw them a ball.
6. Always return to your proper position or if impossible stand next to another Ballperson in their proper position. Remember the players will wait for you to return. **Never** stand on the side of the court.
7. If any debris blows or is thrown onto the court retrieve it and hold it until you are free to put it in the garbage bin.
8. Always recycle the balls, i.e. if you are holding more than one ball give the player the one that you have been holding the longest. (Unless they specifically request the ball that you have just retrieved)

### At The Net

The proper position at the net is a kneeling or crouching stance next to the post. Net ballpersons must be ready to clear the balls as soon as they drop.

Clear the ball by running across the court picking up the ball, and then continuing across to the other side of the court, take up your position again and wait for the next ball to drop. If a ball does drop very close to your position at the net collect it and then circle and return to your original position.

When there are two of you at the net it is ideal if one of you is on either side of the net i.e. one on the side of the server and one on the side of the receiver. If there is only one it is his duty to clear both sides of the net.

The ballperson at the net should relay all balls to the back of the server's court to the ballpersons there. **Do not roll the balls in the middle of a point or between a first and second serve.**



The balls are received by the person at the net from the ballpersons at the back of the court of the receiver. The balls are **rolled** down the court, when you have received them, hold them until play has stopped then roll them to the ballperson at the servers end when you are sure that he/she is ready to receive them.

***Always make sure that you know the scoring system of a tiebreak*** the person at the net is the most important when a tiebreak situation develops.

***Never roll on the steps of the umpire's chair.***

If you are holding a ball and a player indicates to you that he requires it, then you may throw it to him, but do not hold balls unnecessarily get them to the back of the court ASAP.

When the umpire calls for new balls be ready (if he requires you to) to open a new can of the balls and send them to the end of the court where the next service will be. Collect all the old balls and put them back into the can.

If a player asks you for a drink you may get it for him otherwise do not interfere with the players during the change of ends, at the beginning or at the end of a match. You are not on court to collect autographs.

#### *At the Back of the Court*

Always return to your proper position after retrieving the balls or if it is impossible to return to your position go to the closest ballperson and stand quietly next to them.

The PROPER POSITION for a backcourt ballperson is to stand on the outside of the side linesman.

Stand still and properly.

Always make sure that you know the score, and be ready to roll the balls to the person at the net when the service is finished at your end. Keep an eye on the person at the net, as he will either be waiting to send you balls or to receive them from you.

When the service is at your end and you have balls in your hand make sure that the player knows that you have them by holding them aloft and facing the player. ***Do not throw them to the player unless he indicates that requires them.***

Never get caught standing in the middle of the back of the court always return to your proper position. The players will wait.

***Make sure that you know where the balls should be during a tiebreak.***

Recycle the balls.

Try to always know where all the balls on court are.



### Tiebreak Procedures

A tiebreak is usually played when the score reaches 6 games all (except in a pro-set then 8 games all). The umpire will say, “6 games all, tiebreak.” The first person to serve is the player who would have served next.

1. The net persons play a key role in maintaining the speedy interchange of balls throughout the tiebreaker.
2. Except at the start of the tiebreaker, the net persons should hold either one or two ball during the playing of points. The other balls should have been thrown to the Server end.
3. Many times during a tiebreaker, since the action is fast and the Servers alternate every two points, it is most efficient for a net person to throw a ball directly to the Server.
4. Keeping these guidelines in mind, the basic procedures used throughout tiebreakers are the same as those used during the rest of the match. A cooperative effort between team members along with speed and attentiveness are most important.

#### **\*\*The Seven-of-Twelve\*\***

1. Remember that in each series of six points, the pattern of serving is 1-2-2-1. This means that the player who served the last point in each series serves his second point from the other end of the court. (With change of ends every six points)
2. At the start of the tiebreak, it is best to have two balls at each end of the court.

At the end of the tiebreak, the players change ends. Score 7-6, the first person to serve will be the player who ***did not serve*** first in the tiebreak.

#### More Basic Rules

*During a match never applaud or show any facial reaction to the game.*

*Always watch the game.*

*Remember that you are a permanent fixture always stand still during play.*

*Never catch a ball that is still in play.*

*Do not speak to a player, umpire or linesperson unless asked a specific question.*

*Never become involved in a line call dispute.*



## Ballperson's Proper Position

### POSITIONING OF BALL PERSON

#### **Backcourt Position**

1. Stand in corner, close to wall or fence but not leaning against it and well outside the court sidelines.
2. Stand straight and motionless with feet slightly apart.
3. Keep hands behind body, holding balls not in use during current point.

#### **Net Position**

1. Kneel outside the court sidelines.
2. While kneeling, remain motionless but ready to take off instantly to retrieve first-service faults into the net.
3. Do not rock while in kneeling position. Rather, lean forward in order to get the fastest possible start.
4. Never lean on a ball, which you are temporarily holding and never touch the net.