

# Open Book Test 2003

**Most officials have now returned their Answer Sheet to this year's Open Book Test. As usual, the small number of officials that have not returned their test will have this fact added to their file, which is reviewed at the end of the year.**

First of all, we should explain the purpose of the Open Book Test. We do realise that not all of the answers can be found in the rulebooks. Some of the questions are deliberately designed to generate discussion and debate and, judging from what we have heard, there have been plenty of conversations at tournaments (and on the telephone and email) about what the correct answers are! This is good news, as it means that we have some healthy discussions between officials all over the world about rules and procedures that probably would not happen if we did not have an Open Book Test.

We also realise that some of the questions are not easy! Again, this is deliberate. Since many aspects of officiating involve judgement, some questions (and possible multiple choice answers) are really designed to stimulate discussion. Of course, multiple choice questions are often difficult anyway, but given the large number of officials worldwide, this is the most practical way for us to conduct the test.

Of course, we get very concerned if an official scores a very low score, but otherwise it is supposed to be an educational effort to ensure that everyone opens their books and talks to other officials.

So, here are the questions again with the "correct" answer (and explanations). Check how many you answered correctly and use this guide to assess your final score!

## Correct Answers Result

**0-4:** You can send your badge back to us! (Luckily no official scored less than 5!)

**5-9:** A very bad result. You either don't know the rules, or have "friends" that told you the wrong answers! Seriously, though, we will be talking about you in December.

**10-11:** Disappointing. We know that some of the questions are not straightforward, but everyone should have got a higher score than this. Time to open the rule books!

**12-14:** A respectable score. You probably will not agree with a couple of our answers on the more difficult questions - but don't forget the test is designed to make you think!

**15:** Congratulations! You agree with us (there are not many officials in this category!)

## Questions & Answers

**1. At a clay court event, the Chair Umpire overrules a Line Umpire's "out" call to good. The player nearest to the mark then complains that the ball was out and the Chair Umpire gets off the chair to show the player the mark. However, the Chair Umpire is unable to find the mark. What is the correct decision?**

- **A. The Line Umpire's call stands**
- **B. The Chair Umpire's overrule stands**
- **C. Replay the point**

The correct answer is B. In this situation, we define the "original call" as the Chair Umpire's overrule.

**2. During a pre-match meeting, Player A wins the toss and asks his opponent (Player B) to choose. Player B chooses to serve and Player A chooses the left end of the court. Then it rains during the warm-up and the warm-up is suspended. Who should the Chair Umpire ask first regarding a possible change of choices when returning to the court?**

- **A. Player A**
- **B. Player B**
- **C. Chair Umpire should not ask anyone - assume choices are the same as before.**

The correct answer is A. It is important that the Chair Umpire asks the players if they want to change their original choices, rather than assuming that there will be no changes. Since Player A won the toss originally, the Chair Umpire should ask him/her first.

In the Rules of Tennis, Rule 6 Case 1 (on page 5), it says "the toss stands, but new choices may be made with respect to service and end." A player who gives away his/her choice (having won the coin toss) can be doing so in order to serve from a particular end of the court. Therefore, he/she has the right to change this original choice.

**3. Are players allowed to wear ATP caps at ITF Men's Circuit events?**

- **A. Yes**
- **B. No**

The correct answer is B. The Lotto ATP line of shirts and shorts is approved for ITF Men's Circuit events. Any other ATP clothing is considered as identification for another tennis circuit (see Men's Circuit Rule Book, page 39, section 3g) and is therefore not allowed.

**4. In a Men's match with an advantage final set, the score reaches 7-7 in the final (fifth) set and one of the players desperately needs to go to the toilet (for the first time). How should the Chair Umpire handle this request?**

- **A. Refuse the request - the player can go to the toilet after the match**
- **B. Allow the player to go to the toilet at any time after 6 games all in an advantage set**
- **C. Allow the player to go to the toilet before his own serve, after 6 games all in an advantage set**

The correct answer is C. In an advantage set, it can be difficult to persuade the player to wait to go to the toilet once the score has passed 6-6. In this situation, to avoid the player using a toilet break to disturb his opponent, the break should be taken before the player/team's own service game. However, we still want to emphasise that the toilet break should be taken during a set break in every Tie-Break set.

**5. A player has received a third Code Violation during a match (the first Game Penalty). Who should decide if any future incidents are Code Violations, or not?**

- **A. The Chair Umpire**
- **B. The Supervisor/Referee**

The correct answer is A. As always, the Chair Umpire has the primary responsibility for deciding on-court Code situations (even though the Supervisor/Referee has the authority to tell the Chair Umpire to give or withdraw a Code Violation). However, in the Point Penalty Schedule, the Supervisor/Referee makes the decision on whether a fourth (or subsequent) Code Violation is penalised by a Game Penalty or Default. In summary, the Chair Umpire decides whether an incident deserves a Code Violation and (from the fourth Code onwards) the Supervisor/Referee determines the penalty.

**6. During a match, a player tells the Chair Umpire that his opponent was taking drugs in the locker room before the match. What should the Chair Umpire do?**

- **A. Nothing**
- **B. Ask the opponent if the allegation is true**
- **C. Call the Supervisor/Referee**

The correct answer is C. We believe that in situations where serious allegations are made by one of the players, the Supervisor/Referee should be informed as soon as possible. This should be done without stopping play and as discreetly as possible. This would ensure that the Supervisor/Referee is aware of the situation and could be close to the court to assist if the allegations continue or questions on this subject arise.

**7. A Line Umpire escorts a player on a toilet break. What should the Line Umpire do if the player starts to receive coaching during the toilet break?**

- **A. Nothing**
- **B. Report this incident to the Chair Umpire when returning to the court**
- **C. Tell the player that he/she is breaking the rules and then report this to the Chair Umpire when returning to the court**

The correct answer is C. The player should be told that he/she is breaking the toilet break rule when the violations start to occur. If the Line Umpire stands by and watches without saying anything, there is no opportunity for the conversation to stop and limit the offence. It would also become a more serious violation if the player and coach continued after being told to stop.

Obviously, it is very important that all Chief Umpires make Line Umpires aware of this procedure.

**8. A player arrives on court and, before the pre-match meeting, asks to go to the toilet. Does this count as one of the player's toilet breaks for that match?**

- **A. Yes**
- **B. No**

The correct answer is B. Duties & Procedures for Officials, page 15, section E5 reads "Any toilet break taken after a warm-up has started is considered one of the authorised breaks." Since the warm-up has not started in this case, the toilet break does not count.

**9. During the warm-up, a player mentions that he thinks that some of the court dimensions are not correct. What should the Chair Umpire do?**

- **A. Measure the court**
- **B. Tell the player this will be reported to the Supervisor/Referee after the match**
- **C. Call the Supervisor/Referee to the court to discuss the situation and help the Supervisor/Referee to measure the court if necessary**

The correct answer is C. Since the responsibility for measuring the court lies with the Supervisor/Referee, they should be called to the court if there is a possible problem with the court dimensions. If the court needs to be measured again, it is better if the Supervisor/Referee is on-court as well (hopefully, with a good tape measure!).

**10. In a tournament where a Match Tie-Break should be played instead of a final set, the Chair Umpire and the players forget to play a Match Tie-Break and start a normal set in error. This error is discovered at 2-1 in the final set. What is the correct decision?**

- **A. Continue with a normal set**
- **B. Continue to play a normal set, until the score is even (e.g. 2-2, 3-3, 4-4) and then play a Match Tie-Break**
- **C. Play one more game. If the score reaches 2-2, play a Match Tie-Break. If the score reaches 3-1, the team who won three games wins the match.**

The correct answer is C. The Rules of Tennis Committee is considering this matter for inclusion in the Rules of Tennis 2004. In the meantime, we have agreed that the procedure explained in answer C is correct. This is very similar to the principle of playing four more games when you have forgotten to play a tie-break (and instead played an advantage set).

**11. At an ITF Women's Circuit event, a player asks the Referee if she can wear a warm-up suit during her matches to cover her arms and legs, for religious reasons. What is the correct decision?**

- **A. Allow the request**
- **B. Deny the request**

The correct answer is A. Normally, the Supervisor/Referee only allows players to wear warm-up clothing during the match when it is very cold. However, in this situation, we believe it is reasonable to allow the player's request. The player's strong religious beliefs can be reasonably accommodated in this particular case.

**12. A player receives a Medical Time-Out and changeover treatment for cramps. What should the Chair Umpire do if the player falls over again later in the match, with what appears to be cramps?**

- **A. Check with the trainer that the player is cramping again, then use Code Violations (Delay of Game) if the player is not ready to play within the time allowed**
- **B. Check with the trainer that the player is cramping again, then issue a Time Violation for the first time the player is not ready, followed by Code Violations (Delay of Game).**
- **C. Tell the player to retire**
- **D. Decide him/herself if the player is cramping or not, and take the appropriate action.**

The correct answer is A. In this situation, the Chair Umpire must confirm with the trainer that the player is cramping again. Once the trainer has confirmed this (and since cramping can only be treated once), we use a Code Violation (for Delay of Game). The Code of Conduct, for example on page 42 of the Men's Circuit Rule Book, at the end of section I reads "when a violation is a result of a medical condition, or ....., a penalty shall be assessed in accordance with the Point Penalty Schedule."

**13. Continuing the situation in question 12, a Code Violation (Delay of Game) Point Penalty has been correctly assessed because the server is cramping (having previously received a Medical Time-Out and treatment). The score is now 5-5,0-15. The player is still unable to play within 20 seconds and receives a Game Penalty. How much time is allowed before another Code Violation is issued?**

- **A. 20 seconds**
- **B. 30 seconds**
- **C. 60 seconds**
- **D. 90 seconds**

The correct answer is D. After the Game Penalty is given, the score is now 6-5 and a changeover is due. Therefore, the player is allowed 90 seconds before he/she has to play.

**14. At an ITF Men's Circuit event, a player is receiving advice on how to play, strategy etc from a person outside the court. However, the person giving the advice is not the player's coach. Is this allowed?**

- **A. Yes**
- **B. No**

The correct answer is B. The section on the Code regarding coaching, for example on page 42 of the Men's Circuit Rule Book states "Players shall not receive coaching during a match." We can consider anyone giving advice to a player during the match as a "coach".

**15. If a receiver is not playing to the reasonable pace of the server, he could be subject to a:**

- **A. Code Violation (Delay of Game)**
- **B. Time Violation**

The correct answer is B. Not playing to the reasonable pace of the server is penalised with a Time Violation. Although there can be occasions when the receiver is consistently and obviously disturbing the server, this could be penalised with a Code Violation for Unsportsmanlike Conduct (not Delay of Game)