

# OPEN BOOK TEST 2006

The results to this year's Open Book Test were, as usual, very interesting! Here are some statistics:

- 14 officials did not return their answers – we will be in contact with you soon!
- The lowest score was 1 out of 10 (from a White Badge Official) and 3 out of 10 (from an International Official).
- The average score for International Officials was 9 out of 10, and for White Badges was 8 out of 10 – a very good effort, considering the questions!

Of course, the Open Book Test is deliberately designed to get officials opening their rule books and discussing the questions. From what we have heard, this year's Test was again successful in meeting this goal! Judging by the fact that we received most answers during the week before the 1 April deadline, a lot of officials were using every possible day to discuss their answers before submitting them.

There was also an increase in the number of officials submitting their answers online, which is good news for our website. Don't forget your Officials ID number, which is sent to you each year in the email requesting your updated contact details. You need this Officials ID number to submit your Open Book Test answers online and for your Electronic Data Card. This year, it's a requirement for International Officials (and preferred for White Badge Officials) to use an Electronic Data Card.

Here are the questions again, with our explanation of the correct answers. Check out your result and see how well you did:

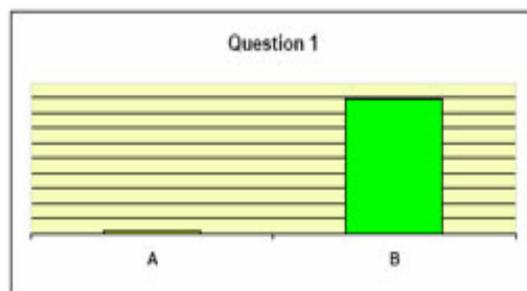
- **If you scored 8, 9 or 10:** A good result, well done! Either you know your rules well, or you have friends who know the rules well!
- **If you scored 6 or 7:** Need to do some work on the rules, to keep up with all other officials around the world
- **If you scored 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5:** Did you receive your rulebooks? Did you open them? Were you guessing? This result is not good. Either you need more friends in officiating to discuss the questions with, or (more likely) you need to study the rules and procedures! Make sure you check out the answers below and make a much bigger effort for next year's test.

***The graphs below show the distribution of answers of each question (web replies only)***  
*Green: Correct answer*

## Question 1

In a first round ATP doubles match, with ball change 7/9 (6) and the match being played to the best of two tie-break sets and a Match Tie-Break (10 points), the score is 6-1, 3-6. If balls need to be replaced during the Match Tie-Break, what type of balls should be used (assuming the ball changes were made at the correct time during the match)?

- **A:** New balls
- **B:** Used balls, of similar wear to the balls in play

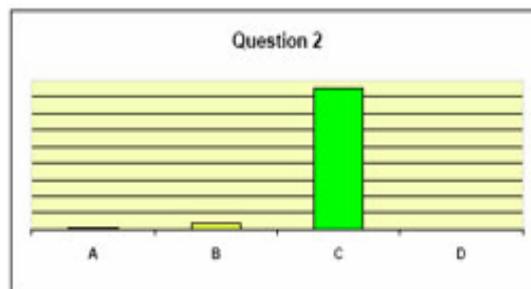


**The correct answer is B.** Check out the note on page 26 of the Rules of Tennis (Appendix IV). "Balls should not be changed before the start of the deciding match tie-break even if a ball change is due."

## Question 2

At an ITF event, the Electronic Review Procedures are being used on the main show court. On a first serve, the Far Side Line Umpire calls the ball good and the receiver returns the ball into the net. The receiver, who has not moved from his receiving position, then asks the Chair Umpire for an Electronic Review of the far side line call. What should the Chair Umpire do?

- **A:** Refuse the Electronic Review
- **B:** Call for an Electronic Review. If the ball was out, a first serve shall be given.
- **C:** Call for an Electronic Review. If the ball was out, a second serve shall be given.
- **D:** Ask the Far Side Line Umpire if he is sure of his call.



**The correct answer is C. You can find the new Electronic Review Procedures in the Rules of Tennis (Appendix V) on pages 29-30.**

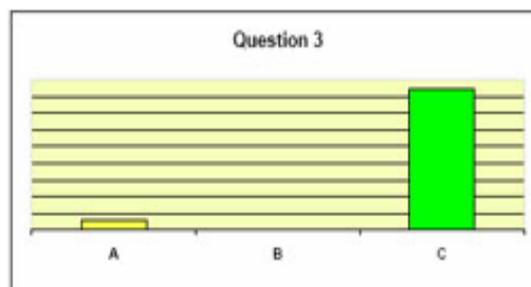
**In this situation, we treat the receiver's request in the same way as if the match was being played on clay and there is a request for a ball mark inspection. The player is allowed to return the ball before making his appeal for an Electronic Review (or ball mark inspection) but then the player must immediately stop.**

**Some officials thought that, unlike on clay, a first serve should be given in this situation. We can only assume these officials thought there would be a long delay for the server. In fact, Electronic Review is normally much quicker than the time it takes for a Chair Umpire to check a ball mark on clay. Since we don't give a first serve in this situation on clay, there is no reason to give a first serve if the ball is out using Electronic Review.**

## Question 3

At an ITF Pro Circuit event, a player asks for extra time to go to the locker room and change from glasses to contact lenses. There is no problem with the glasses, but he would prefer to change to contact lenses. What is the correct decision?

- **A:** Refuse to allow the player to change
- **B:** Allow the player reasonable time to go to the locker room and change to contact lenses
- **C:** Try and arrange for the contact lenses to be brought to the court so the player can change on the next changeover.

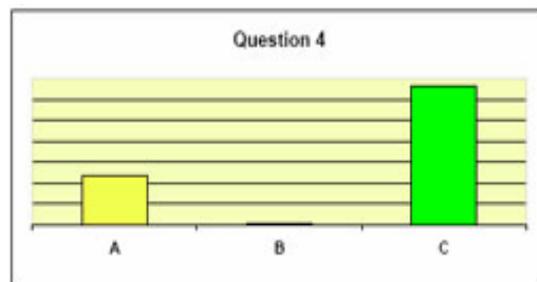


**The correct answer is C. You can find this answer on page 23 of Duties and Procedures for Officials. We have clarified the wording in this procedure to highlight the fact that players can not simply choose to change from glasses to contact lenses (or vice versa) when there is nothing wrong with them. However, we would always try and assist the player by bringing the contact lenses to the court and allowing him/her a little extra time on the next changeover to put the contact lenses in.**

#### Question 4

A player catches a ball during a rally and points to a Ball Girl at the back of the court (the Ball Girl is looking embarrassed). The player says that the Ball Girl dropped the ball during the point, but the Chair Umpire did not see that happen and there is no ball on the ground. What should the Chair Umpire do?

- **A:** Award the point to the opponent
- **B:** Replay the point
- **C:** Ask the Ball Girl if she dropped the ball (and if she did, then replay the point. If not, award the point to the opponent).



**The correct answer is C.**

**A player who catches the ball is normally showing that he/she has given up the chance to win the point. It would not be OK for the player to hit the ball out and then complain about the Ball Girl dropping the ball – that would be too late. But here, the player stops the point to bring the situation to the Chair Umpire’s attention and that is OK.**

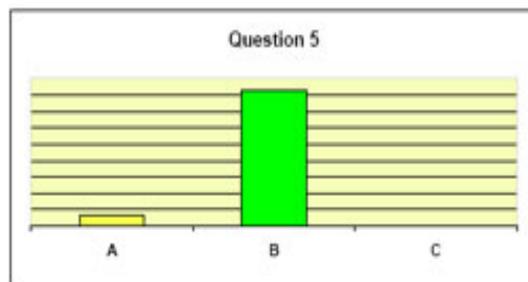
**We believe it is reasonable to ask a Ball Kid on court whether he/she dropped the ball or not. Although Ball Kids are not officials, they are working on court and we do ask them other important questions sometimes (e.g. if there was a Code Violation and they were hit with a ball or racket, we would be asking them if they were hurt or not, before deciding whether to consider an Immediate Default).**

**Having said that, we would not ask a Ball Kid when he/she dropped the ball. We would also not ask a Line Umpire when he/she made an incorrect “out” call. This information is a judgement call and has to be made by the Chair Umpire. If the Chair Umpire is not sure whether to replay the point or not in these situations (because he/she does not know whether the Ball Kid or Line Umpire’s action affected the point), the point should be replayed.**

#### Question 5

During a rally, Player A hits a ball that bounces in her opponent, Player B's court and then spins back towards Player A's court. Player B is at the base line unable to reach the ball and does not try to run for the ball. The ball then hits Player A before bouncing again. What is the correct decision?

- **A:** Point to Player A
- **B:** Point to Player B
- **C:** Replay the point

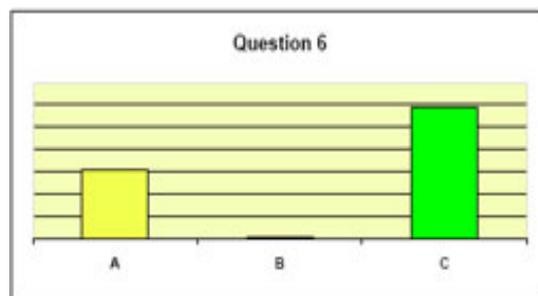


**The correct answer is B and most officials chose that answer. Since the ball is still in play when the ball hits Player A, Player A loses the point (see Rules of Tennis Rule 24 h).**

## Question 6

During the pre-match meeting of a doubles match at an ITF Pro Circuit event, both players in one team are smiling and tell the Chair Umpire "Don't worry! You won't be out here for long! We have a plane to catch." What should the Chair Umpire do?

- **A:** Nothing
- **B:** Give the team a Code Violation for Best Efforts
- **C:** Call the Supervisor



**There were a variety of answers on this question. A lot of officials answered A, but the correct answer is C.**

**If a player indicates to a Chair Umpire that he/she is deliberately going to lose the match, the Supervisor needs to be informed immediately. Waiting until there is more evidence during the match that the player/team is losing the match deliberately could be too late (the player/team might retire during the first game).**

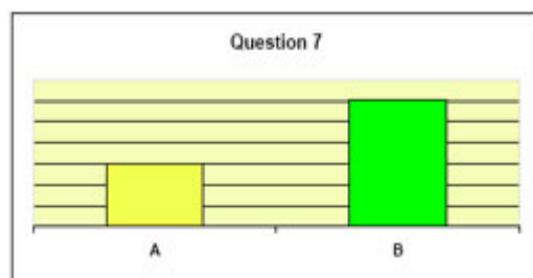
**Some officials told us that they were put off by the answer of "Call the Supervisor" because they would not want to delay the pre-match meeting to speak to the Supervisor. In this situation, it's fine to start the warm-up and then call the Supervisor. The Supervisor may have some other information that would be helpful in this situation and he/she can then decide what to do (speak to the players, watch the match etc) based on the whole picture.**

**What is really important here is our role as officials. Even if we think players are joking, we should act on any information given to us that there is any unprofessional conduct taking place. It is vital that we inform the Supervisor and then he/she can decide what to do next, in consultation with the governing body of the event if necessary. Not reporting comments like this to the Supervisor gives the impression that the official is giving his/her approval to the unprofessional conduct – and that is unacceptable.**

## Question 7

In all categories of the Code assessed on-court, the Supervisor must be present before the Chair Umpire announces the penalty for a 4th Code Violation (i.e. second Game Penalty) for a player.

- **A:** True
- **B:** False



**The Supervisor should be informed if a Point Penalty has been issued, so that he/she can observe the remainder of the match. However, that is not always practically possible and sometimes further incidents can occur before the Supervisor has a chance to get to the court.**

**The Chair Umpire can issue the first Game Penalty (the third Code Violation) but should wait for any further incidents for the Supervisor to be present. The Supervisor then decides if another Game Penalty should be assessed, or if the player should be defaulted.**

**So far, it sounds like the correct answer is A. However, there is one exception to the procedure above.**

**For Code Violations for Delay of Game (for example, if a player has left the court to get another racket, or the player is cramping having already received treatment for**

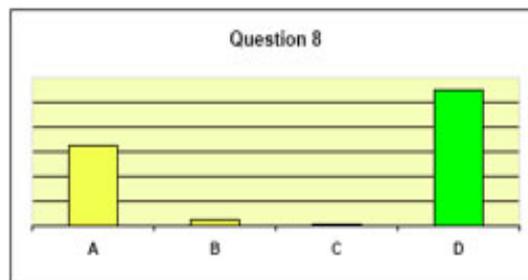
cramping), the Chair Umpire can continue to issue Game Penalties until the Supervisor arrives (remembering that there could be changeover time to give to the player when Game Penalties are assessed). It would not make sense to wait for the Supervisor to arrive and potentially give extra time to the player who is "on the clock".

Therefore, because of this one exception, **the correct answer is B.**

### Question 8

At an ATP event after a toilet break, the Line Umpire reports to the Chair Umpire that the player was using his mobile phone to make SMS text messages. The Line Umpire says that he told the player to stop, but the player ignored the Line Umpire. What should the Chair Umpire do?

- **A:** Give a Code Violation
- **B:** Give a soft warning and explain that any further use of his mobile phone could result in a Code Violation
- **C:** Take no action
- **D:** Call the Supervisor



**This question created a lot of discussion! A lot of officials answered that they would give a Code Violation, where as the majority decided to call the Supervisor.**

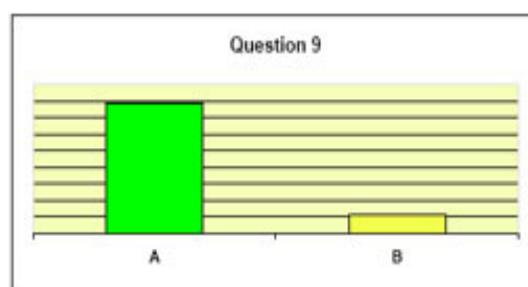
**The correct answer is D.** If a player is told by the Line Umpire that what is happening during the toilet break is against the rules, but then the violation continues, this could be an Immediate Default. Since there are so many considerations involved in that particular decision, it's much better for the Supervisor to be called.

**This applies for any possible violations during the toilet break (receiving treatment from a personal trainer, receiving coaching, using a mobile phone) – but it's essential that the Line Umpire clearly communicates that the violation is against the rules and must stop. If the player does stop when told by the Line Umpire, a Code Violation would be issued.**

### Question 9

In a match using Electronic Review procedures, a line call is changed from "out" to good by the Electronic Review system. The Chair Umpire announces that the point should be replayed, but Player A then complains, telling the Chair Umpire that her opponent, Player B, "had no chance to return the ball because she was too far away from the ball" and that the shot was a winner from Player A. The Chair Umpire then thinks about the situation and believes that Player A may be right in her judgement that Player B was too far away from the ball to return it. What is the correct decision?

- **A:** Replay the point
- **B:** Point to Player A



**The correct answer is A,** as most officials answered. This question isn't really about Electronic Review specifically, but about "play on the ball" situations on all courts.

**A Chair Umpire can not change his/her decision based on player appeal. Having said that, it is allowed for a Chair Umpire to change his/her decision after being "reminded of the**

facts" by the player.

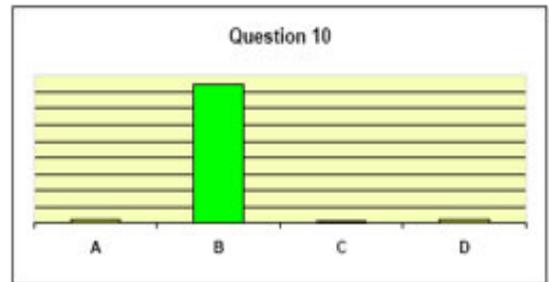
Being "reminded of the facts" means that the Chair Umpire did not consider a solid fact in his/her initial judgement. For example, in the above situation, if Player A said that Player B "had fallen over at the net was lying on the ground and had no chance to get back to the base line", that would be a solid fact that the Chair Umpire could now remember and he/she could change his original decision.

In another situation, a Chair Umpire awards a point to Player A after overruling a line call and then is reminded by the opponent, Player B, "but it wasn't a winner – I hit the ball back into the court". That is a solid fact that the Chair Umpire can now remember, and he/she can change his original decision.

It's very important to remember that "remembering the facts" does not include changing your decision based on a different opinion from a player. A player who says that his/her opponent "had no chance to return the ball" or "was too far away from the ball" is not reminding the Chair Umpire of any solid fact – and therefore the Chair Umpire's original judgement can not be changed.

### Question 10

During a clay court match, the first serve is called good and quickly returned for a winner by the receiver. The server, who did not move from his serving position, is pointing at the mark on the other side of the net and tells the Chair Umpire that his serve was long. The Chair Umpire gets out of the chair to look at the mark but before she can get to the mark, the receiver erases the mark. What is the correct decision?



- **A:** First serve
- **B:** Second serve
- **C:** Point to Server
- **D:** Point to Receiver

Almost everyone answered this question correctly. **The correct answer is B.**

When going to check the mark, there are two possible outcomes. Either the mark shows the ball was good (and then the receiver wins the point) or the mark shows that the ball was out (and then it's a second serve). If a player erases a mark before the Chair Umpire can look at the mark, he/she is conceding the call (new wording from 2006). Since the receiver erases the mark in this situation, he can not win the point, so the only option left is to assume that he erased the mark because the ball was out and give a second serve.