

TOURNAMENT REFEREE STATEMENT

BRITISH JUNIOR OPEN 2024

The Referee Team are very much looking forward to officiating at the 2024 British Junior Open. As the Tournament Referee I would therefore like to make the following statement at the beginning of these Championships to set this stance on matters regarding behaviour and discipline. Please help us by following these guidelines so that the tournament can be free from controversy; we would all like to have an enjoyable and successful event.

Players, parents/guardians and coaches are advised to make themselves familiar with the current Code of Conduct and the automatic penalties for accumulated points. We will implement the Code of Conduct rigorously against any violations including audible/visible obscenity, verbal/physical abuse, dissent, coaching, late back on court, delaying play and court/racket abuse. The referee will use the code of conduct according to the severity of the offence.

Whilst referees will be doing their utmost to get all decisions correct, there will inevitably be times when the players disagree. Please ask for an explanation, which will be given. However, Referees will apply the code of conduct as soon as they consider that a discussion is being unnecessarily prolonged. The referees would greatly appreciate players honesty in declaring promptly if their shots are “not up”, “down”, etc.

Should you wish to talk to the referee, please move onto the “T” which enables your voice (and the referees) to be heard over the glass back wall. Please note, it is not permitted for the door of the court to be opened to speak to the referee unless asked to do so.

The referees will also be ensuring the following:

- That “Approved Eye Protection” is always worn when players are on court. This includes the warm-up and practice.
- A “Fair Share of the Warm-up” with a maximum of three strikes from each player then a cross court to their opponent.
- Wiping of hands on any court surfaces is discouraged. Players may take a towel on court and reasonable time will be allowed. However, tactical, or excessive use will be deemed as delaying play, and the referee will use the code of conduct.

Whilst the above guidelines will essentially apply to players, please note that referees and tournament staff will not tolerate any form of dissent, intimidation or abuse from parents/guardians or coaches, under any circumstances. If you have any queries regarding any aspect of the matches, please address them to the Tournament Desk and **not** the Match Referee. Approaches to the match referee will not be tolerated. The Tournament Referee (University of Birmingham) and Assistant Tournament Referee (Edgbaston Priory Club) will be available if required.

Peter Hindmarsh – Tournament Referee