



Doubles Officiating Newsletter April 2007

The intent of this newsletter is to keep certified doubles officials “in the loop” with respect to doubles officiating in Canada. So here’s what’s happening.

The new doubles rules clinic was given in a number of cities during the past season. The rules clinic is a shorter version of the certification clinic and is intended to familiarize players with the rules. The most recent clinic, held at the Vancouver Lawn Tennis Club, was specifically for women and attracted 14 players. Players have responded very favourably to the clinic and following some minor improvements over the summer, even more of these clinics will be offered next season. Clubs are encouraged to ask their provincial association early next season (September, October) for a clinic.

Provincial level officials continue to be assessed so they can become national level (NL) officials. The following officials completed their upgrading during this past season and are now national level officials: Jay Gillespie, John Hickey, Tim Mallory, Sandra Shaw, Lindsay Smith, and Cathy Tuckwell. Congratulations to our new NL officials.

While the Squash Canada Doubles Officiating Committee (SCDOC) is recommending that all doubles league matches be officiated, there is still a very long way to go in achieving this goal. It is especially important that certified officials encourage this practice. If playing a league match, request that it be officiated, and volunteer to officiate league matches rather than simply be a spectator.

At the recent Canadian Doubles Championships and Canadian Mixed Doubles Championships all the final matches had certified officials. Thus, we have made remarkable progress in just a few years with our officiating program. Moreover, the quality of the officiating was excellent. Thank you to all those officials who volunteered their time to ensure our championship matches were played in a fair and safe manner.

A subcommittee of the SCDOC under the direction of Tony Swift has been examining possible rule changes. One change concerns ‘turning’ and the subcommittee is currently finalizing the wording for a new ‘turning rule’ that will be piloted next season. All certified officials will be sent information concerning the new rule and a poster of the new rule will be sent to all clubs before September.

Any comments or questions you have regarding doubles officiating should be directed to Craig Hall, Chair, SCDOC at the following email address: chall@uwo.ca