



SECTION 3

RULES OF THE COURT, COMMON SCENARIOS (QUIZ)



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1) Player B hits an overhead smash for a winner. His opponent, Player A, picks up the ball and notices that it is broken, then shows the broken ball to his opponent, who agrees that it is broken. What is the correct decision?

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

2) During an exchange with his opponent (Player B), Player A notices that the ball is soft. He catches the ball in his hand, stopping play, and shows the ball to his opponent, who agrees it is soft. What is the correct decision?

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

3) On a first service fault, Player B, the receiver breaks, a string in his racquet while blocking the ball. He then asks the server to wait while he changes his racquet. When play resumes, it is:

A. *First serve. If the receiver causes a delay by changing his racquet between the first and second serves, it is a first serve for Player A. In this situation, Player B has the option of not changing his racquet, i.e., receiving the second serve with a broken string. (Rule 4, Tennis Canada Note).*

B. Second server

4. On a second service that is a let, the receiver breaks a string in his racquet while blocking the ball. Is he required to change his racquet?

- A. Yes
- B. *No*

5. The first serve from Player A is long, but Player A breaks a string during the serve. He quickly changes to a new racquet and asks "First Serve?"

- A. He is entitled to a first serve
- B. *He is only entitled to a second serve. A player is not entitled to a first serve for causing a delay to himself*

6. On a second serve, Player A tosses the ball, then misses it completely in attempting to execute his serve. What is the correct decision?

- A. *Point to Player*
- B. First serve for Player A
- C. Second serve for Player A

7. In a doubles match (A & B vs C & D), A's first serve hits D, the receiver's partner, directly on the foot (without touching the net or the ground first). What is the correct decision?

- A. *Point to A & B*
- B. Point to C & D
- C. Second serve
- D. First serve

8. During an exchange, A strikes a ball that hits the net post, then falls into the opponent's court. In which case(s) is the ball good?

- A. In a singles match with singles sticks
- B. In a singles match without singles sticks
- C. In a doubles match
- D. a & b
- E. a, b & c
- F. b & c
- G. None of the above

9. Player A's service hits the net post, then falls into the correct service box. In which case(s) is the service good?

- A. In a singles match with singles sticks
- B. In a singles match without singles sticks
- C. In a doubles match
- D. a & b
- E. a, b & c
- F. b & c
- G. *None of the above*

10. During an exchange, Player A's cap falls off. This is the first time in the match that A's cap has fallen off, although a ball dropped out of his pocket during an exchange earlier in the match. What is the correct decision?

- A.. The exchange continues
- B. *Point to player B*
- C. Replay the point

11. Player A's hat falls to the ground during a long rally, but neither player stops. After several shots, Player B's ball hits the rim of Player A's hat, and Player A drives the ball into the net. Player A asks for a let. Should the point be replayed?

- A. Yes
- B. *No. Not only can a player not hinder himself (e.g., if his hat falls off or if he loses a shoe), but if a player were to call hindrance it would need to be done immediately, not several shots after the incident occurs.*

12. During the first set of a doubles match, Player A (whose partner is Player B) drops a ball out of his pocket during play. Player C (playing with D) stops play and calls a let. They replay that point. In the third set tie-break, Player B's hat falls off. Player D claims the point. Players A & B argue that this is the first let for Player B. Answer?

- A. Another let. Replay the point
- B. *Point to Players C & D. Players C & D win the point. A let is played on the first unintentional hindrance caused by a player (in singles) or a team (in doubles). After the first unintentional hindrance caused by the team, any additional cases will be treated as intentional hindrance, and the team causing the hindrance loses the point.*

13. Player B's first serve goes into the net, then comes to rest on his side of the court near the service line. B's second serve is good and an exchange begins between A and B. During the exchange, Player A's shot hits the ball lying on B's side of the court. What is the correct decision?

- A. Point to player A
- B. Point to player B
- C. *The ball is good and the exchange continues*
- D. Replay the point

14. In a doubles match (A & B vs C & D), Player D is serving the ninth game of the third set. It is 30-15 and a fault. He suddenly realizes that his partner C should be serving. What is the correct decision?

- A. Recommence the ninth game with C serving
- B. *C serves, 30-15, second serve*
- C. C serves, 30-15, first serve
- D. D continues serving, 30-15, second serve

15. In a doubles match (A & B vs C & D), at 15-15 in the sixth game of the second set, C prepares to serve. He suddenly realizes that A is opposite him, ready to receive, although B has been receiving in the deuce court during all of the set. What is the correct decision?

- A. Recommence the sixth game with B in the correct position (receiving in the deuce court)
- B. The score stands; correct the error immediately (B receives at 15-15)
- C. The score stands; A and B remain in their present positions (A in the deuce court) until the end of the set
- D. *The score stands; A and B remain in their present positions (A in the deuce court) until the end of the game, then take their correct positions the next time that they receive*

16. After a first service fault, Player B begins the toss for his second serve. While the toss is in the air, a ball rolls onto the court. What is the correct decision?

- A. *First serve*
- B. Second serve

17. Players A and B are engaged in a match without a Chair Umpire. In the middle of an exchange, a ball rolls onto the court behind Player B, out of his field of vision; the exchange continues. At the end of the point, which is won by Player B, Player A calls a let because the ball rolled onto the court. What is the correct decision?

- A. *Point to Player B*
- B. Let
- C. Let only if Player B agrees to replay the point

18. During a point, a ball is lying stationary on Player A's court. Player B hits a shot that lands on the stationary ball and then goes out of play towards the sideline. Player A asks for a let. Should the let be permitted?

- A. Yes
- B. *No. A ball lying stationary on Player A's side of the court means that either a) the ball was there at the beginning of the point; or b) the ball rolled there during the point and then came to a stop. In case a) if a ball in play strikes a ball or other object that was lying in the court at the start of the point there is no hindrance to either player; play continues. In case b) let could have been called by either player when the ball first rolled onto the court; now that the ball is stationary, it is too late to call a let.*

19. In a tie-break, A serves the first point; B serves points 2 & 3; A serves points 4 & 5; B serves points 6 & 7; by mistake B also serves the 8th point, after which the mistake is discovered. What is the correct decision?

- A. Replay the 8th point with A serving
- B. Point stands; B serves the 9th point to finish the rotation; A then serves points 10 & 11
- C. *Point stands; A serves the 9th point; B then serves points 10 & 11*

Note: think of each time a player serves as a "mini game". The rule is if the error is discovered at the beginning of the player's service game (even # of points played), then fix the order immediately, otherwise the order remains altered until the end of the tie-break, eg:

Point	Normal Rotation	Error discovered after Point 8	Error discovered after Point 7	Error discovered after Point 1
1	A	A	A	B
2	B	B	B	A
3	B	B	B	A
4	A	A	A	B
5	A	A	A	B
6	B	B	A	A
7	B	B	A	A
8	A	B	B	B
9	A	A	B	B
10	B	B	A	A
11	B	B	A	A

20. A's first service touches the net and is caught in the air by B, the receiver, before it touches the ground. What is the correct decision?

- A. Point to A
- B. Point to B
- C. *First Serve*
- D. Second Serve

21. On a first serve, after making his toss, the server decides not to strike the ball and catches it on his racquet. What is the correct decision?

- A. *First serve*
- B. Second serve
- C. Point to his opponent

22. In a mixed doubles match using no-ad scoring, what is the correct procedure for the deciding point?

- A. Male serves to male; female serves to female. The receiver can choose which side of the court he or she will receive from.
- B. *Male serves to male; female serves to female. The receiver remains on the side that he or she has occupied during the game. In mixed doubles with no-ad scoring, the player of the same gender as the server shall receive the deciding point. The players of the receiving team cannot change positions to receive the deciding point. This is found in Appendix IV of the Rules of Tennis.*
- C. Receiving team can choose which player will receive the serve; this player can then choose which side of the court he or she will receive from.
- D. Receiving team can choose which player will receive the serve; this player remains on the side that he or she has occupied during the game.

23. In a match played without a Chair Umpire, who is allowed to call a "net" on a service?

- A. The receiver only
- B. The receiver and/or his partner
- C. The server and the receiver only
- D. *Any player on the court. Paragraph 27 of The Code: Guidelines for Unofficial Matches states that any player may call a service let.*

24. In a doubles match disputed without a Chair Umpire, who is allowed to call the service line on a first serve?

- A. The receiver only
- B. *The receiver and/or his partner*
- C. The receiver and the server
- D. Any player on the court

25. Players A and B are engaged in a match without a Chair Umpire. Player A incorrectly calls a ball "out" and then realizes that the ball was good. This is the second time that this has occurred in the match. What is the correct decision?

- A. Replay the point
- B. Replay the point, unless it was a point-winning shot
- C. *Point to Player B. When a player changes an initial 'out' call to 'good' the point should be replayed, but only if this is the first self-correction in the match and if the ball was not a point winning shot. If either of these two conditions is violated, player A loses the point*

26. In a doubles match, a second serve hits the net cord and then hits the receiver's partner before it touches the ground. They should:

- A. Replay the point
- B. *Call a let and replay only the second serve. Rule 22 states that the service is a let if the ball served, after touching the net, strap or band, touches the receiver or the receiver's partner or anything that they wear or carry before hitting the ground. That particular service shall not count and the server shall serve again, but this does not cancel a previous fault.*
- C. Neither, the serving side wins the point
- D. Neither, the receivers win the point

27. The receiver signals that he is not ready but the server strikes the ball which lands "out." It is a fault.

- A. True
- B. *False. Rule 21 states that a receiver who attempts to return the service shall be considered as being ready. If the receiver is not ready (as is the case here), the service cannot be called a fault.*

28. In a doubles match, if Player A has been receiving in the deuce court in the first set, he must receive in that court for the rest of the match.

- A. True
- B. *False. As noted in Rule 15, the order of receiving in doubles (i.e., the positions of the receivers) must be maintained throughout a set. After a set is completed, the receivers are free to alter their positions for the next set (or for the match tie-break).*

29. The first serve was a fault. The second serve was good, and during the point a ball rolls onto the court. The receiver tells the server she can only have one serve. The server thinks she is entitled to two serves. Who is correct?

- A. Receiver
- B. *Server. As Rule 23 tells us, in all cases when a let is called, except when a service let is called on a second serve, the whole point shall be replayed.*

30. An underhand serve is allowed only if the server tells the receiver he is changing from a regular serve.

- A. True
- B. *False. Rule 16, The Service, makes no distinction between overhead and underhand (or sidearm serves). In addition, in the Tennis Canada Rulebook, The Rules of the Court, a Tennis Canada note specifically states that the server may use an underhand or overhead serve at his discretion.*
- C. An underhand serve is never allowed in a tournament match

31. In a doubles match, a player breaks a string during a point. Can he switch racquets during the point?

- A. Yes
- B. *No. Case 5 of Rule 4 specifically states that a player is not allowed to use more than one racquet at any time during a point.*

32. During a doubles match (A&B vs C&D) the score has reached 9-9 in the first set tie-break. Player A is due to serve but player B serves an ace in error. What is the correct decision?

- A. Replay the point, Player A to serve at 9-9
- B. Point to player C&D, score is now 10-9
- C. *Point stands, Player A to serve for the team next time. First of all, Rule 27 says that when an error is discovered, all points previously played shall stand. Further, Paragraph d. of Rule 27 tells us that, if a player serves out of turn during a tie-break, and the error is discovered after an odd number of points has been played (as is the case here), the order of service shall remain as altered (i.e., since player B served last for the team, player A must serve next time).*
- D. Point stands, Player B to serve for the team next time

33. In a doubles match with no-ad scoring, the score reaches deuce. Player A decides to receive. The first serve hits the net cord and goes in the correct service box. Player B now decides he wants to receive. Is this allowed?

- A. Yes
- B. *No. Once the team has decided which player will receive the deciding point, that choice may not be altered. This is true in the case of a service let, as above, as well as in the case of an occurrence which causes the point to be replayed (e.g., an overrule or a ball rolling onto the court during a rally).*

34. In a singles match, who serves first after a tie-break?

- A. The player who served the last point of the tie-break
- B. The player who received the last point of the tie-break
- C. *The player who received the first point of the tie-break. The player who received the first point of the tie-break: Paragraph b. of Rule 5 makes this clear. The tie-break counts as a service game for the player who served the first point of the tie-break.*

35. If the tie-break score was 7-5, players do not change ends to start the new set.

- A. True
- B. *False. At the end of a tie-break, players always change ends, irrespective of the score in the tie-break. Rule 10 states that players shall change ends at the end of every set unless the total number of games in the set is even. A tie-break counts as the 13th game of a set.*

36. A player may only have one dampening device on the strings of a racquet.

- A. True
- B. *False. The note to Case 3 of Rule 4 (The Racket) makes it clear that there are no limitations as to how many vibration dampening devices may be placed on a racquet, as long as they are placed outside the pattern of crossed strings.*

37. In a doubles match that uses the Deciding Match Tie-Break in lieu of a third set, players may change their serving order at the start of the Match Tie-Break.

- A. *True. A Deciding Match Tie-Break is considered to be a final set. Rule 14 (Order of Service) tells us that, at the beginning of each set, a team may choose which partner is to serve first.*
- B. False

38. If a player starts his service motion with his toe touching the base line, but moves it back before he hits the ball, he has not committed a foot fault.

- A. True
- B. *False. Rule 18 (Foot Fault) states that, anytime during the service motion (i.e., not just at contact with the ball), a server who touches the baseline with his foot commits a foot fault. In the above situation, since the player's foot is touching the line when the serve motion starts, it is a foot fault.*

39. In the course of his service motion, a player serving from the deuce court swings his right foot in the air in such a way that the foot crosses over the imaginary extension of centre mark. This is a foot-fault.

- A. Yes
- B. *No. As long as the foot that crosses the imaginary extension of the centre mark is in the air, as opposed to touching the court, it is not a foot-fault.*

40. If a right handed player starts his service motion in the deuce court with his right heel on the court in the imaginary extension of the centre mark, but removes the foot from this area before he hits his serve, he has not committed a foot fault.

- A. True
- B. *False. A foot fault has indeed occurred. A foot that touches any illegal portion of the court (e.g., the baseline or the imaginary extension of the centre mark) at any time during the service motion constitutes a foot fault; it is not simply a case of what the foot is touching when the racquet strikes the ball.*

41. Player A hits a drop shot and Player B rushes to the net to return it. Player A is convinced that the ball hit the ground twice before Player B returned it over the net, calls out "Double Bounce" and stops play. Who wins the point?

- A. Player A
- B. *Player B. Paragraph 20 of the Code for Unofficial Matches makes it clear that the person responsible for making calls of 'double bounce' (not up), 'foul shot' (deliberate double hit or hitting the ball before it crosses the net), touching the net, being touched by the ball, or touching the opponent's court is the person committing the infraction rather than the opponent. In the above situation, it was not Player A's call; since he stops play, Player B wins the point.*

42. Player A hits a topspin lob over Player B's head. Player B thinks it went out but isn't sure. If he asks for Player A's opinion on whether the ball was in or out, is he compelled to accept it?

- A. *Yes. Paragraph 11 of the Code for Unofficial Matches states that when an opponent's opinion is requested and he gives a positive opinion, it must be accepted.*
- B. No

43. The server tosses the ball in the air and catches it on his racquet. This is a fault as he has touched the ball with his racquet.

- A. True
- B. *False. Case 1 of Rule 19 (Service Fault) states that a server who tosses the ball and then decides not to hit it is allowed to catch the ball with the hand or the racquet, or to let the ball bounce. The above action is not a fault*

44. During a match, the first serve hits the net. The ball has not stopped rolling back into the court when the server hits his second serve. The receiver miss hits the return of serve and calls a let because of the rolling ball. Is he allowed to do so?

- A. Yes
- B. *No. Paragraph 18 of the Code for Unofficial Matches states that all calls must be made promptly in order to ensure that a player does not have two chances to win the point. Since the receiver did not stop play because of the rolling ball, choosing instead to continue the point, he forfeited his right to call a let.*

45. During a match, the first serve hits the net and returns toward the server. The server waits for the ball to stop rolling before he hits his second serve. During the point, a gust of wind starts the ball rolling. Who can call a let?

- A. Only the receiver, because the server is responsible for "housekeeping" on his side of the court
- B. *Either player. During an exchange, either player may call a let as long as it is done promptly and not in such a way as to present a player with two chances to win the point.*

46. In a match played without a chair umpire on a clay court, is a player allowed to cross the net to check a ball mark that the opponent has called 'out'?

- A. *Yes. Under both ITF and Tennis Canada rules, in a match played without a chair umpire on a clay court, a player can ask the opponent(s) to show the mark and then cross to the other side of the net to check the mark. Note, however, that in a match with a chair umpire, a player cannot cross the net to check the mark. (This is the responsibility of the chair umpire.) To do so constitutes a Code violation for unsportsmanlike conduct.*
- B. No
- C. Yes, but only with the permission of a roving umpire

47. In a doubles match, the receiver's partner takes up his stance with one foot inside the receiver's service box. The opponents ask him to move outside the service box. Must he?
- A. Yes
 - B. *No. The receiver's partner may take any position on his own side of the net, inside or outside of the court. The same applies for the server's partner.*
48. In a doubles match, the receiver's partner stands close to the net, waving his racquet from side to side as the server prepares to serve. Is he allowed to do this?
- A. Yes
 - B. *No. The action described is clearly an intentional hindrance designed to distract the server. This is not permitted.*
49. After delivering a first serve fault, the Server prepares to serve again. The Receiver appeared ready, but glances at the ground before quickly looking up to see the serve coming. He weakly returns the serve into the net, while holding up an "I'm not ready" hand.
- A. *Server wins the point. If the receiver makes an attempt to play the serve, it is considered that he/she was ready to receive.*
 - B. Let, second serve

50. During a rally, Player A hits a ball that bounces in the court of her opponent, Player B, and then spins back towards Player A's court. Player B is at the baseline 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. Since the ball is still in play when it hits player A, player A loses the point (Rule 24 h).*
 - C. Replay the point
51. Player A hits a drop shot with backspin that lands on player B's side of the court and the spin causes it to go back over the net into player A's court. Before the ball hits the ground on player A's side of the net, player B reaches over the net and tries to hit the ball, but instead hits Player A with his racquet. Whose point is it?
- A. Point to Player A
 - B. *Point to Player B. Point to player B as he was very likely deliberately hindered by player A. The fact that player A did not get out of the way may well be considered a "deliberate" act in this case. If the player was really trying to get out of the way and wasn't able to, then the hindrance was inadvertent and the point could be replayed. (Thus answer c. will also be accepted.) This seems unlikely, however, as player A would probably have ample time to move away from the ball.*
 - C. Replay the point

52. After a player hits a first serve, a "foot fault" is called. The ball goes into the net and when it is picked up, it is discovered that the ball is broken. Does the server get a first serve or a second serve?

- A. First serve
- B. Second serve. After a properly called foot fault, that is, after the ball has been struck by the server (as stipulated in the question), the serve is a "foot fault" and the ball is not in play. Whether the serve in this question might have been otherwise in the service box or not, does not matter. That the ball in question was found to be broken after a properly called foot fault is immaterial since the Broken Ball procedure requires that the ball be in play.

53. In a doubles match A/B are playing C/D. Player A makes a good serve and the return from Player C goes into the net. Player B, the partner of the server, is moving towards the net ready for the volley. He stops short of the net but the return, together with the wind and a bit of loose net, causes the ball and the ballooning net to touch Player B's racquet. Who wins the point?

- A. A/B
- B. C/D. Even though we know that the ball is not going to go over the net, the fact remains that the ball had not yet touched the ground on C/D's side of the net and was, therefore, still in play when the net touched Player B's racquet. A/B thus lose the point.
- C. No one; play a Let