

THE INTERFERENCE LINE OF THINKING

based on the 2001 rules, effective 30-Apr 2001 (from www.squash.org)

Refereeing is a thankless but necessary task. Knowing the Rules and using the correct calls is expected of referees, but the really difficult part is making decisions when one of the players appeals for a let. Below is a summary of the thought process a referee should go through when asked 'Let Please'...

The Question ...

1. Did interference occur ?



2. Could the obstructed player have reached the ball and made a good return ? And was he making every effort to do so ?

3. Did the obstructed player move past the point of interference and play on? Or create the interference in moving to the ball?

4. Did the obstructing player make every effort to avoid the interference ?

5. Did the interference prevent the player's reasonable swing?

6. Could the obstructed player play a winning return?

7. Would the obstructed player have struck the opponent with the ball going directly to the front wall or, if going to a side wall, would it have been a winning return?

The Answer ...

The striker has four basic rights, and interference has occurred if the opponent fails to provide him with any of these, *even if he has made every effort to do so*:

- I. **Unobstructed direct access** to the ball after completion of a reasonable follow-through
- II. A **fair view** of the ball on its rebound from the front wall
- III. **Freedom to hit** the ball with a reasonable swing
- IV. **Freedom to play** the ball directly to the front wall

If no interference has occurred, or the interference was so minimal that the player's view of and freedom to get to and play the ball were not effected, then it's NO LET, otherwise move on to no.2

If either answer is NO, then it's NO LET, otherwise move on to no.3

If the answer to either question is YES, then it's NO LET, otherwise move on to no. 4

If he didn't, then it's a STROKE, otherwise move on to no.5

If YES, then it's a STROKE to the player, otherwise move on to no. 6

If YES, then it's a STROKE, otherwise it's just a LET unless no.7 applies.

If either answer is YES, then it's a STROKE to the player.

Remember that this is a simplification - read the rules thoroughly.

The over-riding principle of the rules is to ensure a fair result for both players.