

Ball Person Instructions and Guidelines

GENERAL GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL BALL PERSONS

1. Arrive on time and check in with the Ball Person Captain at the Volunteer Central Location, either Bob or Monique. You will be assigned a court, each court will have a designated court captain. Do NOT leave the tennis facility without letting a captain know you're doing so.
2. Dress in the mandatory t-shirt and optional hat that will be provided on your first day at the volunteer tent. Pair these with solid black or dark shorts. Wear tennis shoes if at all possible or runners with low tread if not.
3. Stay hydrated and use sunscreen.

COURT POSITIONING OF FULL TEAM OF 6 BALL PERSONS

Backcourt Position

1. Stand in the corner, well outside of the court sidelines. Stand close to the wall or fence, but do not lean against it.
2. Stand straight and motionless with feet slightly apart.
3. Keep hands behind body, holding balls not in use during the current point.

Net Position

1. Stand outside the court sidelines beyond the net post. Before the beginning of a point, you and the other net person can be positioned either on the same side of the net or on opposite sides.
2. Remain motionless but ready to take off instantly to retrieve first-service faults into the net.
- 3.. Although you continually need to be aware of the ball during each point, keep your head still as much as possible and follow the play by moving your eyes only.

COURT POSITIONING OF REDUCED TEAM OF BALL PERSONS

Sometimes we won't have enough people to provide six ball persons for each match. In these cases, as few as three persons per court may be used. This system works as follows: One ball person covers each backcourt area. They are positioned diagonally opposite each other; neither should stand in the middle backcourt. The net person stands outside the net post so that he/she can retrieve balls from either side of the net. When this three-person system is used, it may occasionally seem necessary to throw diagonally from the backcourt to the net.

Specific Duties of Ball Persons and General Guidelines and Instructions

BACKCOURT BALL PERSONS' DUTIES

At the Server's End

1. At the conclusion of a point, you should step away from the fence holding one ball in your throwing hand, ready to throw it to the Server when he indicates he wants it. We will use the two arms up position showing the balls until the Server is ready to serve. If you have no balls, you will use the two arms up with palms open position.
2. Supply the Server with balls, using a gentle, overhand throw with one bounce.
3. Watch the Server carefully and give a ball to him **ONLY** when he indicates he wants one. Take note of each player's particular signal for requesting a ball and whether he wants only one ball before each serve. Do not rush the Server.
4. If the Server does not want a particular ball, he will send it back to you. When this happens, simply throw him a different ball.
5. If a net person has a ball to relay to you at the same time the Server wants a ball, **FIRST give a ball to the Server**, THEN receive the other ball from the net person.

- 6.. Do not give the Server the ball used in the preceding point unless you have no choice or the Server clearly indicates that he wants this ball.
7. Observe whether a Server turns toward the same corner each time for a ball. If he does, make sure that there are at least two balls in this corner at the beginning of each point. The side to which a Server turns for a ball may depend upon whether he is left- or right-handed. Redistribution of the balls between the two backcourt ball persons is sometimes advisable, but should be done as infrequently as possible.
8. Be alert at all times to special requests, preferences or idiosyncrasies the players may have.
9. Retrieve balls landing in the backcourt area (behind the service line) at the conclusion of points.
10. If there is a “Let, First Serve” call, step forward as before to offer the player another ball.

At the Receiver’s End

1. Retrieve all balls landing in the back- court area (behind the service line) at the conclusion of each point.
2. If the first service is called long, retrieve the ball as quickly as possible, return to your position, and **hold** the ball until the end of the point.
3. Upon the completion of a point, you can help the net person on your side of the court by showing him either the ball(s) in your hands or your empty hands when he looks at you. Then start the relay of balls by throwing parallel to the side of the court to the net person, who will continue this relay to the ball person at the Server’s end.

NET BALL PERSONS’ DUTIES

Rolling Balls Between Points

1. Roll the ball swiftly and accurately to the backcourt persons; but not so swiftly its hard to stop and then bounces around the back court area creating a delay.
2. Roll parallel to the sides of the court—do not roll diagonally.
3. Try to be aware of the location of balls at all times so that they can be thrown to the Server’s end as quickly as possible.

Net Duties

1. Run QUIETLY across the court and pick up any ball resulting from a service fault into the net. After picking up the ball, keep running to the opposite side, unless the ball has landed less than one-third of the way across the court. In this case, return to your original position. Hold the ball from a first-service fault until the conclusion of the point. Do not do the behind the back exchange with the back court person.
2. First-service faults that hit the net and roll toward the baseline are the responsibility of net ball persons. If a ball is near the baseline area by the time you get to it, it is advisable to retrieve it and run to a corner position. Then, at the end of the point, return to your own position.
3. At the conclusion of each point, retrieve any ball that has landed in the forecourt area (in front of the service line), and roll it to the nearest ball person at the Server’s end. Never roll diagonally. Make sure the back court person is aware you are sending the ball to them.
4. Be aware of the location of the balls at all times and the need to get the balls to the Server’s end as promptly as possible.
5. During changeovers, net ball persons are usually expected to stand in the alley on a slight diagonal opposite the players who are resting in case they need a drink, towel, etc. or they are holding the umbrella over the player when necessary.

Relaying Balls

The net ball person is the key to the relay of balls from the Receiver’s end to the Server’s end. When covering the Receiver’s court and a point has just been concluded, the net ball person

must know whether or not a backcourt ball person is holding a ball that needs to get to the Server's end. At this time, the net ball person should establish eye contact with the backcourt ball person, who should indicate whether or not he is holding balls by showing either the balls or empty hands.

If a ball person in the opposite corner from where you are positioned at the net has such a ball, you should quickly run to the opposite side of the net to receive and relay this ball. (If you do not run across, he will be unable to get the ball down to the Server's end promptly and instead will have to continue holding it.)

Never ever ever relay a ball after a let or between first or second serve.

During a Match

1. Never allow a loose ball to remain on the court after the conclusion of a point.
2. Except for retrieving first-service faults, never touch a ball until the point is over. A point is over when a ball has bounced twice or hit a structure. Never assume that a ball cannot be reached.
3. Be sure you understand exactly when balls change ends after a game.
 - *When players change, the balls do not.*
 - *When the players do not change sides, the balls do.*
4. If a ball bounces out of the court area, do not leave your position to go hunt for it unless it is near by and visible. If at all possible, let someone else retrieve it and return it to you.
5. Stop all motion when the Server steps up to the baseline and is ready to serve.
6. After retrieving a ball, quickly return to your regular position. Occasionally, when retrieving a ball from a distance, it is advisable to run to another ball person's position and return to your position at the conclusion of the next point

During Warm-Up

1. Do not retrieve balls that have landed in the net until the players stop hitting.
2. When the players are practicing their serves, stand off to the side and retrieve balls only after the server has stopped or you can do so safely.

TIEBREAK PROCEDURES

1. The net persons play a key role in maintaining the speedy interchange of balls throughout a tiebreak.
- 2. At the start of the tiebreak and after each change of ends, it is best to have two balls at each end of the court and two balls at the net.**
3. During the tiebreak, **each net person should hold one ball during the playing of points.** The other balls should have been thrown to the Server's end before the beginning of each point. The system speeds up the relay of the balls to the backcourt ball persons.
4. At the beginning of the tiebreak, the "1st Server" serves one point; next; his opponent ("2nd Server") serves two points; thereafter, each player serves alternately for two consecutive points. Remember that in each series of **six points the pattern of serving is 1-2-2-1.** Then the players change sides and the pattern is repeated.
5. Many times during a tiebreak, since the action is fast and the servers alternate every two points, it is most efficient for a net person to throw a ball directly to the Server.

OTHER STUFF

1. All Ball Persons must be on court and in position before players enter the court.
2. At the conclusion of the match all Ball Persons stay in their positions until the players have left the court. Net persons will stand in the alley facing the players
3. Net persons will hold umbrellas over players if needed on change overs and between sets.
4. Back court persons will sweep and line the courts between sets unless other arrangements have been made.
5. All Ball Persons will stay and help clean and prepare the court for the next match. This includes: sweeping and lining the court, picking up used towels, trash, water bottles etc. We also need fresh towels, check the coolers have adequate supplies, replace bananas if less than 3 remaining.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Never speak to a player, umpire or linesman unless asked a specific question.

Do not applaud or indicate, by facial expression or in any other way, your reaction to match play.

No cell phones on court. They should be silenced as soon as you arrive at your assigned court.

Empty your pockets of anything that will make noise on court. Keys, change etc.

Bring liquid on court with you and take sips when you can. You can become dehydrated very quickly and we have a strict "no passing out on court" rule. You can put your water bottle under the lines persons chair.

ALWAYS arrive ready to have a blast.

As a ball person, you will enjoy the excitement of the match by being a part of the action. It's the best seat in the house!