

THE ROLE OF UMPIRES & LINESPEOPLE

- TG Junior competition requires a MINIMUM of two adult umpires per match to be on the court umpiring for the entire duration of play. Linespeople are encouraged to be in attendance with the rest of the parents in the team as well as the players (where applicable with age). You may have enough linespeople to watch each line the umpire wishes to cover; however, do not have more than one person on each line.

Prior To Play

- Each team will submit a separate finals score sheet to the umpires listing their players as well as 2 new balls.
- The umpires must not disclose the score sheets to the opposition until both teams score sheets have been submitted.
- Once score sheets are submitted to the umpires, no changes are permitted to the order of players, unless there is a player illness or injury.
- Umpires will fill in the opposition team's names on each of the score sheets.
- Players should be called and matches played as listed on the score sheet. Please note, NO doubles matches are to be commenced until ALL singles matches are completed. Both doubles matches are to be started at the same time.

Linespeople

- The central umpire should determine where any linespeople are positioned, and ensure that the match is played according to TG Rules.
- Linespeople should NEVER be positioned between courts when there is play on both courts for safety reasons. Linespeople should be standing against fencing and position themselves directly in line with the line they are covering, not on an angle.
- The umpire should let all players know which lines are being watched and how close calls on lines not covered will be called before the start of play. Depending on the grade, this may be decided only by the central umpire or involvement of the players.
- Linespeople are responsible for watching the line they are assigned, and make calls accordingly. They should be attentive at the start of each point, and not hold up play because they are not paying attention. They should NEVER have phone or hand-held devices while on duty on court. Players have the right to hold up play, but not stop a point, if they believe the linespeople are not watching.

During Play

- The central umpire should have a notepad, or some way to record the score, to minimise the potential for mistakes.
- The score should be called after each point, loud enough for all players to hear.

- The umpires and linespeople are never to feel pressured or intimidated by either players or spectators. If this happens, please call the court referee.
- Where there is an issue that breaches of the Code of Conduct by players or spectators, the umpire is asked to stop the match and call for the court referee that has been rostered at each venue. They will explain to the court referee what has happened and the court referee will consider the breach and action accordingly. The court referee will instruct the umpire on how to handle the situation moving forward.
- While the umpire's decision is final, players do have the right to question the score if they believe it is incorrect. It can be easy to reverse scores by mistake, especially when you are not familiar with the players and which clubs they come from, and these errors need to be addressed as they occur, as the score is usually accepted as correct once the next point starts.
- If Players question a score, they need to be able to back up their claim by the recounting of points or games, and then with agreement from the opposition.
- Players, as in any match, have the right to question a line call POLITELY, with an "Are you sure?" Once this is answered they cannot continue questioning the same shot.
- The decision is made by the central umpire, based on what was decided relating to that line at the start of the match, and their decision is FINAL.
- A player can 'give' a point away if they believe the wrong call has been made against the opposition.
- At the completion of all matches the umpires will tally scores and announce a winner. Where there is a draw eg. 3 sets 26 games to 3 sets 26 games OR 4 sets 25 games to 2 sets 26 games, a play-off, as outlined in Rule **4.11.10** MUST take place to decide the eventual winner. This is to be recorded in the place allocated on the score sheet.
- Players listed as #1 and #4 will play the extra set. Where there has been a substitution for players in position #1, either of these players may play in the extra set. The same applies if a substitution has been played in position #4.
- The umpires and lines people in attendance must sign at the bottom of the finals score sheet as proof of attendance. TG rules dictate if there is not a minimum of 2 adult umpires, the club will be fined \$20 and umpiring for the following finals will be scheduled.
- Umpires are to please remind the winning team it is their responsibility to email score sheet to junions@tennisgeelonginc.com.au and to send to their club for score entry into LM.