

Tips for Roving Umpires

1. Be sure to bring stopwatch, tape measure, small pad and pencil, and a coin to flip.
2. Make yourself a visible presence on the court. Move from one court area to another. Station yourself at a net post frequently.
3. Do not cross behind a court when play is in progress.
4. Do not shout to players from several courts away. Move to the court with the problem and bring the players to the center net to speak to them.
5. Anticipate problems or when matches are getting to crucial junctures (e.g. a tiebreak) and station yourself on those courts.
6. Confirm close calls with a nod. Overrule bad calls quickly and be sure the players both understand that they lose the point when overruled by an official. It is not a replay.
7. Do not fraternize with players, coaches, parents, or other spectators. Maintain an impartial and professional demeanor.
8. Do not hesitate to issue soft warnings at changeovers for borderline behavior that looks like it could escalate.
9. If possible, inform the coach when you have issued a code violation to his/her player.
10. If you call a footfault on one player, stay on the court long enough to check the serves of the other player(s) on that court.
11. Be alert to players who are excessively slow between points or on changeovers. Give time warnings if necessary.
12. Always look at the loser when a point ends. If trouble is coming, that's where it will be!
13. Be aware of spectators and how they might be influencing the match.
13. Do not ignore bad behavior. What you permit, you promote.