

Tips for Roving Umpires

- 1. Be certain to bring a hand-held stopwatch, tape measure, small pad & pencil and a large coin to flip. Bring a hat, visor or sunglasses, a drink and snack.**
- 2. Make yourself a visible presence on the court. Move from court to court every two games, unless you are needed elsewhere. Station yourself at a net post.**
- 3. Do not cross behind a court when play is in progress**
- 4. Do not shout to players that are several courts away (unless no balls are in play). Move to courts with problems / disputes and bring the players to the net to speak with them**
- 5. Anticipate problems when matches are headed to critical junctures (i.e. tie-breaks) and station yourself on that court**
- 6. Confirm close calls with a nod. Overrule bad calls quickly (in balls called out, not out balls that are played). Make certain the players understand that they lose the point if an official overrules their call.**
- 7. Do not fraternize with players, coaches, parents or spectators. It is OK to be cordial, but maintain an impartial and professional demeanor.**
- 8. Do not hesitate to issue "soft warnings" when appropriate for borderline behavior to try to prevent it from escalating.**
- 9. When possible, briefly inform the coach after you've issued a code violation to his/her player and why.**
- 10. If you call a foot-fault on a player, stay on court to watch the opponent serve**
- 11. Be alert to players who are excessively slow on changeovers or between points. Ask the player(s) to speed up play or give a Time Violation Warning /Time Violation Penalty, when warranted.**
- 12. Always look at loser of the point when it ends. If trouble is coming, that's where it will come from.**
- 13. Be aware of spectators and how they might be influencing the match**
- 14. Do not ignore bad behavior. What you permit, you promote**
- 15. Do not insert yourself into the match until you have a reason to**
- 16. Don't hide (off-court). Let the players change the score-cards. You are not a ball boy, but you can help**