

Match Day Responsibilities and Match Management

Appearance:

Always look the part. If you look good and act professionally, then the players and coaches will assume that you know the rules and what you are doing.

Neatness counts heavily. Are your shoes and clothes clean and clear of stains?

Be proud to wear your uniform.

Arrival and Pre-match Responsibilities:

Arrive at the match site at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled match start time.

Bring your tape measure, hand held stopwatch, NJSIAA tennis rules, Friend at Court, large coin, paper and pen and a drink with you to the courts.

Introduce yourself to both head coaches, check challenge match sheets, team attire, net height, address the teams when the line up and flip a coin on each court prior to the start of the match

Attitude:

This is an area where many officials fall short because they lack concentration and focus throughout the match. Every match is important to the participants and coaches. They deserve your best efforts.

It is unacceptable to look bored, casual, timid or arrogant. Work smart and hard; then success will come your way. Maintaining a sense of humor is also a good practice.

Making Correct Calls:

Speak up when the rules of the game are broken and when poor sportsmanship occurs

Our rulings should be consistent from player to player and from match to match.

We do not insert ourselves into the match and we speak up only when necessary

Always stand in the best position (at the net post) in order to make accurate calls

Quickly make rulings when you are certain that an in-ball was called out, when you clearly see a player foot fault and other infractions of the rules.

Study the USTA and NJSIAA tennis rules prior to each season and don't be afraid to reference the rules as needed. There is no substitute for knowledge of the rules

You should make your calls prior to any player appealing a call to you

Discussions & Arguments:

If you make a call and a player asks a reasonable question after the point, then answer the question.

But remember that there is only 20 seconds between points. Play must be continuous. If a player is not starting play, then consider calling out PLAY. If a player continues to argue or does not start play within 20 seconds (when in the middle of a game), then issue a time violation warning. Call out TIME VIOLATION WARNING and say the TEAM NAME.

Coaches, players and fans may get out of line and you will need to address these situations. Interact with them in a calm, professional, tactful, firm, in control, fair and impartial manner. Never display an overly aggressive, short-tempered or condescending attitude

After the last match is completed:

Gather your stuff and leave the playing area