

**Paul Schiltz**

**Seminar for umpires**

**GOOD ROUTINE**

**for a**

**GOOD PRACTICE**

***ROUTINE***

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# Routine

*Bad connotation:* “stupid” automatism without reflection about and without differentiation or adaptation to a situation

*Positive aspects:* organized preparation and standardized procedures (“always the same”) allow

- ❑ gaining and maintaining confidence and respect of participants (players and coaches)
- ❑ consistent awareness for and concentration on the items requiring specific attention and actions, (i.e. on match conduct)

# Preparation before and upon arrival

*Check list* before departure: relax and confident

*Information* about tournament and hotels: helpful also to others

*Umpire briefing* (sent out & day before): adequate questions and actions, contact with umpire partner

*Locations* in venue and field-of-play

# Preparation before match (1)

*Umpire uniform and utensils ?*

*Cards: always same place, nothing else added*

*Team work: arrival at venue, organization of jobs before, during and after match, walk-in and -out*

*Time keeping: Typically A-U except time-out and injury → U, Time-keeper calls loud “time”*

*Communication during match: eye-contact, discrete signs*

# Preparation before match (2)

*Walk-in:* Who carries what to playing area? Typically: U match ball, match sheet, rackets of (first) single, A-U other balls and rackets of team-match.

For doubles: to be decided by team or R ( $\neq$  routine).

For final stages: to be decided by R ( $\neq$  routine).

*During match:* Who manages rackets during team match and keeps and delivers spare balls? Typically A-U.

*Walk-out:* Who carries empty bags during walk out? Typically A-U. How to organize walk-out?

# Call area

Locations, dimensions, organization, referees are *different* ( $\neq$  routine)

Many racket inspections are “*pretending*”

Thorough *visual* inspection: damages, also blades, dimensions, then LARC

*Flatness*: 2 directions, gauge decides if flat

*Thickness*: gauge incision decides

If gauge tells “not flat”, “too thick”, report to *referee*

**ROUTINE**

# At table (1)

Go *directly to working position* (Presentation if instructed  $\neq$  routine)

*U* takes rackets out of bag, looks at them, puts them next to and on the same side of net (“Side next to coaches, one red up other black up”  $\neq$  routine)

*A-U* checks, adjusts net tension and height and if needed cleans table, then checks floor and surrounds, keeps empty racket bags

## At table (2)

### *Before match:*

As soon as both players arrived or after finishing jobs, A-U marks 0-0 game score, U tosses

U starts practice period once A-U is ready for time-keeping

### *During match:*

Hand signals, and announcements or calls with audible voice: all always the same (if R instructs differently  $\neq$  routine)



# At table (3)

*During match:*

Time-out and time calls: always loud ! voice

A-U: always rotates manual score-board after 6 points by  $45^\circ$  (never  $90^\circ$ !)

Between games: A-U always goes around table and verifies table and floor on both ends

# At table (4)

*During match:*

After game (and match): U points to winner's side immediately after last point signal, and observes players going to corner, then starts writing.

*After match:*

Proper (standing) hand shake, then U starts writing

Signatures as instructed by R ( $\neq$  routine). Before winner signs, ask "Can you please check before signing?"

Next to R desk: U and A-U verify match sheet.

# Net tension and height

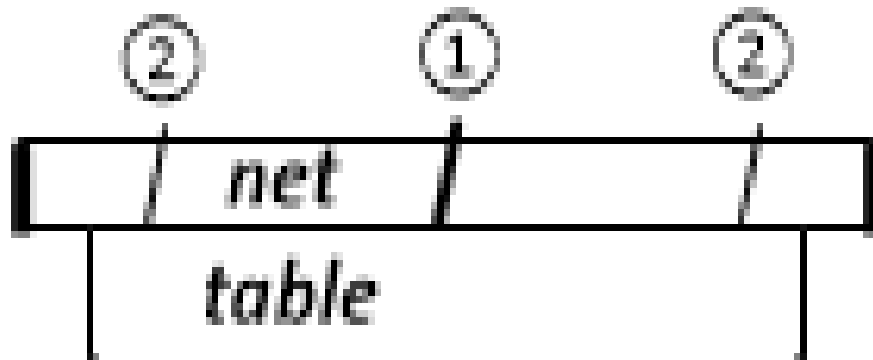
With finger, then with *heavy net gauge* in the *middle of the net* check tension, *no use of light gauge*. Tension adjustment approximate by increments (chain balls or limbs).

With *light net gauge*, about 15 cm inside of table sides (not in the middle) *check height*, *no use of heavy gauge*. Start at U's side.

Always use simple, efficient, quick and unfussy *method* described in next slides.

# Position of net gauges

(do not use together!)



① = heavy net gauge at middle of the net

② = light net gauge at 25–30 cm from net post

**Step 1:** The net gauge is put on the net keeping its **plane diagonal** to the plane of the net and the **fingers are taken off** it.

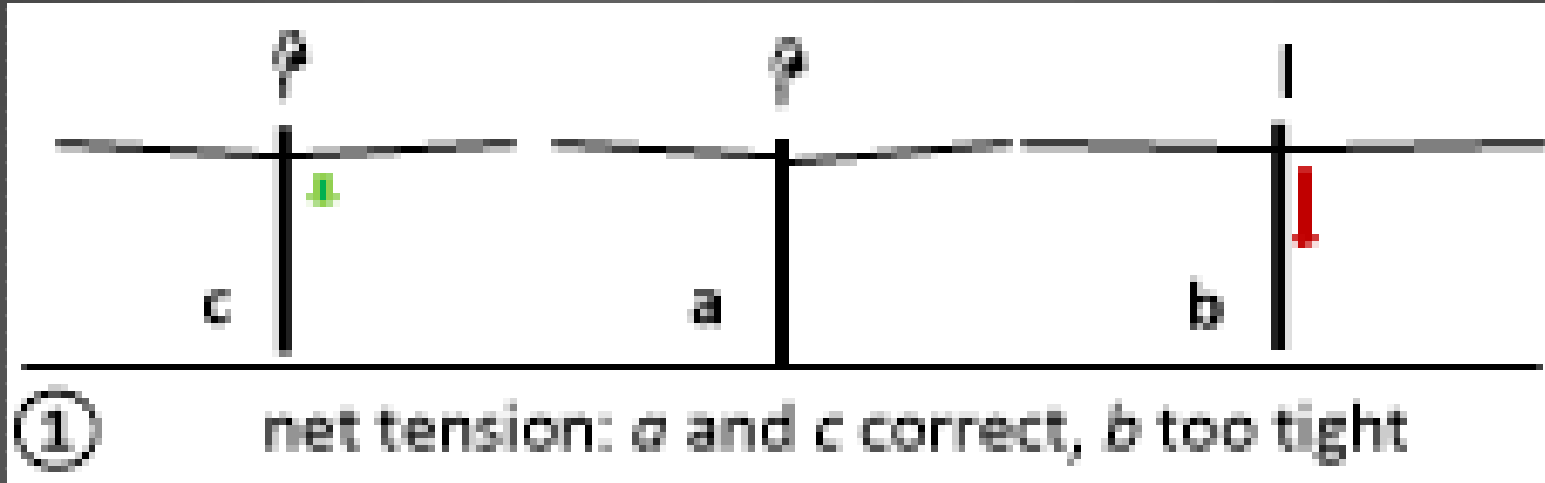
**Step 2a:** If the net gauge plane **by itself** does not swing to vertical (“gauge does not stand up”) the tension or the height is too low. Adjustment is required.

**Step 2b:** If the net gauge **by itself** stands up (fig 6),

- the **tension is OK** if the heavy net gauge touches or nearly touches the table surface
- the **height is OK** if the light net gauge touches the table surface

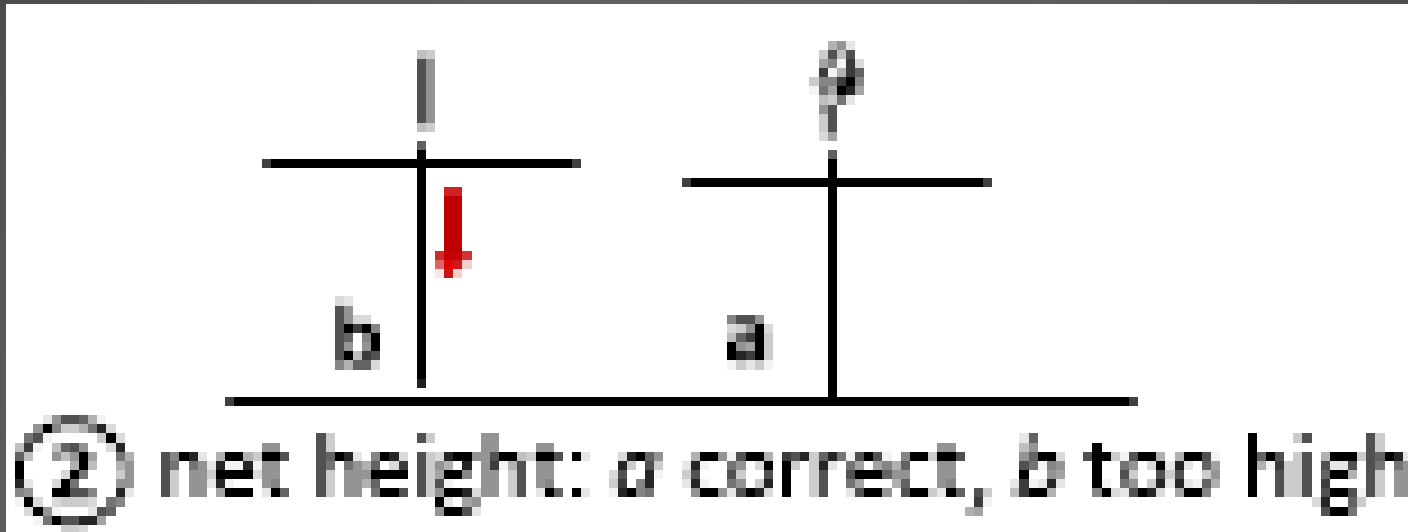
By **slightly tipping with a finger** on the top of the **net gauge** the match official can safely find out if the bottom of the gauge does not touch the table surface: in that case (the tension or) the height of the net is too big and adjustment is required

# Net tension gauge swings to vertical: tension ok or too high?



*N.B. If heavy gauge does not swing to vertical,  
tension is too low!*

Net height gauge swings to vertical:  
height ok or net too high?



*N.B. If light gauge does not swing to vertical, net is too low!*

# Routine: conclusion

*Good* routines (good practice) should

- ❖ be understandable, simple and observable
- ❖ stay unchanged (like “winning team”)
- ❖ be achieved with accuracy and skill
- ❖ be applied ALWAYS (as frequently as possible).

Actions or announcements used rarely or often neglected cannot become (good) routine. Regular auto-evaluation requested !!