

Procedures for Line Umpires for Toilet Break/Change of Attire at ATP/WTA/Grand Slam Events

Before/whilst leaving the court:

- Turn on the radio and do a quick communication check with the chair umpire “Court 2 check”
- Escort the player to the nearest bathroom/changing facility

Arrive at the facility:

If the player is carrying a bag with them for a toilet/change of attire break then the Line Umpire needs to ensure the player leaves the bag outside of the facility (This will not count in the toilet break time)

The Line Umpire will CLEARLY inform the Chair Umpire via the Radio when the player enters the facility (in this case the toilet cubicle or area for changing) by saying:

- “Court Number X, Player X has entered the facility”
- Use the player’s name, NOT ‘player in white’ ‘player with the red hat’, this can be confusing if there are multiple toilet breaks happening at the same time

If for any reason the toilet/changing facility is busy, inform the Chair Umpire that you are waiting for a cubicle to become available then let them know once the player has entered the facility.

The Chair Umpire will give a countdown over the radio to the Line Umpire, this MUST be verbally relayed for the player to hear and must be acknowledged back to the Chair Umpire via the radio “Confirmed, court 2, Federer 2 minutes remaining”

Once the Chair Umpire has said ‘Toilet break time complete’ this must be relayed to the player “the allowed time is now over” as any extra time the player takes will mean penalties.

Once a player has finished their toilet break, even if this is after the allowed time has elapsed, then the Line Umpire will say “Player X has left the facility” (In this instance the facility means they have left the room, hand washing and doing hair is counted in the toilet break time.)

Return to the Court:

The Line Umpire must inform the Chair Umpire if there were any issues during the break or give a simple thumbs up to show all was ok.

The Line Umpire is there to communicate with the player and not be an enforcer. Any communication to the player should be clear and precise without stating any consequences. If a player refuses to follow requests, then say "I will have to report this to the Chair Umpire when we get back to court" and continue to monitor the break. Report this to the Chair Umpire who will then decide the appropriate action.