

LTA Officiating Clay Court Chair Umpire Guide

This guide illustrates the required Chair Umpire techniques for officiating on clay. Take some time to consider these techniques before you umpire a match on clay. If you have any questions do not hesitate to ask a more experienced official.

LEAVING THE CHAIR

Don't let anything distract you from losing the mark. You do not need to watch your feet down the steps - keep focused on the mark.



APPROACHING THE MARK

Quick as possible, but do not sprint. This is most important to avoid a long delay between first and second service.



LOCATING MARK

Point to the mark. This indicates to the players what mark you are reading.



RESULT OF BALL MARK INSPECTION

A prompt decision is required. Regardless of what a player may say, your decision is final.



Do

Do hold your call on close calls.

Do find something to help you locate a mark e.g. a letter from an advertising board that is in line with the mark.

Do decide if the serve/shot was point ending or not before you reach the mark.

Do be ready to check a close call, but your body language shouldn't change.

Do always point at a mark.

Do trace your finger around a mark if it is partially lost in the alley between the line and the court. All marks are symmetrical, so you may need to show a player the imaginary extension of the mark.

Do ask a line umpire to show you a mark if unsure of the location.

Don't

Don't touch a mark.

Don't erase a ball mark after making your decision.

Don't show negative body language. Looking confident will help sell your ball mark inspection and decision.

Don't drop chair umpiring equipment. Ok to carry your scoreboard, but avoid stop watches dangling from your wrist and holding too much. It is important to have a least one hand free, but both free is best.

Don't stand up to get a better view of a mark.