



## **REFINEMENT OF HAND SIGNALS FOR ILLEGAL SERVICES**

### **Background**

1. This was proposed by Hong Kong TTA and approved by ITTF. The proposal is to develop hand signal to indicate umpires' decisions on illegal services by players.
2. The judgment on illegal services is one of the most challenging parts of TT officiating because there are various kinds of illegal service actions which cannot be expressed by a single hand signal. Thus, it is necessary to create various hand signals correspondent to the illegal services.
3. Previously, a series of hand signals were developed and made into videos. These were circulated to members of the URC, Rules Committee, Athletes Commission and Evaluators for feedback and comments. Their feedback and comments are appended below:
  - a) It should be simple and logical.
  - b) It should be sufficient just to indicate that the ball was hidden (infringement of 2.6.4) from the receiver disregarding by which part or by whom.
  - c) It must be easy to understand, reliable and consistently.
  - d) This set of signals should be used as soon as practically possible.



- e) If these hand signals have been widely used, players will be clearer about where they have done illegal and understand what the correct requirements for service are. There will be less infringement of legal service.
4. After receiving the feedback and comments, we refined the previous hand signals and made them even more explicit with simplicity. These hand signals are classified into 7 major types according to common illegal services and then used in the competition of Beijing Sport University from 7 May to 9 May 2014.
5. The umpire or assistant umpire will first show the hand signal for illegal service. If the player question or ask for clarification, the umpire or assistant umpire will verbally communicate using the simple term i.e. "Not high enough" or "Below the playing surface".

## Handsignals

1. If the ball does not rise at least 16 cm after leaving the palm of the free hand, umpire or assistant umpire shall do;

Verbal communication:

“Not high enough”

Hand signal:

Figure 1



**1. Not high enough**

2. If service does not start with the ball resting freely on the open palm of server's stationary free hand, umpire or assistant umpire shall do;

Verbal communication:

“Palm not opened”

Hand signal:

Figure 2



**2. Palm not opened**

3. If service start with the ball resting freely on the fingers of server's stationary free hand, umpire or assistant umpire shall do;

Verbal communication:

"Ball resting on the fingers"

Hand signal:

Figure 3



**3. Ball resting on the fingers**

4. If the ball is under the level of the playing surface from the start of service until it is struck, umpire or assistant umpire shall do;

Verbal communication:

"Below the playing surface"

Hand signal:

Figure 4



**4. Below the playing surface**

5. If the ball is inside the server's end line from the start of service until it is struck or is struck inside the server's end line, umpire or assistant umpire shall do;

Verbal communication:

"Inside the end line"

Hand signal:

Figure 5



5. Inside the end line

6. If the ball does not project near vertically upwards, umpire or assistant umpire shall do;

Verbal communication: "Not vertically"

Hand signal: from Figure 6.1 to Figure 6.2 using an arc



6.1. Not vertically



6.2. Not vertically

7. If the ball is hidden from the receiver by the server or his or her doubles partner or by anything they wear or carry, umpire or assistant umpire shall do;

Verbal communication:

“Hidden by what or whom”

(elbow, shoulder, head or partner)

Hand signal:

Figure 7.1

If the player asks the reason why or where, the umpire will use his or her index finger to show it.

For example: If the ball is hidden from the receiver by the server's shoulder, the umpire need to do as follow:

Verbal communication:

“Hidden by shoulder”

Hand signal:

Figure 7.2



**7.1. Hidden by what or whom**



**7.2. Hidden by shoulder**