

# Clubhouse Clinic: Tennis Rules and Etiquette for Recreational and Club Players

John Bouza

**Where:** Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club - verandah (or indoors; rain or shine)

**When:** Wednesday, July 22, 2009; 7:30 PM - after the Round-Robin

*This one hour "clubhouse clinic" is designed to help you learn how to deal with all the finer points of the game, and have more fun!*

## Introduction

Do you know the rules of tennis? Scoring? Tie-breaks? Do you know when to play a "let"? When not to? Do you know what to do if the ball bounces on your side then spins back over the net **before** you've hit it?

How have you, the average player, learned the rules of tennis? Have you ever read a rule book? Have you ever played a tennis match with an umpire? Likely not. Yet all the rules of tennis are written with the presumption that there is an impartial observer deciding the points and calling the score.

## About John

*"I've played it nearly all my life. Knowing full well that my love for the game was greater than my playing abilities, I attended an umpire's clinic in Toronto in 1975. You always start as a line umpire and I'll never forget the time I called a footfault on Ilie 'Nasty' Nastase at the Canadian Open - ooooh, the glare he gave me.*

*Eventually, I became a Level IV nationally-certified chair umpire. I've had the privilege and pleasure of being the chair umpire for such icons as Connors, Borg, McEnroe, Billie Jean King, and the legendary Rod Laver."*

## The Code

Most of the "rules" we will discuss are not in the official rules of tennis as approved by Tennis Canada or the United States Tennis Association or the International Tennis Federation.

They are drawn from *The Code* and *Cases and Decisions*. The Code was first written over 50 years ago by Colonel Nick Powell precisely because the official rules do not take into consideration recreational play or club matches without an umpire. The Code is now accepted the world over as the definitive guide to proper interpretation of tennis rules and etiquette when no on court officials are involved. The Code, for example, tells us the right

thing to do when you are not sure if any part of the ball touched any part of the line. Play the point over? Give the point to your opponent? Ask the players on the next court?

Cases and Decisions are 66 official interpretations that supplement the official rules of tennis. One example:

***Ball Hitting Scoring Device***

*Case: The ball, while in play, hits the scoring device attached to the new post (flip cards) and goes into the proper court.*

*Decision: The scoring device is considered as a permanent fixture (other than the net, posts, singles sticks, cord or metal cable, strap or band) and hitting it will result in the loss of point.*

**Content**

This unique "clubhouse clinic" will discuss such topics as:

- Before going on court
- Entering the court
- Serving order
- Continuous play
- When in doubt, it's not out
- Don't catch that ball
- Making the call:

"Net"

"Let"

"Out"

"Long"

"Wide"

"Fault"

(never "Doublefault")

"Not up"

"Through"

"Footfault"

"Double hit"

"the-call-with-no-name"

- Hand signals
- Wayward balls
- Leaving the court.

**Stump the Ump**

Bring your questions about the most arcane tennis situation and see if you can stump the ump!!