

# ITF Line Umpire Guide

## Officiating

This Guide illustrates the approved ITF postures and hand signals for Line and Net Umpires and describes other areas of responsibility. It can be used at tournaments and officiating schools to provide guidance for officials.

### POSTURES AND SIGNALS

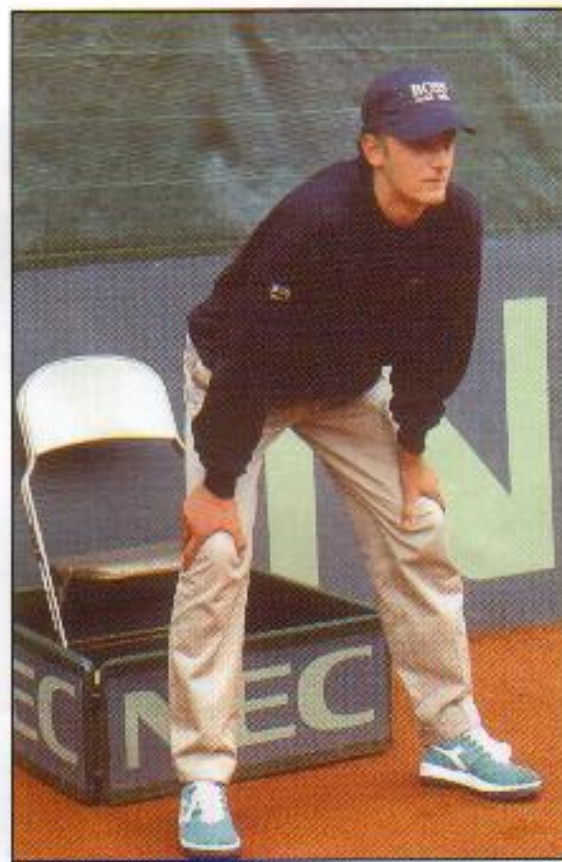
These are examples of the correct postures and signals for Line and Net Umpires. Remember that safe signals should be made when the ball lands approximately 3 feet (1 metre) inside the line. When there is an "out" or "fault" call, the hand signal should be made after the call.

### Side Line and Centre Service Line Umpires

Between points, the Line Umpire should adopt an "at ease" position:

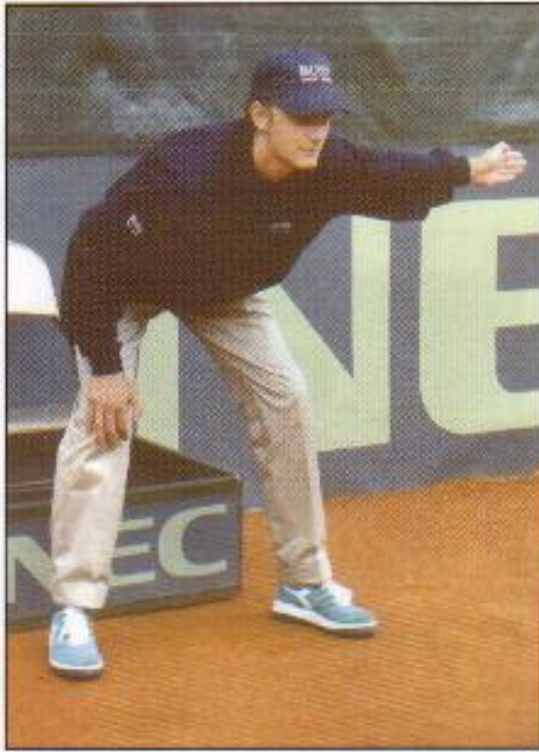


When the player is preparing to serve and during the point, the Line Umpire should adopt an alert "ready" position:

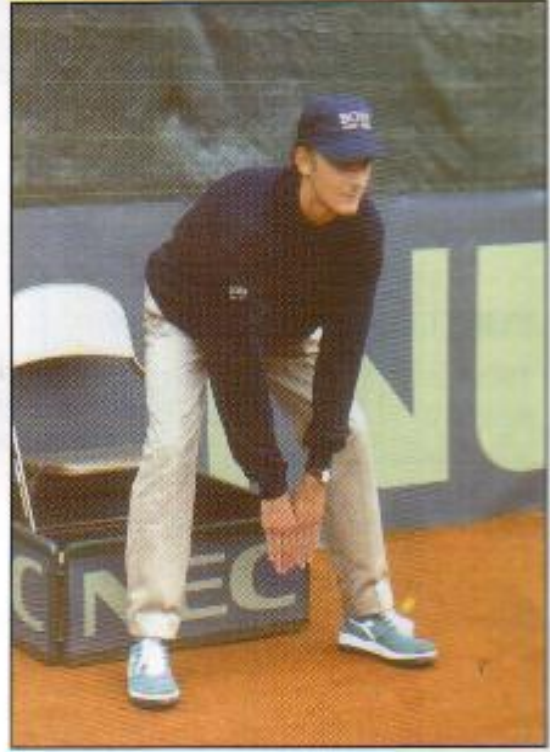




The "out" or "fault" signal should be made like this, using the arm to show the direction in which the ball was "out" or "fault":

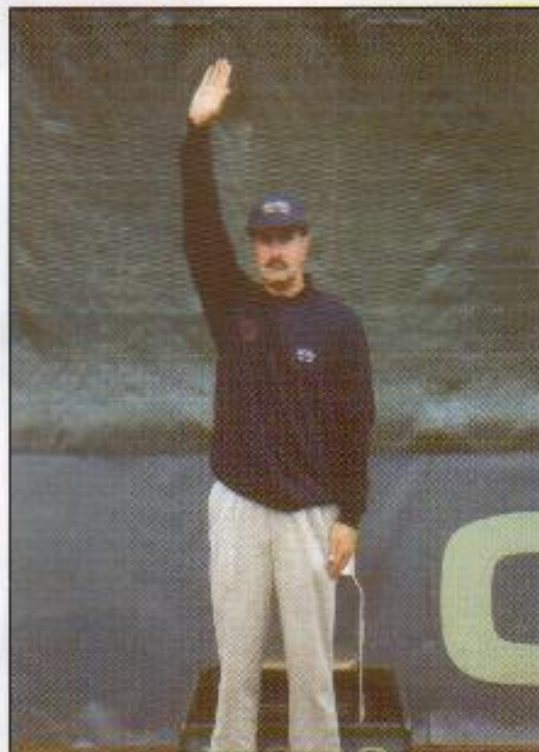


The "safe" signal should be made like this, with the backs of the hands visible to the Chair Umpire:



Note: When moving from Centre Service Line to Side Line, the Umpire should move quickly, but discreetly. It is acceptable to make a "safe" signal with one hand, as this can help in moving more quickly.

Corrections and Foot Faults should be signalled with the arm fully extended upwards:





## Base Line Umpires

The Base Line Umpire should sit upright and alert, with his/her chair angled towards the Chair Umpire:



Foot Fault signals should be made like this:



When making signals, the Line Umpire must take account of where the Chair Umpire is sitting so that he/she can see the signal clearly.

When the Chair Umpire is sitting on the opposite side of the court to the Line Umpire, the signals should be made like this:

(out)

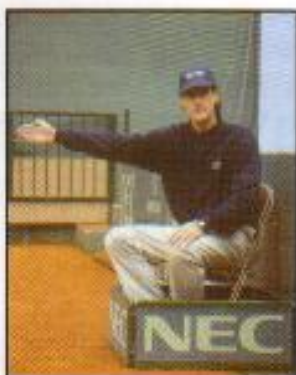


(safe)



When the Chair Umpire is sitting on the same side of the court as the Line Umpire, the signals should be made like this:

(out)

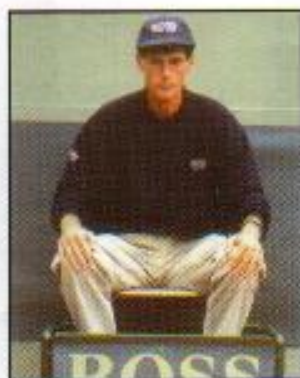


(safe)



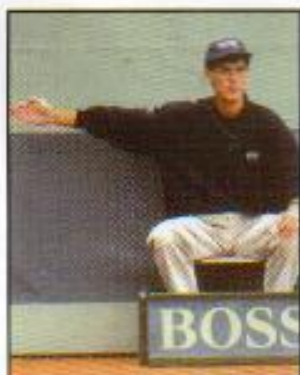
## Service Line Umpires

The Service Line Umpire should look alert, concentrating on the Service Line as the server starts his service motion:

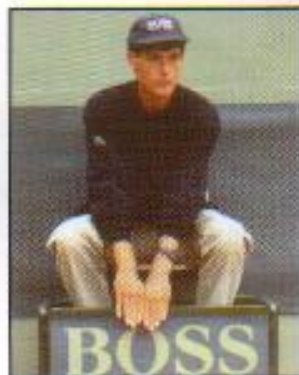


When the Chair Umpire is sitting on the opposite side of the court to the Line Umpire, the signals should be made like this:

(fault)

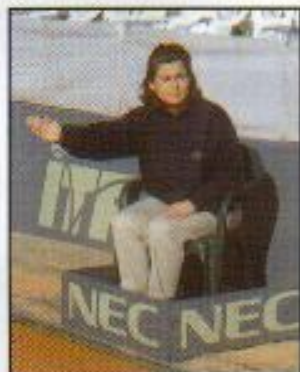


(safe)



When the Chair Umpire is sitting on the same side of the court as the Line Umpire, the signals should be made like this:

(fault)



(safe)





## All Line Umpires

When a Line Umpire is unsighted, he/she should indicate this immediately to the Chair Umpire with this signal. This signal should not cover the eyes!



Correction signals should be made like this:



## Net Umpires

When using a doubles net with singles sticks, the Net Umpire should touch the net inside the singles stick, using the arm furthest from the net:



To signal a "net" or "through" call, the arm that was touching the net should be fully extended upwards:



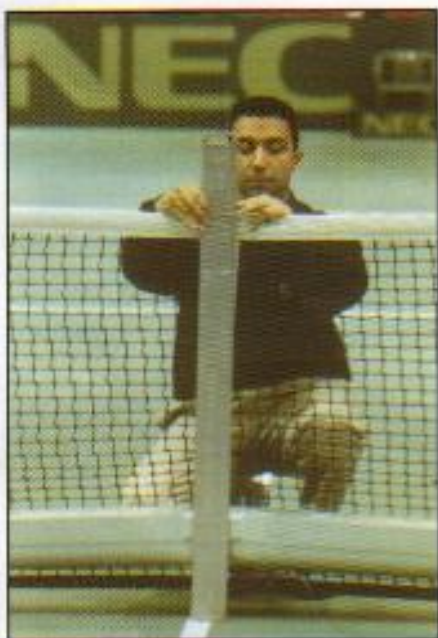
When singles sticks are not used, the Net Umpire should sit like this:



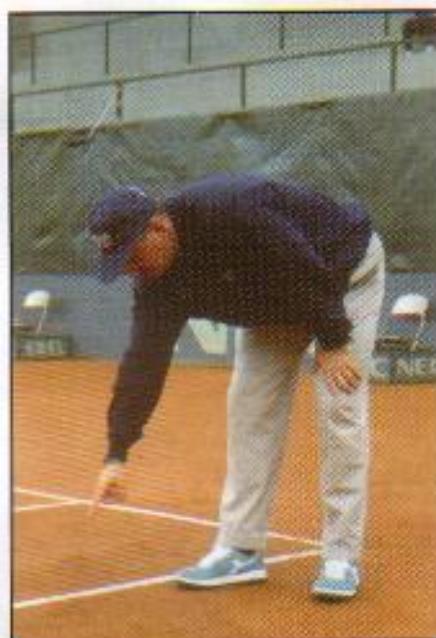


## ASSISTING THE CHAIR UMPIRE WITH OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

The net should be measured (and adjusted if necessary) before the players and Chair Umpire arrive at the court and then at the changeover after the end of every set.



If a Chair Umpire requests help in locating a ball mark on a clay court, the Line Umpire should go to the mark and point to it and wait for the Chair Umpire to arrive. The Line Umpire should not touch the mark or read the mark in this procedure.



The balls should be checked at the change over before each ball change.



A Line Umpire should go with a player who takes a toilet break. This is to ensure that the player does not use the break for any other purpose. If the Line Umpire sees that a violation of the procedure is taking place, he/she must tell the player that they are breaking the rules and report this to the Chair Umpire.