



The Official Communiqué Third Edition-Summer 2004

2004 Beau Holton Award

Nominations for the 2004 Beau Holton Award will be accepted until September 3rd. The Officials Committee will select the award recipient based on 2004 annual work achievements. If you would like to nominate an official, please use the form at the end of this newsletter.

Four Officials Head to US Open

Four Louisiana officials are headed to New York to work the 2004 US Open this August. Congratulations to Marie Gagnard of Crowley, Aimee Johnson of Monroe, Revathy Solomon of Prairieville and Anne Burrell-Smith of Baton Rouge.

USTA Officials Apparel

Sports Choice offers the USTA Moisture Management UVA & UVB protected shirts in short and long sleeves. Both versions can be ordered directly from the Sports Choice website (www.sports-choice.com). To order the short sleeve shirt, click on the picture on the site. While the long sleeve version is not pictured on the web site, it can be ordered by clicking on the picture of the *long sleeve Jade color* version, and typing "send national long sleeve shirt" in the comment box.

Bolle Sunglasses

Many USTA officials use Bolle sunglasses when officiating. Bolle offers USTA officials a discount if you order through their toll free number. If you are interested, call 800-784-4090 and use the user group of "VIP" and the personal access code of "20049876".

Chair Umpire Error

Rarely does one witness a major officiating faux pas on center court of a Grand Slam. Sure we've all seen the "spot shot" display a wrong call by a line umpire, or a code not given when we've felt one was surely deserved. But to have a point awarded on a first serve fault is almost unheard of.

Could it have been prevented? Can we learn from this? Could it happen to you? The answer to all three questions is a resounding **YES!** In case you haven't heard the details, it happened at Wimbledon on center court. The chair umpire apparently did not hear a first serve "fault" call. The receiver reflexed the serve back and the server put it away. The chair assumed the point was played out and awarded the server the point. The server served a second serve, the point was played out and the umpire awarded another point. The players looked confused, but said nothing, and play continued.

So how can we prevent this from happening? To start stay focused *throughout* the match; take one point at a time; keep your mind clear of outside distractions; keep the scorecard neat and updated after every point; be aware of the court and the positions of the players at all times. If the chair umpire at Wimbledon had noticed the server was serving from the same side of the court after the erroneous point had been awarded, an internal alarm would have told him something was amiss. He might not have known what, but if he had instructed the server to move to the

deuce court, she most likely would have said "second serve".

The line umpires could have helped prevent the error. On center court with the chair umpire was a full line crew – that's nine line umpires! Even though the chair umpire was in charge of the match, the chair and line umpires are always a team, working together. Like all umpires, chair umpires do their best not to make a mistake, not to miss a ball change, make a scoring error or any other mistake. But if they do, they hope someone on the line crew will help rectify the error if possible, before it is too late. If any one of the line umpires were 100% sure a scoring error occurred, they could have immediately run to the chair and reported it. In this case, the line umpire who called the fault, could have simply stated "I called a fault".

Hopefully each of us can learn from this mistake, and if we have the opportunity, prevent it from occurring in the future.

Training

Two upcoming training/recertification clinics are scheduled: August 7th in Lake Charles and August 14th in Shreveport. Jane Christensen is the trainer for both clinics and **pre-registration is required**. If you need to attend a clinic in 2004 to retain your certification and would like to attend one of these, please contact Jane to pre-register (tqmsystems@aol.com or 225 275 9516).

In an effort to make the recertification process more accessible to officials throughout the state, the 2005 weekend training clinic will be held in conjunction with the LTA Annual Meeting. Plans

include offering a new provisional clinic, the USTA umpire clinic twice (Friday and Saturday), and the ITA and referee clinics on Sunday. The dates are set for February 18-20, 2005. Look for more details in future newsletters or on our website.

Line Clinic

Aimee Johnson will hold a line clinic in September in conjunction with the Covington Challenger. If you are interested in attending the clinic and trying your hand calling lines at a professional event, contact Aimee for details (aimee@ngjlaw.com).

Upcoming Events

If you are interested in working an upcoming tournament, contact the Referee or Tournament Director (TD).

- July 9 – Morgan City JR Open – Morgan City – Referee: TBA – TD – Kevin Ramirez
- July 11 – USTA Intersectional – Shreveport – Referee: Peggy Van Norman
- July 12 – Bocage JR Open – Baton Rouge – Referee: Richie Weaver
- July 23 – Oak Knoll Country Club – Hammond – Referee: Cindy Fauchaux
- July 23 – New Orleans City Park Ctr – New Orleans – Referee TBA – TD – Judy Chassaniol
- July 30 – Summer Sun Jr Championships – Mandeville – Referee: TBA – TD (Robert Butterfield)
- Aug 6 – West End Tennis Club – TD Edward Gaskell
- Aug 13 – N.O.R.D. Stern Tennis – New Orleans – TD Vidal Easton

- Sept 2 – West End Tennis - TD Edward Gaskell
- Sept 5 – Querbes Tennis Center – Referee: Richard Verzaal
- Sept 10 – Beau Chene Country Club – TD Brett Schwartz
- Sept 16 – Green Acres – Referee: Cabrina Palme
- Sept 17 – Cockrell Tennis Center – TD Duncan Sherriff
- Sept 17 – Cross Gates Athletic Club – TD Jonathan Zielke
- Sept 24 – Alexandria Aquatic RC – TD Francisco Acuno
- Sept 24 – Acadiana Tennis Assoc – TD Leo Olivier
- Sept 30 – West End Tennis - TD Edward Gaskell

2004 Officials Committee

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