

Example of an Essay

Description

On Saturday, 24th August 2024, I volunteered to referee at our local club during their regular recreational session. I successfully refereed seven matches during this session.

Games were held on three courts, and I officiated on Court One, located next to the wall. This court provided the best position for me to stand with minimal impact on games taking place on the other courts.

The venue was in Augusto Town, Pickleballshire, Country Pickle.

The sports hall was bright and airy, offering ample space behind the baseline, but with limited space on the sides of the courts. All players were approximately 3.0 level, with most having little to no experience with officiated games.

There were two instances where I felt uncomfortable: one involved a player being dismissive and argumentative, and the other was when I made a mistake recording the correct score, which caused a delay to the game.

Feelings

Before and during the first match: I was nervous, with one leg shaking noticeably due to my anxiety. I believe some players may have noticed this, as it seemed evident in my voice as well.

Second match onward: I felt calmer and more confident, relaxing further as I officiated the remaining five matches.

By the last five matches: I delivered the Pre-Match Briefings and scripts with confidence, and the players appeared to trust my abilities and my calls more.

Match 4: One player was dismissive and argumentative from the beginning (even during the Pre-Match Briefing). I felt powerless in demonstrating the value of a referee to her.

Match 6: I made a mistake on the scoresheet, which delayed the game and slightly dented my confidence.

After the session: I felt a little deflated, as I hadn't done everything perfectly and had made a couple of mistakes.

Evaluation

Overall, the session went well.

I followed the processes and scripts learned during the referee course, which helped frame each match within a well-structured format and allowed me to manage the court and time effectively.

The structured and "official-like" format of the matches was well-received by most players, contributing to an enjoyable learning experience for me and a positive experience for the players.

Players with limited or no experience of refereed games occasionally served either before or after I called the score, but I applied corrective actions each time without major delays or disputes.

Match 4: I struggled to maintain full control as one player adopted an argumentative approach toward my calls and presence. I may have missed opportunities to manage communication with her more effectively.

Match 6: I made a mistake on the scoresheet and announced an incorrect score, leading to confusion and a delay in the game as we worked to decipher the correct score.

Analysis

Refereeing seven matches provided a good overall experience.

I noticed that the more I referee, the more confident I become.

Match 4: With the argumentative player, I should have paid more attention to non-verbal cues. For example, during the Pre-Match Briefing, the player avoided eye contact and had her arms crossed, indicating a non-cooperative attitude.

When I called a foot fault on her for stepping into the NVZ after volleying, she argued that she had not touched the NVZ. I explained that her momentum caused her to fall into the NVZ, which was a fault, but I may not have used clear language to explain the correct rule.

She then argued that the ball was "dead anyway" and therefore the fault should not apply. Eventually, but after some more arguing and an interference from her partner, she defaulted to my decision.

Throughout the match I overheard her saying a few times aloud that she did not like matches with referees.

Match 6: After a point-winning rally, I correctly noted the score but became distracted when a player from another court asked for my opinion on a call. Returning to my

match, I accidentally added the same point again for the serving team. This error caused confusion and a delay while we worked to resolve the score, demonstrating how distractions can lead to mistakes and reduce players' trust in a referee's abilities.

Conclusion

In retrospect, when dealing with argumentative players, I should pay closer attention to non-verbal cues, as they provide early warnings of potential issues. I could then either engage with players demonstrating non-cooperative attitudes early on to establish better communication, or try to be 'mentally prepared' for the situation with potentially an 'argumentative' player.

Additionally, I realize I may need to memorize concise responses to rule-related questions to keep arguments brief. I could also explore the use of verbal and technical warnings, as these tools could have been helpful in managing the situation (or similar occurrence) that happened in Match 4.

To avoid errors caused by distractions, I plan to always prioritize updating the scoresheet before addressing any external interruptions and develop confidence in trusting that I have correctly recorded scores before dealing with these situations.

Action Plan

- Study the rulebook further to quickly and accurately cite rules or provide concise answers to players' questions.
- Read literature on communication skills to better manage interactions with players.
- Learn more about the appropriate use of technical and verbal warnings.
- Gain more refereeing experience to build confidence and improve handling of various situations.