

## SUMMARY OF WSF RULES 8 AND 9 RELATED TO LETS

WSF Rule 8, Interference, and Rule 9, Ball Hitting a Player, are the bases for most Lets. The more common situations where a Let may be requested and play stopped are described below. However, there is no substitute for familiarity with the actual wording of the Rules because not all Rules are covered below nor are nuances in the Rules discussed. Citation the relevant Rule is in red.

### Definitions (Appendix 1)

Fair View means enough time to view the ball and prepare to strike it as it returns from the front wall. Appendix 1 and 8.7

Striker – A player is the striker from the moment the opponent’s return rebounds from the front wall until the player’s return hits the front wall.

Good Return – A return that is struck correctly and that travels to the front wall either directly or after hitting another wall or walls without going out, and hits the front wall above the tin and below the out line.

Winning Return - A good return that the opponent could not reach even if interference had not occurred.

### Rule 8 - Interference

After hitting the ball and completing a reasonable follow-through, a player must make every effort to clear, so that when the ball rebounds from the front wall the opponent has:

- a fair view of the ball on its rebound from the front wall; and
- unobstructed direct access to the ball; and
- the space to make a reasonable swing at the ball; and
- the freedom to strike the ball to any part of the front wall.

Interference occurs when the player does not provide the opponent with all these requirements.

### 8.1

A reasonable swing comprises a reasonable backswing, a strike at the ball and a reasonable follow-through. 8.9, 8.10

A striker who believes that interference has occurred may stop and request a Let, preferably by saying "Let, please." That request must be made without undue delay. 8.2 A request for a Let includes a request for a Stroke. 8.2 Normally, only the striker may request a Let for interference. However, if the non-striker requests a Let for lack of access before the ball has reached the front wall, that request may be considered, even though that player is not yet the striker. 8.2

A Let is allowed if:

- If there was interference that the non-striker was making every effort to avoid and the striker would have been able to make a good return. 8.6.6
- If the striker's ball hits the non-striker, their clothing or equipment on its way to or from a side wall for what would have been a good return. 8.11.2, 8.11.3, 9.1.3
- If the striker refrained from striking the ball because the non-striker has failed to provide access to the front wall and the ball would have hit the non-striker on its way to or from the side wall. 8.11.2, 8.11.3
- If the striker was wrong-footed (i.e., initially started in the wrong direction), but showed the ability to recover and make a good return, and then encountered interference. 8.8.3
- The striker's swing was affected by slight contact when the non-striker was making every effort to avoid the interference, unless the striker could have made a winning return, in which case a stroke is awarded. 8.9.1

A Stroke is allowed if:

- The striker would have been able to make a good return but the non-striker was not making every effort to avoid the interference. 8.6.5
- If the striker's swing was prevented by contact with the nonstriker, even if the non-striker made every effort the interference. 8.9.2
- If there was interference and the striker would have made a winning return. 8.6.7.
- If the striker's ball hits the non-striker, their clothing or equipment on its way directly to the front wall for a good or winning return. 9.1.2
- If the striker's ball on its way to the front wall i) hits a non-striker, and ii) hit or would have hit the side or back wall before the front wall, and iii) would have been a winning return. 9.1.3
- However, when the striker had the opportunity to seek a Let and took the shot anyway which hit the opponent, the award of a stroke may not be appropriate considering the general rule of requiring safe play under all circumstances. In flagrant circumstances, the non-striker, if hit by the ball, may be awarded a stroke. 9.3
- If the striker refrained from striking the ball because the non-striker has failed to provide access to the front wall and the ball would have hit the non-striker on a direct path to the front wall. 8.11.1

- If the striker was wrong-footed (i.e., initially started in the wrong direction), but showed the ability to recover and make a winning return and then encountered interference. 8.8.3

#### No Let is allowed if

- If there was neither interference nor reasonable fear of injury. 8.6.1
- If there was interference but the striker would not have been able to make a good return. 8.6.2
- If the striker decides to play through the interference before seeking a Let, his request should be denied as untimely because the rule provides a player “may stop and request a Let...” 8.2, 8.6.3 This is to prevent the striker from deciding to request a Let after he has seen the outcome of his shot. That is, a striker doesn’t get to play through interference and get a point if he hits a winner but request a Let if his return is not good.
- If there was minimal interference, but it did not prevent the striker from seeing and getting to the ball to make a good return. 8.6.4
- If there was interference but the striker did not make every effort to get to and play the ball. 8.8.1.
  - However every effort to get to and play the ball should not include contact with the non-striker. If any contact that could have been avoided is made, Rule 15, Conduct, may be applied. 8.8.1
- If the striker had direct access but instead took an indirect path to the ball and then requested a Let for interference 8.8.2

#### **Rule 9 – Ball Hitting a Player**

- If the ball on its way to the front wall hits the non-striker (including their racket or clothing), play must stop and:
  - If the shot would not have been good, the non-striker wins the rally. 9.1.1
  - If the ball was going directly to the front wall, a Stroke is awarded the striker. 9.1.2
  - If the ball had hit or would hit a side wall on its way to a good return, a Let is allowed. 9.1.3
  - If the striker had turned, a Stroke is awarded the non-striker. 9.1.5
- If the ball on its return from the front wall hits a player before bouncing twice on the floor, play must stop and
  - If the ball hits the non-striker before the striker has attempted to hit the ball, a Stroke is awarded the striker. 9.2.1
  - If the ball hits the non-striker after the striker has made an unsuccessful attempt to hit the ball, a Let is allowed. 9.2.2
  - If the ball hits the striker and there is no interference, the non-striker wins the rally. 9.2.3

## Turning - Rules 8.13 and 9

Turning is the action of the player who strikes, or is in a position to strike, the ball to the right of the body after the ball has passed beyond it to the left or vice versa, whether the player physically turns or not. 8.13 This most often occurs when the ball bounces off the back wall around behind the striker.

This Rule deserves special consideration because the circumstance creates a greater chance the striker will hit the non-striker if the striker plays the ball. First, the striker is likely to lose sight of the non-striker as the striker tracks the ball. Second, the expected path of the striker's return depends on whether the return will be a forehand or backhand, making it difficult for the non-striker to predict and then stay out of the path of the ball.

- In general, a Let is allowed if the Striker does not strike the ball and the non-striker had no time to avoid the interference. 8.13.2
- A Stroke is awarded in the non-striker prevented the striker's swing. 8.13.1
- If the striker could have struck the ball without turning and turned to create an opportunity to request a Let, no Let is allowed. 8.13.3
- A Stroke is awarded to the non-striker if the striker turns, plays the ball and hits the non-striker. 9.1.5.
  - When the striker hits the non-striker with the ball, the referee may award an additional penalty if the action was judged to be dangerous. 8.13.4, 9.3