



Memo Re Inappropriate use of language on court.

What is the position of our sport in relation to the use of inappropriate language on court?

Under Rule 17 – CONDUCT ON COURT – the referee is required to penalise a player for behaviour that is 'offensive'. According to the Guidelines to Referees, G15 *offensive behaviour* includes 'audible obscenities'.

As Rule 17 states that the referee *shall* penalise the player for such behaviour, there is no room for discretion and the player must be penalised. But what type of penalty?

Normally there are four options open to referees when penalising players. They can award a conduct warning, a conduct stroke, a conduct game or a conduct match.

The current WSF Guidelines to referees require a conduct **stroke** for audible obscenity and NOT a conduct warning. A conduct warning is recommended for a muttered obscenity!

So, be warned you WILL be penalised with a conduct stroke if you use 'the F word' on court so devise some other tactic to vent your frustration with your play, your luck or even the decisions of referees! Ask your coach for advice on this as there are many options!

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(Also Tournament Grade referee)