

Heart of America Adult League Play – Electronic Line Calling Rules

Heart of America USTA is implementing a “permanent rule” for Electronic Line Calling (ELC) for all matches that are held at OPRC (or any other location in HOA where available). Effective immediately, ELC technology will be used by players in accordance with the protocols set forth herein:

Challenge Limits:

- When Electronic Line Calling devices are in use, each team is permitted a maximum of three (3) unsuccessful challenges per individual match.
- If a 3rd set tiebreaker is needed, one additional unsuccessful challenge will be granted for a total of 4. Any unused challenges from the first set will carry over to the tiebreaker.
- An unsuccessful challenge is one in which the original call stands.
- A “successful challenge,” in which the original call is overturned, does not count toward the challenge limit
- Once a team reaches three failed challenges in a match (or the 4th in a 3rd set tiebreaker), they forfeit the right to make any additional challenges for the remainder of that match.

Overrule Limits:

- Any player or doubles team whose incorrect “out” call has been overturned will count toward the overrule limit. A player/team is limited to 2 overrules without further penalty.
- On the 3rd and any subsequent overrule during the match, the player or team being overruled will receive an additional point penalty for “excessive overrules”.

Administering challenges - Use the kiosk set up at the net post. A challenge must be requested immediately just like an “out” call must be made immediately.

System Unavailable - If the ELC system is unavailable, the original call will stand. The player will NOT lose one of their challenges.

Overrule - If player is overruled by the system, player loses the point. A “let” shall never be played.

Challenges

- A player may challenge any service fault or out call made by their opponent.
- System may not be used to verify calls, if call is not immediate, it is considered in.
- Balls called out due to hitting a permanent fixture cannot be challenged.
- Challenges shouldn’t be arbitrarily initiated (e.g. to delay the game)
- A player may never challenge his or her own call. If an “out” call is not made immediately, the ball will be played as “in”. The call should not be reviewed on the kiosk. However, if it is, the “in” call shall still stand no matter the ruling.

Players will continue to make their own line calls like in regular league play. A player desiring to challenge an opponent’s line call must do so immediately.

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Scenarios and FAQs:

1. The score is 30-15 Team A. Team A's serve is called "out" by Team B. Team A challenges the call and the serve is ruled "in". This was Team B's 3rd overrule. What is the score after the overrule?
 - a. Since this the 3rd overrule, the serve ends in a point (40-15) and then the extra penalty point is applied (Game Team A). Team A wins the game and Team B is now serving love-all.
2. Similar scenario, but now later in the match, the score is 40-30 for Team A. Team A's volley is called "out" by Team B. The call is challenged by Team A and overruled. What is the score?
 - a. Since this is the 4th overrule, the score after overturning the call is "Game Team A".
However, the extra point penalty results in Team B starting the next game at Love-15. Team B should start their service game on the Ad side at Love-15.
3. Team A is serving. Team B attempts to return the serve and misses, but after the miss, the receiver's partner (or the receiver) says "I think that was out. Let's check the ELC to confirm".
 - a. Team B is not allowed to use ELC to challenge their own call. Since they did NOT call it out and played the serve, the serve must be played as "in". The ELC should NOT be reviewed in this scenario. However, even if it is (maybe at changeover), the call cannot be reversed. The ball was played as "in" and the call shall stand.
4. Similarly, Team A is serving. Team B attempts to return the serve and misses. However the receiver's partner DID immediately call the serve out. Then after thinking about it, the receiver's partner said, "let's look at the ELC to see if I was right". What is the protocol for this situation?
 - a. The receiving team should NOT challenge their own call in this scenario and the ELC should NOT be reviewed. If the serving team wants to risk one of THEIR challenges to challenge the call, they may do so. However, in this scenario, the receiving team should either 1) concede the point because they feel like their "out" call was in error, or 2) stand by their call and require the serving team to challenge it or accept the call.
5. Team A is serving and serves "first serve" which is called "out" by Team B. Team A challenges the call. After reviewing ELC, the serve was confirmed as "out". What happens next?
 - a. Because this was "first serve" and the serve was out, Team A is now entitled to a "second serve". The receiving team is NOT obligated to grant the serving team a new "first serve" because the delay was caused by the serving team. The incorrect challenge by the serving team does count toward their limit of 3 incorrect challenges. If this is their first incorrect challenge in the match, they shall now have 2 remaining.

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