



Have you ever encountered a unique or quirky situation in a tennis match and not known what the appropriate rule was? Or maybe you were involved in a situation where you felt the point should have gone your way, but you weren't quite confident enough to make the call.

It is quite ironic that many tennis players who have played the game for many years do not know the rules of tennis to their fullest extent. This article is designed to enlighten you on some of the quirkiest rules of tennis.

Below are some examples of situations that you may or may not have encountered and the rules that concern these situations.

Case 1 – A ball in play hits another ball which is lying in the same court. What is the correct decision?

In this case, play should continue. However, if it is not clear that the actual ball in play has been returned, a let should be called.

Case 2 – The player jumps over the net into their opponent's court while the ball is still in play. Is this allowed?

No. The player in this instance would lose the point.

Case 3 - A ball in play hit a bird flying over the court. What happens in this instance?

This situation is considered a 'hindrance' (i.e. a player has been hindered in playing the point by a deliberate act of the opponent(s), an unintentional act of the opponent(s), or something outside the player's own control). In this case, the point shall be replayed.

Case 4 – A ball that has just been served hits the receiver or in doubles the receiver's partner before it touches the ground. Which player wins the point?

In this instance, the server would win the point, unless it was a service let.

Case 5 – A player in making a volley, brings his racket over the net without touching it. Is this a good return?

This is considered a good return, provided the ball has crossed the net to the player's side of the court before he makes contact with it.

Tennis Victoria encourages everyone to read up on their rulebooks, so that you are ready to deal with the next quirky situation you may find yourself in. Who knows, the decision you make may change the course of the match!

If you have a rule you would like clarified, please email it to vicnews@tennis.com.au and we will endeavour to feature them in an upcoming issue of Hot off the Court.