



# LINE JUDGE TRAINING USAB 2012

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U.S.A.B. LINE JUDGE COORDINATOR  
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# Welcome & Thank You for volunteering to Line Judge!

## Job Description:

Line Judging is the art on making correct visual observations of the exact point of landing of the shuttle on the boundaries of the badminton court.

## Levels of Line Judges:

**Regional (Local recreational & Junior tournament )**  
**National**  
**International**  
**Pan Am**  
**BWF**

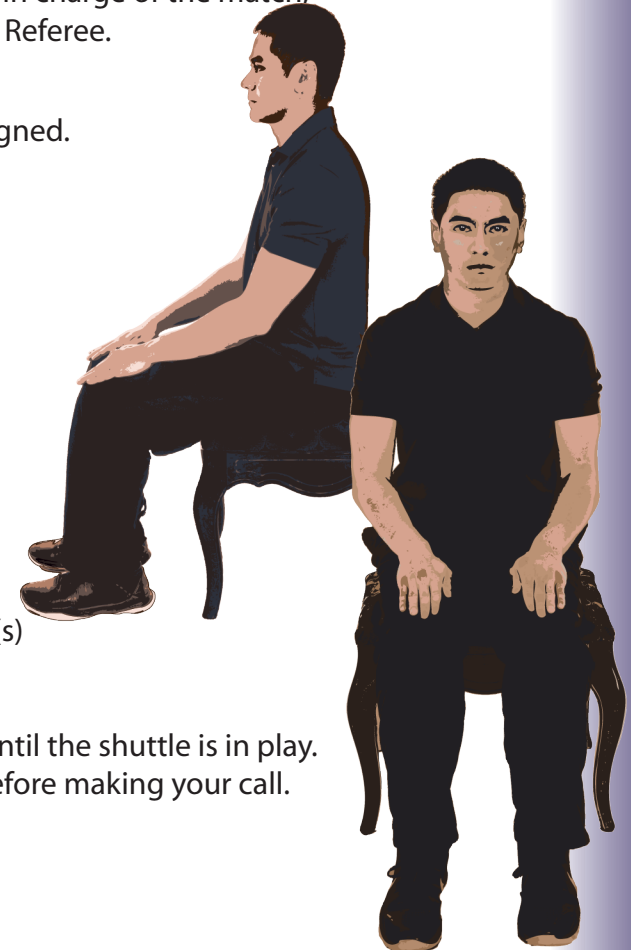
## Introduction & Duties:

Line Judge is a "Court Official" as are the Umpire and Referee.

We are all part of the Court Official Team which is headed by the Referee. The Umpire is in charge of the match, the court and its surroundings, the service judge, the line judges and also reports to the Referee.

The Line Judge's job is to:

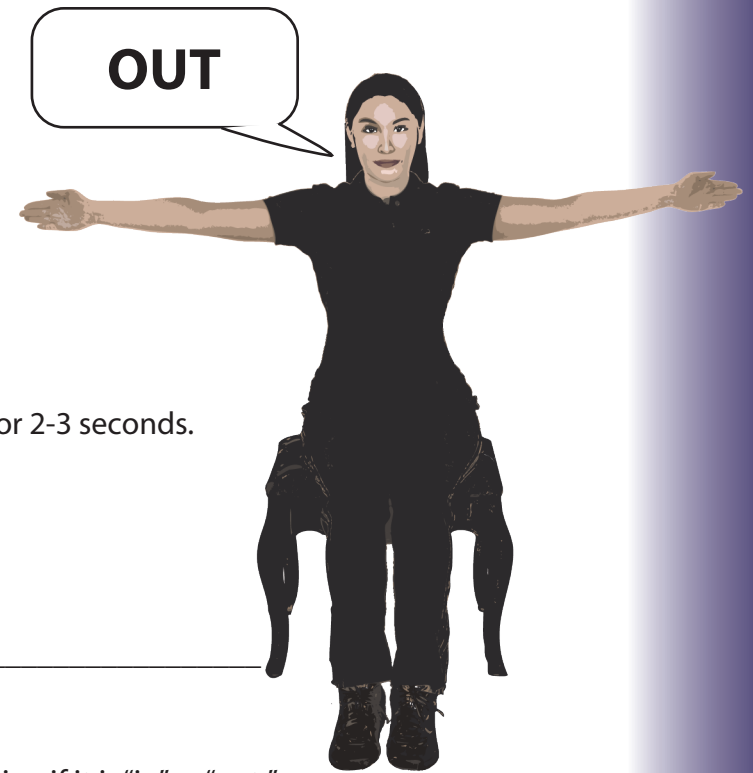
- 1) Observe and indicate whether the shuttle has landed "In" or "Out" on the line(s) assigned.  
You play an important role in determining fair play during the match.  
The players are depending on you to make good accurate calls!
- 2) Keep alert and stay focused on your match.
  - a) You must be impartial and not be influenced by anything around you  
...players, coaches and or spectators.
  - b) Do not show preference for any team or player.
  - c) Do not cheer or show disappointment.
- 3) Look and Sound Professional
  - a) Wear the uniform or shirt provided with black pants and appropriate shoes.
  - b) No loud jewelry or anything distracting.
  - c) **Sit in your assigned chair on court in an alert position  
with your feet flat on the floor and your hands flat on your legs.**
  - d) On court, follow the play and shuttle during each rally, focusing on YOUR line(s) for a possible call. It is not recommended that you just stare at your line waiting for the shuttle to come to you.  
However, the Short Service Line... keep your eye directly at the line only until the shuttle is in play.
  - e) Always look at the cork of the shuttle to determine the exact landing point before making your call.
  - f) Make quick decisive calls.
  - g) **Do NOT make a call or begin to motion before the shuttle hits the floor!**
  - h) Only call the line(s) assigned to you. (Not someone else's line.)



## Court Signals:

1. If the Shuttle lands "Out", ... (no matter how far)
  - a) Call "Out" promptly in a loud, firm, clear voice  
(loud enough to be heard by the umpire, players and spectators)
  - b) And at the same time, Signal by extending both arms horizontally at shoulder height with fingers together and thumbs upward.
  - c) Make eye contact with the Umpire as you make the call. ....Hold this position for 2-3 seconds.  
The umpire should acknowledge your call.
  - d) Do not look at or talk to the player(s).

**(Only make your call after the shuttle hits the floor!)**



## Basic Premise: **The shuttle is "In"... unless it is "Out"!**

In other words if the shuttle lands so close to the line that you can't clearly determine if it is "in" or "out," then call the shuttle "In."

2. If the Shuttle lands "In"
  - a) **Remain silent** and immediately point at the line with your right hand (palm down, fingers together and arm fully extended) while leaning forward (bending at the waist).
  - b) Make eye contact with the Umpire as you make the call. ....Hold this position for 2-3 seconds.  
The umpire should acknowledge your call.
  - d) Do not look at or talk to the player(s).

**(Only make your call after the shuttle hits the floor!)**



## UNSIGHTED CALLS

3. Unsighted calls... If your sight of the shuttle landing is obstructed by the player(s)
  - a) Put both hands over your eyes (fingers open)
  - b) Make eye contact with the Umpire as you make the call.  
.....Hold this position for 2-3 seconds! The umpire should acknowledge your call.
  - c) Do not look at or talk to the player(s).
  - d) It is now the responsibility of the Umpire to make the call... "in", "out" or "let".  
Do not use the unsighted call as a way or excuse to not make your call.
4. Be ready to repeat your call if asked by the Umpire.
5. Under no circumstances should you allow players, coaches or spectators to distract, influence or intimidate you when making a call.
6. Even the best Line Judges make an occasional mistake.
  - a) If you make an incorrect call, CHANGE IT... correct the mistake IMMEDIATELY and get back to concentrating on the game.
  - b) Say "Correction" in a loud, firm, clear voice and signal the correct call (if changing from an "out" call to a "in" signal)
7. The Umpire can overrule the call of the Line Judge, if beyond a reasonable doubt and in the opinion of the Umpire, the Line Judge has clearly made a wrong call.
8. Your "Call" should always be made without any anticipation of the Umpire's decision regarding faults (e.g. the shuttle touching a player, his clothing or racket) before landing on the court, however obvious.
9. Be aware that you are making the call for the Umpire, player(s), coach(s) and spectators.
10. When 6 or more Line Judges are on court, the Umpire expects 2 calls every time the shuttle hits the floor (both the side line and base line).



## Court Lines

- Line Judge Responsibility Areas:

1) Side line - end of the side line to the net

Make an "In" signal if the shuttle lands in the court within 6' of your assigned line.

2) Base (back) line - the entire end line of the court from side line to side line.

Make an "In" signal if the shuttle lands in the court within 6' of your assigned line.

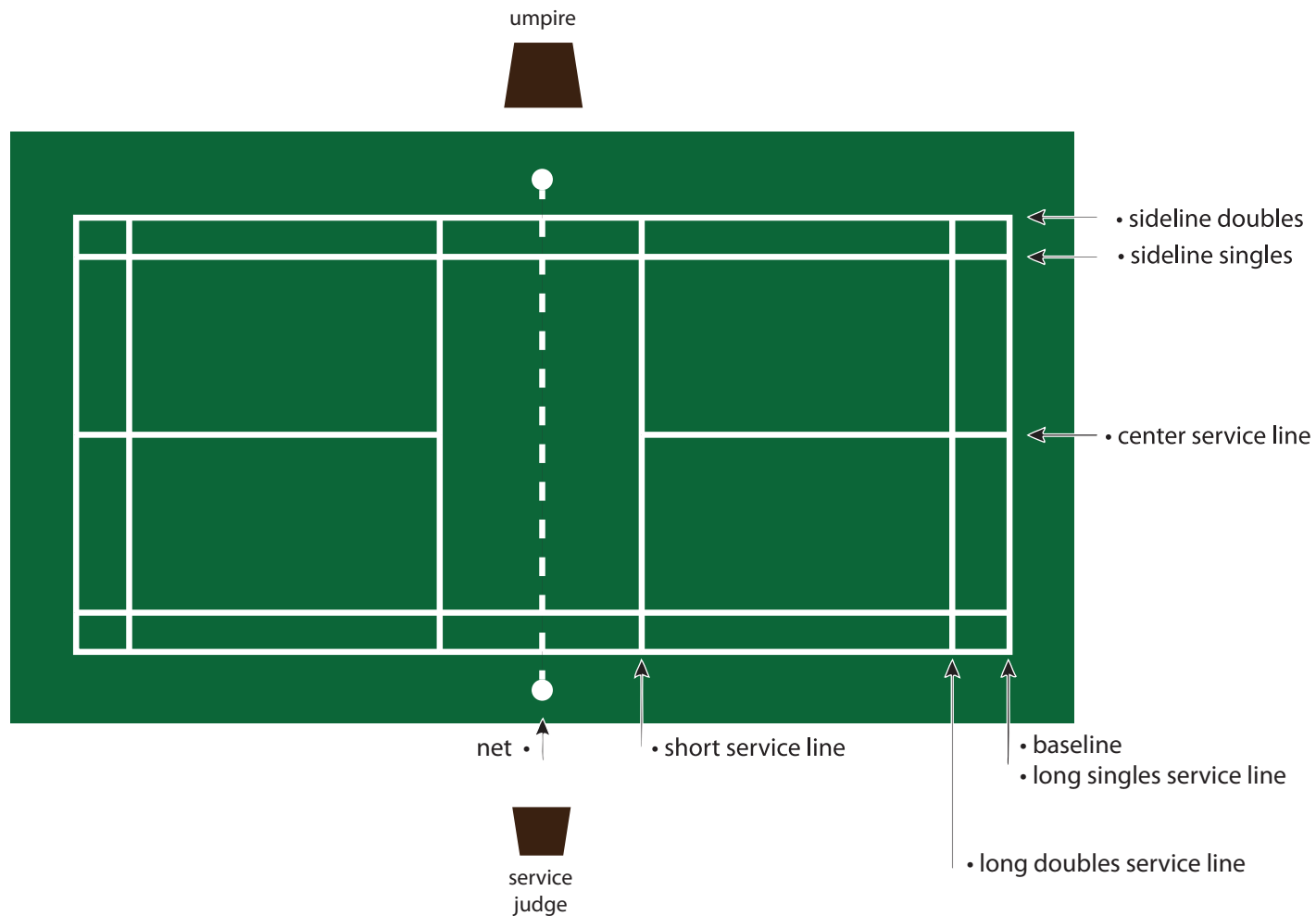
3) Back service line - in Doubles, the back service line from side line to side line.

In singles, the base line from singles side line to singles side line.

4) Front service line- front service line side line to side line

5) Center service line- In doubles, the middle line from the front service line to the back service line.

In singles, the middle line from the front service line to the base line.



## Reminders on Court

- 1) Have fun.
- 2) Look & Sound Professional.
- 3) Take pride in your work as a Line Judge.
- 4) Walk on & off of court as a group in straight lines.  
Stand in front of your assigned seat (parade rest with your hands behind you) and be seated upon the signal of the leader in the #1 chair. (Sit in unison)
- 5) Please sit with your legs close together (not spread eagle). (Photo of LJ seated)
- 6) No gum chewing, eating or drinking while on court.
- 7) Turn off cell phones and no cameras on court.
- 8) Cover mouth if you must yawn.
- 9) Stay focused on YOUR match.
- 10) Try not to look directly into the lights when following the shuttle during the rally.
- 11) Players are depending on you to make good prompt accurate calls.
- 12) Don't talk to other line judges, players, coaches or spectators while on court.
- 13) Don't talk to or make eye contact with the players on court.
- 14) If a player(s) disagrees with your call, just keep looking at the Umpire.
- 15) Do NOT make a call or begin to motion before the shuttle hits the floor!
- 16) Only call the line(s) assigned to you.
- 17) Make your call promptly in a loud, firm, clear voice, being decisive & definite with prompt hand signal.
- 18) Make eye contact with the Umpire on every call.
- 19) Mop only when the Umpire directs you.
- 20) You can not leave the court for any reason without the umpire's permission.
- 21) All Line Judges must return to the staging area and then return to the LJ seating area after your match.
- 22) Please advise the coordinator if you are leaving the line judge area for any reason.
- 23) If you are tired or having a problem, advise the coordinator immediately...just don't go back on court!



# COURT LAYOUT

## 4 LINE JUDGES - option 1

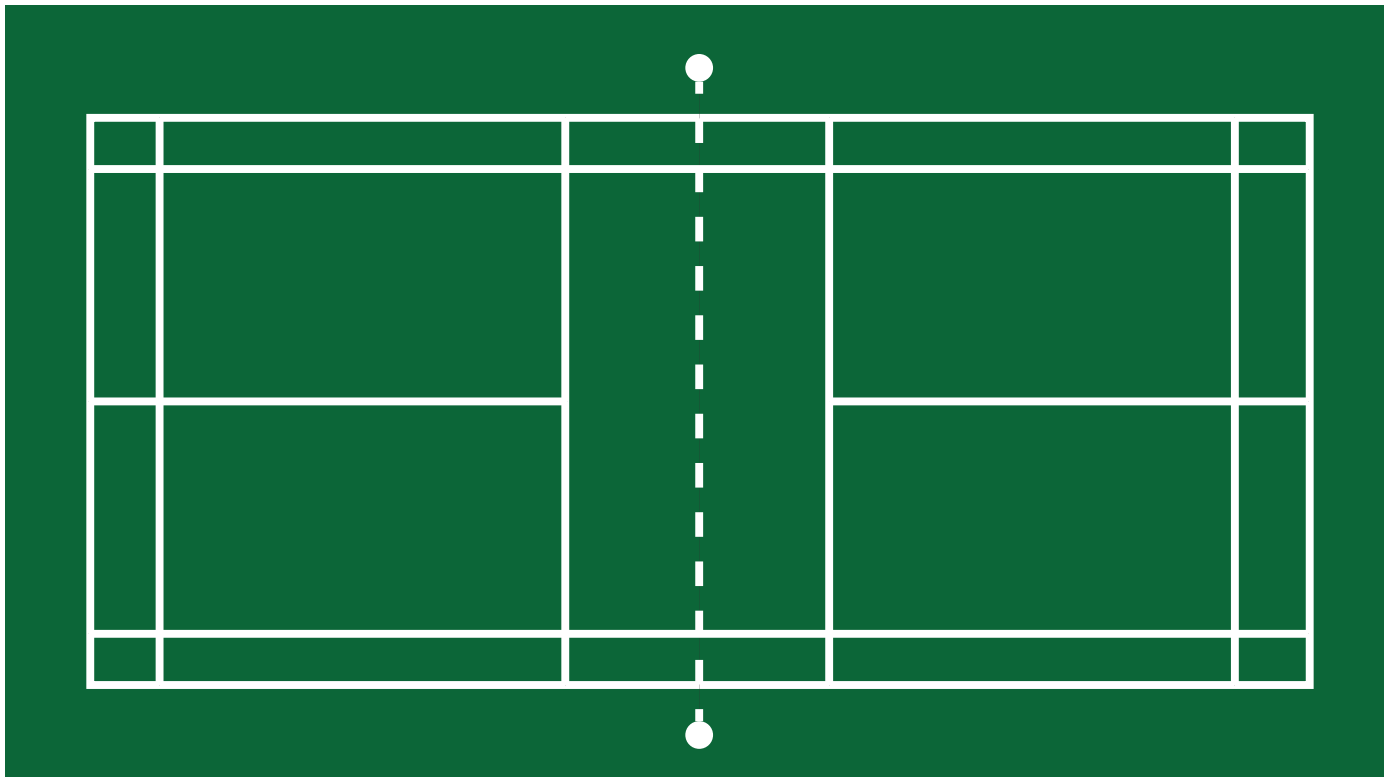
umpire



4



1



3



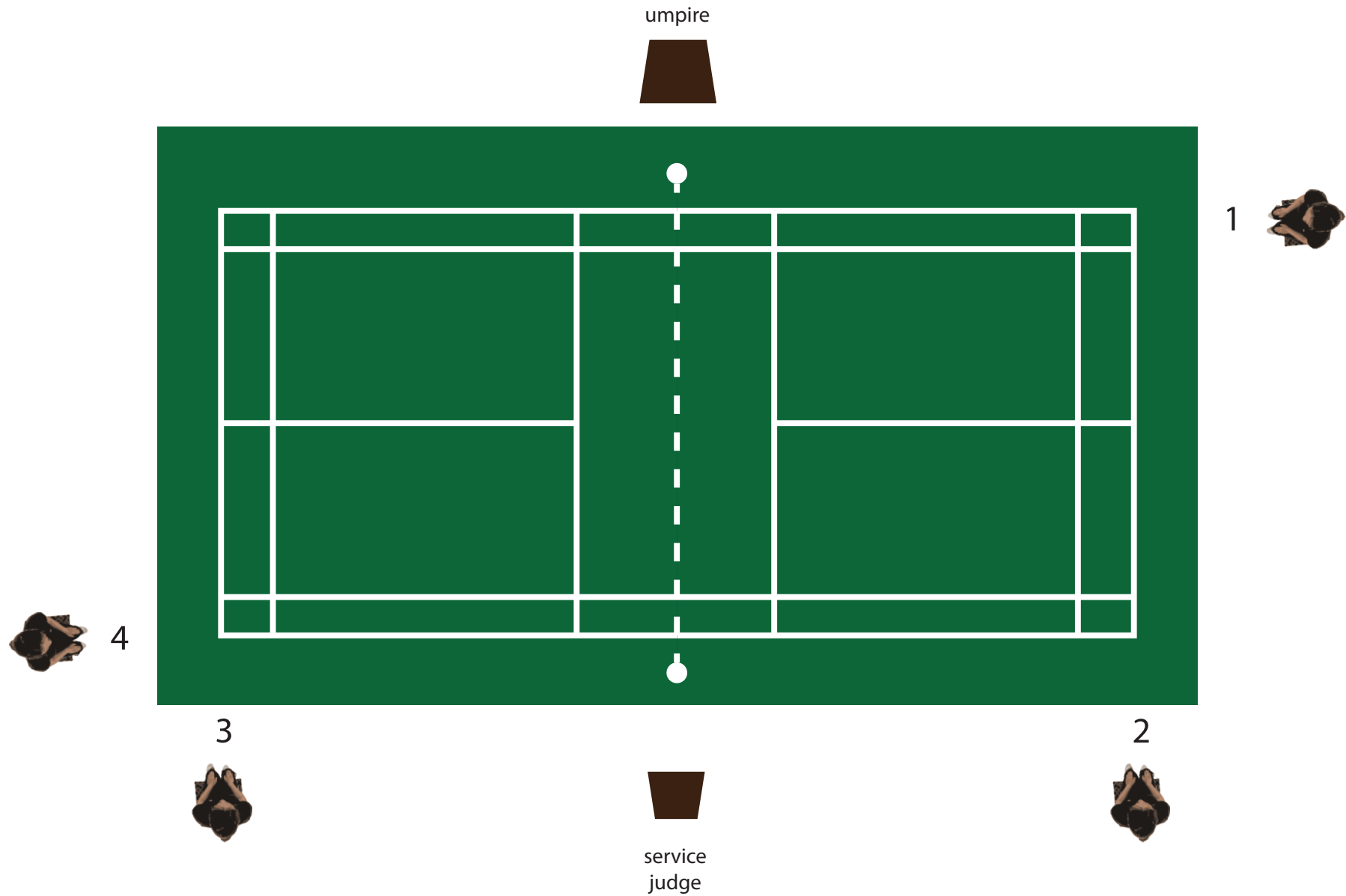
2



service  
judge

# COURT LAYOUT

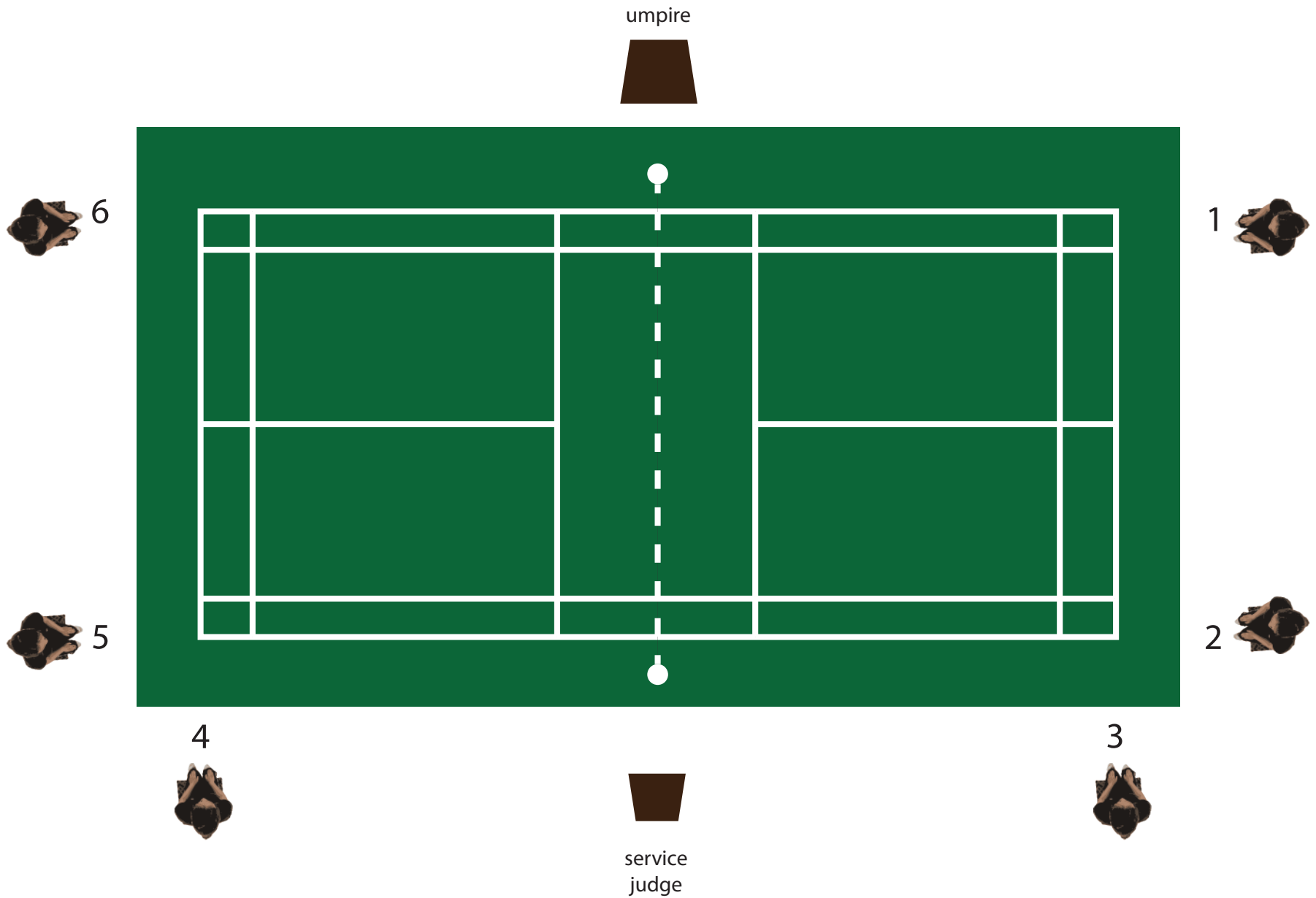
## 4 LINE JUDGES - option 2





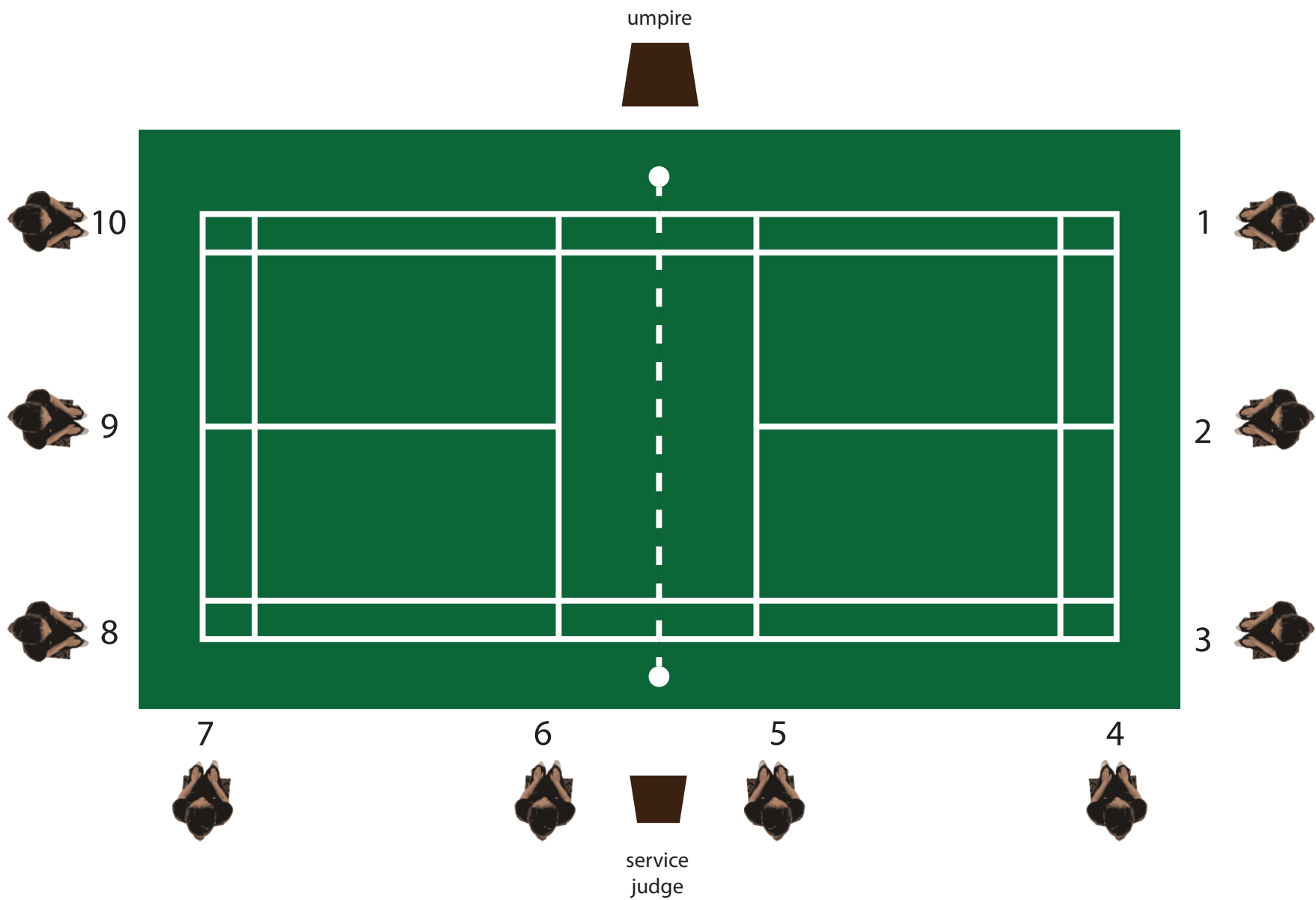
# COURT LAYOUT

## 6 LINE JUDGES



# COURT LAYOUT

## 10 LINE JUDGES



## Staging Area & On Court

- 1) If the Line Judge seating area is in a different location than the staging area, report to the staging area for your next assigned court 10 minutes prior to the start time of your match.
- 2) Line up in the position appropriate to your assigned seat on court (e.g. 1-10)
- 3) Check your uniform, put away credentials and turn off cell phones.
- 4) Enter in an orderly fashion to your assigned seat and stand (parade rest with your hands behind you) until you are seated by your leader, #1 (watch for #1's signal)
- 5) Make sure your seat is in the correct position for the line you are calling. (i.e. Side lines - singles or doubles)
- 6) Sit with your feet flat on the floor, hand flat on your legs
- 7) Be alert, pay attention to your match ONLY.

### Game #1

Stay seated at the 11 interval (1 minute)

At the end of the game #1 after the Umpire announces the score,  
follow one of the format directions...a, b or c. (2 minutes)

- a) Stay seated or
- b) Stand in front of your seat (parade rest with your hands behind you)  
When the Umpire says: "Court \_\_, 20 seconds", look to #1 to seat everyone in unison... or
- c) Stand and rotate to your next seat assignment (see rotation seat assignments)  
Stand in front of your new seat (parade rest with your hands behind you)  
When the Umpire says: "Court \_\_, 20 seconds", look to #1 to seat everyone in unison.

### Game #2

Stay seated at the 11 interval (1 minute)

- 1) At the end of game #2 after the Umpire announces the score, (the match is over...i.e. 1 team won both games)
  - a) Stand... when the Umpire's foot touches the court floor (when he gets down from the umpire's chair)
  - b) Turn and exit in a straight line in the reverse manner in which you entered (this may vary from venue to venue)
  - c) All Line Judges must return to the staging area and then return to the LJ seating area.or
- 2) At the end of game #2 after the Umpire announces the score... (the match is split/ 1 game all)

Follow one of the format directions...a or b. (2 minutes)

  - a) Stand in front of your seat (parade rest with your hands behind you)  
When the Umpire says: "Court \_\_, 20 seconds", look to #1 to seat everyone in unison... or
  - b) Stand and rotate to your next seat assignment (see rotation seat assignments)  
Stand in front of your new seat (parade rest with your hands behind you)  
When the Umpire says: "Court \_\_, 20 seconds", look to #1 to seat everyone in unison.

## Final Game (game #3)

Stay seated at the 11 interval (1 minute)

At the end of game #3

- a) Stand... when the Umpire's foot touches the court floor (when he gets down from the umpire's chair)
- b) Turn and exit in straight lines in the reverse manner in which you entered (this may vary from venue to venue)
- c) All Line Judges must return to the staging area and then return to the LJ seating area.

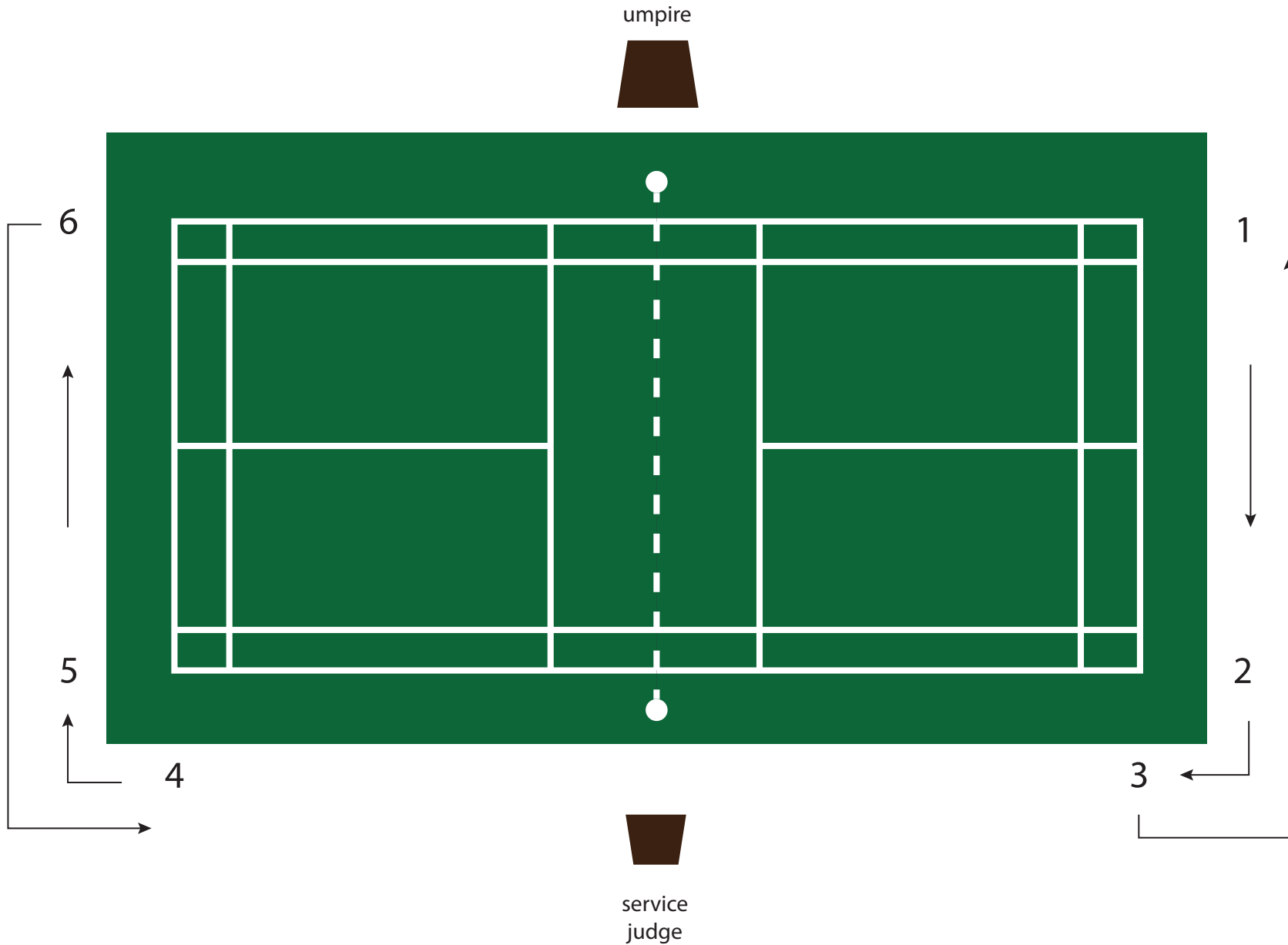
## Benefits of Line Judging

- 1) Improve your badminton skills by watching the best players in the world.
- 2) Line Judges have the BEST seat in the house (on court).
- 3) Line Judge/tournament shirt(s) or uniform are provided by the tournament. (These are yours to keep)
- 4) Meals will be provided while you are working as a Line Judge.
- 3) Improve your knowledge of the game.
- 4) Be a Court Official at a major tournament.
- 5) Rubbing elbows with world ranked players.
- 6) Opportunity to travel to big name tournament nationally and on the Pan Am circuit.
- 7) Opportunity to become a BWF Line Judge and travel to international tournaments.

# LINE JUDGE ROTATION

## 6 LINE JUDGES

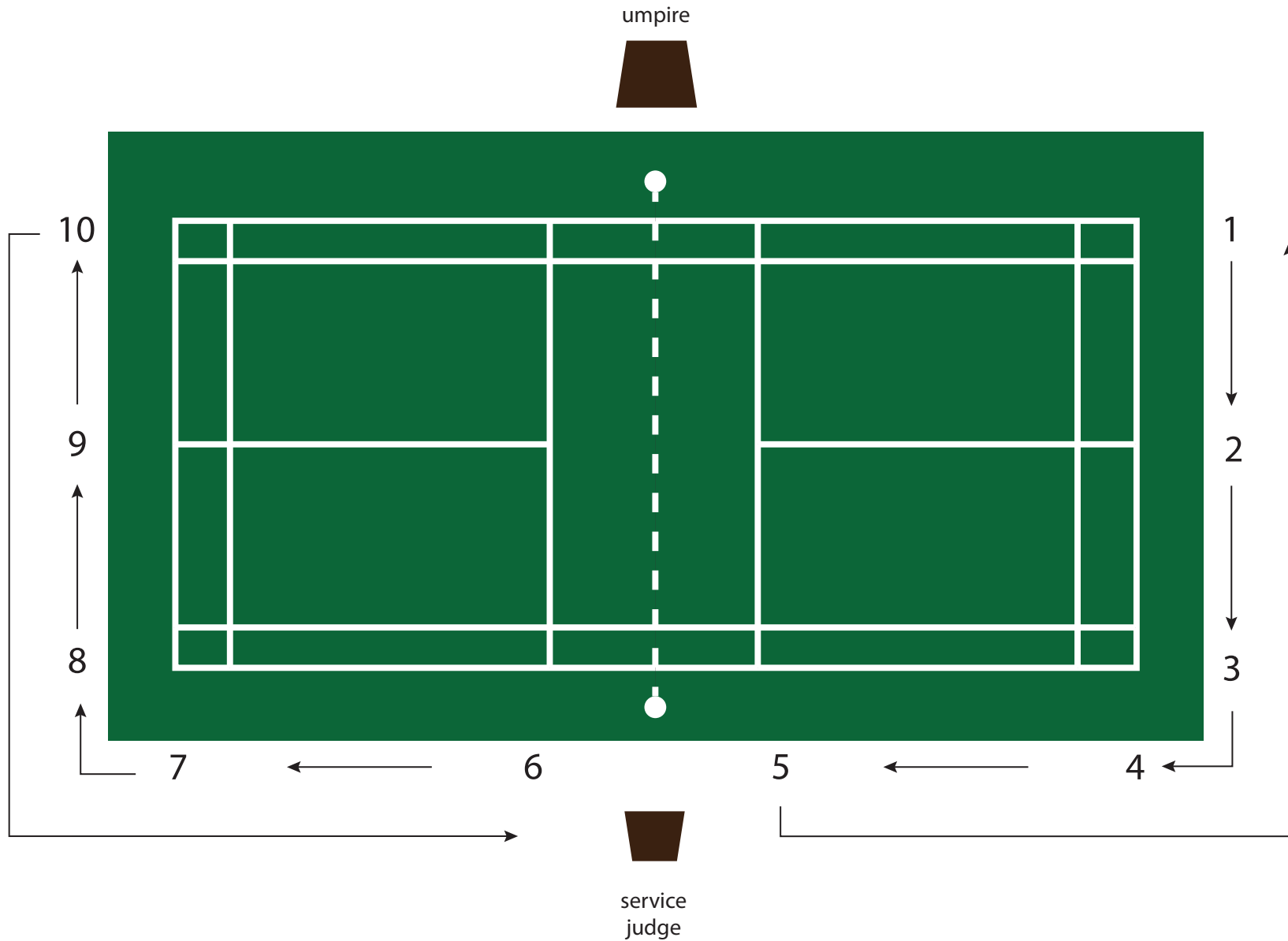
1 → 2, 2 → 3, 3 → 1  
4 → 5, 5 → 6, 6 → 4



# LINE JUDGE ROTATION

## 10 LINE JUDGES

1 → 2, 2 → 3, 3 → 4, 4 → 5, 5 → 1  
6 → 7, 7 → 8, 8 → 9, 9 → 10, 10 → 6



U.S.A. Badminton Court Officials - Line Judges:

- 1) Regional
  - 2) National
  - 3) International
  - 4) Pan Am
  - 5) BWF
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Regional Line Judge - Calls lines at local recreational & Junior tournaments.

Criteria levels:

National Line Judge

- 1) Must be a level 3 or higher skill rating.
- 2) Must have called lines at 2 or more Pan Am sanctioned ranking tournaments.\*
- 3) Must call lines for 2 days or a minimum of 10 matches during the tournament.

International Line Judge

- 1) Must be a National Line Judge and be a level 5 skill rating.
- 2) Must have called lines for a minimum of 4 Pan Am sanctioned ranking tournaments.\*

Pan Am Line Judge

BWF Line Judge

- 1) Must be rated as an international line judge with a level 5 skill rating.
  - 2) Must also be a regional umpire.
  - 3) Must apply to BWF for a Line Judge position and be accepted.
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### Line Judge Skill Rating:

Level 0 Never called lines before or never called lines at a sanctioned tournament.

Level 1 Can call side line only, weak in skills and performance. May be unsure of themselves.

Level 2 Proficient in calling side lines only. Calls side lines with authority, good eye contact with the umpire.  
Has 2 or more days experience on court.

Level 3 Proficient in calling side lines. Starting to call base line.  
Calls not influenced by players, spectators or other court activities.

Level 4 Calling both side & base lines proficiently. Calls lines with authority in a clear loud voice,  
good eye contact with the umpire, always ready for the next call. Looks and acts professional.

Level 5 Calls all lines on court proficiently in a professional manner in all situations. Can handle anything on and off court.  
Has called lines at several ranking tournaments.

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#### \*U.S.A.B. / Pan Am Sanctioned Ranking Tournaments

- U.S. Open
- U.S. Adult National Championships
- Miami Pan Am/Jerry Toms US Senior International
- Boston Open
- Argentina International
- Brazil International Badminton Cup
- Canadian International
- Columbia International
- Mexicano International
- Guatemala International Challenge
- Pan Am Championships (Team event)Pan Am
- Championships (Individual Events)
- Pan Am Junior's
- Peru International
- Puerto Rico International
- Santo Domingo Open
- Suriname International
- Thomas & Uber Cups
- Torneo International

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#### Qualifications:

Skill levels must be verified or certified by a qualified Line Judge Coordinator.

The Line Judge Coordinator must keep records of the Line Judge's tournaments worked and performance.

The Line Judge must submit a list of tournaments worked showing the number of matches called and signed by the tournament line judge coordinator or referee.

