

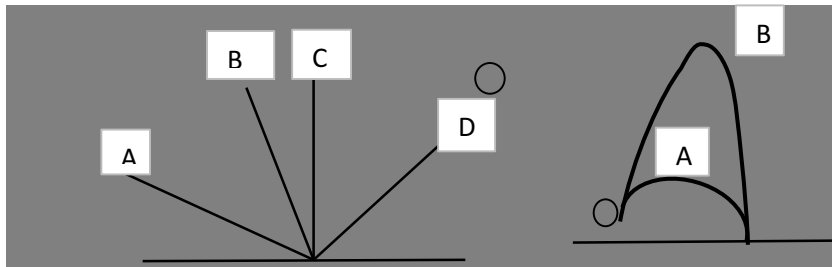
Service action

It is extremely important that umpires watch the service action closely and if players have doubtful or illegal services react as early and clearly as possible for two main reasons:

1. By reacting clearly and consistently the umpires show the player that they are watching, and most players will then try to modify their service action.
2. If the umpires wait because the service action only is slightly incorrect or maybe doubtful, it is the experience that it will become more and more incorrect during the match. If the umpires then react at 10-10 the player could with some right complain and point out that he/she has been using the same service in the whole match.

There is sometimes a tendency that umpires pay most attention to the aspects that they find easiest to check. To offset this tendency, a short summary will remind the aspects of a good service:

- **Free Hand:** ball is resting freely on its palm
- **Ball:** Above the level of the playing surface and behind the servers end line
- **Throwing the ball:** near vertically upwards, it must rise at least 16cm



In the left Diagram services B and C are acceptable, whilst A and D are not. The height of the toss is also a factor in determining whether the toss is near vertical. In the right Diagram the ball is projected from, and struck at, the same place, but service A is a fault, whilst B is acceptable

- **Striking the ball:** The ball must not be struck until it is falling from the highest point of its trajectory.
- **Visibility:** Ensure that the receiver can see the ball throughout the service; the Umpire or Assistant Umpire shall be satisfied that this is the case. The ball shall not be hidden from the receiver at any stage by any part of the body, or anything the server is wearing or carrying. As soon as the ball has been projected upward, the server shall completely remove his free arm from the space between the ball and the net.
- There is no requirement that the receiver has to be able to see the racket throughout service.
- **Warning:** An Umpire or Assistant Umpire, who suspects but is not sure that a player's service action is illegal, may warn the player without awarding a point. Only one warning may be given during a match. No yellow card!!