

# European Junior Championships 18 & under

Wednesday 25 July 2018

## Quick reactions required

Marco Keller

Really? Didn't the players hear the let after the service? This can't be true, it was that obvious. Quite a few spectators must have had these or similar thoughts during the first two days in Klosters as play just continued instead of the interruption everyone has gotten used to.

The explanation is simple: This week, players follow the No-Let-Rule, first or second serves are not repeated if the ball touches the net. Yves Allegro, the former professional, who works nowadays as head coach of Swiss Tennis, says: «The outcome of the matches isn't altered because of this.»



At least two or three situations of this kind take place per match, the umpires say. Therefore, it can't be the goal to shorten matches but the occasional difference in opinions can be eliminated, when one player thinks the ball has touched the net and the other doesn't. Whether this additional unpredictability leads to more attractive encounters remains to be seen. One thing is clear: The players have less time to react. This rule has already been tested in Future tournaments and also in north-american collegetennis. Now, it has been introduced to practically all international junior events, from Under 12 to Under 18. Therefore, it is an advan-

tage for those players who mainly enter junior tournaments. «For Leonie Kung for instance, who almost only plays adult events, the adaptation is more difficult», Allegro says.

He doesn't believe that players will specifically train these situations but he can imagine that some more changes will be implemented in the next years, possibly also the No-Ad-System in singles. The rule, which says that the winner of the next point at deuce takes the game, has long been established in doubles as well as the match tiebreak to ten points instead of a third set on lots of different playing levels.

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