

Activity: Badminton Doubles

Skills in Isolation - 5.37 mins – two candidates have been filmed, the second candidate who is seen in the film performing the practices, is the one that we are watching – Mabel, wearing pink training shoes.

Timing of the skills (for stand candidate) is as follows:

Serves – 1.08 -2.00 mins

Net Shot – 2.38 – 2.59 mins

Drop Shot – 3.37 – 4.17 mins

Lift – 5.00 – 5.37 mins

Application of Skills – 17.17 mins

Competitive doubles match – 2 games are played; the candidate begins by playing on the far side of the court and is wearing dark coloured training shoes

Commentary

The candidate should have introduced herself at the start of both elements of the activity. Identification was briefly imposed on screen. It would have been useful had the captions been put on the screen to indicate the skills that were being demonstrated by the candidate.

The skills in isolation were very static and more appropriate for a candidate with a basic level of ability. The use of simple routines (with no intended outcome) would have provided a more dynamic challenge for the candidate, even allowing her to position herself in the 'ready position' at the very least, as well as demonstrate an appropriate level of footwork/movement when playing the shots.

The film itself was clear and allowed the candidate to demonstrate her technical ability during the skills, albeit very brief, followed by a match consisting of two games. On most occasions it was clear to see where the shuttle landed after the shot was played, except for the yellow service line, which was difficult to view, especially after the serves.

Skills in Isolation:

The activity criteria states that:

Candidates will be assessed on the quality demonstrated for any **four** of the following shots using appropriate skills and techniques:

- Serves - low and short, high, and deep, flick, drive
- Clear shot – forehand and backhand; attacking and defending; overhead, underarm
- Drop shot – fast, slow
- Drives shot – forehand, backhand; cross court and down-the-line
- Smash
- Block shot - drop, straight, angled
- Net shots – forehand, backhand
- Lift

- Round-the-head clear

Candidates will be assessed on their grips and implementation for different shots, and their stance, court position, 'ready position' and court movement.

The centre was able to meet the requirements by providing evidence of the candidate performing the following skills in isolation:

Serves – high, low, and short, flick
Net shot – forehand and backhand
Drop shot
Lift

The above listed strokes and techniques were shown with the candidate demonstrating a mainly competent level of skills with some accuracy, control, fluency, and precision. (We credit candidates for what they can do rather than penalise them for what they cannot do or have not been given the opportunity to demonstrate, within the level band of course).

The serves were generally legal and accurate with some evidence of weight transference from back to front foot. The candidate kept her eyes on the shuttle and her positioning/stance was correct on court. The candidate was able to distinguish between the two types of serve – high serve to low/short serve – playing them with an appropriate level of height and speed. Had this practice been more realistic (even with an opponent in the ready position to receive the serve), the candidate would have had the opportunity to show more variation. As it was, the high serve was hit high to mid-court, and the short serve was struck shorter and lower, although it was difficult to see the yellow service line.

The net shot was played with some accuracy, control, precision, and fluency. The racket head was held too low and there was not much movement when getting ready to play the shot, during the execution of the shot and in the recovery phase – steps forward and back, and step shuffle. This again, could have been due to the static structure of the practice. The shuttle was played consistently over the net, however.

The drop shot was also demonstrated, again, with partly correct movement of the feet. The candidate's positioning was mainly front facing rather than in a sideways stance, which did not allow much deception when playing the shot. The drop shot was played with the racket held high, and there was some attempt to throw the racket forward during the execution of the shot. There was some accuracy in where the drop shot landed, although little variation in pace. Had an opponent been present, the candidate would have had the opportunity to demonstrate a fast and slow drop shot as appropriate.

The lift was the final skill demonstrated by the candidate. This shot was played on the forehand and backhand with some accuracy, control, fluency, and precision. The candidate played the forehand lift straight down the side of the court with some accuracy and an appropriate amount of height and depth. The backhand lift was weaker and hit across mid-court and with an insufficient amount of height and depth. Technical accuracy was lacking in the candidate's movement and positioning, although the candidate was always able to connect with the shuttlecock.

It is judged that using a 'best fit' approach to finding an appropriate mark within a level that the candidate performed at the competent level of technical accuracy, precision, control, and fluency.

Agreed Mark: Level 3 – 6 marks

Application of Skills

The candidate was observed playing in a competitive doubles match consisting of two games. The standard of competition was appropriate for this level of candidate.

The candidate was able to demonstrate a competent level of skills throughout the match with some level of control, precision, and fluency. She was able to hit the shuttle with some power on most occasions although there was little placement for the shot to be effective as an attacking shot.

Shot selection was appropriate in most situations with occasional variation of shots, between clears and drop shots.

The application of skills/techniques during play was appropriate and mostly consistent but with errors when attempting to play tactically. Play was often more defensive and because of a reaction to the opponents' shots. When serving to the better player the candidate is observed clearly serving deep to prevent a winning smash return. There was also an attempt to play a drop shot into open space therefore making it difficult for the opponent to reach the shuttle.

Effective responses to the playing conditions were made, although with misjudgements. Attempts were made to play fast and slow shots but with little disguise/deception.

Court coverage was generally static. The doubles pair played side by side throughout the match with few tactical changes when attacking and defending the shuttle, as in no attempt to play front and back to attack the shuttle and dominate the game. The candidate is dominated by her partner throughout the game and he is the player who initiates any attacking opportunities, although if the opponents made a weak return the candidate is observed moving into an attacking position and pressing home the advantage.

The candidate attempts to adapt to changes with some success by taking into account the opponents' strengths and weaknesses, particularly on the serve, and with the 'hard hit', keeping the play at the back of the court, giving the opponents few opportunities to smash the shuttle to win the rally.

The candidate was able to demonstrate some influence on the performance, although the pair rarely communicated during the game and with little impact – she was observed to tell her partner where to stand when serving.

The game was officiated by an umpire although the candidate did show some awareness of the rules/regulations of the sport as it was clear that she was able to keep up with the score and where to position herself on court as appropriate to the score and during the serve.

Agreed Mark: Level 3 – 14 marks