

Testing if a Hoop Has Been Made

Visual Test

Always conduct a visual test first, as promptly as possible. A visual test conducted from the **side** of the hoop is sufficient to make a decision. It is preferable for the test to be done with the eyes at half ball height. The visual test is to determine if the ball has passed the plane of the "playing side". Do not conduct from above, as the top [or crown] of the hoop is usually wider than the legs.

Mechanical Test

If further evidence is needed, use a piece of fine string, cotton, fishing line etc., stretched between the legs to assist in determining the plane. Conduct this test raising the cotton from below the ball as both the ball and the cotton can be seen clearly. The ball need not be touched once the cotton can be seen or not seen below the ball. Take care not to use undue horizontal force as this could distort the accuracy of the test if the hoop has become loose, rather than set firmly in the court. If the back of the hoop gauge is to be used for this purpose, also take care not to use undue horizontal force.

The ACA policy is that a visual test is required and a decision reached before string or gauge or other physical straight edges are employed to assist in confirming the visual decision. The decision is therefore made by the following test methods:

- a) visual test alone, or
- b) visual as well as mechanical test for confirmation

The back of a hoop brass gauge is commonly used but is not necessarily straight as it wasn't specifically designed for that purpose.

Safety Warning: The ACA discourages the practice of carrying metal or other gauges (as well as pens, pencils etc.) in pockets as they could prove dangerous if the referee slips or falls in the performance of their duties.