

Nalbandian automatically loses match, gets suspended after kicking a Ref

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The Queen's Club final was halted abruptly when David Nalbandian injured a line judge, handing the title to Marin Cilic.

The 10th-seeded Nalbandian was leading in the second set Sunday when he kicked the small barrier surrounding the line judge in anger. A piece of the barrier then hit the line judge, causing bleeding on his left shin.

After checking on the line judge, the chair umpire decided to end the match.

Nalbandian insisted he shouldn't have been disqualified.

"Sometimes you get very frustrated on court and it's tough to control that, and sometimes I do a mistake. So it's very tough to end a final like that," he said. "But sometimes we feel so much pressure from the ATP to play a lot of tournaments. They don't do anything (for) us, and today I do a mistake and I have to pay like that.

"I agree I do a mistake but sometimes everybody do a mistake and I didn't feel it had to end like that, especially in a final."

ATP rules state that any violent action will result in an automatic default.

"He's actually quite seriously injured," tournament director Chris Kermode said. "Rules are rules. The ATP have forced us to end the final with a code violation."

Kermode said the unidentified line judge had been taken to the medical center.

"It's definitely not the way I wanted to win it," Cilic said. "The match was still open but I can't change it. I'm sorry for the (spectators) that it had to end like this.

"We had some good rallies, and it's hard to see the final end like this."

The Argentine had been leading the sixth-seeded Cilic 7-6 (3), 3-4 in the grass-court Wimbledon warmup when the incident occurred.

"There is a lot of rules, and sometimes they (ATP officials) don't do anything. The rule book is very big and I can tell you that the ATP do a lot of mistakes to the players and nothing happens," Nalbandian said.