

II. CERTIFICATION STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS

A) PROSPECT PHASE

- 1) A prospect is someone who is in the process of obtaining USTA Certification as an USTA Official.
- 2) **Stage One** in the process for a prospective USTA Official to obtain certification consists of the following:
 - a) Obtain or renew their USTA Membership;
 - b) Satisfy all USTA Safe Play requirements;
 - c) Create accounts in both OfficialsFirst and the USTA Officiating Learning Resource Center;
 - d) Submit their initial USTA Vision Form;
 - e) Complete the initial online education.
- 3) **Stage Two** in the process for a prospective USTA Official to obtain USTA Certification occurs *only* upon completion of A.2.a-e and consists of the following:
 - a) Demonstrate basic tennis officiating skills and knowledge while shadowing as a Roving Umpire for a duration of no less than eight (8) hours. The National Chairperson, in consultation with the USTA Officiating Department, and the respective Section Chairperson may waive the shadowing requirement for a prospective USTA Official;
 - b) Complete a knowledge check developed and conducted by the USTA Officiating Department.

Regulation II A.3.a Comment

Any time spent gaining practical experience during the prospect phase will not fulfill any officiating requirements needed for any USTA Certification.

B) USTA CERTIFIED OFFICIAL

All Officials certified by the USTA must, annually and at a minimum, meet all requirements as outlined in Table 1.

All Officials in the "USTA Certified Official" status are considered qualified to officiate as a Roving Umpire.

Table 1 - USTA Official Certification Requirements

A. To Gain Certification	
General Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be an active USTA member• Compliant with the USTA's Safe Play program• Compliant with the USTA's vision requirement
Education Requirements:	Successfully complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to Officiating• Rules and Regulations 1-3• Roving Umpire Levels 1 & 2
B. To Maintain Certification	
General Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be an active USTA member• Compliant with the USTA's Safe Play program• Compliant with the USTA's vision requirement
Officiating Requirements:	Serve two days as a Roving Umpire at any of the following competitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• USTA• ITA• ITF World Tours: Men's, Women's, Juniors, Seniors, or Wheelchair OR <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pass an annual Roving Umpire knowledge check while holding a USTA Certification in a discipline other than Roving Umpire at any tier level
Education Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Earn the required amount of continual learning credits during the Certification Period as determined and communicated by the USTA Officiating Department

C) USTA TIER 1 & 2 ROVING UMPIRE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to meeting all annual requirements of a USTA Certified Official, an Official seeking USTA Certification as a Tier 1 or Tier 2 Roving Umpire must complete the officiating and education requirements in Table 2.

Table 2 - USTA Roving Umpire Certification Levels and Requirements

A. To Gain Certification		
	Tier 1	Tier 2
Officiating Requirements:	Serve ten days as a Roving Umpire at any of the following competitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USTA ITA or NCAA ITF World Tour: Men's, Women's, Juniors, Seniors, or Wheelchair 	Serve twenty days as a Roving Umpire at any of the following competitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USTA ITA or NCAA ITF World Tours: Men's, Women's, Juniors, Seniors, or Wheelchair <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><i>At least five days must be at a USTA competition</i></p>
Education Requirements:	Successfully complete the USTA Roving Umpire In-Person Workshop	Successfully complete the USTA Roving Umpire Center of Excellence
B. To Maintain Certification		
Officiating Requirements:	Serve ten days as a Roving Umpire at any of the following competitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USTA ITA or NCAA ITF World Tours: Men's, Women's, Juniors, Seniors, or Wheelchair 	Serve twenty days as a Roving Umpire at any of the following competitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USTA ITA or NCAA ITF World Tours: Men's, Women's, Juniors, Seniors, or Wheelchair <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><i>At least five days must be at a USTA competition</i></p>

D) USTA TIER 1, 2, & 3 REFEREE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to meeting all annual requirements of a USTA Certified Official, an Official seeking USTA Certification as a Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3 Referee must complete the officiating and education requirements in Table 3.

Table 3 - USTA Referee Certification Levels and Requirements

A. To Gain Certification			
	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Officiating Requirements:	Recommendation: It is highly recommended that as part of their training process an aspiring Referee assist with an experienced Tier 1, Tier 2 or Tier 3 Referee at 1 USTA competition.	Serve as Referee for three entire sanctioned competitions annually at any one of the following competitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USTA ITA or NCAA Regional or National Championships ITF World Tours: Men's, Women's, Juniors, Seniors, or Wheelchair <p><i>At least one competition must be at a USTA L3, L2, L1 or other USTA National Championships or an ITA or NCAA Regional or National Championships</i></p>	Fulfilled with the obtainment of the Official's ITF Referee certification
Education Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Referee 1 and Referee 2 online courses. Complete USTA's administrative platform for competition training (when available). 	Successfully complete the USTA Referee In-Person Workshop	Successfully complete the USTA Referee Center of Excellence
B. To Maintain Certification			
Officiating Requirements:	Serve as Referee at one entire competition annually at any one of the following competitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USTA ITA or NCAA Regional or National Championships ITF World Tours: Men's, Women's, Juniors, Seniors, or Wheelchair 	Serve as Referee for three entire competitions annually at any one of the following competitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USTA ITA or NCAA Regional or National Championships ITF World Tours: Men's, Women's, Juniors, Seniors, or Wheelchair <p><i>At least one competition must be at a USTA L3, L2, L1 or other USTA National Championships or an ITA or NCAA Regional or National Championships</i></p>	Fulfilled by maintaining or advancing the Official's ITF certification

Regulation II.2.D Comment:

Serving as a Referee at an ITA dual match does not count for USTA Certification as a Referee. Only ITA Referee officiating at a Regional Championship or ITA and/or NCAA Referee serving at a National Championship will satisfy the USTA Certification requirements.

E) USTA TIER 1, 2, & 3 CHAIR UMPIRE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to meeting all annual requirements of a USTA Certified Official, an Official seeking USTA Certification as a Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3 Chair Umpire must complete the officiating and education requirements in Table 4.

Table 4 - USTA Chair Umpire Certification Levels and Requirements

A. To Gain Certification			
	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Officiating Requirements:	None	Serve as a Chair Umpire for fifteen matches at any of the following competitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USTA • ITA or NCAA • ITF World Tours: Men's, Women's, Juniors, Seniors, or Wheelchair <p><i>At least five matches must be at USTA or ITF competitions</i></p>	Fulfilled with the obtainment of the Official's ITF Chair certification
Education Requirements:	Successfully complete USTA Chair 1 online course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully complete the USTA Chair 2 online course • Successfully complete the USTA Chair Umpire In-Person Workshop 	Successfully complete the USTA Chair Center of Excellence
B. To Maintain Certification			
Officiating Requirements:	Serve as a Chair Umpire for five matches at any of the following competitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USTA • ITA or NCAA • ITF World Tours: Men's, Women's, Juniors, Seniors, or Wheelchair 	Serve as a Chair Umpire for fifteen matches in any of the following competitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USTA • ITA or NCAA • ITF World Tours: Men's, Women's, Juniors, Seniors, or Wheelchair <p><i>At least five matches must be at USTA or ITF competitions</i></p>	Fulfilled by maintaining or advancing the Official's ITF certification

F) USTA TIER 1 & 2 LINE UMPIRE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to meeting all annual requirements of a USTA Certified Official, an Official seeking certification as a Tier 1 or Tier 2 Line Umpire must complete the officiating and education requirements in Table 5.

Table 5 - USTA Line Umpire Certification Levels and Requirements

A. To Gain Certification		
	Tier 1	Tier 2
Officiating Requirements:	None	<p>Serve as a Line Umpire for a total of twenty-five days annually. At least twenty days must come from any of the following competitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional matches, including Grand Slam, ATP, WTA, ITF World Tour, Olympic or Paralympic Games, Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup <p>Any additional days can be earned at any of the following competitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USTA L3 or L2 USTA L1 or other USTA National Championships ITA or NCAA Regional or National Championships ITF World Tour: Men's, Women's, Juniors, Seniors, or Wheelchair
Education Requirements:	Successfully complete the USTA Line Umpire 1 online course	Successfully complete the USTA Line Umpire Center of Excellence
B. To Maintain Certification		
Officiating Requirements:	<p>Serve as a Line Umpire for five days annually at any of the following competitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USTA L3 or L2 USTA L1 or other USTA National Championships ITA or NCAA Regional or National Championships ITF World Tours: Men's, Women's, Juniors, Seniors, or Wheelchair Professional matches, including Grand Slam, ATP, WTA, Olympics, Paralympics, Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup 	<p>Serve as a Line Umpire for a total of twenty-five days annually. At least twenty days must come from any of the following competitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional matches, including Grand Slam, ATP, WTA, ITF World Tours, Olympic or Paralympic Games, Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup <p>Any additional days can be earned at any of the following competitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USTA L3 or L2 USTA L1 or other USTA National Championships ITA or NCAA Regional or National Championships ITF World Tour: Men's, Women's, Juniors, Seniors, or Wheelchair
Additional Education Requirements:	<p>First year: Successfully complete the USTA Line Umpire In-Person Workshop</p> <p>Following years: Complete the Line Umpire knowledge check</p>	None

Regulation II.II.F Comment:

In order to receive credit towards satisfying a certification requirement, an Official's role during the competition must fulfill the duties of a Line Umpire as outlined in USTA Officiating: Techniques and

G) USTA CHIEF UMPIRE TIERS 1, 2, & 3 REQUIREMENTS

In addition to meeting all annual requirements of a USTA Certified Official, an Official seeking USTA Certification as a Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3 Chief Umpire must complete the officiating and education requirements in Table 6.

Table 6 - USTA Chief Umpire Certification Levels and Requirements

A. To Gain Certification			
	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Officiating Requirements:	Recommendation: It is highly recommended that, as part of their training process, an aspiring Chief Umpire officiates with an experienced Chief Umpire at any of the following competitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USTA • ITA or NCAA Regional or National Championships • ITF World Tours: Men’s, Women’s, Juniors, Seniors, or Wheelchair 	Serve as Chief Umpire for one entire competition annually at any one of the following competitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USTA L3 or L2 • USTA <i>L1 or other USTA National Championships</i> • ITA or NCAA Regional or National Championships • ITF World Tour: Men’s, Women’s, Juniors, Seniors, or Wheelchair 	Fulfilled with the obtainment of the Official's ITF certification
Education Requirements:	Complete Chief Umpire 1 online course	None	Successfully complete the USTA Chief Umpire Center of Excellence (when available)
B. To Maintain Certification			
Officiating Requirements:	Recommendation: It is highly recommended that, as part of their development in this role, a Tier 1 Chief Umpire serves regularly as a Chief Umpire, when assignments/opportunities are available, at any of the following competitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USTA • ITA or NCAA Regional or National Championships • ITF World Tours: Men’s, Women’s, Juniors, Seniors, or Wheelchair 	Serve as Chief Umpire for one entire competition annually at any one of the following competitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USTA L3 or L2 • USTA <i>L1 or other USTA National Championships</i> • ITA or NCAA Regional or National Championships • ITF World Tours: Men’s, Women’s, Juniors, Seniors, or Wheelchair 	Fulfilled by maintaining or advancing the Official's ITF certification
Additional Education Requirements:	Complete annual Chief Umpire knowledge check when required	None	None

H) DETERMINATION OF REQUIREMENT COMPLIANCE

- 1) **Officiating Requirements** - To be eligible to satisfy all requirements as listed in Tables 1-6, a competition must be sanctioned by any of the following: USTA, ITF, ATP, WTA or ITA.
- 2) **Determination** - USTA Officiating Department, in consultation with the National Chairperson, determines what types of events may or may not count towards meeting USTA Certification requirements as well as whether a requirement is complete.

Regulation II.G.I Comment:

ITF certification standards are determined independently of USTA. For all Tier 3 USTA Certifications, the USTA will require that Officials are in compliance with current ITF certification standards regardless of when the ITF certification standards may have changed.

I) CERTIFICATION ADVANCEMENTS AND REGRESSIONS

- 1) A USTA Certified Official may hold different Tier statuses in different disciplines simultaneously.
- 2) A USTA Certified Official's Tier status in one discipline does not automatically qualify them for that tier in any other discipline.
- 3) Other than overall decertification, advancement and regression occurs within each discipline individually and is dependent solely on the minimum requirements outlined by USTA for that specific discipline.
- 4) It is the responsibility of any USTA Certified Official to ensure that their officiating record is accurate.
- 5) Changes in USTA Certification may occur at any time during the Certification Period in accordance with the following:

a) Advancements:

- (i) USTA Certified Official status will advance to Tier 1 in any discipline for which they meet all current requirements.
- (ii) A Tier 2 Chair Umpire, Referee, or Chief Umpire will advance to Tier 3 once the USTA Officiating Department is informed that the Official has obtained an ITF Badge.
- (iii) An Official that is not already in Tier 2 may advance to Tier 3 only if they have obtained an ITF badge and receive approval from the USTA Officiating Department.

b) Regressions:

- (i) If a Tier 3 Chair Umpire, Referee, or Chief Umpire loses their ITF Badge, their USTA Certification will regress to the Tier for that discipline in which they meet all other USTA requirements.

- 6) Certification changes that will only occur at the beginning of the Certification Period:

a) Advancements:

- (i) If the minimum requirements are met, a Tier 1 Official will advance to Tier 2 in the same discipline.

b) Regressions:

- (i) If an Official has not met the minimum requirements for maintaining their USTA Certification Tier status in a given discipline, their USTA Certification will regress to the Tier for that discipline in which they meet all other current requirements;
- (ii) If an Official is in the Tier 1 status for a discipline in which there are no officiating requirements needed to gain Tier 1 status and they do not meet the officiating requirements necessary to maintain Tier 1 in the next coming year, they will lose their Tier 1 status until they successfully retake the required online course for that discipline's Tier 1 status.

Regulation II. H.1.Comment

If a USTA Certified Official advances to Tier 1 in any discipline, the officiating requirements to maintain Tier 1 status for the upcoming Certification Period are waived.

J) DENIAL OF CERTIFICATION AND DECERTIFICATION

- 1) The National Chairperson, for good cause, may refuse to approve an Official's application or USTA Certification, even though that Official has met the administrative and other USTA Certification requirements;
- 2) The National Chairperson may decertify an Official for cause;
- 3) Recertification of a decertified Official must have the approval of the National Chairperson.
 - a) USTA Certification level which a decertified Official is recertified will be determined by the National Chairperson on a case by case basis. The USTA Certification will not be higher than the level at the time of the time of decertification.

K) WAIVERS

- 1) The National Chairperson may, for good cause, waive any USTA Certification requirement except Safe Play compliance, USTA membership requirement and any ITF requirements.

L) HONORARY OFFICIALS

- 1) Honorary Official designations are recognitions honoring significant service to Officiating and are not considered USTA Certification.