

# Glossary

**ATP** - Association of Tennis Professionals (men's professional tour)

**Center of Excellence** - The Center of Excellence is an advanced level In-Person Workshop (see definition of "In-Person Workshop") targeted toward Officials who have achieved the required USTA Certification level and officiating experience in a specific discipline. This experience is facilitated by USTA Officiating Department and designed to help participants develop their skills, demonstrate a high level of excellence in their role, and learn advanced techniques. For Officials aspiring to achieve an ITF certification, the Center of Excellence can be a platform for their preparation process in certain disciplines.

**Certification Period:** The Certification Period is from November 1 of the current year to October 31 of the following year.

**Chair Umpire** - The Chair Umpire is the Official responsible for conducting one match in accordance with the ITF Rules of Tennis and USTA Regulations.

**Chief Umpire** - A Chief Umpire is an Official responsible for retaining the Officials. In many tournaments, the Referee will delegate to the Chief Umpire the responsibility for assigning, replacing and reassigning Officials.

**Competition** - For USTA Certification purposes, a competition is any event sanctioned by any of the following: a USTA, ITA, ITF, ATP and/or WTA, and may be made up of multiple divisions and events (i.e, Boys/Girls 12s through 18s, Men's/Women's Open, would be considered one competition).

**Continual Learning Credit** - Each year USTA Certified Officials must meet certain qualifications in order to renew their USTA Certification(s). A continual learning credit is an indication on the Official's USTA Certification record that they have engaged in on-going professional and/or skill development throughout the Certification Period. Credits are earned when the Official participates in any applicable learning experience(s) as defined by USTA Officiating Department.

**Deputy Referee** - A Deputy Referee is an official appointed by the Referee or Tournament Committee to assist in the performance of the Referee's duties or to assume these duties when the Referee is absent. It is not unusual for a Deputy Referee to assist in making the draw or to serve as the Referee at a secondary site.

**District Association** - Each Sectional Association may contain one or more District Associations or Subdivisions. Each District Association or Subdivision shall be governed by such rules and regulations as it shall adopt in accordance with the requirements of its Sectional Association. Such rules and regulations shall not be inconsistent with the Constitution, Bylaws, or USTA Regulations.

**Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA)** -The organization that oversees varsity tennis at all levels (NCAA Divisions I, II, and III, NAIA, and Junior/Community College).

**International Tennis Federation (ITF)** - The governing body of International tennis, wheelchair tennis, and beach tennis.

**In-Person Workshop** - The In-Person Workshops (also known as USTA Officiating In-Person Workshops) are learning experiences facilitated by USTA Officiating Department and designed to give USTA Officials further insight into the theoretical and practical aspects of a specific officiating discipline.

**Line Umpire** - A Line Umpire is an Official responsible for calling all shots directed to the lines assigned to the Official.

**National Championship** - For USTA Certification purposes, National Championships are deemed to be Level 1 Junior, Adult, and Wheelchair competitions. In addition, USTA League National Championships, Tennis on Campus National Championships, Junior Team Tennis National Championships, and NTRP National Championships will also be considered as National Championships.

**National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)** - The NCAA is responsible for compliance and the year-end National Championships.

**Prospect Phase** - The Prospect Phase is a two stage process for someone interested in becoming a USTA Certified Official. In these stages the individual is completing administrative requirements, as well as shadowing and knowledge check requirements. A prospect is not eligible for USTA Certification until all of the requirements have been met.

**Question of Fact** - "Questions of Fact" involve what happened. Examples include whether a ball is in; whether a ball touched a player; whether a ball bounced twice; and whether a server's foot touched the baseline before the serve was struck.

**Question of Law** - "Questions of Law" involve the application of the rules or regulations that have already been determined. Examples include whether an act was a hindrance, whether a player should have been assessed a code violation for misconduct, and the procedures for correcting errors in serving order, serving and receiving position, and ends.

**Referee** - The Referee is the Official who is generally responsible for making the draw, conducting the tournaments, and supervising all aspects of play. The Referee is responsible for ensuring that the competition is fair and played under the ITF Rules of Tennis and USTA Regulations.

**Roving Umpire** - A Roving Umpire is an Official other than the Referee or a Deputy Referee who exercises jurisdiction over one or more courts.

**Sectional Association** - A corporation within the United States or the Caribbean which is empowered by the USTA to fulfill the constitutional purposes of the USTA and to manage the sport of tennis in the assigned geographical area in accordance with the USTA Constitution, Bylaws, and Regulations.

**Tier (1, 2, 3)** - This term applies to a USTA Certified Official's status within a single Officiating discipline as part of their developmental pathway. It reflects that the Official has completed the requirements, as determined by the USTA Officiating Department, for a specific discipline. An Official can hold different Tier statuses in different disciplines. For Example: An Official can be a Tier 2 Chair Umpire and a Tier 1 Roving Umpire at the same time. The USTA Tier 3 certification status includes a combination of USTA and ITF certification requirements. ITF certification standards are determined independently of USTA. For all Tier 3 certifications, USTA will require that Officials are in compliance with current ITF certification standards regardless of when the ITF certification standards may have changed.

**USTA Certified Official** - A USTA Certified Official must have an active USTA Membership, is current on their USTA Safe Play Compliance, has a current Vision Form on file with the USTA, has completed all basic education courses (Introduction to Officiating, Rules and Regulations, and Roving Umpire Level 1 and 2), completes annual knowledge check of basic Roving Umpire skills OR other requirements, and has completed the required number of credits for the Certification Period.

**WTA** - Women's Tennis Association (women's professional tour).