

Last Revised 11/1/2017



2021-2022 USTA Officiating: Certification Regulations



A. CERTIFICATION

1. Beginning October 1, 2018, certification will follow the fiscal year. The annual certification period will be from October 1 of the current year to September 30 of the following year. Education Courses and any other education requirements will be made available by the USTA Officiating Department.

B. GENERAL CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. **Vision** – Every two years, each on-court Official (those acting as a Roving Umpire, Chair Umpire, Line Umpire, or Referee who goes on court) must submit proof of 20/20 vision, either corrected or uncorrected, in each eye. Each Official must submit to the USTA a physician's or an optometrist's statement attesting that the Official has 20/20 vision, either corrected or uncorrected, in each eye. Every two years, the USTA Officiating Department will promulgate the appropriate processes and deadlines for ensuring compliance with this requirement.
2. **Number of Tournaments** - Every certification year an Official must meet the certification requirements by serving in the preceding certification year, at minimum, the specified number of tournaments, matches, or days.
3. **USTA Membership** - Each certified Official must be a USTA member at all times.
4. **Work Record** - Each Official must submit the Official's work record to the USTA Officiating Department on a continuous basis.
 - a. Review of the work records will be done by the Sectional Chairperson or the USTA Officiating Department as necessary to ensure compliance with these regulations. Certification as an Academy Referee or higher Referee level requires the approval of the National Chairperson of Officials.
 - b. The Sectional Chairperson, in consultation with the USTA Officiating Department, must approve or disapprove certification based on the work record and also must obtain the approval or disapproval of certification by the Official's District Chairperson, if there is one.
5. **Code of Conduct** - All Officials must adhere to the standards in the Officials Code of Conduct.
6. **General Education Requirements** – All certified Officials must complete the general education requirements as promulgated by the USTA Officiating Department. The General Education Requirements must include the USTA's online education courses, the Safe Play Training (including clearing the USTA Background Screening), and any other education required by the USTA Officiating Department.
 - a. The National Chairperson of Officials has the right to approve all education.
 - b. The USTA Officials Committee determines the education requirements for each discipline, and the National Chairperson of Officials must approve all instructors.

C. SPECIFIC CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. **Foundation 1** – A Foundation 1 Official is an individual that has expressed an interest in becoming a certified Official. The individual should complete a minimum of two (2) days of practical training and/or receive approval from the Sectional Chairperson. Any training days completed in Foundation 1 do not count towards any minimum work requirements in higher certification levels. A Foundation 1 Official is a prospect in training and NOT a certified official.

2. **Foundation 2** – A Foundation 2 Official must meet all the General Education Requirements and must complete the following for each certification:
 - a. **Foundation 2 Rover** – A Foundation 2 Rover must complete the Roving II Course. To maintain a Foundation 2 Roving certification, Official must complete a minimum of 3 days of work during the certification period. Advancement to USTA Rover - If later during the same calendar year, the Official meets the work requirements for becoming certified as a USTA Rover, the Official may be certified as such.
 - b. **Foundation 2 Referee** – A Foundation 2 Referee must complete the Referee I Course and work with a certified Referee for one (1) event and complete TDM training as made available by the USTA Officiating Department. Advancement to USTA Referee - If later during the same calendar year, the Official meets the work requirements of 3 entire tournaments, 1 of which may be as a Deputy Referee and completes the Referee II course and attends a USTA Referee Workshop, the Foundation 2 Referee may be certified as USTA Referee.
 - c. **Foundation 2 Chair** – A Foundation 2 Chair must complete the Chair I Course and work five (5) matches as a Chair Umpire. Advancement to USTA Chair - If later during the same calendar year, the Foundation 2 Chair works fifteen (15) matches as a Chair Umpire (five (5) of which must be at USTA events), the Foundation 2 Chair may be certified as USTA Chair.
 - d. **Foundation 2 Line** – A Foundation 2 Line Umpire must complete the General Education Requirements and the Line Umpire I Course. Advancement to Academy Line Umpire - If later during the same calendar year, the Official meets the work requirements for becoming certified as a Academy Line Umpire, the Official may be certified as such.
3. **Associate Umpire**
 - a. Must be certified by a foreign national tennis association recognized by the International Tennis Federation (“ITF”);
 - b. Does not have to fulfill the general certification requirements except the USTA membership requirement;
4. **USTA Certifications** - Each year USTA Officials must complete the following requirements for the disciplines in which they are seeking a USTA certification:
 - a. **USTA Rover** – Must have completed the USTA Roving Workshop and completed 15 days as a Roving Umpire, 5 of which must be at USTA events.
 - b. **USTA Referee** – Must have completed the Referee II Course, the USTA Referee Workshop, and have served as the Referee for three (3) entire tournaments (one (1) of which the official may have served as the Deputy Referee).
 - c. **USTA Chair** – Must have completed the Chair II Course (when available), the USTA Chair Workshop, and have satisfactory performance as a Chair Umpire for at least fifteen (15) matches (five (5) of which must be at USTA events).
 - d. **USTA Chief Umpire** - Must have completed the Chief I Course (when available) and have satisfactory performance as a Chief Umpire for at least two (2) entire tournaments with a minimum of fifteen (15) officials.

5. **Academy Certifications** - Each year Academy Officials must complete the following requirements for the disciplines in which they are seeking an Academy certification:
- a. **Academy Referee** – Must have completed the invitational USTA Academy Referee Workshop, received the approval of the USTA National Chairperson of Officials, and have satisfactory performance as the Referee for five (5) entire tournaments, two (2) of which must be from the following list:
 - i. USTA National Championships.
 - ii. ITF Junior, Senior & Wheelchair Events.
 - iii. ITA/NCAA National Championships.
 - b. **Academy Chair** – Must have completed the invitational USTA Academy Chair Workshop and have satisfactory performance as a Chair Umpire for thirty (30) matches, twenty-five (25) of which must be from matches at the following events:
 - i. USTA National Championships.
 - ii. ITF Junior, Senior & Wheelchair Events.
 - iii. ITA/NCAA National Championships.
 - c. **Academy Chief** – Must have completed the invitational USTA Academy Chief Workshop and have satisfactory performance as a Chief Umpire for three (3) events, two (2) of which must be from the following list:
 - i. USTA National Championships.
 - ii. ITF Junior, Senior & Wheelchair Events.
 - iii. ITA/NCAA National Championships.
 - d. **Academy Line** – Must have completed the USTA Academy Line Workshop, obtained approval from the Trainer for that Workshop, and have satisfactory performance as a Line Umpire for ten (10) days, all of which must be from the following events:
 - i. USTA National Championships.
 - ii. ITF Junior, Senior & Wheelchair Events.
 - iii. ITA/NCAA National Championships.
 - iv. Professional Circuits Events.
 - v. ITF Team Events including Davis Cup, Fed Cup, and Olympic events
6. **Professional Certifications** - Each year Professional Officials must complete the following requirements for the disciplines in which they are seeking a Professional certification:
- a. **Professional Referee 1** – Must be an ITF Silver Badge Referee, maintain all ITF badge requirements, and attend additional refresher training as required by the USTA Officiating Department.
 - b. **Professional Referee 2** – Must be an ITF Gold Badge Referee, maintain all ITF badge requirements, and attend additional refresher training as required by the USTA Officiating Department.
 - c. **Professional Chair 1** – Must maintain all ITF requirements for the chair badge held, attend additional refresher training as required by the USTA Officiating Department, and have satisfactory performance as a Chair Umpire for twenty-five (25) matches at professional events of at least the \$15,000 prize level or ITF Team Events including Davis Cup, Fed Cup, and Olympic Events .
 - d. **Professional Chair 2** – Must maintain all ITF requirements for the chair badge held, attend additional refresher training as required by the USTA Officiating Department, and have satisfactory performance as a Chair Umpire for forty (40) matches at professional events at the \$50,000 prize level or higher as well as ITF Team Events including Davis Cup, Fed Cup, and Olympic Events .

- e. **Professional Chief 1** – Must be an ITF White Badge Chief Umpire, maintain all ITF badge requirements, and attend additional refresher training as required by the USTA Officiating Department.
- f. **Professional Chief 2** – Must be an ITF Silver or Gold Badge Chief Umpire, maintain all ITF badge requirements, and attend additional refresher training as required by the USTA Officiating Department.
- g. **Professional Line 1** – Must attend additional refresher training as required by the USTA Officiating Department and have satisfactory performance as a Line Umpire for thirty (30) days at professional events with at least a \$50,000 prize level or ITF Team Events including Davis Cup, Fed Cup, and Olympic Events.
- h. **Professional Line 2** – Must attend additional refresher training as required by the USTA Officiating Department and have satisfactory performance as a Line Umpire for sixty (60) days at professional events, 30 of the days must be at events with at least a \$125,000 prize level or ITF Team Events including Davis Cup, Fed Cup, and Olympic Events.

D. WAIVERS

1. The National Chairperson of Officials may, for good cause, waive any certification requirement, except the Safe Play training, the Vision requirement, the USTA membership requirement, and any ITF requirements.

E. DENIAL OF CERTIFICATION AND DECERTIFICATION

1. The District, Sectional, or National Chairperson of Officials, for good cause, may refuse to approve an Official's application or certification category, even though that Official has met the technical certification requirements.
2. The National Chairperson of Officials may decertify an Official for cause.
3. Recertification of a decertified Official must have the approval of the National Chairperson of Officials

F. HONORARY OFFICIALS

1. The USTA Officials Committee, with the approval of an individual's District and Sectional Chairmen of Officials, may honor an individual as follows:
 - a. **Life Umpire**- An Official who has been certified for 20 years, plus all those who have been designated as "Life Umpire" before March 19, 1982.
 - b. **Umpire Emeritus** - An Official who through long or special service as a certified Official deserves a special place of recognition.
 - c. **Honorary Umpire** - A person who has made a major contribution to areas related to Officiating, even though the person may not have been active as an on-court Official.
2. The above titles are not certification categories, but are recognitions honoring significant service to officiating. The recognitions do not exempt any individual from any certification requirement.

G. RECORDS OF OFFICIALS

1. The USTA Officiating Department, on behalf of the USTA National Officials Committee, must maintain records for each Official, including the Official's address, certification, and evaluations.
2. Access to evaluations (when available) must be provided to the appropriate Sectional Chairperson of Officials.
3. Upon request, a District Chairperson, Sectional Chairperson, or Sectional President must have access to the records for the Chairperson's respective District Association or Sectional Association.
4. An Official must have access to the Official's record annually.

H. Amendments

1. These USTA Officiating: Certification Regulations may be amended by the USTA Officials Committee with the approval of the Officials Regulations Subcommittee.
2. The Officials Regulations Subcommittee consists of the Chair, Vice Chair, and Staff Member of the USTA Officials Committee, the Sectional Chairperson of at least one Sectional Association, and such other members appointed by the Chair. The Chair of the USTA Officials Committee serves as Chair of the Officials Regulations Subcommittee.
3. Proposed amendments to the Officiating: Certification Regulations are subject to review and comment by the Office of General Counsel and the Chair of the Constitution and Rules Committee prior to distribution to consideration.
4. Each amendment shall be in writing and forwarded to the Presidents and Executive Directors of the Sectional Associations and the USTA Officials Committee for comment at least 21 days before any meeting at which the amendment will be considered.
5. Unless otherwise specified, amendments become effective on January 1 following the year of adoption.