

USTA Officiating Forum Etiquette and Rules

JUNE 2026

The following guidelines apply to all the USTA Officiating Communities located in The USTA Officiating Development Hub

1. Stay on Topic and Ensure Clarity

Discussions should remain strictly within the confines of the designated subject matter for each Community, topic or thread. Before initiating a new post, please ensure you are in the appropriate section. Off-topic contributions, while potentially interesting, detract from the central purpose of the discussion and can disrupt the flow of information for other members. Keep your posts concise, and use clear, descriptive language in your titles and content so others can quickly understand the subject and contribute meaningfully.

2. Maintain a Standard of Respect and Professionalism

Our community thrives on the positive and respectful exchange of ideas. Please treat all members, Moderators, Experts, and Administrators with courtesy and professionalism. The use of offensive, defamatory, vulgar, hateful, or abusive language is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, personal attacks, harassment, and discrimination based on any protected characteristic.

Furthermore, this forum is not a platform for unsolicited commercial activity. Do not post or link to unsolicited advertisements, promotions, spam, chain letters, pyramid schemes, or repetitive content.

3. Embrace Collaborative Learning and Contribution

The most valuable resource of this forum is the collective experience of its members. We strongly encourage you to "give back" to the community by actively sharing your knowledge, insights, and lessons learned. When you encounter a specific scenario, challenge, or success, document and share your experience. Providing detailed context helps others learn from real-world officiating situations, enriching the knowledge base for everyone. Your contributions are vital to making this a dynamic and effective learning resource.

4. Avoid Duplicate Posts and Utilize the Search Function

To maintain a clear and efficient forum, please make a diligent effort to search the existing posts before submitting a new question or topic. As the Forum evolves, it is highly likely that your question has already been asked and answered, or that a relevant discussion is already underway. Duplicate posts clutter the forum and dilute the conversation.

When you do create a new post, use a clear, concise, and accurate title. A well-crafted title helps others quickly identify the content, making it easier for them to find your post when searching and for relevant members to contribute a helpful response.

5. Privacy and Safety: Protecting Sensitive Information

Protecting the privacy and safety of all individuals is paramount. Under no circumstances should you post personal or sensitive information about yourself or others. This critical rule includes, but is not limited to, sharing:

- Full names, contact details (email addresses, phone numbers, personal addresses).
- Specific personal or sensitive details related to any players, matches, officials, volunteers, or other individuals.
- Confidential, proprietary, or non-public information obtained through professional duties.

Please note: Moderators and Topic Experts may post USTA owned video content to engage the Community Forum. Officials, however, should not be posting video content as that goes against the privacy and safety of Officials and players.

Keep all discussions focused on general scenarios, rules interpretations, and professional best practices.

6. Additional Guidelines for Posting about Assignments

Focus on USTA Sanctioned Events or Non-sanctioned events listed in OfficialsFirst: Discussions and contributions may include USTA-sanctioned events or non-sanctioned events that are in OfficialsFirst and hiring USTA Certified Officials.

Foster Positive and Constructive Contributions: Utilize this forum to support the community by sharing guidance on applying for local events and helping others gain experience through recruitment posts for USTA sanctioned event Officials.

7. The Official's Code of Conduct: All Officials must abide by The Official's Code of Conduct

Any posts deemed disruptive or commercially self-serving may be removed, and offenders may face temporary or permanent account suspension and/or may be decertified.

Please note, any topics or subtopics not listed in the USTA Officials' Forum should be directed to the USTA Officials Department general inquiries inbox at officiating@usta.com. Moderators and Experts will be monitoring and responding to questions listed in the Topics section.