September 2016, Issue 11

Overrules is the official quarterly newsletter for all tennis officials in USTA Northern. Items included in each quarterly issue are upcoming news and notes, trainings/evaluations, rules and procedures updates, milestones, introductions to new officials and a showcase about an official working in our Section. Ideas and information is always welcome. If you have anything you would like to add, please e-mail Kristi Bushinski at bushinski@northern.usta.com.

News, Notes and Reminders

Upcoming Clinics/Trainings/Evaluations/School
If anyone knows of someone looking to get into officiating (Level 1), or if anyone is looking to move their ranking up, (i.e., college level) and would like to attend, or be evaluated, please contact Kristi Bushinski at Bushinski@northern.usta.com.

Calendar/Schedule Blocking
Thank you to everyone for keeping their calendars updated with their availability in Arbiter. There is a lot going on at this time of the year, so please continue to keep your calendars updated to reflect your availability. Thank you!

Reminders/Updates

USTA

This is a friendly reminder that the deadline to complete the education requirements for 2017 recertification is fast approaching. Due to the delay in the launch of the education courses, we have extended the deadline to **Wednesday, October 12, 2016**, however, no further extensions will be granted, so please plan accordingly.

All Officials, regardless of experience and certification level, must complete all the required courses **AVAILABLE** in their Learning Plan(s) for recertification. If you are a National or Professional Line Umpire, you **MUST** complete the courses in the Line Umpire Learning Plan.

The courses required for recertification for each Officiating Discipline are:
Please note: If you have Line Umpire and/or Chair Umpire Learning Plans, those courses will stay at 83% completion for Chair Umpire and 80% completion for Line Umpire until next year when the Level 1 Line Umpire and Level 1 Chair Umpire courses are released.

Here are some important notes to be aware of when you take the course:

- If you experience any technical issues while completing the course, please utilize the live chat or email ustalrc@usta.com.
- If you are a first time user of the USTA Officiating Online Learning Center, make sure to review the user guide and video tutorial available at: https://www.usta.com/About-USTA/Officials/schools_and_training/
- The videos and some of the animations within the courses are not compatible with Mozilla Firefox. Not being able to play the videos will prevent you from advancing through the course.
- In order to advance through the courses, you must click on every clickable feature on each slide:

  ![Course Features](image1)

- If you do not pass the assessment the first time, you must click on the retake assessment button on the results screen. If you restart the assessment while in the middle of reviewing it, it will not give you the full 20 questions.

  ![Retake Assessment](image2)
When resuming a course, make sure you answer “yes” to the question “Do you want to resume where you left off?” If you select no, the system will reset and your progress will be lost. We do not have the ability to reset your location within the course.

If you have any questions regarding the USTA Officiating Online Learning Center, please contact us at officiating@usta.com.

Thank you,
The USTA Officiating Team

**ITA**

I hope everyone’s Fall is off to a great start. I just wanted to let you all know that the 2016-17 ITA Rulebook is now available online in the “Rules” section under the “Coaches” tab on the ITA Website:

http://www.itatennis.com/Coaches/ita_rules.htm

Hard copies of the 2016-17 Rulebook will be shipped out to ALL ITA Member coaches as well as all ITA Certified Officials next month.
MIAC

MIAC Supervisors of Officials, Assignors, and Associations:

Officially making each of you aware of a new conference policy for game injury assessment. Initially I had hoped that this would have been adhered to by coaches, but I feel making officials aware of this policy is important as a few of you have heard about this from either athletic trainers or coaches. If you desire, you may forward this on to the officials you assign.

The new rule, approved by administrators in Spring 2016, essentially allows athletic trainers to do their jobs without the distraction or influence of a coach that could negatively impact the health of a student-athlete or an improper return to play. This new rule allows the athletic trainer to oversee the health of a student-athlete and in some instances call on the coach or other people if they feel it is necessary. **The rule does not allow a coach to come onto the surface of play for an injury, unless the athletic trainer calls them on.**

The rule that went into place Fall 2016 and rationale are as follows:

**General Code - 4.4.2.3 - Student-athlete Game Injury Management Policy:** When present, the athletic trainer will be recognized as the primary allied healthcare provider for MIAC contests. As the primary healthcare provider, the athletic trainer is responsible for providing all assessment and care for all athletic injuries. If the school is not traveling with an athletic trainer, the home team’s athletic trainer will be responsible for athletic injury management. The athletic trainer is responsible for determining whether additional medical personnel such as physicians, EMT’s, or SMA’s are needed for on-field assistance. Additional personnel such as head coaches, assistant coaches, non-involved student athletes, and game officials shall remain on the sideline or remain away from the injured athlete so that the athletic trainer can provide appropriate care for the injured athlete. If the Athletic Trainer deems necessary, they shall motion for the coach, other staff or parent to assist them on the field. (added 5/16)

Rationale cited with the rule: Maintaining the health and safety of student-athletes during contests is the highest concern for everyone involved with the MIAC. The certified athletic trainers are the individuals at our MIAC institutions that are educated and experienced to serve as the primary allied healthcare providers that are responsible for providing the on-field/during game/contest injury assessments to student-athletes. This includes everything from the initial assessment and immediate care that is needed at the time the injury occurs and to the decision as to how the injured student-athlete will be safely moved to the sideline for further evaluation and care. The certified athletic trainers are the individuals that make sure Emergency Action Plans are in place, followed and practiced by those individuals that are in attendance and associated with the game/event medical care (team physicians, EMT’s, SMA’s). While the certified athletic trainers are provided care to an injured student-athlete, the head coach, assistant coaches, non-involved student athletes and game officials should remain on the sideline and/or move away from the injured student-athlete to allow the certified athletic trainers the space and time to do their jobs. This is not the time or place for anyone to argue with game officials/referees about what might have caused the injury to occur and what rule/penalty should be enforced.
Best Practices and Reminders

Reminders for High School and College Events Coming Up

With a number of different events coming up on at the high school and college that have different requirements, the following cheat sheet will help all officials at these events. Before arriving at the venue, make sure to review the rules for the specific level you are working. All high school tournaments are using USTA rules, while college events use ITA rules.

State High School Tournaments

**Dress:** Navy Blue shirt, officials name tag or blue gear with word OFFICIAL on it, khaki pants, tennis shoes that are primarily one color. **Remember, you do not wear your USTA shirt or anything with a USTA logo on it for high school events.**

**Once You Arrive:** Check with the lead official or tournament director and confirm the following:
- Format – What formats are being played for both singles and doubles
- Trainers - Check to see if there is a trainer on-site.
- Singles Sticks- Ask the tournament director if singles sticks are being used
- Warm-up Time – What is the warmup time for first round and following rounds
- Balls- Number of balls being used and ball changes
- Restroom policies – What Bathroom Break policies are being used as it varies from facility to facility whether they are using strict policy or reasonable time

**Verbiage In The Chair:**
- Team Tournament – Only use specific player names in introductions and when serving the first time. Otherwise, always use team name when announcing score, etc. Ex. Game Edina, Edina leads 5-2, first set.
- Individual Tournament– Use the individuals names. Ex. Game Smith, Smith leads 2-1, first set.

College Matches

**Dress:** Wear ITA shirt, khakis, tennis shoes primarily one color. You can wear your generic blue long sleeved gear that says OFFICIAL on it for these events. No USTA gear is allowed at ITA events.

**Once You Arrive:** Check with the tournament referee once you arrive at the venue and confirm the following:
- Format – What scoring formats are being played for both singles and doubles
- Trainers - Check to see if there is a trainer on-site and where are they located
- Warm-up Time – What is the warmup time for first round and following rounds
- Balls- Number of balls being used and ball changes
- Restroom policies – What restroom rules are being used – it varies from facility to facility.

**Verbiage In The Chair:**
- Team Tournament/Dual Match – Only use specific player names in introductions and when serving the first time. Otherwise, always use team name when announcing score, etc. Ex. Game Minnesota, Minnesota leads 5-2, first set.
- Individual Tournament– Use the individuals names. Ex. Game Smith, Smith leads 2-1, first set.

**General Information**

**Chair Official Pre-Match**

- Verify Position
- “Please make your calls verbally and visually, so both your opponent and I can see or hear
• them.
• For college - “Appeals must be audible and immediate.” High School – immediate overrule, you do not have to wait for an appeal
• New Balls, Ball #
• “Any Questions”
• Coin Toss

**Warm-up Announcements** .... Starting from 10 minutes

“5 Minutes”
“3 minutes”
“2 Minutes”
“1 Minute”
“Time”

Adjust accordingly depending on warm-up time. 10 minutes should be the most players will receive.

**Introductions**

Keep head up and turn if the crowd is behind you. Start introduction at 20 to 30 seconds before time is called, depending on singles, doubles, and crowd size.

“Ladies and gentlemen this _____ round match will be the best of three tie-break sets. To the right (point hand) of the chair from ____, name. To the left (point hand) of the chair, from ______, name.”

“Team/Individual won the toss and chose to serve/receive.”

“Edina’s Mary Smith to Serve”

“Play”

Verbiage for next server. “Minnesota’s Jane Doe to Serve.” If doing doubles, same for the next two servers

Start of final set. “Final Set”, “Edina’s Mary Smith to Serve.”

**Other Situations That Could Arise**

**Code Violations** – Always remember C-O-R-N

C=Code
O=Offense
R=Result
N=Name

Ex. Code Violation, Ball Abuse, Point Penalty, Mary Smith

If the behavior is egregious and could warrant a default, immediately have the players sit down and call the tournament referee or tournament director (at the state high school tournament) to court. Remember … only a tournament referee can default a player for bad behavior.

**Medical Time-out** – Make sure to review the medical time out and bathroom policies for both college and USTA prior to coming to officiate. The state high school tournament is using USTA rules for both medical and bathroom.

“Ladies and gentlemen, the trainer has been called to the court.”

“Ladies and gentlemen, Mr./Ms. Jones is receiving a Medical time-out.” (The medical timeout may occur off court and this should be added to the end of this sentence when appropriate.)

Announce times and “Treatment Complete” to trainer, player, and supervisor/referee only.

“2 Minutes”
“1 Minute”
“30 Seconds”
“Treatment Complete”
“Time” (Wait for player to put on shoes socks, etc before announcing to the crowd)

**General**
We communicate with the players in a way that’s good for them, not for us. First and foremost, LISTEN FIRST and try to say as little as possible.

**Who is Working Higher Level Events Outside of the Section?**

Look at all the USTA Northern officials who are working professional events around the country. For more information on how you too can apply to work professional events, please contact Kristi Bushinski at Bushinski@northern.usta.com.

**Ron Jacobus Jr.**  
- August/September 2016 – US Open in Flushing, N.Y.

**Doug Miller**  
- September – 75K in Albuquerque, N.M.

**Vyasachar Mohan**  
- August/September – US Open in Flushing, N.Y.

Way to go Northern Officials, keep up the great work! Please forward information for future newsletters to Kristi Bushinski at Bushinski@northern.usta.com.

**Happy Birthday to You!**

Happy Birthday to the following officials!
- Jan Schreier – 10/1
- Doug Miller – 10/17
- Lisa Mushett – 10/19
- Bruce Burton – 11/1
- Todd Metzger – 11/1
- Heather Landrus – 11/12
- Paul Finkelstein – 11/15
- Luke Brodeur – 11/19
- Dave Darr – 11/29
- Ryan Becker – 12/21
- Sandy McLeod – 12/21
- Darrel Petersen – 12/26
- Joe Boyer – 12/29

**Thank You Ron Jacobus Jr.**

USTA Northern would like to thank Ron Jacobus Jr. for his service to our organization over the past 10 years after announcing his retirement following the 2016 US Open. Ron has officiated at the highest levels and has done multiple US Open Championships. His greatest officiating moment was working the US Open with his son Ron III. He has given so much to the organization as a leader, mentor and volunteer and has represented USTA Northern and the official community with such honor and grace nationally. Ron…thank you for everything. You will be greatly missed!
Getting To Know USTA Northern Official ... Joe Boyer

Q. How long have you been an official?
   A. I've been an official since I believe 2008.

Q. How and why did you get started?
   A. I'd been a high school tennis coach since 1988 and was coaching at (Rochester) Century High School. When my oldest daughter became a 7th grader and made her varsity high school team, I gave up coaching so that I could watch her play. Because of my love of the game, I still wanted to be involved somehow in tennis so I decided to become an official.

Q. What has been your biggest highlight as an official?
   A. There have been many highlights, but officiating the Aquatennial event is by far my favorite every year. Being a Chair Umpire at the Big 10 Men’s Championships this past spring and at the US Open Qualifier this past June were also pretty cool.

Q. What are the best reasons to become an official?
   A. It's a great way to continue to stay connected in the game of tennis. I still love to hit the ball to stay in shape but the thrill to personally compete? Not so much! By becoming an official, I still get to be involved in the thrill of competition and have a ton of fun doing it--just in a different way.

Q. Why should someone else become an official?
   A. Become an official because you love the game. It really is a lot of fun. You get to work with great kids and the officiating community is a pretty cool group of people!

Q. What advice would you give young officials who are looking to advance to the professional level?
   A. Just like anything in life, you have to start small, work hard and dream big. Work local USTA events and hone your craft. There are a lot of things that go into being a good official--knowing the rules, handling “sticky situations” tactfully on the court and listening to what your more experienced mentors have to share. Once you feel comfortable and confident enough, move to doing ITA events (college) and smaller ITF (professional) tournaments around the country. If you really have a passion for what you do, sky’s the limit.