



2017 USTA Officiating: Certification Regulations



A. CERTIFICATION

1. For 2017, Certification is from January 1 to December 31. Education Courses will be made available by USTA Officiating Department.

B. GENERAL CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. **Vision** – Every two years, each on-court Official (those acting as a Roving Umpire, Chair Umpire, and Line Umpire, and Referees who go 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.
2. **Education Courses**- Each certified Official must pass the education courses for each discipline in which the Official is certified.
 - 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.
3. **Number of Tournaments** - Every year an Official must meet the certification requirements by serving in the preceding year in, at minimum, the specified number of tournaments, matches, or days.
4. **USTA Membership and Certification** - Each certified Official must be a USTA member.
5. **Work Record** - Each Official must submit the Official's work record to the USTA on a continuous basis.
 - a. The Sectional Chairperson 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.
 - b. Review of the work records start on October 15. Certification as a National or Professional Official must require the approval of the National Chairperson of Officials.
6. **Code of Conduct** - All Officials must adhere to the standards in the Officials Code of Conduct.

C. SPECIFIC CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. **Provisional Umpire** - Must meet all the general certification requirements as set forth above.
 - a. Advancement to Sectional Umpire - If later during the same calendar year, the Official meets the work requirements for becoming certified as a Sectional Umpire, the Official may be certified as such.
2. **Provisional Referee** - Must have completed the required education courses required of a Referee.
 - a. A Provisional Referee may serve as a Referee for tournaments below the Sectional Championship level.
 - b. If during the same calendar year the Provisional Referee meets the work requirements for a Sectional Referee, the Provisional Referee may then become certified as a Sectional Referee.
3. **Associate Umpire**
 - a. Must be certified by a foreign national tennis association recognized by the International Tennis Federation;

- b. Does not have to fulfill the general certification requirements except the USTA membership requirement;
- 4. **Sectional and USTA Officials** - Each year Sectional and USTA Officials must complete the required education courses for the disciplines in which they are seeking certification.
 - a. Sectional Umpire - Must have officiated for a total of five of the following:
 - i. Line Umpire days;
 - ii. Chair Umpire matches; or
 - iii. Roving Umpire days.
 - iv. Chair Umpire matches used to qualify for this category may not be used to also qualify for Sectional Chair Umpire.
 - v. Sectional Chair Umpire - Must have served as a Chair Umpire in five matches.
 - b. Sectional Referee - Must have served as a Referee or as a Deputy Referee for an entire tournament.
 - c. USTA Roving Umpire
 - i. Must have satisfied the requirements for a Sectional Umpire
 - ii. Must have served as a Roving Umpire for at least 15 days, and
 - iii. Must have successfully completed the Referee education courses..
 - d. USTA Line Umpire
 - i. Must have officiated as a Line Umpire for 10 days; and
 - ii. Must have received satisfactory evaluation(s) as a Line Umpire.
 - e. USTA Chair Umpire
 - i. Must have officiated as a Chair Umpire in ten matches;
 - ii. Must have been previously certified as a Sectional Chair Umpire; and
 - iii. Must have received satisfactory evaluation(s) as a Chair Umpire.
 - f. USTA Referee - Must have served as a Referee for three entire tournaments, one of which may have been as a Deputy Referee.
 - g. USTA Chief Umpire - Must have served as a Chief Umpire for one tournament.
- 5. **National and Professional Officials** - Education courses for the National Officials and Professional Officials must be required only at the direction of the USTA Officials Committee.
 - a. National Line Umpire
 - i. Must have officiated as a Line Umpire for 20 days in matches at USTA National Championships, Intercollegiate National Championships, ITF International Championships, ITF Team Events, or professional tournaments with prize money of at least \$10,000.
 - ii. At least ten of these days must have been in USTA, ITF, ATP, or WTA tournaments with prize money of at least \$50,000;
 - iii. Must have been certified as a USTA Line Umpire or higher line category within the previous two years; and
 - iv. Must have received satisfactory national evaluations as a Line Umpire
 - b. National Chair Umpire
 - i. Must have officiated in 20 matches as a Chair Umpire at USTA National Championships, Intercollegiate National Championships, ITF International Championships, ITF Team Events, or professional tournaments with prize money of at least \$10,000.

- ii. No more than eight of these matches may be Intercollegiate National Championships;
 - iii. The remaining matches must be in at least two tournaments;
 - iv. Must have been certified as a USTA Chair Umpire or higher chair category within the previous two years; and
 - v. Must have received satisfactory national evaluations as a Chair Umpire.
- c. National Referee
 - i. Must have served as a Referee in four entire tournaments, two of which must have been in USTA National Championships, ITF International Championships, ITF Team Events, Intercollegiate National Championships, or professional tournaments with prize money of at least \$10,000.
- d. National Chief Umpire
 - i. Must have served as a Chief Umpire of two USTA National Championships, ITF International Championships, ITF Team Events, Intercollegiate National Championships, or professional tournaments with prize money of at least \$10,000.
 - ii. One of these tournaments must have been a USTA, ITF, ATP, or WTA tournament with prize money of at least \$50,000.
- e. Professional Line Umpire
 - i. Must have officiated as a Line Umpire for 50 days in professional tournaments with prize money of at least \$50,000 or ITF Team Events.
 - ii. Thirty of these days must have been in USTA, ITF, ATP, or WTA tournaments with prize money of at least \$150,000;
 - iii. Must have been certified as a National Line Umpire or higher line category within the previous two years; and
 - iv. The National Chairperson of Officials must consider reports and evaluations from tournament supervisors and Referees in certifying these Officials.
- f. Professional Chair Umpire
 - i. Must have officiated as a Chair Umpire in 40 matches in professional tournaments with prize money of at least \$50,000 or ITF Team Events.
 - ii. Twenty-five of these matches must have been in USTA, ITF, ATP, or WTA tournaments with prize money of at least \$150,000;
 - iii. Must have been certified as a National Chair Umpire or higher Chair Umpire category within the previous two years; and
 - iv. The National Chairperson of Officials must consider reports and evaluations from tournament supervisors and Referees in certifying these Officials.
- g. Professional Referee
 - i. Must have served as a Referee in five tournaments, all of which must have been USTA National Championships, ITF International Championships, Intercollegiate National Championships, ITF Team Events, or professional tournaments with prize money of at least \$10,000.
 - ii. At least three of these tournaments must have been USTA, ITF, ATP, or WTA tournaments with prize money of at least \$10,000.

- h. Professional Chief Umpire
 - i. Must have served as a Chief Umpire of USTA National Championships, ITF International Championships, Intercollegiate National Championships, ITF Team Events, or professional tournaments with prize money of at least \$10,000.
 - ii. One of these tournaments must have been a USTA, ITF, ATP, or WTA tournament with prize money of at least \$150,000.

6. Waivers

- a. The National Chairperson of Officials may waive any certification requirement, except Safe Play, the vision and USTA membership requirements.

D. 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

E. 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.

F. 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 must be provided annually 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 yearly.