

## USTA REGULATIONS SECTION XI PROGRESSION OF OFFICIALS

Professional Officials

National Officials

USTA Officials

Sectional & Intercollegiate Officials

Provisional Umpires

### Officials General Annual Certification Requirements

1. Vision: Certify 20/20 vision, corrected or uncorrected.
2. Test: Pass the written test for level(s) of certification.
3. School: Successfully complete school(s) for required level(s) of certification.
4. Data Card: Complete and submit Data Card to State Chair of Officials prior to October 15 of each year.
5. Membership: Possess current USTA Membership.
6. Tournaments: Serve at required number of tournaments for certification level(s).
7. Code of Conduct: Adhere to standards of Officials Code of Conduct.

### Annual Requirements for Specific Certification Levels

1. **Provisional Umpire:** Pass provisional written test (Note: The Provisional Test is available online at [usta.com](http://usta.com). Test must be sent to State Chair of Officials). No school or tournament requirements.
2. **Associate Umpire:** Certification by foreign tennis association recognized by the International Tennis Federation. USTA membership plus yearly fee to offset mailing expenses.
3. **Sectional & USTA Officials:** Pass written test for each category. Complete school for each category. Tests and Schools apply to calendar following the year in which taken. Additional requirements per category as listed below:
  - a. **Sectional Umpire:** Officiate for a total of five (5) line umpire, chair umpire matches or roving umpire days. Chair Umpire matches here may not be used to also qualify for Sectional Chair Umpire.
  - b. **Sectional Chair Umpire:** Serve as Chair Umpire in five (5) matches.
  - c. **Sectional Referee:** Serve as Referee or Deputy Referee for an entire tournament.
  - d. **USTA Line Umpire:**
    - i. Officiate as Line Umpire for 10 days; and
    - ii. Receive satisfactory evaluations as Line Umpire.

- e. **USTA Chair Umpire:**
    - i. Officiate as Chair Umpire in 10 matches; and have
    - ii. Previous certification as Sectional Chair Umpire; and
    - iii. Receive satisfactory evaluations as a Chair Umpire.
  - f. **USTA Referee:** Serve as Referee for three (3) entire tournaments, one of which may have been as Deputy Referee.
  - g. **USTA Chief Umpire:** Serve as Chief Umpire for one (1) tournament.
4. **National and Professional Officials:** Tests and Schools for National and Professional Officials shall be required only at the direction of the USTA Officials Committee.
- a. **National Line Umpire.**
    - i. Officiate as Line Umpire for 20 days in matches at USTA National Championships, ITF International Championships, intercollegiate or professional tournaments with prize money of at least \$10,000. At least 10 of these days shall have been USTA, ITF, ATP or WTA tournaments with prize money of at least \$50,000;
    - ii. Certification as a USTA Line Umpire or higher line category within the previous 2 years; and
    - iii. Receive satisfactory national evaluations as Line Umpire.
  - b. **National Chair Umpire.**
    - i. Officiated in 15 matches as a Chair Umpire at USTA or intercollegiate National Championships, ITF International Championships, or professional tournaments with prize money of at least \$10,000. At least 10 of these tournaments shall have been USTA, ITF, ATP or WTA tournaments with prize money of at least \$50,000;
    - ii. Certification as a USTA Chair Umpire or higher chair category within the previous 2 years; and
    - iii. Receive satisfactory national evaluations as a Chair Umpire.
  - c. **National Referee:** Serve as Referee in 4 entire tournaments, two of which shall have been USTA National Championships, ITF International Championships, professional or intercollegiate tournaments with prize money of at least \$10,000.
  - d. **Professional Line Umpire:**
    - i. Officiate as Line Umpire for 50 days in professional tournaments with prize money of at least \$50,000. Thirty of these days shall have been USTA, ITF, ATP or WTA tournaments with prize money of at least \$150,000;
    - ii. Certification as a National Line Umpire or higher chair category within the previous two years; and
    - iii. The National Chairman of Officials shall consider reports and evaluations from tournament supervisors and referees in certifying these officials.
  - e. **Professional Chair Umpire:**
    - i. Officiate as Chair Umpire in 30 matches in professional tournaments with prize money of at least \$50,000. Twenty of these matches shall have been USTA, ITF, ATP or WTA tournaments with prize money of at least \$150,000;
    - ii. Certification as a National Line Umpire or higher line category within the previous two years; and
    - iii. The National Chairman of Officials shall consider reports and evaluations from tournament supervisors and referees in certifying these officials.

f. **Professional Referee:** Serve as Referee in 5 tournaments, all of which have been USTA National Championships, ITF International Championships, intercollegiate national or professional tournaments with prize money of at least \$10,000. At least 3 of these tournaments shall have been USTA, ITF, ATP or WTA tournaments with prize money of at least \$10,000.

5. **Professional Chief Umpire:** Serve as Chief Umpire of 3 USTA National Championships, ITF International Championships, intercollegiate tournaments or professional tournaments with prize money of at least \$10,000. Two of these tournaments shall have been professional tournaments with prize money of at least \$150,000.

6. **Intercollegiate Official:** Officiate for a total of 5 days, which may be any combination as a Chair Umpire, Roving Umpire, or Referee for intercollegiate dual matches or tournaments.

7. **Waivers:** The National Chairman of Officials may waive any certification requirement except the vision and USTA membership requirements.

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## **RULES & REGULATIONS**

The USTA has the duty to interpret the Rules of Tennis and to propose, monitor and report on new or experimental rules used or adopted by other bodies that govern the play of tennis. The USTA needs to be alert to suggestions from others and developments in all levels of the game of tennis that warrant revisions or changes to the Rules of Tennis, the USTA Regulations and the USTA By-Laws, so that changes can be adopted on a permanent or experimental basis in a timely manner and to aid in the interpretation of the Rules of Tennis.

If you have a rules problem, send full details to:

USTA Southern Section – Kentucky  
Grievance Committee  
8900 Greenway Commons Place, #101  
Louisville, KY 40220-4070

For questions concerning rules and regulations contact:

Karen Kutz  
State Chair of Tennis Officials  
kkutz@fbtlaw.com  
(502) 905-5389

### **USTA APPROVED BALL LIST**

The specifications for tennis balls by the International Tennis Federation have been adopted by the USTA . Upon request not later than June 30 of each year, the USTA will test tennis ball brands that are “generally available” in the USA for compliance with the specifications upon payment of the prescribed testing fee and upon the manufacture’s agreement to make no claim other than “USTA Approved” accompanied by the approved USTA logo (a registered trademark).

**FRIEND AT COURT**

You can purchase the easy to carry USTA's "Friend At Court" by calling toll free 1-888-832-8291, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. EST. The cost is \$5.00 plus shipping. USTA members received a 10% discount.