

## 2019 Umpire Selections for Professional Tournaments

The ABTO Selections Panel has analysed the Umpire selections for professional tournaments based on the availability offered and the selections received in 2019. This was completed to help Officials gauge the number of days that they might be selected for as a proportion of days that they apply for, depending on the type of tournament and their grades. 2019 data was used in preference to the limited data available for 2020, as 2020 was not considered representative of a typical year.

The following table shows the total amount of availability submitted by Umpires, broken down by Line Grade and Chair Grade alongside the total number of days selected. The tournaments have been divided into two groups: World Tennis Tour (WTT) and Grass Court (excluding Wimbledon where the selections are determined using a different process). The data shows the availability submitted by Umpires via the online calendars at the time the calendars closed and does not reflect any withdrawals after the selections were made and nor does it include any additional availability submitted after this time.

Please note that due to the format of the available data, if an official applied for the same days at two tournaments running at the same time, for example Monday to Wednesday at Queens and Monday to Wednesday at Edgbaston and they were selected for the days at Queens, then this would be shown as applied for 6 days and selected for 3 days, i.e., 50%. This therefore means that the selection percentages as a percentage of days applied for were higher than those shown in the table below. For comparison we have included some 2017 data in brackets.

Line Grade	No. Officials in Grade (2017)	World Tennis Tour (WTT)			Grass Court (except Wimbledon)		
		Total days applied for	Total days selected	Days Selected (%) (2017 %)	Total days applied for	Total days selected	Days selected (%) (2017 %)
L1	55 (54)	776	513	66.1% (47%)	800	639	79.8% (79 %)
L2	53 (56)	730	382	52.3% (28%)	873	586	67.1% (61 %)
L3	96 (92)	1935	474	24.4% (16%)	1634	831	50.8% (42%)
L4	77 (50)	808	67	8.2% (4%)	905	125	13.8% (11%)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>281 (252)</b>	<b>4249</b>	<b>1436</b>	<b>33.8% (22%)</b>	<b>4212</b>	<b>2181</b>	<b>51.8% (43%)</b>
<b>Chair Grade</b>							
<b>C (Bronze)</b>	7 (8) *	206	161	78.1% (59%)	138	89	64.4% (70%)
<b>D (White)</b>	27 (24)	655	404	61.6% (46%)	413	249	60.2% (50%)
<b>U1</b>	12(13)	321	150	46.7% (34%)	286	176	61.5% (54%)
<b>U2</b>	42 (37)	883	344	38.9% (205)	732	311	42.4% (48%)
<b>U3 and UZ</b>	199(178)	1866	383	20.5% (17%)	2405	1089	31.1% (40%)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>287 (260)</b>	<b>3931</b>	<b>1442</b>	<b>36.7% (25%)</b>	<b>3974</b>	<b>1914</b>	<b>48.1% (45%)</b>

Note: \* Some Bronze Badge Chair Umpires have a Line Grade of LX and are not included in the calculations by Line Grade.

The data shows that in the Grass Court season, Line Grade is a more significant factor on selection than Chair Grade as most ABTO officials work as Line Umpires during this period (the exception being

Bronze Badge Chair Umpires who are used predominately as Chair Umpires during this period). For WTT tournaments, Chair Grade is a more important factor in selections as many ABTO officials are used to chair matches with limited opportunities for Line Umpires at such events. The 2017 data shows that the percentages vary considerably from year to year.

#### **What can you do to improve your likelihood of selection?**

- Read the guide on 'applying for tournaments' <https://www3.lta.org.uk/Members-Area/Officials/Downloads--Resources/Miscellaneous/>
- For WTT events, work on improving your Chair Grade as this will in most cases increase your chances of selection for these events.
- Be conscious about what days you apply for, e.g., you are very unlikely to be selected for the final weekend of any event, especially ATP/WTA events.

The selection process is not a perfect science and there are a multitude of factors considered and the percentages in the table above are not fixed and can change from one year to the next, as demonstrated by the 2017 data in the table above. Some of the factors considered include:

- Location of events (tournaments in London and the South East are more often more over-subscribed compared to events held elsewhere)
- Number of events in a particular week (if there are several events taking place in the same week or tournament dates that overlap, more officials will be needed in that period)
- Dates of tournaments (some Officials are only able to work during the school holidays for example and tournaments in these periods are therefore more likely to be oversubscribed)
- Availability offered (the more availability you offer, the more likely you are to receive a selection)
- Types of events (e.g., the number of line umpires required for an ATP Challenger Event is considerably higher than those required for an ITF World Tennis Tour \$15K event; more officials are required for a combined Men's and Women's WTT event than a single sex event).
- Indoors or Outdoors. More officials may be selected for an outdoor tournament to give flexibility with court numbers and schedule changes due to weather issues.