

A GUIDE FOR UMPIRES APPLYING FOR PROFESSIONAL TOURNAMENTS

The aim of this document is to provide guidance (especially for new officials) and assist umpires with maximising the officiating opportunities available to them at professional tournaments. It is important to emphasise that it is understood that, for the majority of officials, tennis officiating is a hobby that fits around working and other commitments. The objective of the selections process is to ensure that all officials applying receive an appropriate and fair share of selections applicable to their grade whilst taking into account, the resourcing requirements of the tournament. Sometimes however it is difficult to achieve this for every official on each occasion and a wide variety of factors have to be balanced to ensure that all officiating aspects of the event are fully covered, for example that there are sufficient line umpires who are able to call serve.

Here are a few tips on what to consider when applying for professional tournaments:

- Please do not apply only for the final days of events, as it is very unlikely any official will be selected for just these days
- For any umpire, especially L3 and L4, the best advice is to apply for the qualifying days or the first few days of an event. This can be great experience for newer umpires within professional events, including opportunities to call serve for such umpires during the grass court season
- You can apply for any number of events in a given week. Applying for more than one event, will increase your chances of receiving a selection for that week or calendar. Advice is to contact LTA Officiating to let them know of any constraints that are relevant to the number of days or events you may have applied for
- If you are able to travel a little further for events, it can often help with selections where your 'local' tournament is oversubscribed, especially in the London area or during school holidays where you may not be selected for a particular event
- If you are unable to honour a selection please remember to withdraw from that event as soon as possible, preferably at least 2 weeks before the event itself. This is so a replacement umpire can be selected with as much notice as possible. However, we are aware there may be circumstances that mean an individual is unable to do this and all that is asked is they inform LTA Officiating as soon as possible
- Remember to look out for emails from LTA Officiating requesting additional umpires. These provide a good opportunity to pick up additional days, particularly during the grass court season
- For U1 and U2 chair umpires the first few days of a futures event are where chairing opportunities are more readily available
- The following tournaments count towards the number of professional chairs for U1 and U2 officials. (* also counts for White Badge requirements)
 - ATP / WTA Tour events (including ATP Challenger Tour) *
 - ITF World Tennis Tour events (\$15k and above) *
 - ITF Junior Masters, Grade A, Grade 1*

- ITF Junior Team Competition
- ITF Senior World Individual Championships*
- ITF Senior World Team Championships
- ITF Wheelchair Circuit (Masters Series, Super Series, ITF1) *
- British Tour events
- Team Tennis National Open Finals
- Take advantage of the ABTO Mentoring Programme to gain support and advice on what tournaments to apply for
- Any official who has any queries regarding selections should contact either a member of the ABTO Selections Panel (abto.selections@gmail.com) or Matthew Morrissey, LTA Officiating Manager (matthew.morrissey@LTA.org.uk)