

Umpires and Referees Committee

Selection Panel (SP)

Selection Policies and Procedures

April 5, 2021

1. General.

- a) The purpose of the Selection Panel (SP) is to provide competent officials, nominations to ITTF for selection to international events and to individual event organizers for their events, and to distribute assignments fairly, based on applications received.
- b) The URC Chair or designate will select Referees, US Deputy Referees, Racket Control Coordinator (if required) and an Umpire Evaluator for all 5 Star events and other National competitions. The SP will select/approve remaining officials for these events and all foreign assignments.
- c) All officials appointed to any position must be active USATT members and active officials, including compliance with SafeSport, Background check and recertification.
- d) Consideration will be given to:
 - i. Maintaining qualification of International Referees (IRs) and preparing National Referees (NRs) to qualify as IRs.
 - ii. Maintaining qualification of Gold Badge/Blue Badge umpires and those striving to attain this qualification.
- e) Referees, Chief Umpires (ChUs) and their deputies:
 - i. Will normally be selected 6 months in advance of the tournament.
 - ii. The URC Chair will take the initiative in selecting major officials rather than waiting for applications. Once the selections are completed, URC Chair will notify URC Committee of the selection.
 - iii. IU BB must serve as umpires at US Open or Nationals between successive assignments to these positions.

2. Selection Panel.

Each Selection Panel (SP) will consist of three members of which one must be an athlete rep that is a member of the URC. They will be selected by the URC Chair on a rotational basis. In this manner, everyone will have an opportunity to serve on the SP. Since the URC Chair places call for officials, he/she would know who has applied. The SP will then be selected in order to avoid conflicts of interest. The URC Chair is not eligible to serve on the SP.

Any statements received by any member of the URC or SP from a candidate to improve their chances to be selected for any position will be disregarded by the SP. The application with the activity listed should speak for itself. The exceptions to the above statement are the need for an IU to receive ITTF evaluations, if being held at the event. The other is an umpire taking an exam to move up in rank.

3. US Open Referees.

US Open Referees will be appointed on a rotational basis among our active IRs. The Referee whose last US Open assignment was longest ago will serve unless that referee is unavailable.

- a) Referees will normally be appointed six months in advance.
- b) A schedule has been developed so Referees will know when they are due to serve.
- c) An active US IR who misses a scheduled US Open Referee assignment two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to accept any other 5 Star tournament assignment (except as an umpire) or any foreign assignment as a Referee or Deputy Referee until they have served as US Open Referee or retired through ITTF from active IR status.

4. US Open Deputy Referees.

- a) We will invite one visiting NR/IR as Deputy Referee. The selected Referee will have a say as to which country they would like to invite as DR. The URC Chair will make the decision.
- b) We will select one US NR or IR, if NR is unavailable, as a second Deputy Referee. The selected Referee will have a say as to who they would like as DR. The URC Chair will make the decision.
- c) Assignments will be based on preparing NRs to qualify as IRs.

5. US Nationals Referees.

- a) The Referee for the Nationals will be an NR or IR, if NR is unavailable. The selected Referee will have a say as to who they would like as DR.
- b) It is custom for a new NR to serve as Referee for the US Nationals.

6. US Nationals Deputy Referees.

- a) URC Chair will appoint an NR or IR as a deputy. The selected Referee will have a say as to who they would like as DR. The URC Chair will make the decision.
- b) If the Referee is inexperienced the Deputy Referee will be more experienced.
- c) We will normally invite Canada to provide an NR or IR as a second Deputy Referee.

7. Chief Umpire (ChU) Open & Nationals.

A call will be placed for ChU and DChU for the US Open and US Nationals. The URC Chair will select International Umpires (IUs) as ChU and Deputy ChU at least one of whom has served before. There will be input from the Referee as to the selection of ChU. There will also be input from the Referee and selected ChU as to the selection of the DChU.

8. Referees for other US tournaments.

- a) US Ranking Tournaments.
 - i. IR or NR.
 - ii. Proximity to trials location will be a consideration.
 - iii. Coordination with the High-Performance Committee.
- b) 3- and 4-Star Tournaments.
 - i. The Tournament Director is responsible for selecting a Referee subject to approval by the National Sanctioning Coordinator (NSC).
 - ii. The Referee must be an IR, NR or RR.
- c) 0 – 2 Star tournaments will be selected by the sponsoring club with approval of the Regional Sanctioning Coordinator (RSC). For 0 Star tournaments, any level umpire may serve as the Referee. For 1 or 2 Star tournaments, the Referee must be a CR or higher.

9. Umpires US Open.

- a) The number of umpires required will be based on the different competitions to be held.
- b) We should have approximately 40 umpires plus any additional requirements for other events.
- c) US will provide 18-20 umpires. Should there not be enough visiting umpires attending, we will increase the number of US umpires.
- d) The call for umpires will go out to all active umpires stipulating the priority for assignment.
- e) US umpires will normally be limited to IU, NU or RU.

- f) All umpires applying will be referred to the SP.
- g) If not enough IU, NU or RU apply, we will consider club umpires (CU) to be selected by the SP. All club umpires must be recommended by a referee or tournament director unless the umpire has served before and has had a favorable evaluation (Grade “B” or better). The SP will hold up to two positions for CU to attend.

10. Umpires US Nationals.

- a) We should have approximately 35 umpires including 24 US umpires. Should there be not enough visiting umpires attending, we will increase the number of US umpires.
- b) We will solicit IU, NU, RU and CU for the Nationals.
- c) The CU should be recommended by a Referee or tournament director unless the umpire has served before and has had a favorable evaluation (Grade “B” or better). The SP will hold up to two positions for CU to attend.

11. Foreign Assignments.

- a) Foreign assignments will be selected by the SP.
- b) Maximum participation by different officials is a goal. The selection process is not completed on a “rotational basis.”
- c) Only Referees and Umpires that have been active and effective at US Open and/or Nationals the previous two years and received an evaluation grade of “B” or better will be considered.
- d) If the ITTF or a host association requests a specific Referee, that Referee will normally be assigned unless there is a valid reason. The assignment will be referred to the URC Chair. The URC Chair will then select a SP to vote for approval.
- e) A non-specific invitation by a foreign association. The URC Chair will put out a call for Referee specifying:
 - a). Tournament name, date, location venue and visa requirements. Include the name of the Referee, if known.
 - 1. Selection criteria.
 - 2. Application deadline and email address to send application.
 - 3. Expected date of selection announcement. Notification will be by email.
- f) Canadian tournaments. NRs and NUs are eligible and will be given consideration.
- g) Criteria in the invitation will be considered.
- h) **Olympics and Paralympics.**
 - i. The ITTF normally recommends an umpire and an alternate. All umpires for these competitions are Blue Badge.
 - ii. We will normally accept the ITTF recommended umpire.
 - iii. If the primary ITTF recommendation has umpired at a previous comparable competition we may select the alternate.

- i) **Pan Am Games and Para Pan Am Games.**
 - i. Priority will go to Blue Badge umpires.
 - ii. An umpire will not be selected if s/he has participated at a previous comparable competition unless no other qualified candidate is available.
- j) **World Championships.**
 - i. Deputy Referees are invited by the ITTF subject to USATT approval.
 - ii. We will invite umpires as per the ITTF invitation.
 - iii. Priority will be given to umpires who have not attended before.
 - iv. Consideration will be given to Blue Badge umpires or those pursuing this qualification. Umpires who have passed the AUT or ARE are considered Blue Badge in Progress (BBP) and will be considered with those already Blue Badge.

12. Other International Assignments.

- a) Maximum participation by different officials is a goal.
- b) If evaluations will be conducted, priority will be given to [Gold Badge](#)/Blue Badge umpires needing evaluations to retain their BB qualification or BBP to receive their BB qualification.
- c) Umpires finding positions on the web and volunteering to attend at their own expense will normally be approved. The selection will still be voted and approved by SP. The selection will not be held against another selection since the candidate paid for their own transportation.

13. Conflict of Interest Policy.

Any candidate who applies for assignment will not be selected to the SP.

14. Call for Umpires or Referees should include the following information:

- a) Tournament date and location.
- b) Selection criteria.
- c) Referee of the event if not a call for Referee.
- d) Compensation information (eg mileage, per diem).
- e) Arrival and departure information.
- f) Any special information (eg Referee/Umpire briefing).
- g) Application deadline.
- h) Email address to which applications should be sent.
- i) Expected date of announcement of selection results. Notification will be by email.

15. Appeals Procedure.

- a) If any applicant believes that the selection result and/or process is unfair or incorrect that applicant can appeal to the URC chair or designate by email, phone or text within 24 hours of announcement of the assignment. The appeal must include the basis for the appeal.
- b) The URC Chair or designate will review the appeal. If the chair decides that it is legitimate s/he will contact the SP and may direct that the SP revote with specific attention to the submitted basis of appeal.
- c) A revote by the SP is final.