



To: Anne Warner Cribbs, Chair, USATT Board of Directors

From: Joseph Yick, Chair, USATT Umpires and Referees Committee (URC)

Date: August 30, 2017

Current Issues:

1. To organize the officials' selections for the 2017 US Open
2. To organize ITTF evaluations for the Blue Badge/BB in Progress at the 2017 US Open
3. To revise the referee/umpire selection procedure for domestic/international tournaments to enable it to be more fair and transparent to officials
4. To revise the International Umpire examination process for 2017
5. To standardize the reporting system for major and overseas tournaments
6. To organize the officials' database

Accomplishments:

1. Completed the officials' re-certification program for 2017
2. Completed the SOPs for the URC
3. Justified having the Selection Sub-Committee continuing to report to the URC
4. Completed the SafeSport and Background Check program for officials
5. Resolved Cary Cup and Aurora Cup tournament issues with Dennis and Gordon
6. Developed Alternative Service Rule Proposals that the Board may wish to consider

Challenges:

1. How to improve the quality of officiating nationwide
2. How to coordinate officials' responsibilities seamlessly with the Tournament Committee's affiliated tournament directors, committees, and sponsors activities via Tournament Guide revisions

3. How to recruit more active umpires for the tournaments
4. How to provide cutting edge continuing educational programs for officials
5. How to encourage lower level umpires to advance to the higher levels, such as from club to regional and from regional to national, etc.

Observations and other items of importance:

1. It is always difficult to recruit sufficient numbers of umpires for our huge U.S. major tournaments (nationals, open). With the introduction of SafeSport, the number of compliant umpires will necessarily be reduced.
2. Our URC budget was substantially cut in 2017, and our ability to send officials overseas for training was drastically reduced. The URC hopes that this will be improved in 2018.
3. We need to do more to improve communications between URC and officials. For example, the URC should have a section on USATT's website where it can post notices and other communications to officials.