



*Tennis Australia  
Code for Officials*

# Tennis Australia Code for Officials

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Tennis Australia (TA), the ITF, ATP and WTA require a high standard of professionalism from all certified officials and other officials working at TA, ITF, ATP and WTA events.

These standards are as follows:

- Officials must be in good physical condition.
- Officials must have natural or corrected vision of 20-20 and normal hearing. In addition, International Chair Umpires must submit an eye test form each year to ITF Officiating and all certified officials must submit an eye test form every three years to the relevant officiating body.
- Officials must be on time for all matches assigned to them.
- Officials must understand the Rules of Tennis, the Duties and Procedures for Officials and all TA, ITF, ATP and WTA Tournament Regulations and Codes of Conduct for events at which they are officiating.
- Officials should maintain personal hygiene and should maintain a professional appearance at all times.
- Officials must not drink any alcoholic drinks before any match on the day they are to officiate, or at any time on-site while play is in progress, or while in uniform. As a guideline, officials should not drink alcoholic drinks for 12 hours before officiating.
- Officials must maintain complete impartiality with respect to all players at all times. An official must not officiate in any match in which he/she has a relationship with one of the players that might be considered a conflict of interest. The perception of a conflict shall render an Official unsuitable for such an assignment.
- Officials shall not socialise with or become intimate with players, or enter into any relationship or take any action that casts doubt on his/her impartiality as a tennis official. Officials are not prohibited from attending social functions at which players may be present. Officials are not prohibited from staying in the same hotels as players, however officials shall not share a hotel room with any player of any age.
- Officials must register any potential conflict of interest with ITF Officiating and/or Tennis Australia/ Tennis Officials Australia as appropriate. This includes when a certified official is a professional tennis player, National Tennis Coach, a National Tennis Team Captain, a close friend, relative or coach of a professional tennis player. They should also register the fact that they work for a company that has a commercial interest in tennis, or as a Tournament Director/Organiser.
- Officials must not criticise or attempt to explain calls or decisions by other officials to anyone other than to those officials directly, the supervisor/Referee or the TA, ITF, ATP and WTA Tour staff responsible for officiating. Officials must not negatively comment on or criticise other Officials, Officiating bodies or tournaments either in writing (including social media) or verbally at any time. Such comment or criticism, where required, must be conducted via the appropriate bodies or with specific, relevant individuals.
- Officials shall comply with the applicable criminal laws in all jurisdictions. For the avoidance of doubt, and without limiting the foregoing, this obligation is violated if an Official is convicted of or enters a plea of guilty or no contest to a criminal charge or indictment for any offence in any jurisdiction.
- Officials are bound by and must comply with all of the provisions of the Uniform Tennis Anti-Corruption Program, and it is their responsibility to acquaint themselves with all the program rules, including the requirement to report any potentially corrupt approaches to the Tennis Integrity Unit ([confidential@tennisintegrityunit.com](mailto:confidential@tennisintegrityunit.com)).

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- Officials must not bet anything in any manner in connection with any tennis event. Officials must not induce or encourage any other person to gamble or enter into any other form of financial speculation on any match or occurrence at any tennis event. Officials must not receive any money, benefit or other reward (whether financial or otherwise) for the provision of any information concerning the weather, the players, the courts, the status of, or the outcome of, any match or occurrence at any tennis event.
- Officials must not participate in a media interview or meeting with a journalist where their statements relating to tennis officiating can be printed or broadcast without the approval of the Supervisor/Referee.
- Officials shall not engage in unfair, unprofessional, criminal or unethical conduct, including attempt to injure or intentionally interfere with other Officials, players, tournament personnel and public. All Officials must also set a good example in their conduct to other Officials.
- Officials shall not abuse his/her position of authority or control, and shall not compromise the psychological, physical or emotional wellbeing of other Officials, players or tournament personnel.
- Officials shall not engage in sexual harassment or sexually abuse other Officials, players or tournament personnel.
- Officials must make all tournament related requests to the Supervisor/Referee or Chief Umpire, rather than making requests directly to the Tournament Director or staff.
- Officials shall commit to each event they work at until released by the Supervisor/Referee. If an Official has accepted a tournament selection, he/she shall not withdraw from that tournament to officiate at another tournament at the same time, without the permission of the ATP, Grand Slam Tournaments, ITF or WTA officiating representatives, as applicable.
- Officials must operate within the rules and spirit of tennis, promoting fair play over winning at any cost.
- Officials must encourage and support opportunities for people to learn appropriate behaviours and skills.
- Officials must support opportunities for participation in all aspects of the sport.
- Officials must treat each person as an individual.
- Officials must display control and courtesy to all involved with the sport.
- Officials must respect the rights and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Officials must respect the decisions of officials, coaches and administrators in the conduct of the sport.
- Officials must wherever practical, avoid unaccompanied and unobserved one-on-one activity (when in a supervisory capacity or where a power imbalance will exist) with people under the age of 18 years.
- Officials must adopt appropriate and responsible behaviour in all interactions.
- Officials must act with integrity and objectivity, and accept responsibility for their decisions and actions.
- Officials must ensure their decisions and actions contribute to a safe environment.
- Officials must ensure their decisions and actions contribute to a harassment free environment.

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- Officials must not tolerate harmful or abusive behaviours.
- Officials must place the safety and welfare of the athletes above all else.
- Officials must be consistent and impartial when making decisions.
- Officials must address unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all people.

## Violations

Violations of the Code for Officials must be reported immediately by the Referee/Supervisor/Chief of Officials to the governing body of the tournament (TA, MA, ITF, ATP or WTA Tour) and also to the Officiating body responsible for the Officials accreditation/certification.

The Referee/Supervisor/Chief of Officials has the authority to release an Official from a tournament for a violation of the Code for Officials but where practical this decision should be taken together with the person responsible for Officiating in the relevant organisation. A Referee/Supervisor/Chief of Officials may choose not to assign an Official at a tournament until he/she has been able to contact the person responsible for officiating in the relevant organisation. An Official who violates any of these required standards may have their accreditation/certification withdrawn or he/she may be suspended from officiating for a certain period as decided by the relevant officiating organisation.

