



Points of Stress for College Tennis Officials

Vol 2, No 3 | March 2017

Here We Go Again

Our 60th and last 2016-2017 ITA Certification Webinar was held March 2, bringing our number of dues-paying, certified ITA officials to about 1,570.

And we're already into the planning for the next round, 2017-2018 certifications. Remember that our certification year is Sept. 1-Aug. 31. Our tentative timeline is as follows:

- **May 1:** New test becomes available for officials seeking recertification for 2017-2018 (not for new officials). In order to access test, ITA annual dues must be paid for 2017-2018.
- **May 30-July 23:** Recertification webinars. The test must be taken in advance of attending webinar.
- **Aug. 1:** Deadline for all recertifying officials to be currently certified USTA officials.
- **Aug. 1:** New test becomes available for officials seeking first-time ITA certification. ITA dues must be paid in advance and prospective ITA official must be certified USTA official).
- **Aug. 14-Sept. 3:** Certification webinars for officials seeking first-time ITA certification.

Uniform Update

The official ITA uniform shirts and other apparel (which will **not** be required for ITA matches until Sept. 1) should be available online at the tascperformance.com website starting in early April. There will be three ITA-logoed items approved for wear: a heather gray short-sleeved polo; a heather gray 1/4-zip long-sleeved pullover; and a white cap. There is no ITA-logoed outerwear at present. There will be the option to purchase gray outerwear through Tasc, however it will not have the ITA logo on it. Preferred outerwear should be a dark gray or black windshirt, sweatshirt, sweater or jacket.

Tasc is offering a 45% discount to officials for non-officiating apparel items on its website.

Come Sept. 1, the new ITA uniform will be required wear at all ITA-sanctioned events. The only exceptions will be if an event provides uniforms or if a conference adopts its own officials' uniform. **Uniforms for sections, umpiring associations, etc., are not permitted.**

It's Not My Job . . .

Most officials tend to be control-oriented, and tennis referees in particular. Present a referee with an issue and the inclination is to take charge and resolve it. But there are times when a referee has to learn to say (hard as this may be), "That's not for me to decide."

We taught at the certification webinars that referees should not be involved in the pre-match decision to play indoors or out due to cold/wind factors. The rulebook is explicit in its standards, but some coaches still will want to argue it. And while a referee might mediate a discussion between the coaches on the issue, if the coaches can't agree, it's not the referee's decision. If the coaches can't agree, step back, take a deep breath and tell the head coach to call the conference office (if it's a conference match) or the ITA (non-conference) for guidance.

Another example comes from a question posted to our ZebraWeb rules forum:

The home coach told the visiting coach in advance of the match that he only had five players available. The visiting coach only brought five players to the match, but listed a sixth player in the #3 doubles and #6 singles. The home coach wanted those two matches declared double defaults because that sixth player was not on site for the match.

Your answer as referee: "That's not for me to decide. You need to call your conference (or the ITA)."

Lineup disputes is another situation in which the referee has no decisive role. If a coach has concerns about the opponent's lineup, the referee can see if a pre-match discussion between the coaches can resolve the dispute, but otherwise the referee simply needs to inform the disputing coach of the need to formally protest the opponent's lineup before the match starts and to perfect that protest by filing it with the ITA after the match.



Points of Stress for College Tennis Officials

Vol 2, No 3 | March 2017

Learning to Adapt

When a blizzard struck the Northeast in mid-February while the ITA Women's Indoor Championships were being held at Yale, the officiating crew was undaunted, finding new and inventive uses for their Game Point paddles (and why do they say "Game Point" anyway, when we announce "Deciding Point"?). Check out [this video](#) to see how it's not always business as usual.

Your Newsletter

Have you had a knotty problem, or perhaps an enlightening example from a fall tournament on the application of new ITA rules? If so, please email relevant details to our editor, [Rebel Good](#), for discussion in a subsequent issue of ITAlics.

National Team Indoor Championships

The ITA would like to recognize those officials selected to work the 2017 National Team Indoor Championships.

Division I Men's Team Indoors, hosted by the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA:

Anthony Montero (Referee), Richard Rogers (Deputy Referee), Carla Brangenberg, Adam Dalton, Matthew Dolge, Rebel Good, Martha Gregg, Vivek Kumar, Rob Meister, Steven Menoff, Mark Raynes, Chris Rodger, Reliford Sanders, Joseph Torres & Lisa Watkins.

Division I Women's Team Indoors, hosted by Yale University, New Haven, CT:

Carole Cox (Referee), Reliford Sanders (Deputy Referee), Alex Botoman, Ann Bowman, Martha Gregg, Keith Hetsko, Allyson Huston, Maria Long, Rob Meister, Steve Menoff, Anthony Montero, Mark Raynes, Isabelle Snyder, Jason Tong, John Wilson & Sharon Wright.

Division III Men's Team Indoors, hosted by Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH:

Jerri Banks, Wynndel Burns, Phil Christman, Julio Colon, Betsy Craig, Connie Edwards, Barry Fittes, Deb Hodges, Jackie Maynard, Jen Meister, Mark Renicker, Doug Rice & Bill Urbanski.

Division III Women's Team Indoors, hosted by Sewanee: University of the South, Murfreesboro, TN:

Coleen Davis, Dalen Farmer, Carey Lowndes, Ron McKinney, Philip Pettaway, Pat Robington & Tracey Williams.



Division I Men's Team Indoor Championships



Division I Women's Team Indoor Championships