

Directives for Match Officials at World Title Competitions and ITTF Sanctioned Events

Definitions

World Title competitions include – but are not limited to – the table tennis competition at the Quadrennial Summer Olympic, World Olympic Qualifications and Youth Olympic Games, the Quadrennial Summer Paralympic Games, the World Team Championships, the World Individual Championships, the World Junior Championships, the World Para Table Tennis Individual Championships, the World Para Table Tennis Team Championships, the Men's World Cup, the Women's World Cup, the World Team Cup, and other events so designated by the Executive Committee.

World Tour event: all events according to the ITTF calendar marked as World Tour and Platinum Event, but excluding Challenge events.

ITTF Sanctioned events include all events so designated by the Executive Committee and published on the ITTF calendar from time to time.

Host – Host Organizing Committee, Host Association, Host Governing Body.

URC – The Umpires and Referees Committee; the Chair of the Umpires and Referees Committee; any of the designated officials of the Umpires and Referees Committee.

IR – ITTF International Referee.

IR(A) – ITTF International Referee Advanced – very competent referees identified by URC who have undertaken, or are undertaking, a suitable training and evaluation program. Any reference to IR also includes IR (A).

IR(C) – ITTF Certified International Referee – an individual who has passed the referee examination, but with insufficient English ability; can officiate as a referee or deputy referee in countries where their language is spoken.

NR – National Referee – individuals who have successfully completed their Association internal National Referee certification program or the ITTF certified National Referee's Course.

IU - ITTF International Umpire - **also referred to as White Badge (WB).**

Blue Badge IU (BB) – ITTF International Umpire who has attended an Advanced Umpire Training course, passed an Advanced Rules Exam and fulfilled all other requirements under the Blue Badge Umpires Programme.

Blue Badge in Progress IU (BBiP) – ITTF International Umpire who has attended an Advanced Umpire Training course, passed an Advanced Rules Exam but is yet to fulfil all requirements under the Blue Badge Umpires Programme.

NU – National Umpire – individuals who have successfully completed their Association's highest internal umpire certification program, or the ITTF certified National Umpire's Course.

Match officials – include referees, umpires, evaluators, course conductors, and umpires' coordinator.

Number of Referees

Number of Referees = Referee plus 2 deputy referees for one playing hall of 16 tables or less. For each additional hall or if a playing hall has more than 16 tables then an additional deputy referee is necessary. These numbers may need to be increased for World Championships, especially for qualification days where local IRs or NRs may be used. For events with 4 or fewer tables only 1 deputy referee is required. If considered warranted 4 referees could be used for one hall of less than 16 tables, especially if the event lasts 4 days or longer.

Number of Umpires

All events are divided into different stages:

Qualification, Main Draw and Final Days (last two days of an event)

Each stage requires a different number of umpires. The number of umpires depends on the tables in use for each stage.

Umpires are only present for the stage for which they are selected.

Following minimum number of umpires are necessary:

World Title Competitions:

Qualification and Main draw (with more than 2 tables): Number of tables x 4 + 4

Main draw with 2 tables: Number of tables x 4

Final days with 1 table: 6

World Tour Events:

Qualification: Number of tables x 2 + 2 – at least one umpire per table is required

Main draw: Number of tables x 4

Final days (1 table): 6

Other ITTF Sanctioned Events:

Qualification: Number of tables x 2 + 2 – at least one umpire per table is required

Main draw: Number of tables x 4

Nomination, Acceptance and Declination of Match Officials

All Referee and Umpire nominations must also be accepted – or declined – by the Association of the nominee.

Age will not be a consideration in the selections of Referees and Umpires.

Referees & Deputy Referees

Subject	World Title competitions	World Tour events	ITTF Sanctioned events
Referee	Must be an active IR(A)	Must be an active IR	Must be an active IR or IR(C).
Deputy Referee(s)	Must be active IRs (except for the qualification days in World Championships).	Must be active IRs	At least half must be active IRs or IR(C)s with no more than one NR.
Selection of Referees	By the URC in co-operation with the Host.	By the Host in co-operation with the URC for all IRs. URC has the option to appoint one of the deputy referees.	By the Host in co-operation with the URC for all IRs. By the Host for one NR.
Language	The Referee and all Deputy Referees must be able to communicate in English.	The Referee and all Deputy Referees must be able to communicate in English.	The Referee and all Deputy Referees should be able to communicate in English or any language that is common to the players, umpires, referees and the Host. It is the responsibility of the Host to make sure that an interpreter is available for the Referee and Deputy Referees if any of them are unable to communicate in English.
Referee mix	At least two-thirds of the Referees shall be from Associations other than the Host (except for the qualification days in World Championships).	At least one-third of the Referees shall be from Associations other than the Host.	At least one-third of the Referees shall be from Associations other than the Host.

Referee	The URC will nominate a very competent, qualified and knowledgeable IR (A) with prior experience at major events as the Referee. To ensure neutrality in all aspects of the competition, the IR will not be from the Host in World Title competitions.	The Host will nominate for approval by the URC preferably a qualified and experienced IR from either the Host or from the same continent as the Host. If there are no qualified or experienced IRs from the same continent as the Host, the Host will nominate a qualified and experienced IR from another continent for approval by the URC.	The Host will nominate for approval by the URC preferably a qualified and experienced IR or IR(C) from either the Host or from the same continent as the Host. If there are no qualified or experienced IRs from the same continent as the Host, the Host will nominate a qualified and experienced IR from another continent for approval by the URC.
Deputy Referees	The URC will nominate additional numbers of qualified and experienced IRs as required, ensuring that either the Referee or one of the Deputy Referees will be from the Host and one from the Host of the next same World Title event – if already designated.	The first Deputy Referee must be an active IR from an Association other than the Host. The Host will inform the URC about the recommended IR at least 4 months before the event. Subsequent Deputy Referees must be active IRs, either from the Host or from another Association.	The first Deputy Referee must be an IR or IR(C) from an Association other than the Host. The Host will inform the URC about the recommended IR at least 4 months before the event. The second Deputy Referee can be an IR, IR(C) or NR from the Host or an IR or IR(C) from another Association. Subsequent Deputy Referees can be IRs or IR(C)s from any continent or one NR from the Host.

Umpires & Assistant umpires

Subject	World Title competitions	World Tour events	ITTF Sanctioned events
Umpires	<p>Olympic Games:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All umpires and assistant umpires required for the event must be Blue Badge IUs. <p>Youth Olympic Games:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All umpires and assistant umpires required for the event must be IUs or umpires selected based on separate training program of the URC. At least 30% of the umpires must be Blue Badge IUs. <p>Paralympic Games:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All umpires and assistant umpires required for the event must be IUs. Umpires selected by the URC must be Blue Badge IUs. 	<p>Platinum events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All umpires and assistant umpires required for the main draw must be BB or BBiP IUs. WB and NUs can be used for matches at the qualification stages of the competition <p>Other World Tour events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 75% of the total number of umpires required for the event must be IUs. NUs can be used for qualification matches and matches at the early 	At least 50% of the total number of umpires required for the event must be IUs.

	<p>Other World Title competitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 75% of the total number of umpires required for the event must be IUs. NUs can be used for matches at the early stages of the competition (preferably as Assistant Umpires) and may not be used for matches in quarterfinals, semi-finals and finals. 	<p>stages of the main draw (preferably as Assistant Umpires) and may not be used for matches in quarterfinals, semi-finals and finals.</p>	
Foreign IUs	<p>Olympic Games:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There should be only one IU from each Association with the exception of the Host. Up to 1/6 of the total umpires may be from the Host. <p>Youth Olympic Games:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 50% of the umpires shall be from Associations other than the Host. <p>Paralympic Games:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There should be only one IU from each Association with the exception of the Host. Up to 33% of the total umpires may be selected by the Host. <p>World Championships, World Junior Championships, World Olympic Qualifications and World Para Table Tennis Championships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 50% of the umpires shall be from Associations other than the Host. <p>Other World Title competitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 30% of the umpires shall be from Associations other than the Host, representing at least five Associations with at least three IUs from continents other than the Host. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 50% of the umpires for the main draw shall be from Associations other than the Host, representing at least five Associations and two continents 	<p>At least 25% of the umpires shall be from Associations other than the Host, representing at least three Associations.</p>

	<p>If the total number of umpires on hand does not support such allocation, then a proportional distribution of qualified IUs based on geographical diversity would be suggested by the URC.</p>		
<p>Invitations and Selection of Umpires</p>	<p>Olympic Games:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The URC will directly select all foreign IUs, and the Host will select their umpires. All must be Blue Badge IUs. <p>Youth Olympic Games:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The URC will directly select all foreign IUs, and the Host will select their umpires. <p>Paralympic Games:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The URC will directly select all foreign IUs. All must be Blue Badge IUs. The Host will select up to 33% of the total umpires. <p>World Championships, World Junior Championships, World Olympic Qualifications, World Para Table Tennis Championships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The URC will invite Associations to nominate any IU meeting a URC defined set of criteria and any other criteria set by each Association's internal selection process. The URC will select all foreign IUs in cooperation with the Host. URC nominations for each stage will be based on a blend of the levels of IU certification, recent IU activities, personal evaluations and results on written exams, as well as gender and geographic distributions; and for junior events, special considerations may be given to more recently qualified officials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Host association of an event may nominate up to 8 home BB umpires for the main draw and up to two home BB umpires for the Final days. If the Host association of an event has less than 4 BB home umpires, they can nominate additional White Badge Umpires to have at least four home umpires for the Main Draw. The URC will invite Associations to nominate any IU meeting a URC defined set of criteria and any other criteria set by each Association's internal selection process for the main draw/final days The URC will select all foreign IUs in cooperation with the Host. URC nominations for each stage will be based on a blend of the levels of IU certification, recent IU activities, personal evaluations and results on written exams, as well as gender and geographic distributions; The Host will invite and nominate all domestic IUs and NUs for the qualification days 	<p>The Host will select the Associations to invite and define the criteria – without specifying any names - which each nominated IU must meet in order to be accepted by the Host.</p> <p>The Host will invite all NUs and define the criteria that each NU must meet in order to be accepted by the Host.</p> <p>The URC will have the option to nominate up to 1/4 of the total number of foreign umpires in order to provide training and evaluation opportunities for selected IUs to meet global ITTF objectives as well as worldwide geographical diversity.</p> <p>The URC will inform the Host of the target Associations to be invited at least two months in advance in implementing this option.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Host will nominate all domestic IUs and NUs, and in cooperation with the URC define the criteria that each must meet in order to be accepted by the Host. 		
<p>Hospitality</p>	<p>All visiting match officials shall be provided with free accommodation, meals and local transport on the same basis and to the same standard as visiting players starting the evening before their first working day and finishing with breakfast after their last working day.</p> <p>Daily allowance: Referee: 100 USD or the equivalent for each day of the competition and two days for the preparation before the event Deputy Referee: 100 USD or the equivalent for each day of the competition and one day for the preparation before the event Umpires: Blue Badge umpires shall receive a daily allowance of 100 USD or equivalent for each working day in the main draw and 60 USD or equivalent for each working day in the qualification stage. Other umpires shall receive a minimum allowance of 30 USD or equivalent for each working day.</p> <p>The allowance should be paid to the match officials by the second day of the tournament.</p> <p>The Host will pay the lowest cost reasonable economy airfare of the referee, deputy referees and Final Day Umpires</p>	<p>All visiting match officials shall be provided with free accommodation, meals and local transport on the same basis and to the same standard as visiting players starting the evening before their first working day and finishing with breakfast after their last working day.</p> <p>Daily allowance: Referee: 100 USD or the equivalent for each day of the competition and two days for the preparation before the event Deputy Referee: 100 USD or the equivalent for each day of the competition and one day for the preparation before the event Umpires: Blue Badge umpires shall receive a daily allowance of 100 USD or equivalent for each working day in the main draw and 60 USD or equivalent for each working day in the qualification stage. Other umpires nominated by the organisers shall receive a minimum allowance of 30 USD or equivalent for each working day.</p> <p>The allowance should be paid to the match officials by the second day of the tournament.</p> <p>The Host will pay the lowest cost reasonable economy airfare of the referee, deputy referees and Final Day Umpires</p>	<p>The Host defines all of the criteria for visiting match officials' hospitality, and must clearly include them in the invitation letter to other Associations.</p> <p>Any omissions on the standard of hospitality that will be provided are presumed to be at a level equal to – or better than – the level for World Title competitions.</p> <p>All visiting match officials shall be provided with a minimum allowance of 30 USD or the equivalent for each day of the competition. Referee will receive 2 more days for the preparation before the event. Deputy referees will receive one more day for the preparation before the event The allowance should be paid to the match officials by the second day of the tournament.</p> <p>The Host will pay the lowest cost reasonable economy airfare of the referee and deputy referees.</p>

<p>Other Match Officials</p>	<p>The URC may invite certified ITTF course conductors and/or evaluators to conduct training and evaluations for umpires before or during the event. The URC may also appoint an Umpires Coordinator for the proper governance of the match officials and competition procedures. Evaluations will not take place when only 1 table is in use.</p> <p>The Host will provide an office/workplace with computer and internet access for Umpires Coordinator near the field of play.</p> <p>All other match officials) shall be provided with free accommodation, meals and local transport on the same basis and to the same standard as visiting players starting the evening before their first working day and finishing with breakfast after their last working day.</p>	<p>The URC may invite certified ITTF course conductors and/or evaluators to conduct training and evaluations for umpires before or during the event. Evaluations will not take place when only 1 table is in use.</p> <p>The Host will provide an office/workplace with computer and internet access for the URC course conductors/evaluators near the field of play.</p> <p>All other match officials shall be provided with free accommodation, meals and local transport on the same basis and to the same standard as visiting players starting the evening before their first working day and finishing with breakfast after their last working day.</p>	<p>The URC may invite certified ITTF course conductors and/or evaluators to conduct training and evaluations for umpires before or during the event.</p> <p>The Host will provide an office/workplace with computer and internet access for the URC course conductors/evaluators near the field of play.</p> <p>All other match officials shall be provided with free accommodation, meals and local transport on the same basis and to the same standard as visiting players starting the evening before their first working day and finishing with breakfast after their last working day.</p>
<p>Field of play procedure</p>	<p>The Host will implement the current ITTF field of play procedure as defined in the latest version of the ITTF Handbook for Match Officials.</p>	<p>The Host will implement the current ITTF field of play procedure as defined in the latest version of the ITTF Handbook for Match Officials.</p>	<p>The Host may implement the current ITTF field of play procedure as defined in the latest version of the ITTF Handbook for Match Officials.</p>
<p>Duty day</p>	<p>Umpires shall receive at least a 20-minute break every three hours on duty.</p>	<p>Umpires shall receive at least a 20-minute break every three hours on duty.</p>	<p>Umpires shall be on duty for no more than 8 hours in a day and shall receive at least a 20-minute break every three hours on duty.</p>
<p>Umpire Uniform</p>	<p>IUs from the same Association shall be dressed alike or in the recommended ITTF IU uniform.</p>		
<p>Acknowledgment</p>	<p>The names and Associations of all match officials shall be included in the official programme.</p> <p>In staged matches the names of the umpires for each match shall be announced.</p>		

Changing and Storage area for Officials	The Host shall provide a secure changing and storage area near the field of play for all match officials to maintain their personal belongings while on duty.
---	---

To achieve ITTF objectives, special consideration should be given to the selection of women for the positions of referee and umpire at all World, Olympic and Paralympic events.

The URC has the discretion to waive certain requirements for ITTF sanctioned junior events and the PTT Division may waive certain requirements for PTT events.

The URC, in consultation with the Competition Program, has the discretion to override any of these Directives in exceptional circumstances.

Effective: 1 January 2019