

INTRODUCTION TO OFFICIATING

SATURDAY 18TH AND SUNDAY 19TH NOVEMBER

Thank you for your interest in the Introduction to Officiating Clinic. We are happy that you are considering joining our team!

PLEASE NOTE: The clinic is for those who are interested in working as a tennis official. This is not a "rules school" for players! Rules Schools are held in the early spring in preparation for league play and details of these will be available on the Tennis BC website nearer the time.

The clinic will teach you the Rules of Tennis and basic on court techniques. In order to obtain certification and work as an official, attendees are also required to complete on-court training at upcoming tournaments. New officials start as roving (on-court) umpires and line umpires, and are invited to progress to chair/chief/referee as their experience grows.

Attendance at the clinic, and the subsequent on court tournament training is mandatory to obtain certification.

Saturday November 18th 9:30am to 4:30pm

This is the classroom module of the course and is will be held at the Tennis BC office in Vancouver. You will be provided with the Tennis Canada rulebook "Rules of the Court" and the Introduction to Officiating Manual. You may want to bring a notepad and pen to take notes.

This session consists of a PowerPoint presentation, videos and interactive role play. You will learn the Rules of Tennis, Code of Conduct and the basic techniques of Roving Umpire work.

You will also be introduced to the Officiating Pathway and the structure of the Tennis Canada Officiating Program and we will cover the opportunities for work in BC, and as you progress, across Canada and International work.

Sunday November 19th – Daytime shifts

This is the on-court module of the course and is held in conjunction with the Tennis BC Junior Selection Series. You will be involved in pre-match talks, coin toss etc and on court match supervision. You may be paired with an experienced official to learn roving techniques. Please wear a black top, khaki pants and tennis shoes to this session.

There will be a separate email with sign up for shifts on this day. This will either be at Hollyburn Country Club or UBC Tennis Centre.

Line Umpire Training

Line Umpire work does not really start until the summer season begins. In the early spring you will be advised of the training opportunities, usually at the Open Series events in Vancouver. There will also be an additional training session before the Women's ITF pro event in early June. Those who progress quickly may be offered trainee positions at the ITF Futures men's professional events and other circuit tournaments in the province. Our biggest event is the combined ITF/ATP event – Vancouver Open in August.

Working as an Official

Once certified, you will be added to the BC Officiating group and will start to receive the regular email communications about upcoming work opportunities and other officiating events. In addition, you will

have access to the Tennis Canada officiating intranet with news, resources and applications for events across the country.

The majority of officiating work for new officials in BC is as a Roving Umpire and takes place on evenings and weekends in the indoor season. During the summer there are more events and these can be during weekdays, evenings and weekends.

Officials advise their availability and are scheduled accordingly.

Development and Progression

The more you work, the more you learn – there really is no substitute for on court experience. Some officials find that they really enjoy work as a Roving Umpire and just work in that role, others take it to the next level and train to become Chair Umpires. Others focus on Line Umpire work and spend their summers travelling to work at various tournaments. The majority of the officials in BC do some work in all of the various roles.

As an official you may choose to do all roles (RU, LU, CU) or just to concentrate on one or two. We can discuss your preferences once you start your officiating journey.

International Work??

If you enjoy working as an official, and you have the aptitude and flexibility to work at numerous events to increase your experience, you will find that there are opportunities to work at events around the world. This year BC officials have been to Brazil, US, Acapulco, Rome, Madrid, Los Cabos and of course our home event Rogers Cup. BC was proud to have 9 officials at the Rogers Cup/Coupe Rogers this year.

We hope you will enjoy officiating as much as we do, and look forward to welcoming you to our team!

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at abees@tenniscanada.com