

INTRODUCTION TO OFFICIATING

24TH AND 25TH SEPTEMBER 2016

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 both days of the clinic, and the subsequent on court tournament training is mandatory to obtain certification.

Saturday 24th September – 9am to 4pm

This is the classroom module of the course and is held at the Tennis BC office (#204-210 West Broadway, Vancouver – corner of Columbia and Broadway). 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 and Line Umpire work. We will also take a brief look at the role of the Chair Umpire and Referee.

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.

We will take a short break for lunch. You are welcome to bring your own lunch, or there are many options to purchase food within a short distance of the Tennis BC Office.

Sunday 25th September – 11am to 6pm

This is the on-court module of the course and is held at the UBC Tennis Centre. The day will start with roving techniques, pre-match talks, coin toss etc. After this session, we will move to the Line Umpire module where you will be taught the techniques for working as a Line Umpire at professional tournaments. You will try your hand at each of the LU positions, and we will make time for a short Q and A before you take your multiple choice test at the end of the day.

Please wear tennis shoes and sport attire to this module, and those of you who wish may bring their tennis racquets as we will need some people to take turns playing as others call lines. Watch out for those foot faults!

On Court Training and Evaluation

Once the clinic is completed, in order to complete your certification, you will be required to complete several sessions as a trainee roving umpire on court at tournaments in the Vancouver area. This is where

you will really start to learn! It is one thing to know the rules, and quite another to be able to solve an on court dispute in the appropriate manner. In fact, even the most experienced of officials are still learning at each tournament they work. You will be mentored on court by an experienced official and provided with evaluation feedback after each session. On court, we find that people progress at different paces and after your first session we will be able to give you a better idea of how long your certification may take. You will be given a list of tournaments that have trainee spots available at the clinic and you will be able to sign up for your on court training at that time.

Line Umpire work does not really start until the summer season begins. In the spring you will be advised of the training opportunities, usually at the Open Series events. Those who progress quickly may be offered trainee positions at the ITF Futures men's professional events and other circuit tournaments.

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