

Technical Officials Overview

Technical Officials (TO's) are an important group of experts who play a critical role in the development of the game. USA Badminton is committed to developing and maintaining the skills of its TO's in order that its members are served by top level TO's for its events in the United States. The coordination and management of TO's for USA Badminton is the responsibility of the Technical Officials Advisory Group (COC)

TO's should be current and active USA Badminton members and represent USA Badminton when they are active in their officiating duties. Generally USA Badminton TO's would only officiate at sanctioned events. TO's fill out an annual record of work and submit this to the Chairperson of the COC to document that they are current and active. When a TO demonstrates that he is not active, his name will be placed in the inactive list for TO's until such time as he documents that he is active again.

USA Badminton Umpire Development Route

Regional Level Umpire

The Regional Umpire is the first level of recognized officiating. The umpire should have familiarity with the Laws of Badminton, have been introduced to the recommendations to Technical Officials, be able to use the umpire's score sheet, understand the importance of using proper umpire vocabulary, be able to call obvious faults and lets during a match, and be able to identify and call obvious service faults during a match

Generally the candidate would attend an umpire clinic offered by a National Level umpire which normally takes several hours. Most clinics are run coincident with a competition where the candidates can gain on court practical experience. The clinician would also generally administer a one hour written exam which goes over the Laws of Badminton and the recommendations to Technical Officials.

On successful completion of the exam and on court experience the candidate would have his name submitted to the USAB office as a new Regional USAB umpire. The umpire would receive a certificate and official umpire shirt from the office forthwith.

Regional Level umpires must officiate 10 matches per year in order to remain active.

National Level 1 Umpire

After having attended a number of tournaments to gain on court experience the candidate can ask to be evaluated for National Level 1 umpire. A candidate for this level should demonstrate proper use of umpire vocabulary, have adequate voice projection and tone of voice, have comprehensive knowledge of the Laws of Badminton and the Recommendations to Technical Officials and be able to demonstrate that in a two hour written test. He/she should be able to identify and call each type of fault and lets during a match, demonstrate control of the court and its surroundings in numerous matches, be able to identify and call each type of service faults during a match, and be able to demonstrate the ability to umpire and service judge domestic tournament matches up to and including the semi-finals of Adult Nationals. Generally a period of evaluation of one year will pass prior to further advancement. Umpires at this level can anticipate being invited to umpire at tournaments in his/her region with an occasional appointment to a national tournament outside of his region.

While working at a tournament the umpire should expect a per diem payment of \$35 per day and food and accommodation being provided by the tournament committee.

National level 1 umpires must officiate 25 matches per year in order to remain active.

National Level 2 Umpire

Assessment for National Level 2 could occur after an umpire has attended an appropriate number of tournaments as determined by the COC and has shown that he/she consistently applies the Laws of Badminton and Recommendations to Technical Officials during play.

He/she should demonstrate the ability to maintain control of the court and its surroundings under pressure situations.

He/she should consistently be able to correctly call each type of service fault.

At this level the umpire would have the ability to umpire and service judge all domestic tournament matches up to and including the finals of Adult Nationals, and early rounds of the U.S. Open up to and including the Quarter Finals.

He/she should demonstrate team work and camaraderie within the Technical Officials team working various events.

He/she demonstrates sufficient ability to be appointed to a Pan American event and is capable of conducting an umpire clinic for Regional Level umpires.

Generally a period of evaluation of one year will pass prior to further advancement.

National Level 2 umpires must officiate 35 matches per year in order to remain active.

National Level 3 Umpire

An umpire at this level consistently applies and demonstrates knowledge of the Laws of Badminton and the Recommendations to Technical Officials. He/she is viewed by his peers and players in general as knowledgeable in these areas. He/she has the ability to umpire and service judge matches up to and including semi finals of the U.S. Open and demonstrates sufficient ability to be appointed to an International exchange tournament. He/she conducts umpire training for regional and National level umpires. Generally one year of evaluation will pass prior to further advancement.

National Level 3 umpires must officiate 50 matches per year in order to remain active.

Pan American Accredited Umpire

After having demonstrated sufficient experience and working capability an umpire will be recommended by the COC to be evaluated for Pan American Accredited level. Along with attending a Pan American event for on court assessment the umpire will take a 90 minute written examination. Usually a two year period of evaluation will pass prior to further advancement. The umpire can anticipate at least one Pan American appointment opportunity each year.

Pan American Accredited umpires must officiate 100 matches per year in order to remain active.

Pan American Certificated Umpire

After having demonstrated sufficient experience and working capability an umpire will receive further assessment from the Pan American COC with the agreement of the USAB COC. Usually a two year period of evaluation will pass prior to further advancement. The umpire can anticipate at least one Pan American appointment opportunity each year.

Pan American Certificated umpires must officiate 100 matches per year in order to remain active.

Badminton World Accredited Umpire

After having demonstrated sufficient experience and working capability an umpire will have the opportunity for further assessment from the BWF umpire assessment committee. This assessment is usually held at one of the BWF events during the year such as the Thomas/Uber cup, Sudirman Cup, or World Championships and includes on court evaluation and a 90 minute written test. Usually a two year period of evaluation will pass prior to further advancement. The umpire can anticipate at least one BWF appointment opportunity each year.

BWF Accredited umpires must officiate 100 matches and work ten tournaments per year in order to remain active.

Badminton World Certificated Umpire

This is the highest level of Badminton umpires on the world stage. The umpires in this class generally receive opportunities to umpire at least one BWF event per year along with various continental appointment opportunities. The Olympics is reserved for this class alone along with the Thomas and Uber Cup finals.

BWF Certificated umpires must officiate 100 matches and work ten tournaments per year in order to remain active.