

Code for Officials

The Hong Kong Tennis Association (HKTA) requires a high standard of professionalism from all officials working at tournaments organized or sanctioned by HKTA. The standards are as follows:

1. Officials must be in good physical condition.
2. Officials must have natural or corrected vision of 20-20 and normal hearing. In addition, it is recommended that all officials should have their eye test every two (2) years.
3. Officials must be on time for all matches assigned to them.
4. Officials must understand the Rule of Tennis, the Duties and Procedures for Officials and all tournament regulations and codes of conduct for events at which they are officiating.
5. Officials should maintain personal hygiene and should maintain a professional appearance at all times.
6. Officials must not drink any alcoholic drinks before any match on the day they are to officiate, or at any time on-site while play is in progress, or while in uniform. As a guideline, officials should not drink alcoholic drinks for 12 hours before officiating.
7. Officials must maintain complete impartiality with respect to all players at all times. An official must not officiate in any match he/she has a relationship with one of the players that might be considered a conflict of interest. The perception of a conflict shall render an official unsuitable for such an assignment.
Officials shall not socialize with or become intimate with players, or enter into any relationship or take any action that casts doubt on his/her impartiality as a tennis official. However, officials are not prohibited from staying in the same hotel as players nor from attending social functions at which players may be present.
All officials must register any potential conflict of interest with HKTA. This includes when an official is a professional tennis player, tennis coach, a tennis team captain, a close friend, relative or coach of a tennis player. They should register the fact that they work for a company that has commercial interest in tennis, or as a tournament director or organizer.
8. Officials must not criticize or attempt to explain calls or decisions by other officials to anyone other than to those officials directly, the Supervisor / Referee or the tournament staff responsible for officiating.
9. Officials must not gamble in any manner in connection with any tennis event. Officials must not induce or encourage any other person to gamble or enter into any other form of financial speculation on any match or occurrence at any tennis event. Officials must not receive any money, benefit or other reward (whether financial or otherwise) for the provision of any information concerning the weather, the players, the courts, the status of, or the outcome of, any match or occurrence at any tennis event.
10. Officials shall not have conversations with the crowd, except in the ordinary course of controlling the crowd during a match.

11. Officials must not participate in a media interview or meeting with a journalist where his/her statements relating to tennis officiating can be printed or broadcast without the approval of the Supervisor/ Referee.
12. Officials must at all times conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner, giving due regard to the Supervisor/Referee, players, officials, Tournament personnel and public. International and White Badge Officials must also set a good example in their conduct to other officials.
13. Officials must make all tournament related requests to the Supervisor/Referee or Chief Umpire, rather than making requests directly to the Tournament Director or staff.
14. An official shall commit to each event he/she works until released by the Supervisor/Referee. If an official has accepted a tournament selection, he/she shall not withdraw from the tournament to officiate at another at the same time, unless requested by the relative staff of HKTA in charge of Officiating.
15. An official must not recruit other officials to work in tournaments unless requested by HKTA.
16. An official must refer all officiating requests from organizations or companies organizing tennis tournaments to HKTA.
17. Violations of the Code for Officials must be reported by the Supervisor/Referee to HKTA. An official who violates any of these required standards may have their certification withdrawn, or he/she may be suspended from officiating for a certain period as decided by the HKTA Officiating Committee.

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