



HKCTA Tennis Officials' Structure

Updated on 1 Dec 2025

Rationale of the Structure

- ▶ Officiating is essential to the integrity and professional conduct of tennis tournaments. Qualified officials ensure fair play and uphold competition standards at all levels. However, Hong Kong faces ongoing challenges due to the limited number of ITF-certified officials, making it difficult to host international events without relying on costly overseas officials. This gap has highlighted the need for a structured and accessible pathway for officiating development.
- ▶ To address this need, the Hong Kong, China Tennis Association (HKCTA) has introduced a dedicated Officiating Structure designed to complement the existing ITF framework. The HKCTA system provides a clear and progressive development pathway, enabling Hong Kong to expand the pool of national officials, reduce dependency on external resources, and build long-term self-reliance in officiating. This initiative supports the sustainable growth of tennis in Greater Bay Area by strengthening officiating capabilities at both foundational and international levels.

Objectives of the structure

- ▶ **Support the ITF Officiating Pathway** by introducing the HKCTA officiating system that connects National Officiating Schools with ITF White Badge Schools, helping Hong Kong officials prepare for international certification.
- ▶ **Grow the pool of national officials** by offering structured training, hands-on experience at local tournaments, and providing more opportunities through international tournaments in the Southeast Asia Region.
- ▶ **Standardize officiating practices** across Greater Bay Area by offering more National Officiating Schools, mentoring programs, and identifying talent, particularly in developing Hong Kong Officiating.
- ▶ **Promote career development and retention** by providing continuous professional development opportunities, such as workshops, webinars, and mentoring, while encouraging officiating as a respected career choice.
- ▶ **Improve the quality of tournaments** across Greater Bay Area by ensuring a steady supply of well-trained, certified officials who meet global standards.

About

- ▶ The structure introduces two tiers of certifications, **Pre National Level** and **National Level**, aimed at supporting the growth of officials from entry-level to advanced national levels. By offering accessible education, training, and practical opportunities, the HKCTA Officiating Structure enables Hong Kong to develop a larger pool of qualified officials, reduce reliance on external resources, and ensure consistent officiating standards across the region.
- ▶ This initiative is a strategic step towards empowering Hong Kong to build self-sufficient officiating capabilities, supporting the successful delivery of national and international tournaments while contributing to the overall growth of tennis in the Greater Bay Area.

HKCTA Officiating Structure

Level	Requirement	Position	Maintain as Active
National Referee / Chief Umpire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) National Official b) Minimum officiate 300 hours a year for 2 consecutive years c) Attend Referee / Chief Umpire Seminar and PASSED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Referee b) Chief Umpire c) Off-Court Umpire d) Chair Umpire e) Line Umpire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Minimum officiate 3 local tournaments b) Attend Referee / Chief Umpire Refresher course and PASSED
National Official	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Pre-National Official b) Minimum officiate 150 hours a year for 2 consecutive years c) Attend Promotion Seminar and PASSED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Off-Court Umpire b) Chair Umpire c) Line Umpire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Minimum officiate 200 hours a year b) Attend refresher course and PASSED
Pre National Official	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ITF Rules of Tennis Course (100% attendance) b) Fulfilled 150 practical hours c) Portal registration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Chair Umpire b) Line Umpire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Minimum officiate 150 hours a year b) Attend refresher course and PASSED

Pathway to ITF White Badge

Level	Requirement	Maintain as Active
ITF White Badge Chair Umpire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) National Official b) Experience in ITF World Tennis Tours Men's & Women's events served as Chair Umpire c) Endorse by HKCTA and accepted by ITF Officiating to attend the WB Chair Umpire School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ITF requirements b) Minimum officiate 200 hours a year at local events served as Chair Umpire
ITF White Badge Chief Umpire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) National Chief Umpire b) Experience in local tournaments served as Chief Umpire c) Endorse by HKCTA and accepted by ITF Officiating to attend the WB Chair Umpire School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ITF requirements
ITF White Badge Referee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) National Referee b) Experience in local tournaments served as Referee c) Endorse by HKCTA and accepted by ITF Officiating to attend the WB Chair Umpire School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ITF requirements b) Minimum officiate 3 local tournaments served as Referee

All officials must also meet the following requirements

- ▶ **WORK RECORD**
Officials must record their work correctly using the HKCTA Officiating Portal and bring their work record up to date by 31 March every year
- ▶ **EVALUATION**
Officials must receive satisfactory evaluations. Evaluations from previous years will be taken into consideration by the Officiating Committee.
- ▶ **OPEN BOOK TEST**
Officials must submit their answers to the Open Book Test by the deadline given.
- ▶ **VISION EXAMINATION FORM**
You must submit your Vision Examination Form (when applicable) by 31 March
- ▶ **CODE OF CONDUCT**
Officials must confirm to the Code of Conduct for Officials.
- ▶ **MEMBERSHIP FEE**
Officials must pay the Annual Membership Fee by the deadline given.
- ▶ **REFRESHER SEMINAR**
Officials must attend the satisfactorily complete a refresher seminar when invited.