



UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION

# Officiating News You Can Use

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Officiating News You Can Use: Greetings! The USTA Officials Department wants to make sure you are informed and up to date with all of the latest information, tips, and dates to help you in your officiating career. If you have some tips you'd like to pass along to other officials, tell us about it: [officiating@usta.com](mailto:officiating@usta.com)

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### Officials Inclusion Council

We are pleased to announce that a Chair and Co-Chair have been selected for the Officials Inclusion Council (OIC). Marc Archuleta from the Texas Section is now the Chair and Carol Kim from Northern California is Co-Chair. They both are very excited about the future of officiating and the work ahead of our team.

You all are encouraged to ask questions and supply feedback to any of the OIC members and/or contact Tony Nimmons ([Nimmons@usta.com](mailto:Nimmons@usta.com)) at the national office for more details.

### Message from the National Chairperson

#### How to Deal with Negative Evaluations:

In the February issue of Referee Magazine published by NASO, there was an interesting and pertinent article on evaluations. We've all had poor evaluations at one time or another, and how we deal with them can make the experience either constructive or destructive. As a National T-E, I have to give negative evaluations on occasion. This is not something I relish- I'd much rather give glowing re-

ports that make me and the evaluated official feel really good- but when merited, it must be done. Usually, these negative reports are received professionally and positively. Occasionally, however, T-Es are met with shouts of: "All you T-Es are crazy" or "I NEVER do that" or "I only did that because... my shoulder hurts, my contacts are bothering me, I didn't sleep well last night etc"

Things to keep in mind concerning evaluations:

1. No one is perfect. Players don't play perfect matches and officials aren't perfect either. Getting all positive feedback does not help an official to grow and the purpose of the evaluation is to make you a better official. You may think you were absolutely fantastic but there is always something that could be a just a little bit better. Praise makes you feel good and rewards a job well done and if you combine that with constructive criticism, this helps you to continue to do your job well and to perhaps do your job even better the next time.
2. There is no need to become defensive or offer excuses.
3. Don't take the evaluation personally.
4. Listen to what is being told to you and try to incorporate the suggestions for change in your next rotation or match. Changes may not happen immediately but keep trying. Don't be discouraged if, for example, one time you aren't moving you head enough and the next time you have overcompensated and you are moving too much. The "happy medium" will come.
5. An occasional poor evaluation will not have a major impact on your career or assignments. It is part of the learning curve. However, if you can't or won't make the improvements and continue to get poor evaluations, this may indeed negatively impact your advancement.
6. Seek out suggestions from evaluators regu-

larly. Stop and talk as you are coming off court- immediate feedback is best.

T-Es want you to become the best possible official that you can be and to make USTA officials the best in the world. Try to think of T-Es as coaches and mentors. Giving a grade is the least important part of the job. The most important part is helping you achieve your goals as an official.

### **2010 Certification Cards**

2010 will be the last year certification cards are sent out by the USTA Officials Department. Starting 2011, the officials database (Nucula) will allow officials to print out their certifications on demand. To be certified all officials must be registered in Nucula. If you feel an error was committed in regard to your certifications please contact us by emailing [officiating@usta.com](mailto:officiating@usta.com) and writing "2010 Certification Issue" in the subject line. In the email let us know your Section and what you believe the error to be. We will then be able to investigate the issue and send you a new card if the situation warrants it.

### **2011 Certification Note**

In 2010 there will be no data cards to submit. Instead, all officials are required to register in the Nucula system. For most events, you will be required to enter your work record in the system so that they can be reviewed for 2011 certification. All sectional school scores must also be entered unless you are directed otherwise by the class instructor. Evaluations, incident reports and certification appeals will also be processed in the system. Instructions and guides on how to navigate and perform functions including manual work records in the system are available in the "Nucula Portal" page at [www.usta.com/GetInvolved/Officials](http://www.usta.com/GetInvolved/Officials).

### **2010 US Open Application Process**

All USTA certified officials can make themselves available to work the 2010 US Open through the Nucula system. The deadline to make oneself available is March 31, 2010. Priority will be given to officials whose availability matches certain preset time periods listed in Nucula under the main event page for the US Open. If you do not hold a certification of USTA Line, USTA Chair or higher, you must have a written recommendation from your Sectional Chair or a National Trainer / Evaluator.

The recommendation must not be sent from the official. It must come directly to our office from the Sectional Chairman or National T/E. The recommendation should be emailed to [officiating@usta.com](mailto:officiating@usta.com) or mailed to the USTA Officials Department.

### **2010 Officials Address Book**

All Officials contact information will be available in Nucula. The list is located under "Item Lists" and sub-category "umpires" for those who are registered in the system. This information is updated by the officials themselves in order to ensure the most up to date information possible. No hard copies of this information will be distributed.

### **Umpire Clothing**

The USTA is teamed with the supplier – Honig's Whistle Stop, Inc of Ann Arbor, Michigan...the largest and best of the sports officiating supply companies. Honig's offers the National Shirt along with other top quality garments at competitive prices. All items are featured on the [www.honigs.com](http://www.honigs.com) website – under "Our Products – USTA Merchandise" or you can find the information directly by linking via [www.honigs.com/usta](http://www.honigs.com/usta).

### **USTA Officials Wildcard Assignments at ATP Tour Events**

In 2010, the ATP Tour will again offer a few assignments to officials who lack the ratings and/or experience.

To qualify for consideration for these few assignments, all officials must submit their availability with the ATP for each event. Those not selected to work the event will automatically be considered for a wild card assignment. The USTA will not accept individual wild card requests. To be considered you must make yourself available with the ATP by filling out and sending in the ATP Availability Form.

### **Opportunity Knocks!**

For those of you with limited line experience who want to get more work under the guidance of numerous National T-Es, a Line Clinic is being held in Carson, CA in conjunction with the International Spring Championships. You

MUST be able to be at the tournament hotel by 2 PM on April 8th or you cannot be considered for this event. You will receive in class and on court training on April 8th and then work as a linesperson on April 9-11. A shared hotel room will be provided as well as all meals and a small stipend toward travel expenses. However, as a trainee, you will not be paid. You will receive training, mentoring, feed back, and evaluations during this period. To apply, please indicate your availability on Nucula.

### **National and Professional Tests**

Just a reminder that all officials certified as either National or Professional line, chair or referee need to go to the USTA web site and take the appropriate test(s). If you took a USTA school and test, this DOES NOT exempt you from taking your National/Professional test. Please complete your test(s) by March 1

### **Evaluation Update**

Evaluation scores are now being entered into Nucula and can be found shortly after the evaluation is completed.

### **The Final Word**

2010 and 2011 will be important transitions years for the USTA Officials. The Nucula program and data base will bring us into the 21st century. The challenges will be many for many of us who have used old systems and hard copy paper over the past decades. It is a new learning experience not just for the working officials, but for National and local administrators, National and Sectional Trainer/Evaluators, Sectional and District Chairs, tournament referees and chief umpires. We understand that for many there will be questions and we want to assure everyone that help will be provided to get everyone through the initial stages when it comes to individual assistance and providing written how-to guides. We will keep you updated through these Newsletters, the web-page, and e-blasts during the year. You can reach us at: [officiating@usta.com](mailto:officiating@usta.com)

We cannot always get back to everyone immediately due to the amount of inquiries that we receive. We thank you for your patience.

You will be receiving certification cards in the next month with valuable information enclosed. Be sure to read all the information enclosed.

### **NASO**

The National Association of Sports Officials: (NASO) if offering a discount for NASO membership. Just use the promotional code WE07USTN and it is good for \$10 off the standard price of an NASO membership. This is a great officiating organization that offers as a part of NASO membership the most reliable officials' liability protection for private contractors. This insurance offers complete self protection and it is tax deductible. Your homeowners insurance DOES NOT cover officiating liability. No official should be without it. All the major US Sports Federations are associated with NASO and some require NASO membership. In addition to receiving publications and educational material, NASO offers the Athletic VIP Card that gives officials major discount any Marriott hotel property. If you spend just one night on this discounted rate (for work or pleasure) you just paid for your entire annual membership fee. You can't beat that. **JOIN NOW!** Here is the Web Site Address: [www.naso.org](http://www.naso.org)

### **Picture of the Month**

Our own USTA official Woodie Sublett Walker of Newburgh, IN (pictured bellow with Brian Earley, Director of the USTA Pro Circuit) was inducted into the 2009 USTA/Midwest Section Hall of Fame on December 12th in Indianapolis, IN. The induction ceremony took place at the Westin Hotel in downtown Indianapolis during the USTA/Midwest Section's 116th Annual Meeting. Congratulations to Woodie from all of us at the USTA Officials Department!

