



ITTF – Referee

Career development

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1. Referee levels

- Basic Referee
- National Referee
- International Certified Referee
- International Referee
- International Referee Advanced

All levels of International Referee will receive the silver IR lapel badge.

1.1. Basic Referee

Associations without a national education programme for referees can ask ITTF for a two days (at least 16 hours in total) training programme for educational and promotional purposes.

Candidates do not need actual referee experience, but should be a Basic Certified Umpire or the basic level under the national umpiring education process. They will have to complete the two days Basic Referee Course and pass a written examination which can be taught and tested in any language. A certificate will be issued to successful candidates. Only the rules interpretation / application and the technical aspects will be emphasised.

Contact should be made with the respective continental development officer for additional information.

1.2. National Referee

National Associations are encouraged to have their own referee education and qualification programmes.

The existing ITTF Referee training material, which can be adapted to their own situation in the specific country, can be used. Candidates have to complete a four days (at least 8 hours per day) course with a written examination and oral interview which can be taught and tested in any language. A certificate will be issued to successful candidates. All aspects of refereeing are covered.

Prerequisites:

- Candidates need to have the Basic Referee level or the basic level under the national refereeing education process for at least 1 year
- Qualified National Umpire for at least 1 year

- Proven referee experience at least at a provincial or national level

Candidates who fail the exam have a waiting period of two years before they can apply again for a National Referee exam, and they can not retake an exam more than twice in five years.

ITTF URC offers national referee training under the auspices of the ITTF Development programme.

Contact should be made with the respective continental development officer for additional information.

1.3. International Certified Referee

International Certified Referees - IR(C) are referees who have passed all requirements for International Referees (IR), but whose English ability is not up to the required level.

Prerequisites:

- Qualified International Umpire for at least 2 years
- Passing the ITTF Advanced Rules Exam in the previous three years
- Qualified National Referee (under National Association's own referee education and qualification programmes or successful completion of the ITTF National Referee course and exam) for at least 2 years.
- Proven referee experience in 3 **national Championships** or 2 international events (with at least 1 as a referee)

Candidates are required to attend an IR school and to pass both the written and practical parts in following areas:

- Rules Interpretation
- Technical Aspects (Draw, Schedule, Racket Control, Para TT, etc.)
- Social Competence including ITTF policies

Candidates who fail the exam have a waiting period of two years before they can apply again for an IR school, and they can not retake an exam more than twice in five years.

The training and examination will be conducted in English and interpretation into any language is possible.

Successful candidates will be eligible to officiate as referees in regions where the tested language is used. They are required to perform the full range of referee duties, independently, at ITTF events.

1.4. International Referee

Prerequisites:

- Qualified International Umpire for at least 2 years
- Passing the ITTF Advanced Rules Exam in the previous three years
- Qualified National Referee (under National Association's own referee education and qualification programmes or successful completion of the ITTF National Referee course and exam) for at least 2 years.
- Proven referee experience in 3 **national Championships** or 2 international events (with at least 1 as a referee)
- Competence in English

Candidates are required to attend the IR school and to pass in both written and practical part in following areas:

- Rules Interpretation
- Technical Aspects (Draw, Schedule, Racket Control, PTT etc.)
- Social Competence including ITTF policies
- Competence in English

The IR school and examination will only be conducted in English without interpretation or translation. Candidates who pass all but the language aspect in the IR exam will be qualified as International Certified Referees

Candidates who fail the exam have a waiting period of two years before they can apply again for an IR school, and they cannot retake an exam more than twice in five years.

1.5. International Referee Advanced

There will be a continuing evaluation system in place to identify, train and qualify a small number of very competent referees for promotion to International Referee Advanced and to enable them to officiate at major ITTF events.

The following selection criteria are in place:

- Technical knowledge of competition method, schedule, draw
- Knowledge of rules and solution of problems during matches
- Social competence (managing people, motivating)
- International Referee with experience in major tournaments
- Communication skills
- Team Leader
- Proficiency in English

- Current availability (at least 2 tournaments a year and one weekend for education purposes).

A selection panel consisting of senior referee experts will nominate referees who meet the above criteria.

Candidates have to attend a two day course every second year to update their knowledge and share their experiences, be interviewed at the end of the course and evaluated while refereeing at identified events. The selection panel and the URC will review the list of advanced referees every second year and according to the results of the evaluations (see 2.2.) the list of referees will be adapted, if necessary.

All selected referees have to agree that they will be available for two tournaments and one meeting a year. In major events the URC nominates at least one referee from the pool of Advanced International Referees. The following tournaments will include one of these Advanced International Referees where possible:

Major Tournaments:

- World Championships
- Para TT World Championships
- World Cups (Men ´s, Women ´s and Teams)
- Junior World Championships
- World Tour Final
- Olympic Games
- Paralympic Games
- Junior Circuit Finals

It is also recommended that the Continental Championships have an International Referee Advanced.

2. Quality assurance

Quality assurance of referees work includes the following steps:

2.1 Classification of IRs "active"

To be classified as an active IR, they must:

- They must attend an IR conference at least one out of two consecutive IR conferences (e.g. 2014 Seminar and 2017 Seminar),
- Beginning 01.01.2015 officiate at two tournaments (minimum level National Championships) in three years

Referees, who are not classified as "active" cannot be nominated as referee or deputy referee for World Title competitions (as defined in the Directives) and cannot act as referee or first deputy referee in ITTF sanctioned events (only as a second deputy referee).

2.2 Evaluation of referees

The work of referees may be evaluated during a tournament by the members of the URC or an official who is appointed by the URC to evaluate the work of the referee.

The evaluator observes the work of the referee by using an evaluation report. The evaluator will have debriefings with the referee during the event and at the end of the tournament.

The results of these reports/evaluations sheets will be used for future education of referees.

2.3 Further tools for quality assurance

2.3.1 Competition manager

Competition Managers send a report after each tournament to the Competition Program Management and this report is also forwarded to the URC chairperson and deputy chair responsible for referees. The results of this report may be discussed between the URC and the involved referee. Furthermore a summary of the results of all reports will be used for future education.

2.3.2 Feedback forms from umpires

At the end of the tournament, referees can get feedback from the umpires by giving them the feedback form in the tournament or send a feedback form to all umpires requesting them to give their opinion about the work of the referee team. The results of these feedback forms should be included in the **referee report, which has to be entered in the ITTF URC database "referee report", at the latest, 2 weeks after the event.** The referee can use the feedback received to improve his/her work and the summary can be used by the URC to identify possible gaps and needs or best practice.

2.3.3 Feedback from coaches and players

At the end of the tournament, referees may ask players and coaches, who are known for their reliability and straightforwardness, about their opinion of the work of the referees in the particular tournament. This information can be used by the referee to improve his/her future performance.

2.4 Database of evaluations/reports

The URC has a database with all results to identify possible gaps and needs.

3. Guidelines for referees work

Referees should be consistent in their way of working, because this gives all umpires security in their way of working during the tournament. Furthermore it is necessary that each referee writes a referee report of the tournament.

Referees are encouraged to use the documents provided in the referee tool box, which is available on the ITTF website.

4. Information exchange

Referees are encouraged to take part in the information exchange platform on Facebook group "ITTF URC and Referees". This forum is used for sharing experiences and defining common standards and best practice.

Furthermore a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document is distributed to the referees, which contains the most frequent questions and the official recommendation from URC.