

INTRODUCTION TO OFFICIATING – CALGARY CLINIC
MAY 2019

Thank you for your interest in the Introduction to Officiating Clinic. We are happy that you are considering joining our team!

PLEASE NOTE: The clinic is for those who are interested in working as a tennis official. This is not a "rules school" for players! Rules Schools are held in the early spring in preparation for league play and details of these will be available on the Tennis BC website nearer the time.

The clinic will teach you the Rules of Tennis and basic on court techniques. In order to obtain certification and work as an official, attendees are also required to complete on-court training at upcoming tournaments. New officials start as roving (on-court) umpires and line umpires, and are invited to progress to chair/chief/referee as their experience grows.

Attendance at the clinic, and the subsequent on court tournament training is mandatory to obtain certification.

Clinic Dates:

Wed 8th May: Line Umpire On Court training - 6pm to 9pm @ Alberta Tennis Centre

Fri 10th May: Intro to Officiating Part 1 – 6pm to 9:30pm @ Glencoe

Saturday 11th May: Intro to Officiating Part 2 – 9am to 12:30pm @ Glencoe

Saturday 11th May: Roving Umpire On Court training – 2pm to 6pm @ Tennis Academy

Sunday 12th May: Roving Umpire On Court training – 9am to 12pm @ Tennis Academy

Cost \$60 cash payable on Friday 10th May @ Glencoe

Wednesday 8th May 6pm – 9pm Alberta Tennis Centre

This portion of the clinic focusses on Line Umpire on court techniques and the information you need to work a Professional event. There will be a short classroom session and then on court practice.

Please wear comfortable/athletic clothes and tennis shoes suitable for on court.

There will be live match Line Umpire practice at various Tennis Alberta events and the Junior ITF events. Note that Line Umpire work at non-professional events is not paid, but food will be provided for mealtimes worked. However all line umpires are encouraged to work these events to develop their skills. Those who progress quickly may be offered trainee positions at the ATP Calgary Challenger and this would require full day and night availability for the duration of the tournament.

Friday May 10th evening and Saturday May 11th morning – Glencoe

This is the classroom module of the course and is will be held at the Glencoe club.

You will be provided with the Tennis Canada rulebook "Rules of the Court" and the Introduction to Officiating Manual. You may want to bring a notepad and pen to take notes.

This session consists of a PowerPoint presentation, videos and interactive role play and a short knowledge test. You will learn the Rules of Tennis, Code of Conduct and the basic techniques of Roving and Line Umpire work.

You will also be introduced to the Officiating Pathway and the structure of the Tennis Canada Officiating Program and we will cover the opportunities for work in Alberta, and as you progress, across Canada and International work.

Saturday May 11th (afternoon) and Sunday May 12th (morning) - The Tennis Academy

This is the on-court module of the course and is held in conjunction with a Junior Tennis Alberta tournament. You will be involved in pre-match talks, coin toss etc and on court match supervision. You may be paired with an experienced official to learn roving techniques. Please wear a black top, khaki pants and tennis shoes to this session.

We will arrange sign up for these shifts at the class on Friday night.

Working as an Official

Once certified, you will be added to the Alberta Officiating group and will start to receive the regular email communications about upcoming work opportunities and other officiating events. In addition, you will have access to the Tennis Canada officiating intranet with news, resources and applications for events across the country.

In order to remain certified, Officials are required to agree to the Officiating Code of Conduct and Social Media Policy, submit annual Work Records, pass the Annual Officiating Test and have a clear Criminal Records Check.

The majority of officiating work for new officials in Alberta is as a Roving Umpire and takes place on evenings and weekends in the indoor season. During the summer there are more events and these can be during weekdays, evenings and weekends.

Officials advise their availability and are scheduled accordingly. (See **Working in Alberta**)

Development and Progression

The more you work, the more you learn – there really is no substitute for on court experience. Some officials find that they really enjoy work as a Roving Umpire and just work in that role, others take it to the next level and train to become Chair Umpires. Others focus on Line Umpire work and spend their summers travelling to work at various tournaments. The majority of the officials in BC do some work in all of the various roles.

As an official you may choose to do all roles (RU, LU, CU) or just to concentrate on one or two. We can discuss your preferences once you start your officiating journey.

Working in Alberta

The majority of the work in Alberta year round is for roving umpires at junior events. Typically these events run on Thursday and Friday evenings, Saturday daytime and evening and Sunday daytime, and are held most weekends. Most of the events are held in Calgary or Edmonton, with occasional tournaments held in other regional clubs in the province such as Red Deer etc. Officials in Alberta are asked to commit to at least 10 weekend shifts per year. This enables the tournaments to provide consistent levels of officiating, and provides officials with enough regular work to make sure that they stay current with rules and procedures in an on court environment.

During the summer months, there is more demand for officials in a variety of different roles, and tournaments often run both in the daytime during the week and weekends as the adult and senior event season gets busier. The Summer Series Open events, along with Junior Provincial Championships and Senior and Junior ITF tournaments use Roving Umpires, Line Umpires and Chair Umpires.

The Alberta Open now in its 107th year, and the Alberta Grass Roots Charity Tennis Championship are highlights of the summer calendar and provide plenty of work opportunities for Alberta officials.

Alberta is host to a growing number of professional events which provide opportunities for officials to work as Line Umpires. The Calgary National Bank Challenger along with Junior ITF events are an excellent way for Line Umpires to start working on the skills needed for the pro circuit.

The Calgary National Bank Challenger is the highest level of professional event held in Alberta and uses around 15-20 Line Umpires each day for the duration of the event. All Alberta Line Umpires are encouraged to get as much experience as possible to achieve the level required apply to work this event.

Notable Tournaments in Alberta

U12 Indoor National Championships – March
Alberta Grass Roots Charity Tennis Championship – April
Calgary ITF Seniors – May
U18 ITF Junior, Calgary – May
U18 ITF Junior, Edmonton – July
Alberta Open – August
Calgary National Bank Challenger \$75,000 -

International Work??

If you enjoy working as an official, and you have the aptitude and flexibility to work at numerous events to increase your experience, you will find that there are opportunities to work at events around the world. Alberta was proud to have 4 officials at the Rogers Cup/Coupe Rogers last year.

We hope you will enjoy officiating as much as we do, and look forward to welcoming you to our team!

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at abees@tenniscanada.com