

What to expect on your first day as a Line Umpire

The week of the tournament

- In your selection email, you will find contact details of the manager of officials. It is useful to keep these details in case you need to contact the manager before or on your first day.
- Email or call the manager the week before the tournament to advise them that this will be your first day. (Or make sure you mention this to them when you meet them on the day.)
- If there are any specific requirements for the day you will be advised – e.g. if it is an outdoor tournament to ensure that you wrap up warm.
- It is useful to check all transport and parking arrangements in advance. If using public transport, check the timetables, as there can often be reduced services at weekends. If driving, check what parking is available as not all venues have car parks. Feel free to contact the Manager if you are not familiar with the venue.

On the Day

- The scheduled arrival time for the team will be half an hour before the first match start time.
- Try to arrive at the venue in plenty of time and do let the manager know if you find yourself running late.

What to wear

- As mentioned in your training, the team should look smart and be wearing the same, or very similar, uniform so that no one stands out. [Official uniform can be purchased via the webshop HERE](#) and please also [review the Uniform guide which can be found HERE](#)
- If you do not have uniform in time for your first day ensure that you wear as similar clothing (navy blue polo etc) as possible and have uniform in time for your second day.

On Court

- The manager will try to ensure that you are not on court for the first session so that you can watch the more experienced umpires in action.
- Normally you will be on court for a session which may last either a whole set or a fixed amount of time. You may be on court for any amount of time up to a whole match.
- Line umpire rotations should only take place at a change of ends or at a set break. Always be ready and waiting at the side of the court 5-10 minutes before your rotation is due to start so that you are ready to go on court in case a game ends quickly.
- Matches at B tournaments will usually be umpired in one of the following two formats: one plus one (one chair umpire and one line umpire) or one plus two (one chair umpire and two line umpires)

- In both cases as a line umpire you will cover one side line, including through the net, and the centre service line, including through the net.
- The chair umpire will make all baseline calls, service line calls and, for one plus one matches, will cover the side line closest to them.
- Remember that you are only responsible for calling your line. If a player asks you how you saw another line, refer the matter to the Chair Umpire and do not allow yourself to get drawn into a discussion with a player.
- The manager and team will explain to you the formats on the day but do not be afraid to ask questions.

Other duties

- You will often be required to operate a scoreboard between games so please ensure that you can identify the players.
- At the end of a set a line umpire should check the measurement of the net at the centre so please bring a tape measure with you.
- Line umpires should keep an eye on the tennis balls to make sure none get lost or roll onto the next court. and although we are not ball crew you can help the players with the tennis balls if possible/appropriate. However, do not get distracted by looking out for balls during or between points. Your priority is always calling the lines.

At the end of the day

- Although it is difficult to know how long the day will last, you are expected to stay at the tournament for the duration of all matches. You should therefore wait until you have been released by the manager before leaving.

Catering

- Catering will be provided on the day – the manager will advise you of the arrangements when you arrive.

Feedback

- If time allows, all trainee line umpires are assessed and your manager will go through a feedback form with you at the end of the day. (If there is no time this should be sent to you soon after the day.) You will receive tips and feedback throughout the day. Do ask questions, to the manager and more experienced umpires, if you are unsure about anything during the day.

Expenses

- The manager will give you your £30 expenses towards the end of the day. In some cases, officials receive expenses after the event. Therefore, if you do not receive expenses on the day, please ensure that the LTA Officiating team have your bank details in order to transfer the money to you within two weeks of the tournament.

Tips for the day

- 'Sell your calls' by sounding confident.



- You can never be too loud with your calls!
- Remember to signal after calling.
- Call “fault” on serve and “out” after a rally.

Make sure that you make eye contact with your chair umpire between points and at the end of games and sets.