

# LTA CHAIR UMPIRE GRADING STRUCTURE 2026

- All chair umpires must be an LTA Licensed Official and have LTA Officiating endorsement to retain their current grade and be considered for promotion.
- All chair umpires graded U1 to U3 should complete the appropriate online test(s) by 15 November 2026.
- Any official who feels they no longer wish to fulfil the duties commensurate with their grade should contact LTA Officiating at any time to inform them of their desire to be re-graded.
- If an official cannot meet the requirements for retention of their grade because of circumstances affecting their ability to work, they should notify LTA Officiating. Such notification should be received as soon as practicable but by 1 December 2026. LTA Officiating will review all records for the official, carefully consider the circumstances, and decide whether to waive the requirements for 2026.
- Officials may receive a warning letter if they fail to meet a retention requirement as detailed in the table below. If an official receives a warning letter for failing to meet any retention requirement in two consecutive years, a re-grade to a lower or inactive grade would be considered.

Grade	Retention Requirement	Warning Letter Issued	Re-Grade Considered
U1	15 chairs	12-14 chairs	0-11 chairs
	10 professional chairs	8-9 professional chairs	0-7 professional chairs
U2	10 chairs	8-9 chairs	0-7 chairs
	3 professional chairs	2 professional chairs	0-1 professional chairs

- In order to be considered for promotion, officials must have met the retention requirement for their existing grade.
- Temporary promotion of one chair umpire grade is permissible at the discretion of the Chief Umpire. This would not normally apply to U3 Chair Umpires at category 1 and 2 tournaments.
- Matches chaired overseas will not count towards the required chairs for retention or promotion of grade. For the avoidance of doubt, for a match chaired to be counted for retention and promotion requirements, it must take place at a tournament listed on the calendar published by LTA Officiating.
- U1 or U2 chair umpires refusing to chair matches at Category 2 professional events may be re-graded to a lower grade.
- Experienced officials with zero chairs in a calendar year may be re-graded as UZ (Inactive Chair Umpire). It should be noted that officials with this chair grade will have the lowest priority for selection at all non-professional tournaments. To reactivate their grade they will need to contact LTA Officiating who will decide on their revised grade.
- In the event that the number of available professional tournaments in 2026 is significantly lower than in previous years, the LTA at its absolute discretion reserves the right to reduce the professional chairs retention requirements for U1 and U2 chair umpires.
- For U1 and U2 chair umpires “professional chairs” includes matches, where applicable (subject to Note 8 above), chaired at the following events:
  - ITF World Tennis Tour events (W15, M15 and above)
  - ITF World Tennis Tour Junior Finals
  - ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors J100, J200, J300 & J500
  - ITF Junior Team Competition
  - ITF Masters World Team Championships
  - ITF Masters World Individual Championships
  - ITF Masters Tour – MT400, MT700 & MT1000

- ITF Wheelchair Tour - Masters, WT1000, WT500, WT250
- British Tour
- TS Open Tour
- LTA National League Open Finals

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Grade	Definition	Assignment eligibility	Minimum requirements for retention	Minimum requirements for promotion
<b>U1</b>	National chair umpires whose work rate and performance indicate they are working at the required standard for professional tennis	Category 1 – Qualifying Category 2 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Round Category 3 – All	15 chairs in 2026, including a minimum of 10 professional chairs  Satisfactory performance as measured through coaching and/or evaluations in 2026	Pass ITF White Badge School as a Chair Umpire to become an ITF White Badge Chair Umpire
<b>U2</b>	Chair umpires who have passed the LTA Pro Tennis Course	Category 2 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Round Category 3 - All	10 chairs in 2026, including a minimum of 3 professional chairs  Satisfactory performance as measured through coaching and/or evaluations in 2026	15 chairs in 2026, including a minimum of 10 professional chairs  Satisfactory evaluations and relevant experience in professional tennis  LTA Officiating recommendation
<b>U3</b>	Chair umpires who have passed the relevant LTA Umpire Course	Category 3 – All	5 chairs in 2026	Pass the LTA Pro Tennis Course

Tournament Categories	
<b>Category 1</b>	ITF World Tennis Tour W100, W75
<b>Category 2</b>	ITF World Tennis Tour W50, W35, M25, W15 & M15
<b>Category 3</b>	All other tournaments