

LTA LINE UMPIRE GRADING STRUCTURE 2026

1. All line umpires must be an LTA Licensed Official and have LTA Officiating endorsement to retain their current grade and be considered for promotion.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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 grade would be considered.

Retention Requirement	Warning Letter Issued	Re-Grade Considered
15 Days on court (L1)	12-14 Days on court	0-11 Days on court
15 Line Umpire Assessments (L1)	12-14 Line Umpire Assessments	0-11 Line Umpire Assessments
2 Days at Grass Court events (L1)	1 Day at Grass Court events	0 Days at Grass Court events
12 Days on court (L2)	10-11 Days on court	0-9 Days on court
12 Line Umpire Assessments (L2)	10-11 Line Umpire Assessments	0-9 Line Umpire Assessments
2 Days at ATP Challenger, ITF W50 or higher level events (L2)	1 Day at ATP Challenger, ITF W50 or higher level events	0 Days at ATP Challenger, ITF W50 or higher level events

5. In order to be considered for promotion, officials must have met the retention requirement for their existing grade.
6. Days worked and assessments received at tournaments which are not on the calendar published by LTA Officiating will not count for either retention of grade or promotion of grade.
7. The days requirement in the structure below is an on-court days requirement and does not include days worked as a Match Assistant. However, if an official selected as a Match Assistant works on court during their selection, any days worked on court will count towards the on-court days requirement.
8. All L1 graded line umpires without a \$ or S suffix are required to call serve at ITF World Tennis Tour W35, M25, W15 & M15 tournaments. Any L1 graded official refusing to call serve at these tournaments may be re-graded to L2 at the conclusion of the tournament.
9. Licensed umpires with zero days in 2026 may be re-graded to UZ/LZ (Inactive). To reactivate their grade they will need to contact LTA Officiating who will decide on their revised grade.
10. International chair umpires and chief umpires may be given the line umpire grade LX. These officials may still be allocated as a line umpire by the Chief Umpire at all tournaments.
11. Line umpires will be assessed by chair umpires graded U2 and above at the following:
 - The Championships, Wimbledon (including Wimbledon Wild-Card Playoff)
 - Davis / Billie Jean King Cup ties
 - ATP / WTA Tour events (including ATP Challenger Tour & WTA125 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

12. In calculating retention and promotion requirements, line umpire assessments will be weighted to give a converted score for each line umpire. The following weights will be used:

- 7 = +5
- 6 = +3
- 5 = +1
- 3 = -3
- 2 = -6
- 1 = -9

13. For each line umpire an average score per assessment received will be calculated by dividing the converted score obtained (as per note 12) by the total number of assessments received. This calculation will include all assessments of 7, 6, 5, 3, 2 & 1 obtained at every tournament.

14. In the annual grading process, line umpires will be ranked according to their average score per assessment received. The top 100 L1s and L2s will be graded L1 for the following year. All remaining L1s will be graded L2 for the following year. In the event of two or more line umpires having the same average score per assessment received, the number of L1 line umpires will be increased accordingly as necessary.

15. Line umpires cannot change grade by more than one line grade per calendar year, with the exception of where an official has been regraded at their own request.

16. Service line designations will be adjusted in accordance with the following (a service line suffix of \$ or S is not in itself a grade):

Annual Score on Service Line					
Current Designation	Score of less than -6	Score of -6 to -1	Score of 0	Score of 1 or 2	Score of 3 or more
None	None	None	None	Add \$	Add \$ or S at LTA discretion
\$	Remove \$	Remove \$	Stay as \$	Stay as \$	Transfer to S
S	Remove designation	Transfer to \$	Transfer to \$	Transfer to \$	Stay as S

17. In the event that the number of available professional tournaments in 2026 is significantly lower than expected, LTA Officiating at its absolute discretion reserves the right to reduce retention requirements for each grade.

18. Officials wishing to work as a Match Assistant at any event must complete the online Match Assistant Training module. Should the module be updated at any time, officials may be required to update their training in order to undertake the Match Assistant role.

19. Officials wishing to work as a Match Assistant at ATP/WTA Tour events in 2026 must work on court for at least five days in 2026 at ATP Challenger or ITF World Tennis Tour events prior to undertaking their selection as a Match Assistant.

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Grade	Assignment Eligibility	Minimum Requirements for Retention	Minimum Requirements for Promotion
L1	Tournament categories 1-4 including assignments as a Match Assistant	15 days on-court in 2026, including officiating on-court at least two days at grass court ATP/WTA Tour, ATP Challenger and WTA125 events 15 line umpire assessments in 2026 Overall positive score in 2026	
L2	Tournament categories 2-4 including assignments as a Match Assistant	12 days on-court in 2026, including officiating on-court at least two days at ATP Challenger, ITF W50 or higher level events 12 line umpire assessments in 2026 Overall positive score in 2026	Performance and work rate in 2026 indicate suitability for promotion
L3	Tournament categories 3-4	10 days on-court in 2026 Satisfactory assessments in 2026	Performance and work rate in 2026 indicate suitability for promotion Overall score of +10

Category	Tournament
1	The Championships, Wimbledon (Show Courts), Davis / Billie Jean King Cup
2	The Championships, Wimbledon (Semi Show Courts) and ATP/WTA Tour Show Courts
3	All other professional tennis
4	All other tournaments