



## ATF OFFICIATING STRUCTURE

Officiating is essential to the integrity and professional conduct of tennis tournaments. Qualified officials ensure fair play and uphold competition standards at all levels. However, many Asian nations face ongoing challenges due to the limited number of ITF-certified officials, making it difficult to host international events without relying on costly overseas officials. This gap has highlighted the need for a structured and accessible pathway for officiating development within the region.

To address this need, the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF) has introduced a dedicated Officiating Structure designed to complement the existing ITF framework. The ATF system provides a clear and progressive development pathway, enabling nations to expand their pool of national officials, reduce dependency on external resources, and build long-term self-reliance in officiating. This initiative supports the sustainable growth of tennis across Asia by strengthening officiating capabilities at both foundational and international levels.

### **About**

The ATF Officiating Structure is a dedicated development framework established by the Asian Tennis Federation to strengthen officiating standards across Asia. Designed to complement the existing ITF Officiating System, it provides a clear and progressive pathway for officials at the national and regional levels.

The structure introduces two tiers of certifications, **Yellow Badge** and **Orange Badge**, aimed at supporting the growth of officials from entry-level to advanced national levels. By offering accessible education, training, and practical opportunities, the ATF Officiating Structure enables national associations to develop a larger pool of qualified officials, reduce reliance on external resources, and ensure consistent officiating standards across the region.

This initiative is a strategic step towards empowering Asian nations to build self-sufficient officiating capabilities, supporting the successful delivery of national and international tournaments while contributing to the overall growth of tennis in Asia.

<b>ATF Officiating Structure</b>				
<b>ATF Orange Badge</b>	<b>Secure 85% in ATF Orange Badge school</b>	Chair Umpire	Referee	-
<b>ATF Yellow Badge</b>	<b>Secure 85% in ITF national school or ATF Yellow Badge School</b>	Chair Umpire	Referee	-
<b>ITF National Level or ATF Yellow Badge school</b>	<b>In conjunction with ITF National school. Officials with less than 85%, stay at this level</b>	Chair Umpire	-	-



## **Objectives**

The ATF Officiating Structure has been established to meet the increasing need for a structured and sustainable pathway for officiating development in Asia. Its main objectives are to:

1. **Support the ITF Officiating Pathway** by introducing a two-tier ATF system that connects National Officiating Schools with ITF White Badge Schools, helping Asian officials prepare for international certification.
2. **Grow the pool of national officials** by offering structured training, hands-on experience at ATF tournaments, and providing more opportunities through ATF 14U and 16U events with adjusted officiating requirements.
3. **Build self-reliance in Asian nations** by helping them manage their own national and international tournaments with qualified local officials, reducing the need for external officials.
4. **Standardize officiating practices** across Asia by offering more National Officiating Schools, mentoring programs, and identifying talent, particularly in developing nations.
5. **Promote career development and retention** by providing continuous professional development opportunities, such as workshops, webinars, and mentoring, while encouraging officiating as a respected career choice.
6. **Improve the quality of tournaments** across Asia by ensuring a steady supply of well-trained, certified officials who meet global standards.



## ***For Existing National Officials***

### **1. The National Association/National Coordinator Updates the Current Official List**

The NA/Coordinator is responsible for updating and maintaining the list of national officials registered on the ITF Officiating Portal. They will also include any active national officials who are not yet registered, ensuring an accurate and complete database.

### **2. The National Association/National Coordinator Recommends Officials for Yellow/Orange Badge**

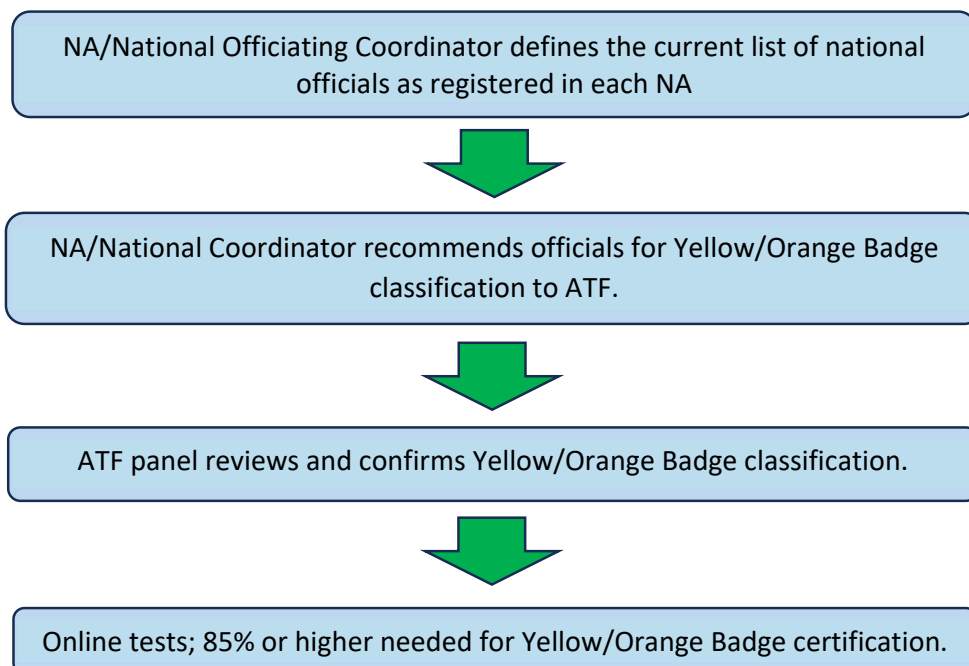
Based on each official's experience and qualifications, the NA/Coordinator will recommend whether they should be classified as a Yellow Badge or Orange Badge official under the ATF Officiating Structure. Yellow Badge officials are those with a basic understanding of the rules and practical officiating experience at the national level. Orange Badge officials are more advanced, with significant experience and exposure to international tournaments. These recommendations will then be submitted to the ATF for further review.

### **3. ATF Panel Reviews and Confirms Badge Assignment**

A three-member ATF panel will evaluate each recommended official by reviewing their past work records and officiating experience. If the panel agrees with the NA's/National Coordinator's recommendation, the official will be assigned the respective Yellow or Orange Badge.

### **4. Online Test (If required) for Badge Certification**

If necessary, ATF will conduct an online certification test for existing officials. Separate tests will be held for Yellow and Orange Badges. Officials must achieve a minimum score of 85% to be certified at the recommended level. Those who do not meet the passing score may be assigned to a lower badge level.





## ***For Upcoming National Officials***

### **ATF Yellow Badge Officiating Program**

The ATF Yellow Badge Certification Program is designed for officials who are new to the officiating pathway. This entry-level program provides the foundational knowledge and skills needed to officiate tennis matches at local level.

Yellow Badge officials will learn the essential rules and responsibilities of chair umpiring and refereeing. Successfully completing the program equips officials with the basic competencies required for officiating at national events and serves as a steppingstone for further development in the officiating career pathway.

#### **1. School:**

- Officials must attend an ITF National Officiating School or an ATF Yellow Badge School.
- These schools will be conducted online or in person, and are led by an ITF, National Association (NA), or an ATF-appointed Tutor.

#### **2. Assessment:**

- At the end of the school, officials will sit for an exam.
- Officials **scoring 85% or higher** will be awarded the **ATF Yellow Badge**.
- Officials who **score below 85%** will need to retake the exam to qualify as Yellow Badge official.

### **ATF Orange Badge Officiating Program**

The ATF Orange Badge Certification Program is designed for officials who have completed the foundational level (Yellow Badge) and are ready to progress to more advanced officiating roles. This program focuses on enhancing skills in chair umpiring and refereeing, preparing officials to handle larger national events and regional international competitions.

Orange Badge officials are expected to demonstrate stronger match management abilities, decision-making skills, and leadership qualities. Successful completion of this certification allows officials to take on higher-level assignments and become eligible to apply for the ITF White Badge School, furthering their officiating career.

#### **1. School:**

- Officials aiming for the Orange Badge must attend the ATF Orange Badge School, which includes modules for Chair Umpires and/or Referees.

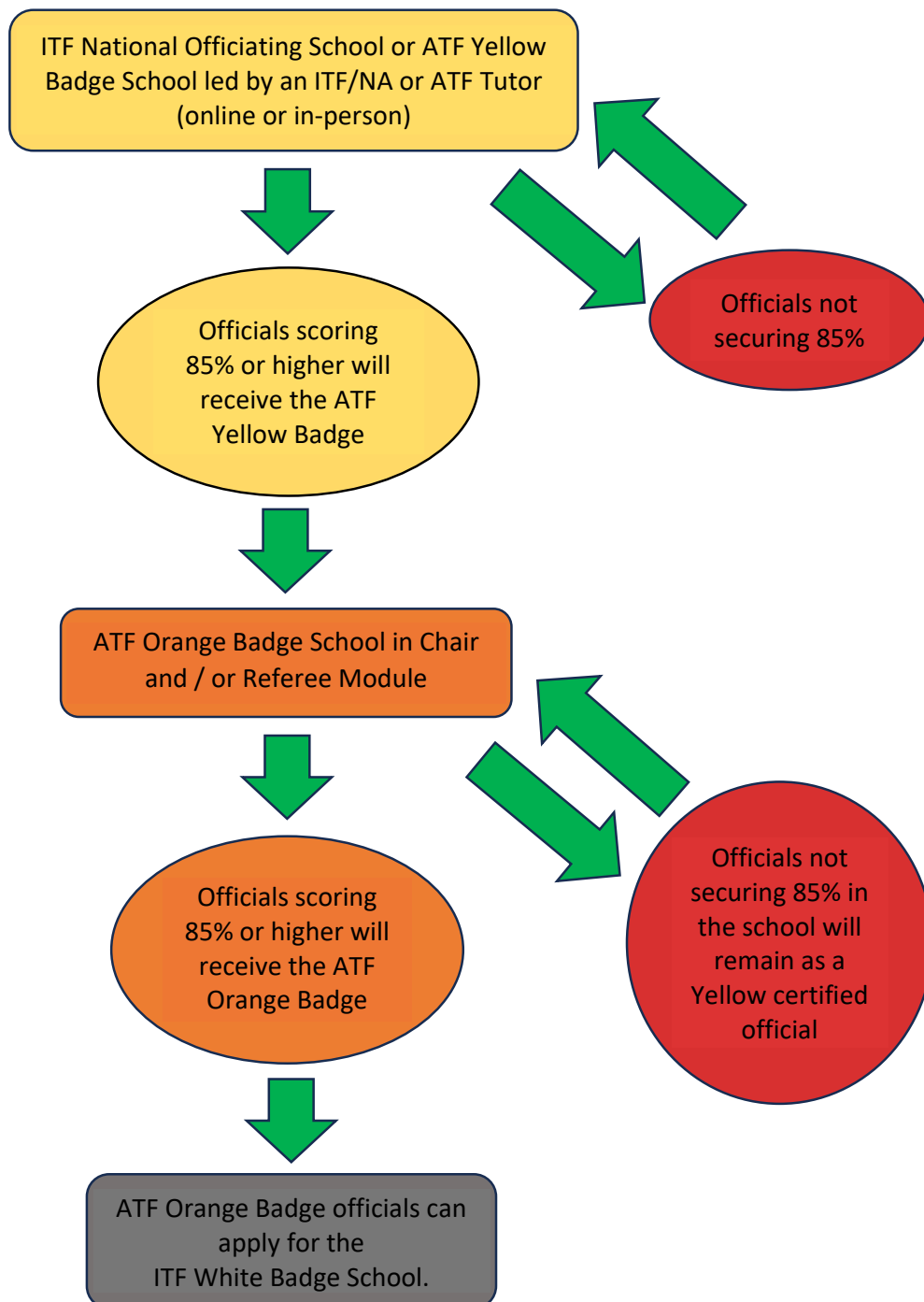
#### **2. Assessment:**

- After completing the school, officials will take an exam.
- Officials scoring 85% or higher will be awarded the ATF Orange Badge.
- Officials scoring below 85% will retain their Yellow Badge certification and can attempt the Orange Badge School again in the future.



## Pathway to ITF White Badge

Once certified as an ATF Orange Badge official, individuals will become eligible to apply for the ITF White Badge School. This represents the next stage in the international officiating pathway, providing officials with the opportunity to pursue ITF certification and gain exposure to higher-level tournaments. The White Badge School focuses on advanced officiating skills and is a critical step for those aiming to build a professional career as an international tennis official.





### ***Tournament Eligibility by Badge Level – Referees & Chair Umpires***

The table below outlines the types of ATF tournaments each badge level (Yellow & Orange) is eligible to officiate, helping officials and National Associations understand the roles aligned with their certification.

<b>Tournament Category</b>	<b>Referee</b>	<b>Chair Umpire</b>
<b>Category A+</b> <b>Category A</b> <b>Category 1+</b>	ITF International Referee ITF White Badge Referee ATF Orange Badge Referee	Orange Badge
<b>Category 1</b>	ITF International Referee ITF White Badge Referee ATF Orange Badge Referee	Orange Badge / Yellow Badge
<b>Category 2</b>	ITF White Badge Referee ATF Orange Badge Referee	Yellow Badge
<b>Category 3</b>	ATF Orange Badge Referee ATF Yellow Badge Referee	Yellow Badge