

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION Ltd

I WANT TO BE A REFEREE - HOW DO I GO ABOUT IT?

The qualification of referees is under the supervision of the ETTA **National Umpires and Referees Committee (NURC)**, which sets the qualifying standards and procedures.

The basic grade is **Tournament Referee**. Candidates for this qualification, who must first have qualified as County Umpires, should complete an application form and send it to the NURC Secretary. The form includes space for recording the candidate's experience both in umpiring and in tournament organisation and management. However, the lack of such experience at that stage will not preclude the candidate from taking the TR written test.

The written test paper is in 3 parts. Part 1 covers ETTA Tournament Regulations and Part 2 the interpretation of Laws and Regulations while Part 3 consists of exercises in conducting a draw and preparing a playing schedule. It is completed in the candidate's own time with the use of any reference books but without the help of another person, and it includes a declaration that the answers are his or her own work which must be signed by the candidate.

Candidates who pass all sections of the written test will be registered as Provisional Tournament Referees. To complete the qualification they must then (a) provide evidence of at least 1 year's experience of umpiring at events such as open tournaments, County Championships etc, if this was not included in the application form, and (b) must demonstrate their refereeing ability at a tournament of suitable status, to be agreed with the NURC.

Their tournament duties will include preparing the draw and the playing schedule, which must be submitted in advance to the NURC. If these are satisfactory an observer will be appointed to attend the tournament to assess their performance. Exceptionally, the requirement for such an assessment may be waived where a candidate provides, either with the initial application or later, evidence of competence as a referee at competitions of a suitable standard.

The higher grade is **National Referee**. Candidates for this qualification must be Tournament Referees with at least 2 years' refereeing experience at tournaments of 2* level or above. They must also either be National Umpires or must pass at least the National Umpire written test before taking the National Referee examination. Completed application forms, giving details of experience, should be sent to the NURC Secretary, for consideration by the committee.

Candidates whose applications are accepted take a supervised written test, similar in format to that for the Tournament Referee qualification, but in a limited time and without the use of reference books. This is followed by an interview, at which they may be asked to elaborate on their written test answers or to say how they would deal with various situations. Candidates who reach the required standard in both parts of the examination are registered as National Referees.

A Tournament Referee can officiate at any competition up to 2* level and, with the agreement of the NURC, at a tournament of 3* or equivalent level where no National Referee is available. A National Referee can officiate at any tournament, including national championships. Requests for application forms and any questions about the referee qualifying procedure should be sent to the NURC Secretary:

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