

# ADVANTAGE

Official Newsletter of the USTA/PNW Tennis Officials Organization  
Issue #52  
September 17, 2008

## In this Issue:

- Notes From The Editor
- Officials' Work Cards Due 10/15/08
- Making the Jump to ITA
- Upcoming Tennis Events
- PNW Officials' Committee
- PNW Official of Year Awards

## Notes From The Editor

By Dave Muhich



Greetings everyone! Hope everyone is doing well, and that the fall is off to a great start for you all. We had a great series of summer events in the PNW this year, and with the 2008-2009 ITA season soon upon us, will certainly have a great fall and winter in the PNW, as well.

See you on the courts!

## Officials' Work Cards Due 10/15/08

By John Rodenberg



Your card is due in my possession by **10/15/08**. Please mail it to:

John Rodenberg  
2202 27<sup>th</sup> PL SE  
Puyallup, WA 98372

Instructions for completing the card are below. The items in **bold** are mandatory, and your card will be returned unless the information is completed:

### FRONT OF CARD

- **Your contact information**
- **USTA number and expiration date**
- **Your signature, you are verifying the information is correct**
- DO NOT NEED EYE DOCTOR signature this year
- Optional: sex, sizes, ethnicity

### INSIDE OF CARD (two pages)

- School record, location, date and instructor
- **9 columns for each event worked**; for example, if you worked a three day JR. Sectional USTA Event in Yakima event you can use one line covering all three dates OR you can use one line for each day. Just make sure column 6 has the correct number of days.
- Refer to the \* and the \*\* codes on top left corner for columns 3 and 5; it is very clear and easy

- Enter all your events, if you leave some off, you may not make the minimums required for certification

#### BACK OF CARD

- **DO NOT** enter any information on back of card; that is for me and the data base admin person

#### SUBMISSION OF CARD

- Plan ahead and make the deadline
- I have already received two cards and 50% of them have already been returned to sender for lack of signature
- **Mail the original card to me; no faxes or scanner or e mail accepted.**
- **Keep a copy of front and inside of card, in case your original is lost in the mail.**
- Use two cards if you have too many events to fit in one card; they are available on usta.com website.
- Fold the card lengthwise (not the way it comes folded) and it will fit in standard business envelope with standard postage. I will refold it before I send it to New York
- Write clearly or type

## **Making the Jump to ITA**

By Dave Muhich

For many of you newer officials out there who, like me when I was in your shoes, knew that we wanted to chair collegiate matches the first time we saw an ITA match in person, but who had only had USTA roving experience up to that point, the jump from USTA to ITA can seem a bit daunting. The combination of higher-caliber players, boisterous crowds, passionate coaches, cryptic scorecards, and an additional set of rules to remember can seem like way too much for one person to handle when you are first considering making the move to ITA officiating. However, as I and many others in the same situation have found, the jump is not as harrowing as we first envision it being in our own minds. Here are a few tips to help you make the transition:



- **Reach out to your local ITA assignor to let them know you are interested:** This might seem like a simple and obvious tip, but it is also the stock answer I give to officials who ask me "What did you do to get started officiating college matches?" Once your ITA assignor knows you have interest in making the jump to ITA, they can get you started with the training process and get you on the right path.
- **Study, study, study:** Once you begin the process of training to become a collegiate official, in a sense it is like going (back) to college yourself: new rules to learn and apply, new techniques to master, and exposure to lots of new faces and places. There is one simple solution to all of these challenges: study. Study the ITA rules in the Friend At Court, study resources like the [Chair Umpire Handbook](#) to gather tips and guidance for when you do get into the chair, and study the techniques and mannerisms of your fellow officials when you are shadowing them from on- or off-court. Learning from the past performance of those who have come before you is one of the best ways to process information while you are learning, so never be afraid to ask questions of any of your fellow officials.
- **Perform, self-evaluate, repeat:** When it finally does come time for you to get out on court and apply all that you have learned, your education process does not stop there. As officials, we should always be honing our craft and looking to improve after each and every match, and this is especially true for any official making the transition from USTA roving to ITA chairs. In an ideal world, we each would have personal officiating coaches to critique our performance after each match and give us things to work on for the next one. Since this isn't possible, how then do we know what to work on before the next match? The answer: self-evaluation. After coming off court at the end of a match, there is tremendous value in taking a few minutes to jot down a few notes in your notepad about the match and what you might do differently next time to improve. Whether it is a rule that you did not know well enough to recall instantly, a line call

that you missed, or a situation with a player that you think you could have handled better, jot a few of these things down, and then use the resources available to you (Friend-At-Court, USTA Officiating website, other officials, etc.) to handle these items better the next time you step on court.

While this certainly isn't a comprehensive list, it should hopefully provide enough guidance for you, and help give you the confidence to make the jump from USTA roving to ITA chair umpiring. If you have any questions or concerns on this topic, please don't hesitate to reach out to your ITA assignor, or any other official with ITA officiating experience, and they would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

---

## Upcoming Tennis Events

By John Rodenberg



Tennis Fest, held last year in Portland in late October, is not being held in October in Seattle. It may be held in December according to USTA/PNW headquarters in Beaverton. I told some of you that it was going to be held Oct. 3-5 in Seattle, but I was wrong. Last year, many officials attended Tennis Fest at MAC Club in Portland.

USTA Sectional Annual Awards Banquet. Many officials and players usually attend this one-day event. The Official of the Year and the Rookie of the Year awards are made. The awards will be presented at an Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> event in Portland. This event is by invitation only.

The Officials Committee meeting originally scheduled for 10/4 is cancelled, and I will look into alternate dates, and advise the officials committee accordingly. It may be 10/25 in Portland or 11/1 in Seattle.

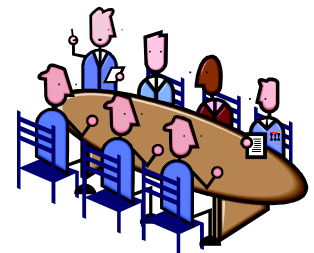
---

## PNW Officials' Committee

By John Rodenberg

Your PNW Officials' Committee members are:

- *Bill Haskin*, OR, Southern Oregon USTA Assignor
- *Carl Bergquist*, WA, Western Washington USTA Assignor
- *Dave Muhich*, WA, Newsletter Editor
- *Ira Moss*, WA, Washington Shadow Assignor and Tennis Times Column Writer
- *John Costic*, OR, Oregon Shadow Assignor and New Officials Rep/Database Admin
- *Lois Ker*, BC, Tennis BC Director and BC USTA Assignor, Member of Sub Committee for Complaint/Discipline
- *Perry Hines*, OR, Northern Oregon USTA Assignor, Northern Oregon ITA Assignor, PNW Sectional Trainer/Evaluator
- *Ivar Husa*, WA, Eastern Washington USTA Assignor
- *Reini Vanderheyd*, WA, Supplies Coordinator
- *Sam Sambrano*, WA, Recruiting and Diversity Coordinator, Member of Sub Committee for Complaint/Discipline
- *Steve Halberg*, OR, UO ITA Assignor
- *Tony Anegon*, ID, Vice Chair, Eastern Washington ITA Assignor, Chair of Sub Committee for Complaint/Discipline
- *John Rodenberg*, WA, Chair, National Officials' Committee Member, UW ITA Assignor



This 13-member committee thrives on teamwork, skills, experience and communication; if you have an interest in volunteering, please contact me. There are openings and new assignments from time to time.

## **USTA PNW Officials of the Year - Recognized for Excellence**

By USTA Staff

### Bill Haskin, Roseburg, Oregon - 2008 Official of the Year

Bill has been an official for 25+ years in both Georgia and Oregon. He is proof to the axiom that "you have to go where the events are". Bill started in Atlanta, a tennis city if there ever was one. He worked beginning level Junior, Adult and League matches as a roving official. He moved up to Collegiate, Professional and US Open with training and practice. He moved to Oregon, specifically Roseburg, which has 2-3 events per year in the city. That only meant Bill would continue to work in the city, the state and to travel extensively throughout the US for the next 20 years.

In a typical year, Bill is referee of two national collegiate events, the Blue/Gray Classic in the South and the National Men's Indoor in Seattle. He travels to 6-8 pro events per year from Vancouver, BC, to Connecticut to Bermuda. Bill has served as a US Open Official both on the lines and in the chair for 20 years, and has also worked both Davis Cup and Fed Cup matches.

In addition to pro events, Bill works collegiate events in Eugene, Seattle, Portland and Pullman. He attends training in Portland or California, assigns other officials to events in Southern Oregon and serves on the USTA Pacific Northwest Officials committee.

Bill takes special pride in the individuals who he has helped become successful umpires over the years as he believes it is important to mentor the next generation of umpires. He hopes that all officials make a special effort to reach out to new officials in order to ensure good work continues as current officials retire. Off the court, Bill is a computer systems/financial analyst serving several industries. He also does consulting work for insurance companies that are related to fire and safety protection for commercial firms.

### Edwin Jaffarian, Eugene, Oregon - 2008 Rookie Official of the Year

Edwin has been an official for one year, recruited and trained by Steve Halberg of Eugene. Many officials are needed in a city like Eugene, with three tennis clubs, one major college and many good junior players in the Valley. Edwin was trained, did his five shadow sessions and hit the courts. In the first year he moved to sectional certified status, to Provisional Intercollegiate status and to certified Intercollegiate status. Edwin traveled to Seattle to work Pac 10 events at UW and stayed in Eugene to work Pac10 events. He finished his first year by working in the chair at sectional open events with \$15K prize money on the line. Ask him in a few years which type of sports officiating he likes the best as he does several sports. Tennis is glad to have Edwin part time now. Off the court he is a public school teacher & athletic instructor full time.

(Do either of these officials have an on court life style you are interested in? One of these award winners could be you next year. John Rodenberg)

**ADVANTAGE** is the Official Newsletter of the PNW-USTA Officials Organization. **John Rodenberg**, Contributing Editor and **Dave Muhich**, Managing Editor. Send comments to [tennisracq@wa.net](mailto:tennisracq@wa.net) and [davemu21@hotmail.com](mailto:davemu21@hotmail.com). We're committed to deliver you the "ADVANTAGE" when it comes to officiating in the PNW Section.