

# ADVANTAGE

Official Newsletter of the USTA/PNW Tennis Officials Organization  
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## Notes From The Editor

By Dave Muhich



Greetings everyone! Hope everyone is doing well again this month. The ITA season is nearly upon us, so for those of you who have yet to submit your availability to the ITA assignors, please do so as soon as possible so that they can get the schedules locked in. Also, I wanted to give special congratulations this month to Ed Jaffarian of Eugene (Mike Robb Rookie Official of the Year) and Bill Haskin of Roseburg (Official of the Year), who were recently honored at the USTA PNW banquet in Portland.

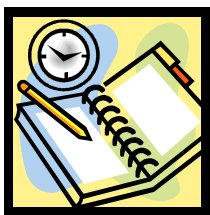
Congratulations Ed and Bill!

See you on the courts!

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## How Tourney Directors Schedule Events and Hire Officials

By John Rodenberg



This month, I thought I'd share with you the text from a form that USTA/PNW sends to all tournament directors throughout the PNW, to inform them of the specific conditions they must meet in order for their events to be officially sanctioned.

### **USTA/PNW CONDITIONS FOR SANCTION**

The following conditions will be required for all tournaments sanctioned by the USTA Pacific Northwest Section:

1. USTA/PNW standards regarding the maximum number of matches per court, per day; time schedule for matches; schedule changes; and seeding must be followed.
2. Single sticks are required for all levels of tournament play excluding Rookie level tournaments.
3. Tournament dates must be approved by the USTA/PNW Schedule and Sanction Committee.

4. After your tournament dates have been published any changes must be approved by the USTA/PNW **at least 60 days prior to the tournament.** Events added without this prior approval will not count toward rankings or Grand Prix point standings.
5. Completed drawsheets must be published onto the USTA/PNW webpage no later than 7 days after the completion of the tournament. In addition, First match times must be available to players no less than 96 hours prior to the start of the tournament.
6. **Sanction fees:** You must enter your credit card information when submitting your on-line sanction form to cover your sanction fee of \$35. A player surcharge will be assessed for all players for each event entered: \$1 per player for open and senior events and \$0.50 per player for junior champ and challenger events. An invoice itemizing the player surcharge will be mailed the first week of the month following your event.

**STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**

New balls for third set

Water available at each site

Certified official available throughout the tournament

By signing this form, I certify that the host club or organization and the tournament committee agree that conditions of play for the events listed will comply with USTA and USTA/Pacific Northwest Section rules and regulations and with the additional conditions for sanction which are listed above.

Tournament Site \_\_\_\_\_

Tournament Director Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

In order for your tournament to be sanctioned by the USTA/PNW you must complete this form and return it to Becky Tallent at the USTA/PNW Office. You can do one of the following; email, fax or mail. Tournaments that do not submit this form WILL NOT be sanctioned.

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**PNW Officials' Blog**

By Dave Muhich

At long last, the PNW Officials' Blog is here! You can visit our new blog by going to <http://pnwofficials.blogspot.com>. This blog is intended to be used those of us in the PNW (and beyond) for news, notes, and other general information to help us become better tennis officials. In order to post a new topic on the blog, you must register with Blogspot, although posting a comment to an already existing topic can be done without registration. All comments on the blog are moderated before being shown on the main blog site, and posting of any information that violates the USTA Officials' Code of Conduct will not be tolerated and will be immediately removed. Open discussion and debate of issues is definitely encouraged, but please be respectful of each other's viewpoints at all times. Let's make this a model for any other section's officials that want to make the jump into cyberspace.



Please contact me directly at [davemu21@gmail.com](mailto:davemu21@gmail.com) if you have any comments, questions, or concerns about the blog. I welcome any and all feedback on how I can make this a resource from which you all can gain value throughout your officiating careers.

## 2009 PNW Officials' Training Class

By John Rodenberg



In 2009, there will be only one Nationally sponsored Saturday/Sunday training class for the Pacific Northwest. This is a reduction from the two National classes we have been hosted in past years. The reason for the single class is cutbacks at the national budget level.

But, not to worry.....we will hold a second class in Oregon, taught by a Sectional class trainer. This person has not yet been identified, but it will be a full-fledged class, and will qualify for your annual training.

However, I would like as many officials as possible to plan on attending the single class, to be held in Seattle, Washington area. The most likely date for the class is 1/31 and 2/1, 2009. This date is our first choice, after reviewing all relevant collegiate ITA schedules. Please mark this date on your 2009 calendars as "most likely" and plan to attend. It is especially important that newer umpires working ITA in 2009 attend this class, as all other classes in our section will be after the ITA season is over.

There may not be a class in Alaska in 2009, and the chair will "waive" your attendance in 2009, if this is the case. There will be a BC class around midyear. The Oregon class will most likely be in April or May. Of course, any official can attend a class anywhere in the US, as many of our officials did in 2008 in Hawaii, Arizona, California or Florida.

I hope this helps for your advance planning, and please let me know if you have any questions on the 2009 training class.

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## Interesting Facts and Figures about PNW Officials

By John Rodenberg

Recently, I compiled a list of facts and figures about officials in the PNW. I thought I'd share some of the more interesting ones with you this month:

### Certification

105 certified and provisional officials

Years certified ranges from 1 to 25 years, with average of 8 years

Age from late teens to 70's

Turnover is about 6% per year



### Historical Percentages

100% attend annual national training and 100% follow the 16 point Officials Code of Conduct

100% complete annual Umpire exam

50% take additional training and exams, for Referee or ITA (Intercollegiate Tennis Assn.) certification

98% work regularly, at all level of events

30% have worked a USTA professional tourney

16% have worked ATP or WTA professional tourney, with Indian Wells and US Open being most likely

### Availability

We have grown from 70 officials in 2005 to 105 officials today, with efforts to include officials in all areas of the section, such as Eastern Washington, Spokane, Southern Oregon, BC and Alaska.

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## Change at the Top

By John Rodenberg



As most of you probably know by now, I have decided to resign my position as Chair of Officials in the USTA PNW section. I have served four two-year terms as Chair of Officials Committee, appointed by the President of USTA PNW Section from 2000 to 2008, and decided to not seek reappointment in 2009. I may undertake some other USTA duties, and I plan to continue on court officiating in the Northwest and throughout the US. I also plan to continue ITA assigning in Washington and serving on the PNW officials' committee.

The current vice chair, Tony Anegon, plans to continue in this role, but chose to not move up to the chair position, due to business obligations. The PNW USTA Board of Directors and the PNW USTA President selected Perry Hines of Portland as your new Chair of Officials. Perry expects to be officially appointed Chair effective 1/1/09. The current officials committee was informed of this at our annual meeting in Portland 10/25, and all present welcomed Perry and plan to continue their necessary committee work to assist the officials' organization. We expect a smooth transition.

I have enjoyed the past eight years, and I thank you all for the support both on and off the court that you showed me during that time.

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**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.