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National Associations
National Seniors Associations

6th July 2009

Dear All,

Re: Officiating requirements at ITF Senior Circuit tournaments from 2011

I am writing to inform you about a new regulation regarding the level of tournament referees at ITF Senior Circuit tournaments.

Since 2008, Grade 1 & 2 tournaments have been required to appoint a minimum White Badge official, whereas for Grade 3 & 4 tournaments this was only a recommendation.

From 2011 it will be a requirement for tournaments of all grades (1 to 5) on the ITF Senior Circuit to employ a referee with a minimum ITF White Badge certification.

The next few years will see the implementation of the ITF Seniors digitalisation project. Referees will have access to the ITF's Tournament Planner (TP) software, allowing the immediate transfer of information and results between the ITF database and its tournaments. This will reinforce the link between the ITF, the nations, tournament organisers, players and referees and provide an improved level of service (e.g. immediate tournament results upload to the ITF website). We can anticipate that as a result of the digitalisation process the ITF will be able to publish the Seniors World Ranking monthly in 2010 and weekly either in 2011 or 2012. In addition, the ITF is considering the introduction of world ranking for doubles and mixed doubles.

The introduction of White Badge referees will help us to continue to raise the standard of officiating and ensure that we have the infrastructure in place to proceed with the digitalisation project.

We realise the practical and financial implications of this rule, which is why I am writing to you 18 months before its implementation. This should give all tournaments enough time to prepare. Please pass this information on to all tournament organisers in your country so that they are also aware of the new requirements well in advance.

If you have any questions about this new rule or think you will need assistance finding appropriate officials please feel free to contact me or James Harrisson who co-ordinates the ITF Seniors Circuit.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luca Santilli', written in a cursive style.

Luca Santilli
Manager, Seniors Tennis
International Tennis Federation (ITF)

Cc. ITF Seniors Committee members
Regional Associations