



## The Official Communiqué

Fall 2004 Fourth Edition - 2004

### 2005 Training

Mark your calendars - the annual training and recertification weekend clinic will be held January 22 – 23 in Baton Rouge, at the Bocage Racquet Club. A USTA National Trainer/Evaluator will lead this weekend of training, assisted by our state trainers.

**2005 USTA school requirements for recertification has changed for some officials.** School requirements for **USTA Level and above** (national and professional) **officials**, only need to attend the Saturday afternoon session of the umpire clinic to be recertified as an umpire. USTA and above officials are required to attend the referee and ITA clinics if they wish to work in those capacities as well.

The USTA office in NY is mailing officials their 2005 certification cards and 2005 data cards in mid-December along with a memo addressing the change in school requirements. **This change impacts only a handful of Louisiana officials.** Check your 2005 certification card when it arrives to verify your level of certification. If after receiving your 2005 certification card you have any question on your certification level and/or your training requirements, contact Anne Burrell-Smith @ [anne\\_bs@msn.com](mailto:anne_bs@msn.com).

The Umpire Clinic is scheduled for Saturday (9:00 a.m. and/or 12:30 p.m. for

USTA and above officials). Sunday the ITA clinic will be held at 9:00 a.m. and the Referee clinic at 12:30 p.m. All sessions are free, however pre-registration is required. Contact Jane Christensen at [tqmsystems@aol.com](mailto:tqmsystems@aol.com) to pre-register for any of these clinics.

A **one day referee clinic** will be held on Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with the LTA Annual Meeting. This clinic is intended for officials who work only as referees. A National Trainer/Evaluator is scheduled to teach this clinic. The clinic will be held at the Holiday-Inn South Hotel in Baton Rouge at 12:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required for this clinic. To do so, contact Anne Burrell-Smith @ [anne\\_bs@msn.com](mailto:anne_bs@msn.com).

If you know of someone interested in becoming a USTA official, please have them contact Jane or Anne to register for our upcoming training.

Contact Anne if you are interested in scheduling a training clinic in your area.

### Official Survey

The Officials Committee is interested in identifying ways to better serve you. In the next week, you will receive a survey from us. Please take a few minutes to complete and return the survey. Responses can be submitted anonymously. Complete survey results will be included in the next Official Communiqué.

## **Australian Open**

Congratulations to Revathy Solomon of Prairieville who will be one of the few American officials working the 2005 Australian Open.

## **Pro Circuit in Louisiana**

Louisiana hosted three pro circuit events this past fall: Covington, Lafayette and Baton Rouge. These events provided local officials an opportunity to try their hand at line umpiring. If you are interested in line umpiring and missed this opportunity, look for announcements of their return in 2005.

## **Referee's Corner**

At sanctioned events, players are playing to attain crucial ranking points. If inclement weather results in altering the original match format, ensure the altered format adheres to USTA, sectional and state regulations. You can find a copy of current state regulations at [www.louisianatennis.com](http://www.louisianatennis.com).

## **2004 in Review**

The Officials Committee worked diligently this year to reach their 2004 annual goals of:

- Increasing communication to officials
- Expanding the number of quality, trained tennis officials in the state
- Raising the level of professionalism of tennis officials

A number of initiatives were implemented to meet these goals:

- Official's website
- Mentor Program
- Quarterly newsletter
- E-mail blasts
- Various training clinics

The committee believes 2004 was a great start in building an officials program in Louisiana we can all be proud of.

## **Committee Goals for 2005**

Goals set by the committee for 2005:

- Broaden the Mentor Program by expanding the program and increasing the involvement of veteran and provisional officials
- Continue to raise the level of professionalism of Louisiana Officials through clinics and work opportunities

## **2004 Officials Committee**

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