




OFFICIATING SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

There are 4.7 billion active social media users in the world, and of these users, 104 million in Europe are using social media for at least 45 minutes per day. There are an increasing number of Officials who take to social media to voice their opinion on a wide range of topics. National Associations have also increased their activities on various social media platforms to promote Officiating and the game of tennis.

This document has been created to assist Officials and National Associations with questions related to the use of social media and to provide guidance when it comes to publishing content on social media platforms. These are general guidelines which should be adhered to when using social media. This list is not exhaustive, and the Code of Conduct for Officials must be respected at all times, particularly sections A. 5), 8), 9), 11), 13), 14), 15), 16), 17) and 18).

Social Media accounts and usage

We understand that social media has become a part of many people's lives and Officials are not excluded from these communication channels. Nevertheless, all Officials must remain impartial and independent both on and off court, in relation to tennis at all times.

	
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">GENERAL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 Be aware that all personal details and statements linked to an Official may be referred to at a later stage, whether the content has been posted in a personal or professional context 👉 It is highly recommended that you do not share your personal or contact details on any social media platforms 👉 Take full advantage of the privacy features on each social media platform to protect your accounts and do not accept friend requests from people you do not know 👉 Be mindful when commenting on political, view of life, religious or social issues, as this could harm your reputation or question your impartiality 👉 You must not post, share, or comment on anything that could be considered bullying, hazing or discriminatory towards anyone or anything



Officials on social media

OFFICIALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pictures of yourself at tournaments or when performing duties may be posted after the completion of the tournament <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Content about tournament locations may only be posted when the selections have been publicly announced (including travel to/from tournament cities) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officials may like/follow National Associations and their content on Social Media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officials must not like/share/comment on any posts from players, coaches and tournament organisers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officials must not be linked to any players/coaches/organisers (being friends with, follow or similar) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Official hashtags (events, players, organisations) must not be used <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information about matches, players, assignments, results or similar should not be posted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Statements about Rules, Regulations or the Governing Bodies in Tennis are not allowed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not post pictures of yourself at tournaments BEFORE the start of, or during the event

National Associations on social media

NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Selections of Officials may be shared if they have been publicly announced <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pictures and articles about Officials at tournaments may be published following completion of the event <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General articles and stories about Officiating may be posted to promote Officiating, if the principles of the Code of Conduct for Officials are adhered to <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officials may give interviews to their National Association if approved by the relevant jurisdiction* and the Code of Conduct for Officials is adhered to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Articles, pictures or stories about Officials at tournaments must not be posted/published before completion of the event <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments must not be made about decisions of Officials when performing their duties <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private details of Officials must not be shared

*please refer to the scope of jurisdiction information sheet

If you have questions, please contact ITF Officiating for assistance.



Jurisdiction of approvals for media requests or interview

As a precondition, all media requests or interview enquiries must be approved by the Supervisor/Referee or a representative of the Joint Certification Programme, as outlined in the Code of Conduct for Officials.

Requests at tournaments should typically be made through the Chief Umpire.

Type of event	Jurisdiction of approval
International/White Badge/Green Badge/National Officials at tournaments	
ITF World Tennis Tour/ ITF Seniors	ITF Supervisor
ATP Events	ATP Supervisor
WTA Events	WTA Supervisor
Davis Cup/ Billie Jean King Cup	Referee
Grand Slam® Events	Referee
International Officials not at tournaments	
	Contact ITF Officiating to seek approval from the Joint Certification Programme
White Badge/Green Badge/National Officials not at tournaments	
	National Officiating Manager - if in doubt, the National Association seeks approval from ITF Officiating