

Qualification Procedure for Level 1 Umpires

The qualification procedure for Level 1 (County) Umpires was changed in January 2018.

The method of qualification whereby County Umpire Secretaries recruited and then tested candidates using the examination paper and practical assessment form produced by the Technical Officials Committee (TOC) was not generating a good stream of new umpires, and over time this created a shortage of umpires. TOC introduced new umpire seminars in 2012 and these proved to be successful, producing a steady flow of new umpires. The teaching style of the seminars was changed in late 2017 to incorporate online learning.

There is a small fee for the course and the course splits into two days with the first day focusing on communication skills, the role of an umpire, preparing a court for the match, service laws, decision-making and hand signals. The second day involves lots of practice in a competition environment and practical assessments with qualified umpires.

The new Level 1 (County Umpire) course was developed in partnership with Sports Officials UK, with the overall aim of recruiting more officials to support competitive table tennis at all levels. The course provides a broad set of skills and knowledge to enable delegates to become confident umpires.

The work done by County Umpire Secretaries is still very important, and they can play a vital role by helping to establish one of these new umpire seminars in their county.

To find out more about organising a Level 1 New Umpire seminar please contact Karen Tonge on k_tonge@sky.com or Greg Yarnall on greg.yarnall@tabletennisengland.co.uk

John Mackey
Secretary
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