

# **Tennis Ireland Officials (“TIO”)**

– formerly known as the Irish Tennis Umpires’ Association (ITUA)

## **CONSTITUTION AND RULES:**

### **1. Name:**

With effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024, the name of the Association will change from the “Irish Tennis Umpires’ Association – ITUA” to “Tennis Ireland Officials - TIO”, a recognised and accredited body within Tennis Ireland.

### **2. Objectives:**

TIO will have as its objectives:

- a) The establishment of an organisation capable of officiating at all events sanctioned by Tennis Ireland;
- b) Train, recruit and supply Chair and Line Umpires to events;  
Note: i) TIO will provide training in both on-line and in-person formats as required;  
ii) Tennis Ireland will provide on-line training for both Referees and Court-Supervisors/Off-Court Officials and will recruit for events as they see fit;
- c) To represent the interests of its members.

### **3. Classes of Membership:**

There will be the following classes of Membership:-

- a) Full;
- b) Honorary.

### **4. Membership:**

- a) Full members will be permanently resident in Ireland. To become a full member the applicant must attend and pass a training programme approved by TIO and have their application approved by the Executive Committee (“ExCo”).
- b) Honorary membership may be conferred at the Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) on any member no longer active in the Association who by virtue of their contribution to the Association may be deemed worthy of such an honour.

### **5. Code of Conduct:**

All members will adhere to:-

- i) ‘ITF Rules of Tennis’ and ‘Tennis Ireland Regulations’;
- ii) ‘ITF Duties and Procedures for Officials’;
- iii) ‘ITF Code of Conduct for Officials’ and ‘Tennis Ireland’s Code of Conduct’.

### **6. Grading of Officials/Certification:**

All members will be graded accordingly to their ability to officiate and each member will receive year-end grading and assessment. Remaining a certified member(s) will entail: work record (during any given year) and may also include a recertification exam (TBC).

**7. Financial Year:**

The Association financial year will run from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December and accounts will be submitted to the AGM.

**8. Subscriptions:**

The Annual subscription fee for Full and Honorary members will be reviewed and agreed at the AGM and should be paid in full by the 30<sup>th</sup> December by all members. Any member failing to pay in full by the due date may have their membership terminated, following review by the ExCo.

**9. Executive Committee (“ExCo”):**

The ExCo will consist of nine (9) members:-

Chairperson, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and four (4) ordinary members. Tennis Ireland will be represented by two members in addition to the seven (7) elected members. The ExCo will be elected/re-elected on an annual basis at the AGM. Candidates for election to the ExCo must be full members of TIO and/or Tennis Ireland, and be proposed and seconded by full members, and their nominations received by the Hon. Secretary at least ten days before the date set for the AGM.

The ExCo will meet at least six (6) times a year, and four (4) members will form a quorum at such meetings. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson of the meeting will have a further casting vote.

The ExCo’s terms of reference will be as follows:-

- a) To improve officiating standards at all levels of the game;
- b) To lay down procedures for the recruitment, training and supply of members of TIO to events;
- c) To oversee the evaluation and selection of all members officiating at all events;
- d) To arrange financial or other terms under which the organisation will provide the services for its members;
- e) The ExCo will at its discretion have the power to appoint sub-committees where required/appropriate.

The ExCo will have the power to suspend or terminate the membership of any member for any reason which may seem proper. Any member so disciplined must be informed of the reason and will have the right of appeal and representation to the Disciplinary Committee.

**10. Annual General Meeting (AGM):-**

A general meeting will be held annually between 1<sup>st</sup> November and 31<sup>st</sup> December. The Hon. Secretary will notify all members of the AGM date at least three (3) weeks prior to the AGM date. Any Full Member wishing to propose a resolution at the AGM affecting the rule or policy of the Association will lodge it with the Hon. Secretary in writing/via email within fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the AGM. Such resolutions must also be properly seconded by a Full Member. The Hon. Secretary will send all members a copy of the Agenda and relevant documents prior to the AGM.

The business of the meeting will be:

- a) The confirmation of the minutes of the previous AGM and of any subsequent extraordinary general meetings;
- b) The presentation of the annual reports and the accounts for the year;
- c) The election of officers and members to the ExCo;
- d) The consideration of all items included on the agenda.

Any further business may be accepted at the discretion of the Chairperson, provided that it does not call for an alteration of the rules, the borrowing of money or any expenditure not within the immediate financial resources of the Association. All members will be entitled to be present and to speak at any general meeting, but only full members will have the right to vote. All matters, except for changes in the rules, will be decided by a simple majority of those present and voting. At all general meetings, the Chairperson will have the casting vote.

**11. Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM):**

The ExCo will call an EGM at their discretion, or within six (6) weeks of receipt by the Hon. Secretary of a requisition, signed by at least ten Full Members, giving notice of the matter to be discussed at the meeting. No matter other than that specifically brought forward will be discussed at such a meeting.

**12. Election of ExCo:**

The members of the ExCo will retire annually and will be eligible for re-election at the AGM. All candidates for election will be nominated by two members of the Association, at least one of whom is not a member of the ExCo.

No members may serve on the ExCo for more than five (5) consecutive years.

In the event of a vacancy occurring between AGMs amongst the members of the ExCo, the ExCo will be entitled to fill the vacancy by the co-option of a Full Member. Any person so co-opted will serve until the next AGM and will be eligible to seek election thereafter.

**13. Rules:**

The Rules will not be altered except at a general meeting after due notice and then only a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.