



Mentor Roles and Responsibilities

Background

The information that follows lists some specific roles and responsibilities of the mentor and the 'home' Certified Referee Coordinator (CRC). The 'home' CRC is defined as the CRC who assigned the mentor to the Level 2 (L2) referee that has opted for certification.

IMPORTANT:

There is one primary principle in the relationship between the L2 referee, their mentor and the "home" CRC:

The mentor and the 'home' CRC should always know the current status of the L2's progress toward certification. The mentor and the 'home' CRC remain the mentor and CRC on record and must be involved in all decisions related to their L2's progress.

This is particularly true – and is more difficult, when the L2 is in one USA Pickleball region for a few months and then relocates to another, if not several other USA Pickleball regions for a few months at a time. The L2 can work with any Registered Trainer (RT), Certified Referee (CR) and/or CRC in any region to improve their skills. However, the original 'home' CRC (the one that assigned the mentor) and the mentor **must** remain informed of their progress. The 'home' CRC is the only CRC who can conduct the required CRC interview and make the final recommendation to move forward to an On Court Evaluation (OCE).

Exception: If the L2 has permanently relocated to a different region, the 'home' CRC may determine that a change in CRC and mentor may be warranted. Therefore, the CRCs of each region will decide on the CRC and mentor to complete the L2's progress towards certification.

Mentor's Role:

1. Ensure the L2 is following Best Practices and understanding of the Officiating Handbook and Casebook.

2. Improve the on-court skills and ensure rules knowledge through observed practice sessions.
3. Ensure L2 is getting tournament experience by having them send their schedule.
4. Act as an advisor and confidant to the L2.
5. Serve as a resource for answering questions for assigned L2.

Mentor Responsibilities:

1. Read and understand the information provided in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the Tiered Referee Rating (TRR) Program and Advanced Training Session (ATS). Both sets of FAQs are located on the referee reference page on the USA Pickleball website. The mentor is also responsible for their L2 to read and understand the FAQs for TRR and ATS.
2. If the mentor decides the L2 is ready for an ATS, the mentor must notify the "home" CRC.
3. The mentor would conduct the ATS only if another Certified Referee is not available to do so.

Note: The reasons why someone other than the mentor should conduct the ATS are explained in the FAQ for ATS's.

4. If you, as the mentor, conducted the ATS, make a judgment on the readiness of the L2 for an evaluation. If the L2 is ready for their evaluation, notify the 'home' CRC who assigned you as the mentor that the L2 is ready for the CRC interview.

Note: If you did not conduct the ATS, then the CR who conducted the ATS makes the recommendation to you, the mentor, and to the 'home' CRC on the readiness of the L2 for the CRC interview.

5. If you, as the mentor, conducted the ATS, and you do not think the L2 is ready for the evaluation, notify the 'home' CRC that, in your opinion, the L2 is not ready for the CRC interview. Also, make a recommendation on whether you, as the mentor, think another ATS will be needed before recommending the CRC interview take place. The mentor should include a listing of deficiencies when making such recommendation. The 'home' CRC has the final decision on whether an additional ATS should occur and who should conduct it.
6. If a Certified Referee other than the mentor conducted the ATS and that CR does not think the L2 is ready for the evaluation, the CR who conducted the ATS should notify you, the mentor, and the 'home' CRC that in the CR's opinion, the L2 is not ready for the CRC interview. That CR should also make a recommendation on whether they think another ATS take place before the CRC

interview takes place. The CR should include a listing of deficiencies when making such recommendation. The 'home' CRC has the final decision on whether an additional ATS should occur and who should conduct it.

Note: If the mentor or the CR who conducted the ATS deem the L2 not ready for the CRC interview, then the L2 should be observed by the mentor during tournaments or during recreational games to verify they have corrected the weaknesses identified by the CR during the ATS. If the mentor cannot, for whatever reason, conduct those observations, then the 'home' CRC can assign other CRs to conduct the observations. These 'other' CRs then notify the mentor and the 'home' CRC that the L2 is ready for either the CRC interview or ATS if an additional ATS is required.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS REGARDING THE ATS:

1. FAQs #6: Only the 'home' CRC may waive the ATS; the mentor does not have this authority.
2. FAQs #7: An ATS should not be performed at a formal tournament, but in a controlled environment with simulated faults and violations.