

# COCTALES



THE NEWSLETTER OF BWF TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

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## CONTINUOUS ALERTNESS: A MUST FOR BWF HIGH PERFORMING TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

By Gilles Cavert  
Chair – BWF Technical Official Commission



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### PARA BADMINTON PRACTICAL AND SOFT SKILLS

By Carmen Martínez,  
BWF Referee

Talking about badminton is talking about great life stories and personal growth and improvement.



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### ISABELLE JOBARD – A PIONEER

By Torsten Berg,  
Member - BWF Referee Assessment Panel

Badminton in France and the rest of the world was lucky when Isabelle Jobard (FRA) as a young student in Paris in the 1970s tried to play badminton and fell in love with our game. French badminton was much smaller those days, with less than 2000 organised players.

# CONTINUOUS ALERTNESS: A MUST FOR BWF HIGH PERFORMING TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

By Gilles Cavert,  
Chair – BWF Technical Official Commission



FROM THE CHAIR BY  
**GILLES  
CAVERT**

## From Page 1

With increasing media exposure, one mistake by a technical official will be noticed by fans and spectators around the world and can have an immediate impact on the presentation of our sport.

Recently, several on-court incidents took place at our top tournaments by umpires, including losing track of the score, posting an incorrect score, and losing track of the number of IRS challenges remaining.

This highlights the need for umpires and service judges to take a more active role

in supporting each other as an immediate remedy to these types of scenarios... and it certainly emphasises our theme of “teamwork” and “team spirit”!

Furthermore, it highlights the growing responsibility of the service judge as a key resource and support to the umpire to ensure the best possible match and presentation of our sport to the world.

To that end, the service judge must be 100% alert from the start of the match until its completion. Another resource for the umpire is

the referee who has the authority to step onto court if he/she believes his/her action can efficiently lead to the resumption of the match.

As such, “alertness” is key, allowing the referee to promptly determine potential solutions.

“Alertness” is a crucial soft skill, and will help all technical officials in this new world of worldwide media coverage where every action (or non-action) is examined much more closely than before.



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### **BWF Semi-Professional Referee and Umpire Teams Recruitment Underway**

BWF is currently recruiting semi-professional referee and umpire teams for the new cycle: 2024-2026, and I encourage everyone in our workforce to consider this opportunity.

The application deadline is 28 April 2023.

For more information, please go to the referee and umpire pages of the BWF Corporate site at: <https://corporate.bwfbadminton.com/technical-officials/>



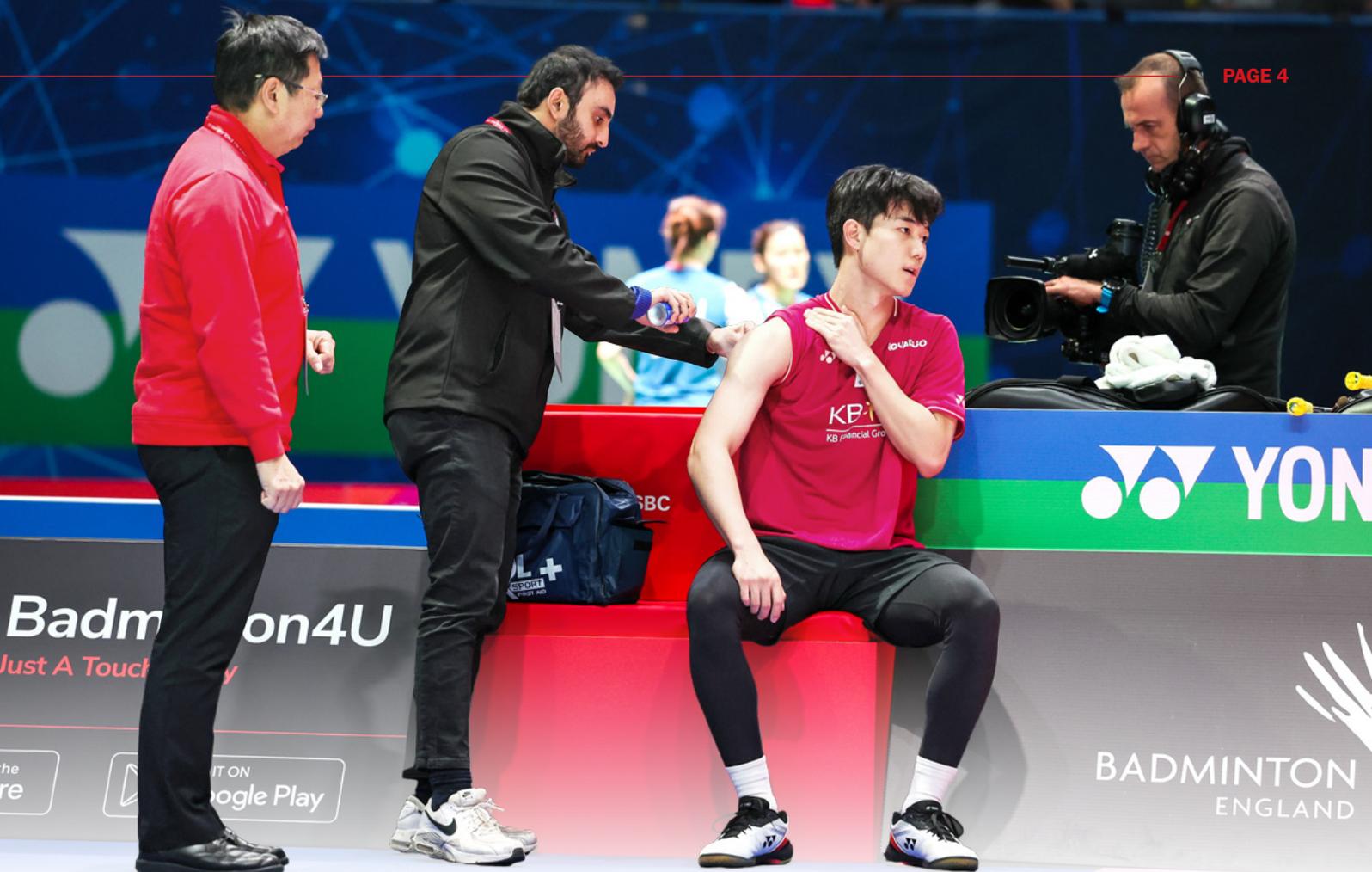
PARIS 2024



### **Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Technical Officials Teams**

The selection process for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games teams is underway, and we look forward to confirming these teams soon.





# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**By Jane Wheatley,  
Chair – BWF Referee  
Assessment Panel**

I recently read a quote that sits with us all at times:

*“When you want to help people, you tell them the truth. When you want to help yourself, you tell them what they want to hear.”*

As referees, we deal with all personalities, different cultures, different levels of expertise and so we need to be ever mindful of how we interact with our colleagues.

This is where our soft skills come into play, and whether you are working to leave a legacy with the host organiser, or to be a good mentor, we must be truthful but careful in how we deliver the message. No good ever comes from being abrasive.

Be kind, empathetic, listen, and then help

with words that encourage and support, rather than those which may demoralise.

The 2023 tournament calendar is well underway and this is the first year of the new HSBC BWF World Tour cycle. Tournaments are running well, referees are very busy and so far, so good.

We were pleased to receive an email from a CC referee asking for advice and direction regarding an on-court matter. If changes are needed we must be kept informed so that we can help. Please do not hesitate to contact the pertinent body who will deal with the issue.

## Referee Team work

It is always worthwhile to review our roles as referees, and it has been noticed that we need to standardise in the following areas:

- ▶ To set the tone and authority of the referee team, the designated head referee must present the

Team Manager’s Meeting (TMM) and the Umpire Briefing in full. Do not get the Deputy to do some of the slides. This can be messy and unprofessional in presentation. Using common sense, if there is urgent business arising that the referee has to deal with before the TMM then hand the Umpire Briefing over to the deputy referee. There are ample opportunities for the deputy referee to lead briefings during the tournament.

- ▶ Work to the strengths of your team. Distribute and rotate daily tasks as this will help with gaining experience.
- ▶ Referee teamwork includes working together to gather information for the referee report. Before submitting the report to BWF, the referee will ask the deputy to check the report to ensure they have not missed any important details.
- ▶ A five minute debrief amongst the referee team at the end of the day will prepare you for the next day.

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### 2023 BWF Technical Officials Grants

After a review of the BWF Technical Officials Grants last year, including feedback from Continental Confederations (CC), we have introduced a new opportunity for our CC Referee Candidates to gain experience at HSBC BWF World Tour and BWF Tour tournaments, before undertaking BWF assessment.

This follows in the path of our CC Umpire Candidate colleagues who have, for many years, sought experience at the World Tour level prior to their BWF assessment.

This year, we are happy to note that several CC Referee Candidates from Badminton Asia, Badminton Oceania, Badminton Africa and Badminton Pan Am will get this opportunity at carefully chosen World Tour tournaments where we believe they will gain optimum experience and training.

### Workshops in 2023

Following a successful BWF-CC Umpire Assessor workshop in 2022, the BWF is conducting the inaugural BWF-CC Referee Assessor Workshop in conjunction with

the Indonesia Open 2023. The workshop will bring together members of the BWF Referee Assessor Panel and CC Referee Assessors from each CC, to review performance standards to help identify and prepare their top referee candidates for assessment to the BWF level.

Only a comprehensive assessment evaluation process will ensure consistent high standards of CC candidates, leading to successful BWF assessments.

### Online Workshop 2023 – Draw Management

BWF is currently reviewing the Draw Management Document. Once finalised, we plan to host a virtual workshop, to ensure all referees are up to date.

### Mentoring

In 2022, we opened up the mentoring programme to allow referees to choose their mentor from amongst the BWF Referee Assessment Panel. Don't sit around wondering if you are making errors. Find a mentor with whom you have a rapport, someone you trust to be your confidante and support person, and start building your personal performance.

### New Semi-Professional Referee Cycle 2024-2026

The closing date for applications for the new Semi-Professional Referee cycle is 28 April 2023.

I encourage all BWF Referees to submit an application, however, for some BWF referees the time and commitment and/or other factors may not make the contractual requirements feasible. For those of you who are interested and available please do not hesitate to apply. This opportunity is open to all and candidates will be evaluated on a number of factors, but not limited to: experience, availability, and performance, as measured through the 360 degree appraisal system.

For more information, please go to the referee and umpire pages of the BWF Corporate site at: <https://corporate.bwfbadminton.com/technical-officials/>

Refereeing is a tough job at times and I want to let you all know how much you are appreciated.



# UMPIRE UPDATE

By Malcolm Banham,  
Chair – BWF Umpire Assessment Panel

Welcome to another version of COC-Tales designed to keep us all up to date on what is happening with officiating at our Major Championships and World Tour. Please encourage your colleagues to read COC-Tales.

In reply to a recent question sent to me, I noted that we have covered this question in more than one article in COC-Tales. In response, the technical official asked where to find these articles in COC-Tales? Please spread the word.

The next cycle of Semi-Professional Umpires is almost upon us, and so we encourage everyone to consider finding the extra time to take on this role. Do not hesitate to ask for more information from the BWF Office about the programme, if it will help you make the best decision about applying for the position.

## Instant Review System (IRS) and Scoring

We have had some recent examples with IRS where the umpire has not given the point to the correct side. Please be more vigilant on the result of the IRS. There is no question the umpire is under pressure when a challenge is made, so please take your time. There is no rush, the players are usually towelling, you have an automated system to determine the correct outcome, and you have a key teammate on the court—your service judge—to confirm you have updated the score correctly.

While the umpire is in the spotlight when the point is given to the wrong side, however, why does the service judge not stand up and help the umpire get the right decision for the players, solving the problem in seconds?

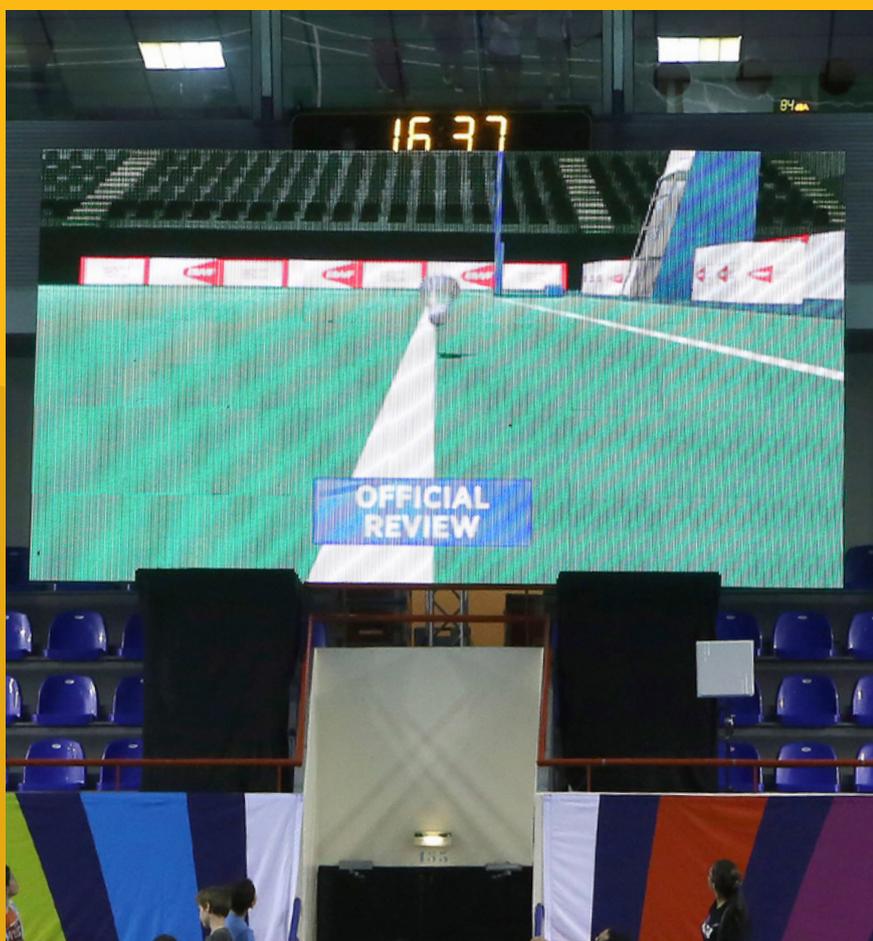
The umpire and service judge are a team and so should work together for the benefit of the players!

## 360-Degree Evaluation Programme Review

In January, we held a very successful meeting of the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel to focus on the 360-degree evaluation system and allow the team to discuss all aspects programme.

The panel will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the Singapore Open 2023 in June, and I look forward to updating you on key outcomes and standardisation in due course.

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### Experiences of new BWF Umpire Assessor Kelly Hoare (AUS)

As you know, we have some new members of the panel join the past few years, and one of our recent additions is Kelly Hoare with her thoughts on joining the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel:

*"As one door shuts another one opens, and I was fortunate to join the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel in 2022, and so the following is a glimpse into my first assignment to gain experience.*

*"My first shadow assessor opportunity came at the TotalEnergies BWF World Championships 2022 in Tokyo, JPN, working alongside Mike Walker (CAN), Kelvin Martin (BAR), and Gilles Cavert (FRA).*

*"Being an umpire, you would always read the Laws and regulations. However, being an assessor, I found myself studying the Laws to the inch degree. Constantly questioning*

*why a Law was written a certain way or what does the Law really mean and how should it be used.*

*"So, this experience sitting behind the courts in Tokyo was a totally different perspective: I was now watching the umpire's posture, their presence in the chair, facial expressions, hand movements and if they had a loud clear voice, while concentrating on the players body language to see if there are any issues and to see how they handled themselves. Was the umpire performing up to our standard? How can they improve? How can I help them? Do they even need my help? These are all questions going through my mind.*

*"Then after each match I gave feedback to the candidate that they could understand and be used confidently without overloading them.*

*"Also, many umpires who were not being assessed approached me for advice. It can be quite a challenge,*

*albeit one I thoroughly enjoyed and hoped my knowledge was useful.*

*"Next was submitting the paperwork on each assessment and the overall assessment programme at this tournament. This included a meeting of my panel colleagues to discuss, comment, and finally grade each umpire on how well they performed during the week.*

*"The final task can be one of delight or utter despair for the candidates and one that I felt was very challenging. It is difficult to tell someone who has been stressed all week, umpiring to the best of their ability, that he/she failed the practical and/or theory exam, and to hope they get another opportunity in the future, knowing how hard it was to get there in the first place.*

*"Of course, it's wonderful when they pass, to watch the joy on their faces, all their hard work has finally come to fruition."*



# PARA BADMINTON PRACTICAL AND SOFT SKILLS

From Page 1



**By Carmen Martínez,  
BWF Referee**

Talking about badminton is talking about great life stories and personal growth and improvement.

For many of our players, the first step forward may have been the result of many months of work; the first push of a wheelchair may have been the result of a traumatic and painful situation. Resilience is a common word for our players, but more than that, our participants are first and foremost sportspeople.

Thanks to BWF and its Para Badminton Commission, great strides have been made in the Laws and regulations area, and this work will continue.

A World Circuit has been created, which seemed unthinkable only a few years ago, and the evolution of the standards it is now a reality, but there is still a lot of work to be done. Success is in our hands, the result of experience and adaptation to new demands, and between prudence and the most conventional approaches to para badminton.

## Hard Skills

This fast evolution has led to the frenetic development of new regulations in recent years. The “Instructions to Para Badminton Technical Officials” (PBITTO) document was published in 2022 including important details on the application of the Laws and regulations for para badminton.

Please read these instructions carefully, including the unique details (e.g. field of play, accessibility, space requirements, etc.) and follow them precisely, as they will be an important guide in our work.

And, in addition to the traditional roles in badminton, we have two additional stakeholders at para badminton tournaments: classifiers and technical delegates, whose responsibilities and tasks we must understand and fit into our action plan. We are all part of the same team!

But, as usual, there will be many other situations, beyond the written ones, requiring our attention. For example, we must be able to imagine how to get in, out and around the field of play, transport and accommodation from a wheelchair.

In badminton, many of situations that do not appear in the Laws and regulations or the ITTO, can be found in the Codes of Conduct, but what about para badminton?

- ▶ Where can we find out what to do if a player's prosthesis comes off?
- ▶ How can we give consistency and stability to the different types of surfaces on which wheelchair play can take place?
- ▶ To what extent should the modification of the FOP be changed if we seek standardisation?
- ▶ Can we lower the players' boxes to make them suitable to wheelchair players and SH6 class?
- ▶ How can we shake hands with a player in a wheelchair from our umpire's chair?
- ▶ Is a coach allowed to enter the court to tie shoelaces?

Circumstances surrounding para badminton tournaments are specific, and only experience and common sense can answer these questions, making the combination of soft and hard skills extremely important.

Be alert, and sure that you have all the necessary information.

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### Soft Skills

In the last two years, our Semi-Professional Referees have been incorporated into para badminton competitions, and it has been very curious to me how the small details that experience gives you can be the subject of questions for those who have had no previous contact with disability in badminton.

Becoming familiar with disability, with its different manifestations, needs, and bodily forms should be our first soft skill. The only foolish question is the one that is not asked!

Do not be shy to ask questions, do not be left with doubts, and share your concerns and knowledge with your colleagues.

The best way to learn and understand is through:

- ▶ Observing
- ▶ Listening
- ▶ Proactivity
- ▶ Empathy

And no matter how experienced you are, there will always be new learning opportunities!

Another difference between badminton and para badminton is the levels of competition, and so you should be prepared for the level you are to face.

### Grade 2 Level 3 Differences

In Para badminton Grade 2 Level 3 tournaments, competitions may have a noticeable local character with national players who are new to the world of sport, or those who have just arrived in the world of disability. The level of play will probably be relatively lower, and the badminton knowledge still growing.

This dynamic does not only affect how we deal with players, but especially the way we address coaches. Our vocabulary and way of conducting the meeting must take these factors into account. We need to be patient, listen, and clearly answer all of their questions. The technical delegate plays a key

role at this level, too, due to the larger need to combine events.

### Grade 2 Level 2 Differences

Grade 2 Level 2 tournaments can be the most complex to manage, as we will find many different levels of play, from some of the best players in the world, to completely new or more recreational ones.

All information provided must be very clear and focus on those who may be less knowledgeable.

And, be ready to answer many different questions and explain numerous details regarding clothing regulations.

### Grade 2 Level 1 Differences

At this level, the competitive aspect and high level of play are the key factors. In many ways, it is very similar to badminton in regards to the professionalism of the participants. Keep your eyes open with the appropriate approach to para badminton needs!



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### Other Practical Considerations

Although hosts organisers have manuals to guide the successful implementation of para badminton tournaments, it is critical to our success to be in contact with the host organisers well in advance. Some organisers may be new to hosting, so anticipate that it may take longer to get the information we need, and so take the opportunity to help them, especially in areas they may not have taken in account, including:

- ▶ Double-checking accommodation

- ▶ and transport as most wheelchair players will bring two wheelchairs.
- ▶ Confirming the conditions for wheelchair players in the competition venue (e.g. surface to be used on court, spectator area, accessibility, etc.). This could include confirmation that the meeting point is close to the wheelchair courts. This information may dictate match scheduling, knowing that wheelchair matches are delayed in time.
- ▶ Requesting photos of the facilities and all other specific spaces.
- ▶ Remember to review everything

through the eyes of the players and their needs, including looking at facilities from the right height to see things properly.

Para badminton competition is getting closer to that of badminton, and so must be our approach to our work as referees, knowing at what level we are at any given moment, which requires empathy.

You may start by looking at the wheelchair, prosthesis, or the amputated limb, but you have to end up looking at a badminton player!

# A REVIEW OF THE BWF LINE JUDGE VIRTUAL WORKSHOP – JANUARY 2023



**By Marisa Baird,  
Line Judge Coordinator/BEC  
Line Judge Representative**

The second BWF Line Judge virtual workshop took place in various homes, apartments and offices around the world on 17 January 2023, with 75 BWF Line Judges participating across two sessions.

The themes focused on welcoming new BWF Line Judges into the programme, and to inform all members about the way forward over the next few years.

As part of his formal welcome, BWF Technical Official Commission Chair, Gilles Cavert (FRA), noted that we are all part of the BWF Technical Official Family and PERFORMANCE should be at the heart of everything we strive to achieve.

BWF Deputy Events Director, Chris Trenholme, went on to summarise BWF's Strategic Plan for the development of technical officials, with 'Maximising opportunities for our workforce' as one key strategy. It had been noted over several cycles that not all members were receiving a tournament assignment every year and so it was decided to reduce the overall workforce from 100 to 80 over the next cycle to raise the average number of opportunities per line judge.

Chris also noted that BWF works closely with the Continental Confederations (CC) through a nomination process, to assign BWF Line Judges to the various Grade 1 and Para badminton Grade 1 tournaments on a yearly basis, including the following potential upcoming opportunities:

**2023:**

- ▶ TotalEnergies BWF Sudirman Cup Finals – 10
- ▶ TotalEnergies BWF World Championships – 10
- ▶ BWF World Senior Championships – 10
- ▶ BWF World Junior Championships – 10
- ▶ HSBC BWF World Tour Finals – 10

**2024:**

- ▶ TotalEnergies BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals – 10
- ▶ Paris 2024 Olympic Games – 20
- ▶ Paris 2024 Paralympic Games – 30
- ▶ BWF Para Badminton World Championships – 10
- ▶ BWF World Junior Championships – 10
- ▶ HSBC BWF World Tour Finals - 10

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BWF Line Judges have access to numerous items within a toolkit, including a uniform, organiser, and BWF Line Judges' Manual, which is relevant to all levels of line judges. It is available on-line and in various languages. This resource is a vital tool and should be downloaded, read and reread during your tenure as a BWF Line Judge. You should also promote its use within your national federation and to every line judge, new or experienced.

The focus of the meeting then shifted to the personal thoughts of some experienced BWF Line Judges to help guide the new BWF Line Judges towards their first events. Contributors to this section included Raventus Pongoh (INA), Barbara Storch (AUS), (delivered by Marisa Baird in her absence), Ravi Nandan Shiva Shankar (AUS), and Florencia Biracouritz (ARG), and is consolidated and summarised below.

### **Before the Tournament**

Once you are appointed, BWF will provide information about your tournament, including the dates you will be expected to arrive and leave the country, the city where the event will take place and accommodation you will receive. You will be expected to:

- ▶ Find out about any visa/entrance/medicinal requirements by reviewing your government website and that of the the host country. Line judges who have been to the tournament before will be able to help you with these, so ask your friends and colleagues to help.
- ▶ Book flights and purchase travel and Covid insurance, if required.
- ▶ Read and understand the BWF Officials Line Judges' Manual. Know, understand and follow BWF Laws, regulations and procedures.
- ▶ Research the country you will visit and try, if possible, to extend your stay to include some sightseeing time.
- ▶ Plan clothes to take based on the time of year and location of the tournament.
- ▶ Purchase small souvenirs that can be given to local or BWF Line Judges and other TOs.
- ▶ Read up on local customs, greetings, food and places of interest.
- ▶ Copy all bookings and confirmations you receive.
- ▶ Carry spare black trousers, shirt and shoes in hand luggage, in case your case fails to arrive.
- ▶ Carry all required medicines in hand luggage.

### **During the Tournament**

- ▶ Follow the referee and local line judge coordinator's guidance.
- ▶ Attend all briefings and meetings.
- ▶ Be prepared to see world class badminton.
- ▶ Use IRS as a tool to help improve your performance.
- ▶ Ask yourself daily, "Is my performance of a high enough standard?", and, "How can I improve?"
- ▶ Balance on court pressure with off court relaxation: eat well, drink plenty of fluids, stay active such as going outside for fresh air if the situation permits, cat-nap between matches if you can, stay focused, be prepared for long matches and long days.
- ▶ When the day is over, get enough sleep.
- ▶ Be a role model to all, help others, work together as a team, discuss difficult situations once off court, take responsibility to ensure everyone is enjoying the experience.
- ▶ Stay abreast of changes to the tournament, match times and sessions, perhaps use WhatsApp.
- ▶ If time permits, see local attractions.

### **After the tournament**

- ▶ Attend local tournaments in your country in order to keep practising.
- ▶ Watch badminton on the internet and practice line calls in your own home.
- ▶ Stay up to date with BWF Laws, regulations, and policies.
- ▶ Use your IRS challenges to challenge yourself. Keep a count of correct and incorrect and aim to improve.
- ▶ Mentor and train new Line Judges.
- ▶ Motivate and advocate for all Line Judges.
- ▶ Share personal experiences with others.
- ▶ Keep in touch with your new friends and all Technical Official family.

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### BWF Line Judge Testimonial from Patrick Visscher (NED)

Patrick shared his recent experiences from the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and the TotalEnergies BWF Sudirman Cup Finals 2021, in Vantaa, FIN.

Patrick emphasised what a great opportunity it can be to serve in a BWF Line Judge role, especially if you are a badminton fan (like him): Sit in the best seats in the house, for free, among the best players and coaches in the world, and most of all, to gain a second family of friends from all over the world.

Patrick also noted how important it is to be a team player on and off court, as BWF Line Judges set the standard for line judging throughout the world. Local officials expect BWF Line Judges to perform at the highest level. Therefore, we must endeavour to always walk on/off correctly, sit properly, make calls in the correct way and mop appropriately.

The next section of the workshop focused on a panel discussion, made up of key BWF Technical Officials and staff, with the topic:

### *“In your role, what is the most important for Line Judge performance?”*

BWF Umpires Trish Gubb (NZL), Bert Vanhorenbeeck (BEL), and Gunner Lusveris (LAT) noted the following:

- ▶ Alertness, be ready to go on court to mop at all time if required and aware to where you need to mop, move quickly to mop and back to your seat to limit time loss, as getting play restarted is very important.
- ▶ Stick to your own job, do not being distracted by other courts, officials, spectators or coaches.
- ▶ Make good eye contact with the umpire for every call and acknowledge eye contact during intervals, this is good team work.
- ▶ During and between matches support local Line Judges.
- ▶ If you are going straight back on court after a match, but need a comfort break, make the umpire aware.

BWF Umpire Assessment Panel Chair, Malcolm Banham (ENG) emphasised the following:

- ▶ Team work is the most important thing
- ▶ Ensure a high standard of performance.
- ▶ Communication to and by everyone.

BWF Referees Lynne Nixey (NZL) and Nicos Vladimirou (CYP) noted the following:

- ▶ Do not be afraid to use the unsighted call if you genuinely cannot see the shuttle land.
- ▶ All lines are important. The centre and front service lines are just as important as any other and should be given attention and respect at all times.
- ▶ Focus on your job at all times and ensure your performance is the best you can give.
- ▶ If there are issues with the positioning of TV cameras or photographers, let the umpire or referee team know. ‘We can’t fix that which we don’t know about’.
- ▶ Work together with umpires and referees to ensure the officiating at every event is of a very high standard.



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BWF Line Judge Coordinator Marisa Baird (SCO) emphasised the following:

- ▶ Before the event, contact those who will attend, liaise with accommodation and transport teams, provide two-way information to all.
- ▶ Work out teams, ensuring experienced Line Judges are in each team to provide support to newer officials, while understanding these may change for various reasons.
- ▶ Attend the Umpire briefing to introduce yourself to the referees and the umpires. They then know who to contact if there are issues to be resolved. Also, you can find out the specifics for this event such as walk on/off, standing/sitting, mopping requirements.
- ▶ During the event, provide a comprehensive briefing to all Line Judges so everyone is aware of the event requirements.
- ▶ Identify team leaders and ensure they know to mentor more inexperienced Line Judges.
- ▶ Watch the teams at various time, to ensure high standards in all areas.
- ▶ Deal with any incidents immediately you become aware of them.
- ▶ Communicate with the referee, umpire, match control and event organiser teams to ensure everyone is happy with the Line Judge team's performance.

After the event, thank everyone personally for their time, support and professionalism. Share photos as a reminder of the great event.

BWF Deputy Events Director

Chris Trenholme emphasised the following:

- ▶ Stay up to date on all BWF Laws, regulations, and policies as they are there to protect you and keep you safe.
- ▶ Read and understand the BWF Line Judges' Manual.
- ▶ Be as professional in your approach as possible as at almost all BWF Major Championships, matches are streaming and broadcasting to a global audience at all times.

### **Open Forum**

#### **Eye Contact between the Umpire and Line Judges**

It was noted that if umpires were not using eye contact, the line judge should speak to the line judge

coordinator so he/she could refer this to the umpire coordinator, who would speak with the umpire.

#### **Marching On/Off the Field of Play Protocols**

It was noted that protocols for walking on and off, standing and sitting, and other standardised practices are in place and incorporated in the BWF Line Judges' Manual, however, individual events, time constraints, sports presentation and individual referees may adjust the plan at a specific tournament based on these circumstances.

In his closing remarks, Gilles Cavert emphasised that we are all high performing technical officials, exuding good team spirit, empathy, soft-skills, a willingness to improve, constant alertness, but to show humility to all.



# ISABELLE JOBARD – A PIONEER



From Page 1

**By Torsten Berg,  
Member - BWF Referee Assessment Panel**

Badminton in France and the rest of the world was lucky when Isabelle Jobard (FRA) as a young student in Paris in the 1970s tried to play badminton and fell in love with our game. French badminton was much smaller those days, with less than 2000 organised players. In other words, less than one percent of the membership today.

However, when Isabelle came to badminton and joined her club in Issy-les-Moulineaux just south of Paris where she is still active, the French federation recruited a true pioneer, who ever since then has had significant influence on the development of many facets of badminton in her country and also on the development of technical officials worldwide. I even had the pleasure to have her in one of my coach education courses in France in 1981.

The French federation (FFBad), having in 1979 gained independence after having been a committee in the powerful tennis organisation, had no trained and tested technical officials, so Isabelle Jobard, who in 1980 was elected to the federation board, decided to establish an umpire education programme.

Her professional background as a university professor surely helped her successfully train several generations of French umpires, of which over the years many have moved on to serve both Badminton Europe and BWF, including some even at the highest level. A few years later, Isabelle realised that the young federation had a need also for referees and trained tournament organisers, so she added that to her education programmes. And it is as a referee and referee educator for the BWF that the world outside France will remember Isabelle.



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[www.bwfbadminton.com](http://www.bwfbadminton.com)

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Isabelle Jobard was accredited as a BWF Referee in 1992, and already in 1996 she was the first woman to become a BWF Certificated Referee. Her first World Championships came the following year in Glasgow, and the pinnacle of her career as a BWF Referee were the two Olympic Games appointments in Athens 2004 and in Beijing 2008. Moreover, BWF used her experience as a teacher and mentor in courses and workshops for our referees, an activity she continued as a BWF Referee Assessor after having retired from active refereeing in 2015. Her last significant contribution was to help with the development and introduction of the 360-degree appraisal scheme that now is a cornerstone in our ongoing technical official training program.

As a referee, Isabelle was meticulous and demanded respect for the details of the Laws and regulations. She kept the organisers on their toes, and though some likely have found it hard to live up to her expectations, it certainly helped the development of the presentation of our major tournaments. BWF was also fortunate that in spite of Isabelle's demanding occupation as a scientific professor, the job was also relatively flexible, as the high-level teaching was concentrated in fairly few weeks and she was personally responsible for the planning of her research into meteorology and oceanography, so if given notice well in advance, she was almost always available for BWF when needed.

Being a pioneer for female international badminton technical officials—in particular referees—Isabelle Jobard joined and supported the BWF policy for equity put in place after 2008. She was active in the planning and execution of the gender equality workshops and in related sessions at the BWF Members



Forum held annually in connection with the AGM. Even after her time with BWF, with her university background, Isabelle has continued to serve as technical delegate for badminton to the European University Sport Association as well as a board member of a European organisation facilitating the exchange of experiences between umpires and referees from all sports.

Badminton in France and BWF is lucky to have had Isabelle Jobard as a very active contributor. She was on the

board of FFBad for 24 years, between 1980 and 1996 and again from 2008 to 2016 and she saw the federation growing more than 100 times in that period. BWF was happy to have her as a referee serving at the highest level for more than 20 years.

Personally, I am happy to have known and worked with her during those years and even enjoyed her hospitality in the splendidly situated apartment on the bank of the river Seine in Paris, with a view to the Eiffel Tower.

# 2023 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND APPRAISALS

As of April 2023 – calendar subject to change

Date	Meetings, Workshops and Appraisals	Location	Country	Tournament
09 May – 14 May	Umpire Appraisals	Pattaya	THA	Thailand Para badminton International 2023
14 May – 21 May	Referee Appraisals	Suzhou	CHN	TotalEnergies BWF Sudirman Cup Finals 2023
23 May – 28 May	Referee Appraisals	Kuala Lumpur	MAS	PERODUA Malaysia Masters 2023 presented by DAIHATSU
23 May – 28 May	Umpire Appraisals	Kuala Lumpur	MAS	PERODUA Malaysia Masters 2023 presented by DAIHATSU
03 Jun – 04 Jun	BWF Umpire Assessment Panel Meeting 2023	Singapore	SGP	in conjunction with Singapore Open 2023
06 Jun – 11 Jun	BWF Umpire Assessment for BWF Level	Singapore	SGP	Singapore Open 2023
11 Jun – 13 Jun	BWF-CC Referee Assessor Panel Workshop 2023	Jakarta	INA	in conjunction with Indonesia Open 2023
13 Jun – 18 Jun	Referee Appraisals	Jakarta	INA	Indonesia Open 2023
14 Jun	BWF Referee Assessment Panel Meeting 2023	Jakarta	INA	in conjunction with Indonesia Open 2023
20 Jun – 25 Jun	Referee Appraisals	Taipei	TPE	YONEX Taipei Open 2023
04 Jul – 09 Jul	Referee Appraisals	Calgary	CAN	YONEX Canada Open 2023
04 Jul – 09 Jul	Umpire Appraisals	Calgary	CAN	YONEX Canada Open 2023
25 Jul – 30 Jul	Umpire Appraisals	Tokyo	JPN	DAIHATSU Japan Open 2023
01 Aug – 06 Aug	Umpire Appraisals	Sydney	AUS	CROWN SATHIO Australia Open 2023
02 Aug – 06 Aug	Umpire Appraisals	Sheffield	ENG	4 Nations Para badminton International 2023
18 Aug - 20 Aug	TOC Meeting 2023	Copenhagen	DEN	In conjunction with TotalEnergies BWF World Championships 2023
21 Aug – 28 Aug	Umpire Appraisals	Copenhagen	DEN	TotalEnergies BWF World Championships 2023
05 Sep – 10 Sep	Referee Appraisals	TBC	INA	Indonesia Super 100 I 2023
11 Sep – 17 Sep	Umpire Appraisals	Jeonju	KOR	BWF World Senior Championships 2023
02 Oct – 08 Oct	Umpire Appraisals	Spokane	USA	BWF World Junior Championships 2023
17 Oct – 22 Oct	Umpire Appraisals	Odense	DEN	Denmark Open 2023
24 Oct – 29 Oct	Umpire Appraisals	Paris	FRA	YONEX French Open 2023
24 Oct – 29 Oct	Referee Appraisals	TBC	INA	Indonesia Super 100 II 2023
31 Oct – 5 Nov	Referee Appraisals	TBC	MAS	Malaysia Super 100 2023

# 2023 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND APPRAISALS

As of April 2023 – calendar subject to change

Date	Meetings, Workshops and Appraisals	Location	Country	Tournament
31 Oct – 5 Nov	Referee Appraisals	Saarbrücken	GER	HYLO Open 2023
07 Nov – 12 Nov	Referee Appraisals	Tokyo	JPN	Japan Para badminton International 2023
07 Nov – 12 Nov	Referee Appraisals	Gwangju	KOR	Korea Masters 2023
14 Nov – 19 Nov	Referee Appraisals	Kumamoto	JPN	Kumamoto Masters Japan 2023
28 Nov – 05 Dec	Referee Appraisals	Lucknow	IND	Syed Modi India International 2023
05 Dec – 10 Dec	Referee Appraisals	TBC	IND	India Super 100 I 2023
12 Dec – 17 Dec	Referee Appraisals	TBC	IND	India Super 100 II 2023
13 Dec – 17 Dec	Umpire Appraisals	TBC	TBC	HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2023