



## TAKE A BOW

Three BWF Certificated Umpires retired at the end of 2016. The familiar faces of Lynn Maund (USA), Uday Sane (India) and Marcel Schmit (Switzerland) will no longer grace the badminton courts at BWF tournaments.

Maund's last tournament was the season-ending Dubai World Superseries Finals while Schmit concluded his duties at the IBERDROLA BWF World Junior Championships 2016 in Bilbao, Spain. Sane's last tournament was the Rio 2016 Olympic Games last summer at which Maund and Schmit also officiated.

## KNOW THE RULES

**By Torsten Berg**

It is critical technical officials read all information regarding rules and regulations from BWF or their continental confederation. This newsletter is also useful for keeping updated on such matters.

BWF is constantly trying to improve the standard of officiating, and this cannot be achieved unless all technical officials

keep abreast of all rule changes and new developments relevant to their roles.

It is necessary to highlight the following:

- GCR 25 change that a player who withdraws, or does not show up for one match, must be withdrawn from all other matches in that tournament.
- Qualifying draws were redrawn when they should not have been. Only severely imbalanced qualifying draws may be redrawn. If in doubt, seek advice from the BWF or a BWF Assessor.
- Players were moved from one spot in a qualifying draw to another which is not in accordance with the GCR.

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# EDITOR'S MESSAGE

I would like to start this edition by wishing everyone a happy and healthy new year!

Another busy year awaits, with exciting assignments and many adventures. When reading the article by Jean-Guy Poitras, who is our retiring BWF Umpire Assessment Panel Chair, it makes you appreciate the scale of opportunities available when you are involved in badminton - amazing openings that really only people involved in sports can truly understand.

All of you reading COCTales will have your own wonderful stories of how badminton has

added a further dimension to your life – and long may that continue.

In closing, I would like to thank Jean-Guy for his dedication and leadership over the years – what an amazing career! He will continue representing the Pan Am Badminton Confederation on the BWF Technical Official Commission and still run umpire workshops for Pan Am.

Regards  
Vanessa Freeman  
Editor-in-Chief



FROM THE CHAIR BY  
**GILLES  
CAVERT**

## 2017: LET'S BE MORE VIGILANT



As 2017 beckons, many exciting challenges lie ahead of us, including the implementation of educational resources for TOs, an increasing effort to evaluate and assess umpires and referees and the start of selection for the first panel of semi-professional referees – a major step in the history of TOs.

Regarding some specific situations that happened in 2016, as well as in previous years, I would like to highlight a few elements that are essential for umpires.

High-level umpires must always focus on their match. Easy to say, as some practical situations only arise when you are in the chair and can be quite destabilising and often completely unanticipated. However,

every situation requires an instant reaction from the umpire and that is our job.

The aim is to find an immediate solution to allow the game to continue smoothly. Therefore, you should umpire what you see.

Sometimes umpiring includes handling a situation you did not catch on court, or which you were not aware of or anticipate (i.e. new regulations). Such incidents do happen every year, in any tournament; the response from the umpire can have a significant impact on the match. If you think that you may have missed something on court, different stakeholders can help you to best manage these tricky situations. Confer with your service judge, they are there to

help and support you and often they can be the first to assist. Also be very aware of the player's body language, his/her reaction, etc. You can often learn a lot from them. The most efficient solution, in my opinion, is listening to the player.

This coming year we face new challenges and opportunities for the TO community. However, 'performance' and 'improvement' will continue to drive all of us forward to help present badminton at its best.

Thank you in advance for being an important, integral part of this goal.

In closing, I would like to wish all technical officials an exciting and rewarding year.

# KNOW THE RULES

## Important learnings from rule changes and incidents in 2016

During 2016 a range of rule changes were implemented and these have raised questions and created confusion for some technical officials regarding the application of the rules. This section is therefore meant to highlight some key areas to ensure the rules and procedures are clear.

One significant change was that of the experimental law on the IRS (line-call system). Players/pairs are now allowed two challenges per game. It is important all technical officials are fully aware of this change to avoid any serious incidents during matches.

To avoid any incidents or mistakes regarding this rule change, the following advice should be observed:

The umpire must:

- Be aware of changes in the Laws and RTTO
- Call the referee on court when a problem emerges that he/she cannot handle on his/her own
- Listen to his/her service judge when he/she comes to deliver an important message.

The service judge must:

- Speak up if he/she observes mistakes by the umpire.

The deputy referee in charge must:

- Intervene when there is an obvious problem on court, even if he/she is not summoned by the umpire
- Correct the umpire when an error is made on a point of Law (never on a point of fact) even if late.

The referee must:

- Try to ensure that nationally-neutral technical officials are appointed to all matches.

It is worth mentioning that if national neutrality is not fully feasible, it is more important to have neutral umpires than service judges. It is also important to prioritise and have neutrality on TV courts rather than on non-TV courts.

Ensure that an incident report including statements from everyone involved (technical officials and BWF staff) is filed

as soon as possible after any incident and latest by the next morning. This is so that BWF can respond to media, if necessary.

BWF and CCs must:

- Use the incident in the training of referees and umpires.

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Hopefully, the introduction of systematic appraisals of BWF referees in 2017, en route to supplementing the BWF refereeing workforce with semi-professionals in 2018, will improve standards.

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Finally, may I wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year on behalf of the BWF referee assessors.

Thank you for all the hard work during 2016. There is even more to do in 2017 starting from now!



### ALL IN A DAY'S DUTY

Umpires face many different situations on court, whether it's David Wong (Malaysia) directing Joachim Fischer Nielsen to continue playing though the Dane wanted to 'towel down' or Christian Johanesen (Denmark) indicating to China's Sun Yu that her shot was out on the instant replay or Fine C. Dathan (India) calling a service fault.

It's a challenging task and there's a lot on which umpires must focus – in each and every match.



# VISION FOR THE FUTURE

**By Malcolm Banham**

**Chair - BWF Umpire Assessment Panel**

I am honoured to have been given the opportunity to chair the BWF Assessment Panel; a role which I assumed on 1 January this year.

My predecessor, Jean-Guy Poitras from Canada, one of the driving forces behind the Assessment Panel and various processes relating to BWF umpires, has certainly given me a hard act to follow. It is appropriate that I pay tribute to Jean-Guy for his significant contribution to badminton for many years and, in particular, to the development of BWF's umpires through workshops, appraisals and assessments.

I am sure I speak on behalf of all BWF umpires in expressing our sincere thanks to Jean-Guy for his enthusiasm and unstinting efforts in enhancing the abilities of umpires.

What about my aims and aspirations as I embark in my new role? Well, we already have a solid foundation and systems in place to support, encourage and develop our umpires. For example, our appraisal system aims to give constructive feedback to officials whilst enabling them to discuss issues or queries they may have with their appraiser. These ongoing appraisals should continue to enhance the competence of umpires.

It is my wish that we continue to move forward with what is in place and be able to respond to any changes that could impact on the demands of an umpire's technical expertise. The continuance of

workshops at as many MetLife BWF World Superseries tournaments and other tournaments as possible is important as it allows umpires and the assessment panel to discuss and exchange views on aspects of umpiring. Such workshops will therefore not always have the same content so it is important umpires take the opportunity to attend as many workshops as possible.

Another area that is being considered is a mentorship programme for umpires. Details must be finalised but, once again, such a scheme would give each umpire the chance to develop and enhance their competence.

It is all well and good talking about systems and processes to aid umpiring, but for them to be successful **ALL** of us must participate and move forward together with a positive attitude.

Finally, if any umpire has any suggestions regarding what they would like to see from their Assessment Panel, please contact me. My email is [mbanham36@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:mbanham36@blueyonder.co.uk)

I hope to see many of you at tournaments during the year.



# PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

**By Jean-Guy Poitras**  
**Retired Chair - BWF Umpire Assessment Panel**

At the outset, let me say I have been fortunate to witness the passion of our dedicated umpires worldwide and their love for our sport. I am very proud of their progress throughout the years. Admiring their participation at the most prestigious BWF tournaments, including the Olympic Games, has given me satisfaction and joy knowing that I played a part in their success.

Secondly, I have learned a lot from many other people with whom I have worked, including colleagues on the assessment panel, members of the Technical Official Commission and BWF staff. They and others have consistently inspired me to strive for excellence. I am thankful to them for making me a better person and I will never forget their cooperation and professionalism.

Since being nominated as a BWF Umpire Assessor in August 2002 and chairing this group since the BWF World Junior Championships 2004, I have witnessed major improvements in the development of our officials. Umpires are an important part of badminton and they are closer than ever to becoming professionals.

Finally, I must thank BWF for giving me the opportunity to be part of this wonderful organisation for many years. I am most indebted to them for their cooperation and I sincerely thank them for the quality of their contribution. Badminton is facing constant challenges, whether within its organisation or at events, but with so many dedicated people – including talented volunteers – these challenges are being met.

This sport has been an integral part of my life and I am thrilled to have worked with so many exceptional people while being part of the wonderful world of badminton.



Jean-Guy Poitras at his last assessment and appraisal at the Thaihot China Open in November 2016.

## WELL DONE!

Jane Wheatley and Ernest Robinson began their badminton journeys worlds apart in Australia and France respectively, both progressing to the highest levels as technical officials.

Last October, their worlds came together briefly during the YONEX French Open 2016 tournament as they were saluted by the badminton family.

Robinson received his BWF Distinguished Service Award while his Australian counterpart, Wheatley, was showered with gifts and well wishes to salute her retirement as a BWF Certificated Referee; the Paris event being her last tour of duty.

Both are continuing to serve badminton as referee assessors.





# POST-MATCH MISBEHAVIOUR

By Torsten Berg

After losing a Men's Doubles match at the YONEX French Open last October, a pair reacted quite strongly towards the service judge by wagging their fingers and swearing, as well as refusing to shake the service judge's hand. Unfortunately, the umpire did not react immediately.

After the match the referee filed an incident report to BWF and included statements from the technical officials involved in the incident.

BWF discussed the incident, contemplated whether the incident would warrant a formal disciplinary hearing and eventually

decided that it did not as the case was sufficiently clear and did not have serious consequences.

The players subsequently received a letter of reprimand from BWF and a fine of US\$100 for not complying with the goodwill formalities. I think this was a light punishment in view of the case. However, this is what the BWF Disciplinary Regulations allow under the circumstances.

## Lessons Learnt

Firstly, the umpire's jurisdiction starts when he/she enters court **and only ends when he/she and the players leave court**. The umpire could and should have used his/her

authority to issue cards – yellow or red – which would have given BWF the legal basis for a more substantial fine for misbehaviour. It is the umpire's duty to look after his/her service judge and line judges and to ensure they are protected when they perform their duties. This is not new but will be highlighted in future BWF umpire training.

Secondly, the referee did the right thing by filing an incident report immediately, providing the necessary statements and a good background for following up the case.

Finally, the BWF Disciplinary Regulations (under revision) do not adequately cover a situation where the offence had not been carded. That will certainly be rectified in the next revision.

# STANDING POSITIONS

Where should the umpire and service judge stand at the start of a match before the toss?

Unless the referee directs otherwise, the umpire and service judge should walk on to the court professionally and stand on the singles line of the court with their backs to the umpire's chair. The service judge should stand close to the net and the umpire a little further out, at the short-service line.

**Note:** The BWF Umpire and Service Judge Instructions document has been updated to reflect this.



**RELAXED MOOD:** The BWF's refereeing and umpiring team at the Dubai World Superseries Finals in December.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## UPCOMING MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND ASSESSMENTS

- Referee Evaluation, Princess Sirivannavari Thailand Masters 2017, 7-12 February 2017, Bangkok, THA
- Referee Evaluation, BWF Accredited Referee Assessment Workshop and Referee Assessment Panel Meeting, in conjunction with the YONEX All England Open, 6-9 March 2017, Birmingham, ENG
- Referee Evaluation and Umpire Appraisals, YONEX Swiss Open 2017, 14-19 March 2017, Basel, SUI
- Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, YONEX SUNRISE India Open 2017, 28 March-2 April 2017, New Delhi, IND
- Referee Evaluation and Umpire Appraisals, CELCOM AXIATA Malaysia Open 2017, 4-9 April 2017, Kuching, MAS
- Umpire Appraisals and BWF Accredited Umpire Assessments, OUE Singapore Open 2017, 11-16 April 2017, Singapore
- Umpire Assessor Workshop, 17-18 May 2017, Gold Coast, Australia
- Referee Evaluation, Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, and BWF Certificated Umpire Assessments, TOTAL BWF Sudirman Cup 2017, 21-28 May 2017, Gold Coast, AUS
- Referee Evaluation, Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, BCA Indonesia Open 2017, 13-18 June 2017, Jakarta, INA
- Referee Evaluation, YONEX Chinese Taipei Open 2017, 27 June-2 July 2017, Taipei, TPE
- Referee Evaluation, YONEX Canada Open 2017, 11-16 July 2017, Calgary, CAN
- Umpire Appraisals and BWF Accredited Umpire Assessments, TOTAL BWF World Championships 2017, 21-27 August 2017, Glasgow, SCO
- Technical Official Commission Meeting, in conjunction with the TOTAL BWF World Championships 2017, August 2017, Glasgow, SCO
- Referee Evaluation, BWF World Senior Championships 2017, 10-17 September 2017, Cochin, IND
- Umpire Appraisals, VICTOR Korea Open, 12-17 September 2017, Seoul, KOR
- Referee Evaluation, BWF World Junior Championships 2017, 11-21 October 2017, Yogyakarta, INA
- Umpire Appraisals, YONEX Denmark Open, 17-22 October 2017, Odense, DEN
- Umpire Appraisals, YONEX French Open, 24-29 October 2017, Paris, FRA
- Referee Evaluation, Bitburger Open 2017, 31 October-5 November 2017, Saarbrücken, GER
- Umpire Appraisals, Scottish Open, 21-26 November 2017, Glasgow, SCO
- Referee Evaluation, Macau Open 2017, 28 November-3 December 2017, Macau, MAC
- Dubai World Superseries Finals 2017, 13-17 December 2017, Dubai, UAE



**BADMINTON IN BILBAO:** BWF technical officials and medical staff on duty at the IBERDROLA BWF World Junior Championships 2016 (Suhandinata Cup) in Bilbao, Spain, in November.