

BWF REFEREES TOWARDS 2018

By **Torsten Berg**
Chair - BWF Referee Assessment Panel

There has been a significant improvement in the performance of BWF Referees this year, with far less major incidents.

Reviewing 2016 and 2017 at its annual meeting in Glasgow, the BWF Technical Official Commission (TOC) was quite happy with progress in this regard, noting Referees' overall performance has been good. The introduction of the 360-degrees appraisals may well have played a role in this achievement, as well as the increased investment in standardization.

Bearing in mind the TOC's motto, "Better and More", as the guiding principle for the initiatives planned to be undertaken in 2018, the Commission recommended these plans should be enhanced as follows:

MORE

The assessment of new candidates for accreditation continues – and when you read these lines four of the nine will have been assessed (so far successfully) and one more will be assessed before the end of the year. Four shall follow in the first months of 2018. As only a few referees retire in 2017 and 2018, this will mean more BWF Referees and a rejuvenation of the workforce.

For three of the youngest BWF Referees – already experienced – the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in October 2018 will be a great challenge.

Congratulations to the selection of Referee Lynne Nixey (NZL) and Deputy Referees Shirly Gabay (BRA) and Nicos Vladimirov (CYP).

BETTER

Standardization

The standardization efforts continue to grow. All BWF Referees, as well as the BWF Referee Assessors, will be invited to the next Referee Workshop which will take place at the new BWF office in Kuala Lumpur from 23-25 June 2018.

The Assessment Team will meet on the first day, followed by the biennial Referee Workshop. The Malaysian Open 2018 will follow in the week after these workshops, and this will be an opportunity for assessment for certification of our colleague Yves Côte (CAN).

Girish Natu (IND) will similarly be assessed at the BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships 2018 (Suhandinata Cup) in Toronto, Canada, later in 2018.

The 360-degrees appraisal of BWF Referees will continue, and provided the financial and human resources are available, all BWF Referees will be appraised at least once, and many more than once, before the end of 2018. It is the intention that the appraisal programme, adjusted on an ongoing basis in accordance with the experience collected, will continue.

Another cornerstone of the standardization will be the new Instructions to Technical Officials (ITTO) and the enlarged and updated Vocabulary. The ITTO has been reviewed in order to eliminate duplications and ambiguities and put the instructions into a simpler language. A whole new section with instructions to referees has been added. This section will support the standardization as the referee's actions and reactions in all standard situations from selection to delivery of the report are described. Our colleague Chris Lawrence (USA) has worked with me to draft this section, while BWF Umpire Assessors Sandie Zheng (CHN) and Malcolm Banham (ENG) drafted the other sections.



TECHNICAL OFFICIALS AT TEMPLE

Referees, umpires and line judges who officiated at the Blibli.com Yonex-Sunrise BWF World Junior Championships 2017 were among those who visited the ancient and majestic Prambanan Temple on Cultural Day (Sunday 15 October) which was hosted by PBSI (the Indonesia Badminton Association). The fun-loving group marked the occasion with this group photo on the steps of one of the temples.

A meeting in Scotland permitted us to harmonise the sections and progress the project to a level so the revised drafts have now been sent to the CCs for a hearing before they are proposed to the BWF Events Committee and BWF Council in November, for implementation with the new GCR on 1 January 2018.

The ITTO will be followed by a corresponding set of instructions to assist the training and recruitment of referees – similar to but much larger than the one successfully used for training umpires and service judges.

It is intended that this tool will become available section by section, with the first sections also being ready in early 2018.

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FROM THE CHAIR BY
**GILLES
CAVERT**

GROUP DYNAMICS



A new addition to COCTales

We are very excited to have a contribution from Badminton Europe. It is an example of potential best practices for other CCs.

Technical Official Commission (TOC)

The last BWF TOC meeting, held in August in Glasgow in conjunction with the TOTAL BWF World Championships 2017, was a very constructive one thanks to the valuable contribution of every participant, including continental confederation representatives, the Chairs of the BWF Referee and Umpire Assessment Panels, as well as BWF Senior Technical Events Manager Chris Trenholme.

Many topics were discussed during the two-day meeting, including the following:

1. **The Review of the RTTO (now ITTO):** The working group led by Torsten Berg is to finalise the final version after receiving feedback from the CCs and other stakeholders.

The Instructions for Technical Officials should be ready to be implemented by 1 January 2018.

2. **A 360-degrees Review Grading System for Referees:** This stakeholder-involved evaluation system has been in operation since January 2017 and has demonstrated its accuracy. A new scoring system should also be implemented in order to appraise BWF umpires from 2018, based on the proposition of the BWF Umpires Assessment Panel.
3. **The Strategic Plan for TO Development (2016-2020):** This has also been reviewed, including key performance indicators for referees, umpires, and line judges.
4. **Technical Officials' Educational Resources:** We are behind schedule concerning Level 1 Umpires and Referees resources. Line Judge

Educational Resource has been finalised thanks to the intensive work of the panel and the talented support of BWF Educational Resource Manager Sharon Springer.

5. **The Semi-Professionalization of the Workforce:** The final selection of the SP Referees is to take place in the first half of 2018. The first steps of the Umpires selection process should also be launched in 2018.
6. **Technical Official Mentoring Programme:** A full assignment list of mentors and mentees for both BWF Umpires and Referees has been established and sent to the designated TOs. This will, with the current appraisal systems, lead to a better preparation of the candidates for BWF Certification, but also increase the overall level of BWF TOs. Performance is the ultimate goal of a BWF technical official.

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Mentorship

The Mentoring Programme for BWF Referees is now in place. Everyone who wanted to join has been given a mentor of his or her own choice. It is now up to each BWF Referee to take advantage of this valuable opportunity!

Semi-Professional Referees

BWF was not ready to take the next steps concerning implementation of the semi-professional referee project in Glasgow. This will now be implemented sometime in 2018 and not on 1 January as originally planned.

Local Deputy Referees

Over the last few years the standard and knowledge of many local Deputy Referees has improved. While originally this position was intended for young referee prospects, who could get a sense of the duties of a BWF Referee while assisting with contacts and other jobs where language and local relations are important, we now

often see quite experienced CC Referees or even BWF Accredited Referees in this position.

Consequently, in agreement with the Events Committee, the TOC recommended a change concerning Local Deputy Referees to read:

"That, provided the local Deputy Referee is a BWF Accredited (or Certificated) Referee, the Referee of the tournament is entitled to incorporate the local Deputy into the Refereeing team and delegate responsibilities to the local Deputy under his discretion, except when these responsibilities involve the home players or the Organising Committee."

Given the substantially-improved budget for 2017 (and hopefully again for 2018 and onwards) and with greater output from the TOC and Events Department – and with excellent cooperation from BWF Referees and Assessors as well CC TOCs – BWF technical officials seem well underway to providing badminton with 'better and more' service!



Participants in Badminton Europe's Umpire Training Course are pictured with the Badminton Europe Umpire Assessment panellists.

BADMINTON EUROPE UMPIRE TRAINING COURSE



Participants taking a written test.

By Badminton Europe

Badminton Europe recently held an umpire training course in Trencin, Slovakia, during the Future Series tournament, Slovak Open. This was the third course organised this year by Badminton Europe and was conducted by Badminton Europe Umpire Assessment panellists Sven Serré (BEL) and Carol Ui Fhearghail (IRL).

These courses, attended annually by approximately 35 candidates, serve a dual purpose:

1. To coach umpires who have started their international umpiring career so they may benefit from the expertise and help of the Badminton Europe Umpire Assessment Panel.
2. To assist these umpires in their preparation for BEC Accreditation.

The course is made up of three components:

- Workshop focused on the practical application of the Laws of Badminton, ITTOs and Code of Conduct for Technical Officials.
 - Held the day before the tournament
 - Trainers lead discussion on the procedures and Laws, and the best ways to implement them in order to reach the internationally-required standard.
 - Umpires are encouraged to ask questions and learn from the trainers and colleagues.
 - This session is ideal to understand their approach to umpiring, their level of English and what their ambitions are for their umpiring career.
- Practical component conducted during the tournament.
 - Umpires are observed in action and given individual coaching and debriefing after each match.
 - Trainers evaluate their progression throughout the tournament, based on the coaching and guidance provided.
 - Trainers focus both on umpiring and service judging.
- Written exam for training purposes.
 - Umpires are given the opportunity to take a written examination as many will not have done so since starting their umpiring careers.
 - Umpires can become more familiar with the structure of a formal

written exam when reaching the Badminton Europe Certification level.

- At the conclusion, each section of the exam is discussed, providing better insight into their knowledge and understanding of the Laws.

At the end of the course the umpires receive a formal recommendation from the trainers which is also forwarded to their respective member association so they are kept abreast of their performance.

In the report to Badminton Europe, the umpires are categorised in four divisions:

1. **Recommended for immediate assessment**
The umpire is ready for assessment to become a BEC Accredited Umpire at the first available opportunity when nominated by his/her member association.
2. **Recommended for assessment**
The umpire is ready for assessment if a place is available at the next BEC Accredited assessment when nominated by his/her member association.
3. **Conditionally recommended for assessment**
The umpire is recommended for assessment after they have met the criteria of time and number of matches to be completed (e.g. two years and 100 matches at the international/continental level tournaments) before they can be nominated by their member association.
4. **Not recommended for assessment**
The umpire requires more basic experience and should attend another BEC Umpire Training Course.

Badminton Europe has been holding these courses for a number of years and they have shown to be of benefit to umpires. Participants have commented that they find the courses very helpful and they allow them to know and work with the Assessment and Training Panel in a friendly and helpful manner.

In 2018, Badminton Europe will again hold three courses, all of them being hosted alongside tournaments on the European continental circuit.



Kamasha Robertson on umpiring duty at the Bibli.com Yonex-Sunrise BWF World Junior Championships 2017 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

IMPROVING UMPIRING STANDARDS

By Malcolm Banham
Chair - BWF Umpire Assessment Panel

After assuming the Chair of the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel from Jean-Guy Poitras (CAN) in January 2018, I now realise the amount of work Jean-Guy did in the many years he held the position. We all owe him a great deal of thanks for getting us to where we are today.

Semi-Professional Umpires

We are now moving into the era of semi-professional umpires, and you will start to see more and more information about this programme in the coming months, including information on the application and selection processes.

We are encouraged that the professionalization of our workforce will bring more consistency and raise the performance standard even further across all tournaments, especially those at the highest levels of the new BWF World Tour.

Knowing the Laws

Since the last edition of COCTales there have been some practical scenarios where the umpire has been wrong in law. As it happens, this had no consequence on the result of any of the matches, not noticed by many, but not missed by the attention of the eagle-eyed assessor. However, this is not the type of attention we want to see focused on the umpire.

As such, please read your Laws and understand them. If you are unsure about any interpretation of the Laws there are plenty of colleagues with whom to discuss them – not only by email but at tournaments.

Mentoring

The mentoring programme is now well underway and I hope all umpires involved are finding this useful and valuable. Please do not hesitate to talk to your mentor and use their experience to help with your umpiring.

Appraisals in 2018

Your BWF Umpire Assessors are working very hard travelling to as many tournaments as possible, to appraise, guide, and mentor umpires in helping raise your performance and the consistency of your umpiring.

If you have not been appraised in the last two years, please make every effort to attend a tournament where the assessors are present. Elsewhere in COCTales you will find a schedule of the tournaments where we will be assessing, appraising and conducting workshops. It is up to you to make yourself available so you can be appraised.

I look forward to seeing you all again somewhere soon!

CONGRATS!

BWF congratulates the following recently upgraded BWF Accredited Umpires to the BWF Certificated level:

- Mai Lang Yen (VIE)
- Qomarul Lailiah (INA)
- Law Chi Kwong, Daniel (HKG)
- Paul Buffham (ENG)

GETTING TO KNOW: BADMINTON EUROPE SENIOR MANAGER JIMMY ANDERSEN



1. How long have you been involved in the technical officials' area?

I took over management of technical officials at Badminton Europe in 2010, including TO education, selection of referees for our continental circuit, selection of umpires and referees for major events in Europe, and liaising with BWF concerning umpires and line judges for BWF tournaments.

I have also served as one of two technical delegates for the inaugural 2015 European Games in Baku (AZE), and I will be serving in a similar capacity at the 2019 European Games in Minsk (BLR).

2. What do you enjoy about your work with technical officials?

The passion of our technical officials who put so much time and effort into our sport on a voluntary basis.

I like to build structures to help improve our deliverables and internal procedures in Europe in order to make transparent education and selection systems, where everyone knows "decisions are made for a reason", and that everyone will always get an answer or advice, should they request it.

I also enjoy working with the knowledgeable people on our various assessment panels, as they provide me with valuable feedback on areas where their expertise is greater than mine.

3. Highlights of your career so far?

First, to be appointed as technical delegate for the first ever European Games in Azerbaijan, where badminton was delivered to perfection. It was a great honour and surely something I will always remember.

Second, to become the European representative of the BWF Technical Official Commission (TOC). I may not be the traditional representative, but I know I have much to contribute, and in some cases I can see things from a different, more administrative and strategic perspective from which the technical officials' area can hopefully benefit.

4. What do you think are the biggest challenges to MAs and/or national level TOs progressing through the system?

Lack of structures, funding and high-level badminton. In many less-developed MAs, we see that both structures and funding are issues when relating to the technical officials' area. They are not seen as priority areas hence the individual technical officials are in many cases left on their own.

Practical experience for technical officials is also an issue in some countries as many are not able to get decent practice, as the level of play is simply not very strong, compared to officiating opportunities abroad.

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5. Advice for aspiring TOs at the national level?

Establish networks abroad in the technical officials' community. We have many good and keen people officiating all over the world, willing to share knowledge and experience.

Badminton Europe will be launching a new MA support programme shortly, where we will be able to offer structured guidance and support to MAs at the national level to strengthen their technical officials' area. This is something with which I am really looking forward to getting started.

6. What do you think are the biggest challenges to the development of TOs at the international/CC level?

Language and adaptation to the speed of the game.

Currently TOs are still working as volunteers, meaning that they are maybe not able to practise as much as the development of the sport requires.

The introduction of the semi-professional workforce, especially when we come to the umpires in 2019/2020, will hopefully have a positive impact on the sport – and it is certainly something which the players will see as a positive step forward.

7. Advice for aspiring TOs at the continental level?

Two key suggestions:

1. Seek opportunities, through established international networks, to officiate at the highest possible level. This will definitely help you become a better official and will eventually lead to international progression.

2. Keep reading and practically implementing the instructions, rules and Laws, as they are updated regularly.



8. Any other guidance, tips, ideas that may help line judges, umpires, and referees?

Take time to understand the procedures around education, selections and progression, and work hard towards your goals. If you set a goal, there are certain pathways regarding how to reach this goal. Then, it is up to you to make best efforts to achieve this.

And, listen carefully to knowledgeable colleagues who are willing to share experience and advice with you. But with that comes the responsibility to do the same for your other colleagues as they make their way forward.

NOTE FROM BWF:

Jimmy Andersen currently serves as the Senior Manager at Badminton Europe, including all areas related to technical officials.

He began his badminton experience at the age of five and continues to play badminton to this day, and actively serves in board leadership at his local club in Denmark.

He brings an educational background in Danish tax and customs law, as well as a love of badminton, to his tenure at Badminton Europe which started in 2006.

LOGISTICS RE. TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

By Chris Trenholme

BWF UNIFORMS

BWF Referees assigned by BWF to a tournament must only wear the official BWF uniform provided to you within the past two years. No other older BWF uniform is allowed to be worn.

Unless provided a uniform by the respective tournament host, BWF Umpires must also only wear the official BWF uniform provided to you within the past two years. No other older BWF uniform is allowed to be worn.

TRAVEL BOOKING PROCEDURES

It is important that you follow the instructions outlined in the travel booking procedures. Most notably, you must seek approval from BWF before ticketing a reservation. BWF will look at both the best price quote as well as scheduling/number of connections in determining which quote to approve for ticketing. Remember, you may offer quotes from your local travel agent in addition to the three quotes from CWT.

It is also very important that you arrive and depart on the days outlined in your appointment letter, unless choosing to arrive early/stay after the tournament at your own expense. BWF and/or the host organiser is responsible for the daily allowance and/or hotel costs associated with your participation and keeps to a strict budget.

If you have any questions related to uniforms or travel bookings, please contact BWF Events Officer Selena Lim, s.lim@bwfbadminton.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

UPCOMING MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND ASSESSMENTS

- Referee Appraisals and Assessment for BWF Certification, Bitburger Open 2017, 31 October – 5 November 2017, Saarbrücken, GER
- Referee Appraisals, 2017 Macau Open, 7-12 November 2017, Macau, MAC
- Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, BWF Destination Dubai World Superseries Finals 2017, 13-17 December 2017, Dubai, UAE
- Referee Appraisals, Thailand Masters 2018, 9-14 January 2018, Bangkok, THA
- Referee Appraisals, India Open 2018, 30 January – 4 February 2018, New Delhi, IND
- Referee Assessment for BWF Accreditation, Austrian Open, 21-24 February 2018, Vienna, AUS
- Referee Appraisals, Spain Open 2018, 27 February – 4 March 2018, Bilbao, ESP
- BWF and CC Umpire Assessment Panel Meeting, in conjunction with the YONEX All England Open 2018, Birmingham, ENG
- Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, and Referee Appraisals, YONEX All England Open 2018, 14-18 March 2018, Birmingham, ENG
- Referee Assessment for BWF Accreditation, Ciputra Hanoi – YONEX SUNRISE Vietnam International Challenge 2018, 20-25 March 2018, Hanoi, VIE
- Referee Assessment for BWF Accreditation, Polish Open 2018, 22-25 March 2018, POL
- Referee Appraisals, Orleans Master 2018, 27 March – 1 April 2018, Orleans, FRA
- Referee Assessment for BWF Accreditation, Osaka International Challenge 2018, 4-8 April 2018, Moriguchi, JPN
- Referee Appraisals, Australia Open 2018, 8-13 May 2018, Melbourne, AUS
- Umpire Assessors Workshop, in conjunction with the BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2018, Bangkok, THA
- Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, and Assessment for BWF Accreditation and Referee Appraisals, TOTAL BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2018, 20-27 May 2018, Bangkok, THA
- Referee Assessor Workshop and Referee Workshop, 23-25 June 2018, Kuala Lumpur, MAS
- Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, and Referee Assessment for BWF Certification, Malaysia Open 2018, 26 June – 1 July 2018, Kuala Lumpur, MAS
- Umpire Appraisals, Workshop, and Assessment for BWF Accreditation, and Referee Appraisals, BCA Indonesia Open 2018, 3-8 July 2018, Jakarta, INA
- Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, Singapore Open 2018, 17-22 July 2018, Singapore, SIN
- Technical Official Commission Meeting, in conjunction with the TOTAL BWF World Championships 2018, Nanjing, CHN
- Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, and Assessment for BWF Certificated Umpire, and Referee Appraisals, TOTAL BWF World Championships 2018, 30 July – 5 August 2018, Nanjing, CHN
- Referee Appraisals, Vietnam Open 2018, 7-12 August 2018, Ho Chi Minh, VIE
- Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, and Referee Appraisals, Japan Open 2018, 11-16 September 2018, Tokyo, JPN
- Referee Appraisals, Indonesia Level 6 2018, 18-23 September 2018, INA
- Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, Korea Open 2018, 25-30 September 2018, Seoul, KOR
- Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, and Referee Appraisals, Chinese Taipei Open 2018, 2-7 October 2018, Taipei, TPE
- Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, and Referee Appraisals, French Open 2018, 23-28 October 2018, Paris, FRA
- Referee Appraisals, Bitburger Masters 2018, 30 October – 4 November 2018, Saarbrücken, GER
- Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, Hong Kong Open 2018, 13-18 November 2018, Hong Kong, HKG
- Referee Appraisals and Assessment for BWF Certification, BWF World Junior Championships, 5-18 November 2018, Markham, CAN
- Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, BWF World Tour Finals, 12-16 December 2018

*Please note that the 2018 schedule of appraisals, workshops, and assessments is subject to budget approval by BWF Council.



Referee assessors, referees, umpires, doctors and PBSI (Indonesia Badminton Association) officials at the recent Bibli.com Yonex-Sunrise BWF World Junior Championships 2017 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.