

## ADVICE FOR THE FUTURE

By Torsten Berg

Chair - BWF Referee Assessment Panel

First of all my best wishes for a happy 2018, with many useful hours spent refereeing in good company around the badminton courts worldwide.

There is much for all of us to read and be aware of, with the start of the HSBC BWF World Tour and the implementation of the new GCR and ITTO from 1 January 2018, particularly for the BWF and Continental Level Referees.

I shall highlight a few of the major features and changes in the ITTO, and also review some specific decisions that may provide relevant precedence in case you face similar situations on duty.

### From the New ITTO

The new ITTO contains two sections (Sections 3

and 4) that offer specific and general instructions to referees. While most of the content will be well known, as it is in accordance with teachings from BWF workshops over the last several years, it is useful to have the instructions as a solid and tangible base for your preparation and conduct of international tournaments. I shall highlight three of the most important areas where the ITTO offer changes or precisions to previous procedures:

- Players are now entitled to **60 minutes of rest** between matches, except in team, junior, para-badminton and qualifying tournaments, where 30 minutes rest still applies.
- A qualifying draw is only considered to be unbalanced if, after withdrawals and promotions, **more than one** qualifying spot in the main draw is unfilled, or it is otherwise unbalanced.

- A player may be notified of selection for dope testing **at any time** – no longer only after the last match of the day. Specific detailed information on how to handle this situation has already been shared with you.

For umpires, there are two major changes:

- A call of 'fault' or a warning shall be followed by a short explanation. The standard vocabulary has been expanded to provide these explanations.
- A short break to towel without delaying play is introduced beside the standard break for toweling and drinking.

### Specific Advice and Decisions

We need referees to ensure as much as possible that international badminton tournaments are

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**FINAL DUBAI FINALS:** The team of technical officials – referees, umpires, line judges and medical staff – for the Dubai World Superseries Finals in December are pictured together at Hamdan Sports Complex. The 2017 edition was the last of four season-ending tournaments which the Badminton World Federation held in the Middle Eastern city.

FROM THE CHAIR BY  
**GILLES  
CAVERT**



# RESILIENCE - MANAGING THE UNEXPECTED

If you ask high-level technical officials why they are so addicted to officiating a match or tournament, "resilience" is, for sure, one of the most common answers!

Academic research on how organisations handle or deal with the unexpected was done by Weick and Sutcliffe in 2007.

Weick focused specifically on a particular dynamic state: 'resilience' or the ability to maintain performance at the highest level, recover quickly from, or find optimal solutions for, unexpected, hostile and potentially destabilizing situations.

Given the increase in performance expectations, 'resilience' should be the ultimate goal of any BWF technical official.

It requires learning more about ourselves and from mistakes, considering new situations as unique and focusing on very precise points of detail.

Resilient technical officials lead to highly-reliable and consistent-performing technical officials.

## KEY THINGS TO NOTE

**By Malcolm Banham**  
**Chair - BWF Umpire Assessment Panel**

Greetings to all my friends and colleagues from around the world. I hope you all had a great Christmas and will have a fantastic 2018!

### Understand the Laws

I need to iterate some of my comments from the last edition of COCTales regarding the critical importance of umpires knowing and understanding all the Laws of Badminton. There are still too many instances of umpires making elementary errors in televised matches.

### Mentoring Program

The BWF mentoring programme is well underway, and I believe there has been a lot of communication between mentees and mentors. This can only be for the better.

### New Umpire Appraisal System – 360 Degrees

Since 2017 BWF Referees have been appraised using a 360-degree system with much success.

The BWF Umpire Assessment Panel is currently developing a similar system for BWF Umpires, including more stakeholders to help appraise the umpires at each tournament than just the BWF Umpire Assessor. This will help the Panel to grade BWF Umpires more easily and more accurately.

We hope to start using the new system in the next few months and will update you accordingly when ready.

### Experimental Service Law (Fixed Height)

In my opinion, the Experimental Service Law (Fixed Height) is long overdue. Please note that the YONEX All England Open in March 2018 – an HSBC BWF World Tour Super 1000 tournament – will be the first tournament to trial this. We look forward to the outcome.

There has been much discussion on the service laws for many years. As a service judge, if you call a fault you are in trouble and if you do not call a fault you are in trouble!

Let us hope the Experimental Service Law (Fixed Height) means greater consistency of calls. To achieve this consistency, we need training and hard work, and I am confident we will get there.

### Assessment Panel Here to Help

The BWF Umpire Assessment Team has a very busy schedule in 2018, travelling to many tournaments globally, so please make use of our knowledge and experience.

We are here to help.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

The Badminton World Federation congratulates the following technical officials on their success.

Recently-upgraded CC Level Umpires to BWF Accredited Level:

- Robbertus Tommy Oscariano (INA)
- Charles Wang Chao Wei (TPE)
- Jojan Veliyakatharukattil John (BRN)

Recently-upgraded CC Level Referees to BWF Accredited Level:

- Carmen Martinez (ESP)
- Jozef Dodo Kuprivec (SLO)

Recently-upgraded BWF Accredited Referees to the BWF Certificated Level:

- Lynne Nixey (NZL)
- Eric Lissillour (FRA)



conducted with fairness for all concerned and in accordance with the Laws and regulations, as well as to make intelligent decisions, when situations arise that are not clearly covered by regulations, or where regulations conflict. Here is some advice and some decisions that you may find useful as a reference for your own future decision-making.

**1. In a recent MetLife BWF World Superseries match on the TV court, the umpire called a shuttle falling near the short service line as he was unaware that the IRS now covers all lines. The players challenged but were refused and soon played on. The referees did not notice the incident until later, but the TV commentators did and indeed gave their opinion.**

**What should have been done? And how to handle a similar situation, should it arise?**

The umpire should have read and noticed the change in IRS coverage, as all TOs should carefully read the information from BWF. It is his responsibility to fully understand the functionality of the equipment, the procedures, and regulations governing the IRS. And the referee shall be capable of helping an umpire in case of problems. Please prepare yourself for that.

If the referee has not managed to react and go on court before play continues, the referee has missed the opportunity to put things right, correcting the umpire as it is a point of Law. There is then nothing more to do before the match is over. After the match, the referee should go to the umpire at the earliest opportunity to correct his understanding of the Laws and the IRS. The referee should speak to both the umpire and service judge, and then immediately report the incident to BWF using the Incident Report form with statements from all officials involved.

**2. A player was hit by the partner on the finger, so that it was bleeding. The referee went onto the court with the doctor, and the doctor used a spray to stop the bleeding. After a few rallies, the player was bleeding again so the referee asked the doctor to use a bandage to stop further bleeding, but the player insisted not to be bandaged because this would affect holding the racket. Can the referee force a player to be bandaged?**

The general advice is that play should be stopped in case of a blood flowing injury, because of the theoretical risk of the blood being infected with virus. However, a referee cannot force a player to receive any form of treatment. If the player refuses treatment, your only tool is to disqualify the player for

misconduct, not saying that you should do that. The best solution would be to let play continue and advise the umpire and the player to wipe off the blood regularly so the court is not contaminated. Consider the specific circumstances of this match, including if it is close to ending or to a break where more treatment can be done, and whether the player is bleeding significantly.

**3. In a Grade 3 tournament, BADMINTON was printed on the top of a player's shirt above the name etc. Is that allowed?**

There is no clause in the GCR or elsewhere allowing such lettering, and thus it is not allowed. It is anyway a very minor offence that the referee should normally just talk to the offender about not repeating it, and not report the matter.

**4. A player celebrated victory immediately after winning a match by taking his shirt off. This happened twice in the BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships 2017 and in an early round of a recent BWF Grand Prix Gold tournament. It is frequently seen in football where it implies an automatic yellow card.**

It is considered misconduct and should generally imply a yellow card, as in football. However, the umpire should be free to decide, depending on circumstances. In a very important or emotional match such action may add to the excitement and the presentation.

**5. Occasionally a coach has to be removed for misconduct. Fortunately, this is rare as the regulation is designed to make them behave. If a coach is removed for misconduct, can this coach then be replaced by another person in the same match? If there are two coaches, can the other coach remain? If there is only one misbehaving coach, can the other 'empty seat' be taken by another person in the same match?**

If there are two coaches but only one is misbehaving, the coach misbehaving should be removed with no replacement. The other coach can stay. No new coach should be allowed in.

**6. It may happen, however rarely, that two doubles players both misbehave, even at the same time. Are they both penalised, or are they penalised as a pair? If it is a flagrant offence calling for a red card, are they both given one? Costing one point for each of them? When should the referee be called? After the first announcement, as the instructions say? How should it be announced? And in case of disqualification?**

If the umpire finds that both players were involved in an incident, then the umpire should issue a yellow or a red card to both players. The penalty and announcement is for each player individually.

If it is an offence calling for a red card, it will cost each player a point, making it two points for the pair. The referee is called after the announcement, covering each player.

If it is an offence calling for a disqualification and the referee decides to use the black card, the announcement would be "Player A disqualified, Player B disqualified". Then the announcement as in the ITTO. It is very rare for both players to be disqualified; it would more likely be the case that if one player is disqualified this automatically means the match is over.

**7. We do occasionally get questions about how to measure the size of a logo (20 square cm allowed) or the height of a name or country name. How shall it be done? How accurately?**

The measurement of a logo is by measuring a 'straight lined box' around the logo and multiplying the longest width and longest height. When I was refereeing, I was generous when measuring and calculating the size of the advertising in order to avoid unnecessary disputes.

**8. Is it correct that the shuttle has got to pass fully over the net before the opponent may hit the shuttle back, otherwise it is fault?**

There is nothing in the Laws that says that the shuttle has to pass fully over the net before the player may hit it. It is fine for the player to hit the shuttle on his own side of the net as long as no part of the racket invades the opponent's court before he hits the shuttle, and he does not touch the net.

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All the situations above and the questions raised came from colleagues in 2017. While some of these examples are rather straightforward to answer, others may be more debatable. The problem situations you will meet on court in 2018 will likely also be different - more or less.

We shall rely on your educated judgment.

We thrive, however, on our collective experience, and I hope the questions and answers above will help you to make 2018 an even better year for BWF and our TOs than 2017.

Remember that preparation is the very best tool we have in our toolbox.



#### FRYER AND FRIENDS

Para-badminton referee, Barbara Fryer of Switzerland (second right), is pictured with colleagues at the BWF Para-Badminton World Championships 2017 in Ulsan, Korea, last November.

Left to right are Carmen Martinez (ESP); Teo Kian Joo (MAS) and Heng Ah Neoh (MAS) who were all part of the Referee and Technical Delegate Team for the Championships.

# INTRODUCING BARBARA FRYER

**Interview with BWF Para-Badminton Referee Barbara Fryer of Switzerland**

#### How long have you been refereeing?

Internationally since 2004 when I passed my continental certification with Badminton Europe.

#### How long have you been refereeing para-badminton?

Around 2000, I was recruited by the BWF Vice-President - Para-Badminton, Paul Kurzo, whom I had met before at national tournaments. He asked if I would be interested in refereeing the first para-badminton international in Switzerland. At the time, I was not even aware it was possible to play badminton in a wheelchair and just went along for the fun...and I have stuck with it until today!

#### What are some highlights of your refereeing experiences so far, both in badminton and para-badminton?

It is difficult to choose a single event. The highlights are the people I meet along the way, with whom I share the love for our sport. Bridging differences in languages, culture, mentality as well as

in ways of doing things and joining forces to organise successful tournaments is always a rewarding experience.

#### What do you love about refereeing para-badminton?

What I love most is the familiar atmosphere. The para-badminton community is still one big family striving to develop and promote their sport. Therefore, as a referee, I work more closely with coaches and players in order to improve all aspects of the sport.

#### What have you learned from your experiences in refereeing para-badminton?

Humility – it is amazing to witness athletes overcoming their disability and striving to achieve their aims in sport with passion and determination, while showing respect and appreciation for each other.

#### What advice would you give aspiring referees and para-badminton referees at the national and continental levels?

As a referee, one has to like people. We have to team up and work with many different types and characters and it is important to

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be able to adapt in order to be successful. Good communication skills, an open mind, a talent for improvisation and a strong dose of stoicism and humour will take you a long way.

### **What are the biggest differences between refereeing para-badminton and badminton?**

Classification is the biggest difference. Players are designated into their appropriate sports class of which there are six. For new players, classification takes place the day before the tournament starts. As such, the final number of entries in most events is not known until after the classification process is finished.

Sometimes doubles pairs need to be changed and quite often two or more classes have to be combined in some events as the number of entries does not meet the requirements. All this happens during the team managers' meeting on the eve of the tournament and only then can the draw and scheduling of the first day be done. In para-badminton, these tasks are carried out by the referee(s) and the BWF Technical Official. Up until a few years ago this meant working somewhere in a hotel room until about 3 a.m. and then finding a printer in order to have some copies of the draws ready for coaches in the morning. Then, one had to be ready for duty and fit for a day of refereeing, having had only a few winks of sleep.

Nowadays, thanks to an increasingly-professional entry procedure, tournament-management software and wifi, we are usually done by midnight.

Another difference is the special requirements of the players.

Considerations include:

- Is the storage area for sports wheelchairs big enough and do players have easy access to make the change-over?
- Do we not only have a stringing service but also a repair service for wheelchairs and artificial limbs?
- Is there enough viewing space for wheelchair players and is there proper access?
- Is the space for marching on court wide enough for sports wheelchairs?
- Is the food in the venue appropriate for para-badminton players? Usually, players have five or six matches per day and may stay in the hall for most of the day.
- Are there enough shuttle buses to transport eight wheelchair players or more at the same time in the morning if we start with Mixed Doubles?

### **What are the biggest challenges to refereeing para-badminton?**

We have many events. There is a maximum of 22, however, we have never held all at the same tournament as we still have a distinct lack of female players.

The first round is always played in pools. This means a lot of matches and finals have to be played over only four or five days and sometimes in more than one hall. At the same time, we are trying to present our developing sport in the best possible way to spectators

and media and – as every referee of junior tournaments knows – these two aspects can be very contradictory.

One other major challenge is that we have to do a lot of development work. We often deal with organisers who have little or no experience in para-badminton and/or tournament organisation. Sometimes it is just a handful of para-badminton enthusiasts who are in charge of the organisation and thus the referees, BWF Technical Official and the few appointed BWF umpires find themselves assisting or running Match Control, instructing local umpires and setting up a rotation system, instructing and organising line judges (if there are any) and getting shuttles on court.

However, I should note that, not only have players and coaches become more professional in their approach over the last few years, but also we have some more experienced tournament organisers.

Moreover, since BWF has been involved in the organisation of para-badminton, the level of structure and professionalism has increased immensely. With BWF Junior Events Manager Syahmi Sabron, we have someone at the office who takes a lot of tasks off our hands so we can concentrate more on refereeing. In addition, we always have a technical official (in most cases a fellow referee) who handles questions concerning entries, scheduling, number and layout of courts etc.

### **What were some highlights from your experience at the BWF Para-Badminton World Championships 2017?**

I was very impressed with how the level of play has increased once more and that in particular wheelchair badminton has become so much more dynamic at the top level. And I am sure that this will go on as teams are gearing up for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

### **What were some highlights from your experiences refereeing previous BWF Para-Badminton World Championships?**

The Championships in Dortmund in 2013 comes into mind: We knew several representatives of the International Paralympic Committee would attend ahead of its decision about the new Paralympic programme. For various reasons, it was a difficult tournament for the refereeing team on an organisational level and we struggled to overcome various problems. However, at the end of the tournament, we were told the IPC representatives were impressed by the organisation, the presentation, and the atmosphere in the venue. I knew we had done our job well and delivered our piece of the puzzle in terms of para-badminton being included in the Tokyo 2020 programme.

### **Any other guidance, advice or ideas to help para-badminton referees?**

I would encourage interested referees to contact their respective national federation or continental confederation to try para-badminton. I am sure they will be welcomed by the para-badminton family and enjoy the new experience.

As the number of events is increasing every year, the demand for para-badminton referees is growing.



# REFEREE TOOLKIT EXPANDED – REDRAW CARDS

Based on feedback and recommendations from our BWF Referee and Referee Assessor communities, BWF has designed and produced sets of cards for each BWF Referee to use at Team Managers' Meetings when doing redraws (known as 'drawing by lot').

One set is numbered 1-32 and the other 1-64, with the BWF logo on one set and the 'I Am' Campaign branding on the other set.

These will be distributed to each BWF Referee, through BWF Staff, at the next BWF-assigned tournament.

We trust these sets of cards will add to your Referee toolkit to help make your job easier and provide for a more standard presentation.

Special thanks Eric Lissillour (France) on this project.



## BEST SEAT

Umpire (David) Wong Peng Seng, of Malaysia officiates a match in the Dubai World Superseries Finals 2017 in December.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## UPCOMING MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND APPRAISALS

- Referee Assessment for BWF Accreditation, Austrian Open, 21-24 February 2018, Vienna, AUT
- BWF/CC Umpire Assessor Workshop, 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 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, Australian Open 2018, 8-13 May 2018, Sydney, AUS
- BWF 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, Indonesia Open 2018, 3-8 July 2018, Jakarta, INA
- Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, Singapore Open 2018, 17-22 July 2018, Singapore, SGP
- BWF Technical Official Commission Meeting, in conjunction with the TOTAL BWF World Championships 2018, Nanjing, CHN
- Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, 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
- Referee Appraisals, Spanish Open 2018, 28 August – 2 September 2018, Granada, ESP
- 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
- Referee Assessment for Accreditation, LI-NING Czech Open 2018, 26-29 September 2018, Brno, CZE
- 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
- Referee Appraisals and Assessment for BWF Certification, BWF World Junior Championships, 5-18 November 2018, Markham, CAN
- Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, Hong Kong Open 2018, 13-18 November 2018, Hong Kong, HKG
- Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, HSBC BWF World Tour Finals, 12-16 December 2018

## NEW BWF EVENT LOGOS



## BANKING ON BADMINTON

In January, the Badminton World Federation announced global banking group, HSBC, as its Principal Global Partner in an extensive agreement that includes title-sponsoring the top five tiers of BWF's remodelled tournament circuit. Those five levels are the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals and four tiers with a related numbering convention. Collectively, they are the HSBC BWF World Tour. There is a sixth level – the BWF Tour Super 100.

Top left is the new composite series logo along with logos for four of the five tiers of the HSBC BWF World Tour and the BWF Tour Super 100 logo.

The logo for the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals is yet to be unveiled.

These logos will be incorporated into the new Team Managers' Meeting presentation templates, for your use.