



## A DIFFERENT BUT REWARDING CHALLENGE

By **Torsten Berg**

**Chair - BWF Referee Assessment Panel**

“One sport - One Team” is the motto of para-badminton. The sport for players with a disability is very similar to badminton. The Laws carry a few additional clauses to accommodate the needs of para-badminton players, and the court varies according to the ability of the six sports classes into which para-badminton is divided.

When BWF referees met on 25 June 2018 in Kuala Lumpur for the standardisation workshop, para-badminton referees Heng Ah Neoh (Malaysia) and Enrique Charadan (Cuba) gave an inspiring presentation on similarities and differences between refereeing badminton and para-badminton, which forms the basis for this note.

Refereeing para-badminton is a considerably more complex job than ordinary refereeing, as the Para-Badminton General Competition Regulations are

significantly different from the GCR for badminton, as they contain more special clauses. This is mainly due to the fewer number of players classified in each sport class, and hence smaller draws in the tournaments.

So far, approximately 900 players have been classified in the six para-badminton sports classes. Roughly two-thirds are men. The numbers are steadily increasing, as there are new players classified by the specialist classifiers immediately

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FROM THE CHAIR BY  
**GILLES  
CAVERT**



# LEARN, UNDERSTAND, INTERNALISE

A BWF technical official has numerous Laws, regulations and instructions to learn, understand, think about, and implement on the field of play.

For non-native English speakers, this can be particularly challenging. Nevertheless, a few hours of pre-tournament preparation can make a big difference and help you improve your handling of matches.

Please review all documents on Laws, regulations and instructions! It will allow better understanding, and step by step, you will internalise them.

A misunderstanding of a Law often leads to a bad call by the umpire.

For example, Law 13.4.4 states that “it is a fault, if, in play, a player obstructs an opponent, i.e. prevents an opponent from making a legal stroke where the shuttle is followed over the net”.

I have always been surprised by the inaction and/or timidity of some BWF technical officials when this situation occurs on court.

Perhaps this timidity is because of one, or both, of the following factors:

1. The inability of the umpire to show commitment on court and to intervene when appropriate.
2. A lack of understanding of the Law.

It is your duty to stay up-to-date on the Laws and all other BWF Statutes. Download them, print them, study them — and make sure you are accessing the latest versions from the BWF corporate website (<http://bwfcorporate.com/statutes>).

You will then feel more comfortable in the chair when handling tense match situations.

# PREPARATION IS KEY

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

It's been another busy and productive year so far for the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel with many workshops, assessments and appraisals carried out all over the world... there has been no time to rest!

Panel members have noticed some situations at recent events that should be addressed:

## **Inconsistent Performance**

BWF Umpires need to prepare thoroughly prior to the tournament and for all matches. Excuses like: “It is only the first day, I was getting myself into the tournament”, etc. are not valid. Errors in Law from BWF Certificated Umpires should not happen.

## **Player Late Back on Court**

During one of our recent workshops the assessor asked which card should be given if a player is late back on court after the one- or two-minute interval. Almost 60% of the umpires answered incorrectly.

How can this misunderstanding happen at a BWF tournament?

Please go straight to the Laws and ensure you have the right answer as I will be asking the same question at an upcoming workshop, and I expect everyone to know the right answer.

## **Calling Service Faults**

When did you last read the new service laws on calling a service fault related to the racket head?

You are the ones on TV making simple errors about whom the commentators are more than happy to talk.

## **BWF Umpire Assessor Workshop**

The Assessment Panel met for its annual workshop during the TOTAL BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2018. The workshop focussed on increasing competence, consistency, and overall performance of BWF Umpires.

Therefore, please remember that we are here to help you achieve your goals.

## **Two-Minute Warmup**

The standard warmup time continues to be two minutes, starting when the umpire sits in the chair following the coin toss, with a call of “ready to play” at 90 seconds, and “love all – play” at two minutes.

However, at certain tournaments, to meet the requirements of TV, and as advised by the referee, the length of the warmup time may be modified and is always subject to the referee's instructions.

At the recent TOTAL BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2018, the two-minute warmup was modified to where “ready to play” was called at two minutes as opposed to 90 seconds.

## **Service Judge Must Assist Umpire**

Umpires and service judges have an obligation to make the sport fair for the players.

This includes the important responsibility of the service judge to help the umpire make the correct decision related to the Laws of

Badminton — especially if that incorrect call could cost a player/pair a game or match.

It is not good enough to come off court saying to yourself that you tried to tell the umpire; it is vital you make the umpire aware of the error.

A thorough knowledge of the Laws and good preparation for a tournament are essential.

Enjoy your umpiring and enjoy the camaraderie of our great family of BWF Umpires.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

The Badminton World Federation congratulates the following recently-upgraded CC level referees to the BWF Accredited level:

- Diraj Dev Gooneadry (MRI)
- Lui Wan Swee (MAS)

BWF congratulates the following recently-upgraded CC level umpires to the BWF Accredited level:

- Emi Sakamoto (JPN)
- Jesper Hedam Larsen (DEN)
- Joao Fragoso (POR)
- Stephane Venet (FRA)
- Fabio Lopes (BRA)





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before almost every tournament. Some may also be re-classified if the degree of their disability has changed. However, the number of entries in each sport class and event is still much smaller than in badminton.

Entries are controlled by a technical delegate (TD) who works closely with the referee. The referee and TD will only know the final entry after classification and a short re-entry period allowed for players to find new partners (e.g. if they have been classified differently at a previous tournament).

Development of an online entry system is underway, which may help simplify the entry process, which is complicated by most players playing three events, and often with partners from other member associations.

Once the entries are ready, the TD and referee shall verify which classes can be played. It takes a minimum of four players from three member associations to have an official competition. If the numbers are less, sport classes may be combined, and in some sport classes events are combined according to regulations, such as doubles in the two

wheelchair classes, WH 1 and WH 2. Even men's and women's competitions may be combined, which happens occasionally (e.g. short stature class SS 6).

Tournaments normally start with a group stage, followed by a knock-out stage. Entries in three event categories and group play reflect the desire of para-badminton players – who are as competitive as the able-bodied – to have as much play as possible after having travelled to an international tournament often on their own expense.

The referee is required to provide a reasonable timetable, but fortunately para-badminton players normally are flexible in their demands. After all, several players enter three events, so they need to play with short intervals between matches.

Medal distribution is another complexity, driven by the possibility to combine sports classes and events with small entries. A player (or pair) playing in a class or event with less disabled players will still have

medals corresponding to the results and reflecting his/her level of disability.

Para-badminton is growing fast. Younger and often more competitive players replace and supplement the experienced players we have known for years. With growing numbers, para-badminton players may choose to specialise in singles or doubles.

Larger entry numbers mean that fewer classes will have to be combined. Para-badminton refereeing will become simpler and closer to what you already know well.

If you wish to be among the pioneers, please come forward!

If you would like a closer look at refereeing para-badminton, do not hesitate to say so. Its complexities will be unraveled and training and mentorship will be provided to newcomers into the para-badminton referee and TD community. The takeaway is huge - the friendship and camaraderie among para-badminton players is definitely a rich reward!



Participants at the BWF Referee Workshop that was held in Kuala Lumpur on 24 and 25 June 2018.

# CONSISTENT QUALITY AND REFEREEING STANDARDS

**By Torsten Berg**

BWF Referees met on 24 and 25 June 2018 in Kuala Lumpur for a workshop to further improve and standardise their performance. With the rapidly increasing level of play and presentation of the HSBC BWF World Tour, the BWF Referees are faced with increasing pressure to deliver tournaments of the highest calibre both when it comes to fairness on court and presentation to worldwide television, spectators and media. How do we live up to these expectations?

Most BWF Referees were able to participate in the workshop, although some were busy refereeing elsewhere. All received comprehensive notes from the workshop, including copies of the presentations, and conclusions on standard practice and relevant action items from the two long days of work and discussion.

Following an initial review of changes to the Laws, rules and regulations, the consequences for BWF Referees were in focus. The

ITTO — now holding two detailed sections on refereeing — will be a helpful tool for the referees in future.

We discussed standard situations and how to handle them, noting that the ITTO shall be followed, unless a referee in a specific situation has a good reason to deviate from the standard, and based on common sense. The situation then shall be part of the reporting post-tournament.

The ITTO will now be reviewed to incorporate the changes made to the Laws in the AGM 2018 concerning service judging, in particular. Specific clauses covering para-badminton officiating are also underway. The revised ITTO, with a slightly updated official vocabulary, will be put in front of Council for adoption in November 2018, so that they can come in force from 1 January 2019.

The 360-degree appraisal programme, introduced approximately 18 months ago, continues to be a successful tool to improve the

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standards of BWF Referees by providing comments and guidance as well as evaluation of all the key areas of refereeing. BWF Referee Assessors can share their experience and help each referee to be aware of, and apply, best practice. It was accepted that this programme has led to better preparation for the tournament from everyone involved. The preparatory work has also served to improve cooperation between all stakeholders.

BWF staff gave inspiring contributions. A lesson by Andy Hines-Randle of the Integrity Unit was an eye-opener. We all realised that we had much to learn — particularly on the importance of reading much more carefully the Ethics legislation and the relevant Codes of Conduct, so in future any referee will be prepared to handle an approach by a player or other 'covered person' and whatever suspicious behavior one may otherwise notice.

BWF's Senior Tournament Series Manager Selvam Supramaniam gave another useful and well-prepared lesson on the HSBC BWF World Tour, its background and implications for referees. Such contributions and the subsequent discussion helped to put BWF staff and referees on the same page and thereby in working towards a common goal.

BWF Para-Badminton Referees Heng Ah Neoh (Malaysia) and Enrique Charadan (Cuba) gave an inspiring presentation on similarities and differences between refereeing badminton and para-badminton, which will be discussed separately (see cover story).

Following a review and discussion on how referees shall handle withdrawals and promotions — an area where occasionally errors have arisen — the second day of the workshop focused on group work to produce better standard templates for Team Managers' Meetings and Umpire Briefings, as well as other issues of general interest. The outcome will be further elaborated by BWF technical staff and soon become available for every referee, to enhance performance in areas where we, in general, can do better.

The recommendation at the conclusion of the workshop was that the next one — to be expected in two years, in 2020, shall have more interactive sessions and spend more time on working groups, and that three days of workshop would be worthwhile.

The workshop will then again, and even better, serve to increase the quality and performance standards of BWF Referees.



Technical Officials who served at the TOYOTA Thailand Open 2018 pictured at one of Thailand's most famous landmarks, the Wat Arun temple, during a visit organised by the Badminton Association of Thailand.

## 2018 - CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND APPRAISALS

Date	Meetings, Workshops and Appraisals	Location	Country	Tournament
29 Jul	BWF Technical Official Commission Meeting	Nanjing	CHN	In conjunction with the TOTAL BWF World Championships 2018
30 Jul - 05 Aug	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, Assessment for BWF Certificated Umpire, and Referee Appraisals	Nanjing	CHN	TOTAL BWF World Championships 2018
07 Aug - 12 Aug	Referee Appraisals	Ho Chi Minh City	VIE	YONEX-SUNRISE Vietnam Open 2018
28 Aug - 02 Sep	Referee Appraisals	Barcelona	ESP	Spain Masters 2018
11 Sep - 16 Sep	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, and Referee Appraisals	Tokyo	JPN	DAIHATSU YONEX Japan Open 2018
18 Sep - 23 Sep	Referee Appraisals	Pangkalpinang	INA	Bangka Belitung Indonesia Masters 2018
25 Sep - 30 Sep	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Seoul	KOR	VICTOR Korea Open 2018
26 Sep - 29 Sep	Referee Assessment for BWF Accreditation	Brno	CZE	LI-NING Czech Open 2018
02 Oct - 07 Oct	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, and Referee Appraisals	Taipei	TPE	YONEX Chinese Taipei Open 2018
23 Oct - 28 Oct	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, and Referee Appraisals	Paris	FRA	YONEX French Open 2018
30 Oct - 04 Nov	Referee Appraisals	Saarbrucken	GER	SaarLorLux-Open 2018
30 Oct - 04 Nov	Referee Appraisals	Macau	MAC	Macau Open 2018
05 Nov - 18 Nov	Referee Appraisals and Assessment for BWF Certification	Markham	CAN	LI NING BWF World Junior Championships 2018
13 Nov - 18 Nov	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Hong Kong	HKG	YONEX-SUNRISE Hong Kong Open 2018
27 Nov - 02 Dec	Referee Assessment for BWF Accreditation	Mumbai	IND	Tata Open India International Challenge 2018
12 Dec - 16 Dec	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Guangzhou	CHN	HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2018

## 2019 - CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND APPRAISALS

Date	Meetings, Workshops and Appraisals	Location	Country	Tournament
08 Jan - 13 Jan	Referee Appraisals	Bangkok	THA	Princess Sirivannavari Thailand Masters 2019
05 Mar - 10 Mar	Referee Appraisals	Birmingham	ENG	YONEX All England Open 2019
12 Mar - 17 Mar	Referee Appraisals	Basel	SUI	YONEX Swiss Open 2019
09 Apr - 14 Apr	Referee Appraisals	Singapore	SGP	Singapore Open 2019
19 May - 26 May	Referee Appraisals, Umpire Assessment for BWF Accreditation	Nanning	CHN	BWF Sudirman Cup 2019
16 Jul - 21 Jul	Referee Appraisals	Jakarta	INA	Indonesia Open 2019
02 Aug - 11 Aug	Referee Appraisals	Katowice	POL	BWF World Senior Championships 2019
13 Aug - 18 Aug	Referee Appraisals	Akita	JPN	Akita Masters 2019
19 Aug - 25 Aug	Referee Appraisals, Umpire Assessment for BWF Certification	Basel	SUI	BWF World Championships 2019
10 Sep - 15 Sep	Referee Appraisals	Ho Chi Minh City	VIE	YONEX Vietnam Open 2019
17 Sep - 22 Sep	Referee Appraisals	TBA	INA	Indonesia 2019
15 Oct - 20 Oct	Umpire Assessment for BWF Accreditation	Odense	DEN	DANISA Denmark Open 2019 presented by VICTOR
22 Oct - 27 Oct	Referee Appraisals	Paris	FRA	YONEX French Open 2019
29 Oct - 03 Nov	Referee Appraisals	Macau	MAC	Macau Open 2019
19 Nov - 24 Nov	Referee Appraisals	Glasgow	SCO	Scotland Open 2019
26 Nov - 01 Dec	Referee Appraisals	Lucknow	IND	Syed Modi International 2019