

COCTALES

BWF

THE NEWSLETTER OF BWF TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

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IMPROVING YOUR SOFT SKILLS

By Gilles Cavert

Chair – BWF Technical Official Commission

Next year will definitely be a very exciting and demanding one for technical officials with numerous Grade 1 tournaments on top of our normal HSBC BWF World Tour:

- ▶ HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2020 (rescheduled)
- ▶ TOTAL BWF Sudirman Cup Finals 2021
- ▶ Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games
- ▶ Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games
- ▶ TOTAL BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2020 (rescheduled)
- ▶ BWF World Senior Championships 2021
- ▶ BWF World Championships 2021
- ▶ BWF World Junior Championships 2021
- ▶ HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2021

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In the meantime, with very few tournaments remaining in 2020, we TOs have more time to work on our soft skills...

EXPERIENCE AS A PARA BADMINTON TECHNICAL DELEGATE

By Günter Klützke

Para badminton Technical Delegate

When did you start getting involved in Para badminton and how?

In 1996, Dortmund, Germany - the town where I was born and where I am still living – was host of the “Ruhr Olympics”. That was a competition between youth teams of the cities of the Ruhr area including most of the sports in the Olympic Games, and some others.

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THE RISK OF CORRUPTION FOR BADMINTON TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

By Chris Trenholme

Senior Technical Events Manager and Andy Hines-Randle Senior Integrity Unit Manager

Over the past several months, corrupt activities took place in a fellow summer Olympic sport, involving technical officials...

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**GILLES
CAVERT**

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IMPROVING YOUR SOFT SKILLS

By Gilles Cavert
Chair – BWF Technical
Official Commission

One could say we are human resource managers in that our soft skills (or soft competencies) are critical factors in our performance.

Core competencies we should master include:

- ▶ Efficient and effective communication
- ▶ Anticipation
- ▶ Adaptability
- ▶ Proactivity
- ▶ Reactivity

- ▶ Willingness to improve
- ▶ Team work
- ▶ Team spirit
- ▶ Empathy
- ▶ Mental strength
- ▶ Alertness
- ▶ Resilience
- ▶ Humility

As badminton changes (e.g. taking on an increased “entertainment” focus), our role as TOs change, too. We are interacting with an increasing number of different stakeholders, many of whom are of strategic importance for the sport and its development in the shorter and longer terms.

For example, an umpire in a Grade 2 Tournament final may need to establish and manage communication flows with upwards of 24 different stakeholders: four players; one service judge, 10 line judges; two moppers; four coaches, one referee, one on-court doctor, and the TV manager!

Positive and calm body language, facial expressions, and smiles are also very effective means of communication, and form an important part of the TO toolkit for implementation on and off court!

Remember, we are human resource managers!

BEST LAID PLANS CAN FALL APART..... BUT GOOD INTENTIONS NEVER END

By Jane Wheatley

Chair – BWF Referee Assessment Panel

It has certainly been a challenging period for the BWF and disappointment for us all as we have watched the few tournaments planned come to naught.

I want to give thought to our colleagues for whom 2020 is their retirement year. After so many years of dedicated service we all wish to have the opportunity to say goodbye to friends and colleagues at a final event and despite attempts to offer these finale opportunities to our retiring colleagues we have been unsuccessful as events have fallen by the wayside.

On behalf of the BWF Referee Assessment Panel, BWF Technical Official Commission, and our family of referees, I would like to acknowledge Mojmir Hnilica (CZE), Nahathai Sornprachum (THA), and David Chang (TPE), for their many dedicated years of service.

Chua Soo Hock (MAS), a member of the BWF Referee Assessment Panel is also retiring this year. I was indeed fortunate to have worked with Chua during my years as a referee, and in current times as a valuable member of the assessment panel.

Thank you so much, Chua, for your many years of dedicated service, wisdom and friendship. We wish you and your family many happy years in retirement.

Outcomes from the BWF Technical Official Commission

- ▶ In the next applicable year, the BWF Referee Record of Work requires each BWF Referee to serve as a referee in a least one tournament at the Continental level (e.g. Continental Confederation Championships, Grade 3 tournaments);



- ▶ That the local/assisting referee, if a BWF Referee, should wear the referee uniform of the hosting Member Association, if applicable. *They should not wear the BWF Referee uniform.*

Players who need their coach to warm them up on-court

As Malcolm mentioned in his article later in this edition of COC-Tales, there is nothing in the ITTOs that cover this and I am sure we all have seen this occur on a rare occasion.

As a referee, I would not see any problem in the coach coming out to warm up their player if the opposing player is being held up for whatever reason.

However, the referee should be watching the court, and must be aware of what is happening. You may even need to go on court to see if there is a problem that needs your resolution.

You are in the “box seat” to see what is going on, so use your common sense. A player certainly must not be made to dance to the tune of the opposition and they are entitled to use their two-minute warm up time.

Retirement of a player

Again, there is no definite regulation covering the on-court referee procedure in this situation. If you, as referee, wish to be called to the court to be made aware of a retirement ensure the message is conveyed loudly at your Team Managers’ Meeting and Umpire Briefing before play starts for the week. You may consider this procedure necessary at the higher-level tournaments to ensure everyone is clear about the reason(s) for the retirement as this affects results, potential forced withdrawals, and may draw questions from the media.

■ **Continued on next page**

Law 17.1 states:

“The Referee shall be in overall charge of the tournament or championship(s) of which a match forms part”.

How you conduct your tournament is your call. It is a simple matter of communication to the team managers and umpires.

Communication to your umpire team

It is important that you instruct your umpires to carefully document incidents surrounding the issuance of red cards.

A very contemporary incident surrounded the rationale for the issuance of a red card for delay in returning to the court following an interval.

In an incident like this, it is critical to document the actual time taken following the allocated time allowed, for the player to return to the court and be ready for play.

Documentation puts an end to speculation and complaints when a card is issued.

Taking these simple but important steps gives strength to your reporting, and is a great help for the BWF office staff.

Excessive Celebration

Players can and do display celebratory gestures during, and at the end of, a match. The extent of the acceptance of this behaviour is adequately covered in the Players Code of Conduct 4.2 “Being a Model Competitor on-Court” and is a guide for our umpires to use for adjudication.

We are dealing with many different personalities and stringent guidelines that have the potential to cause major problems.

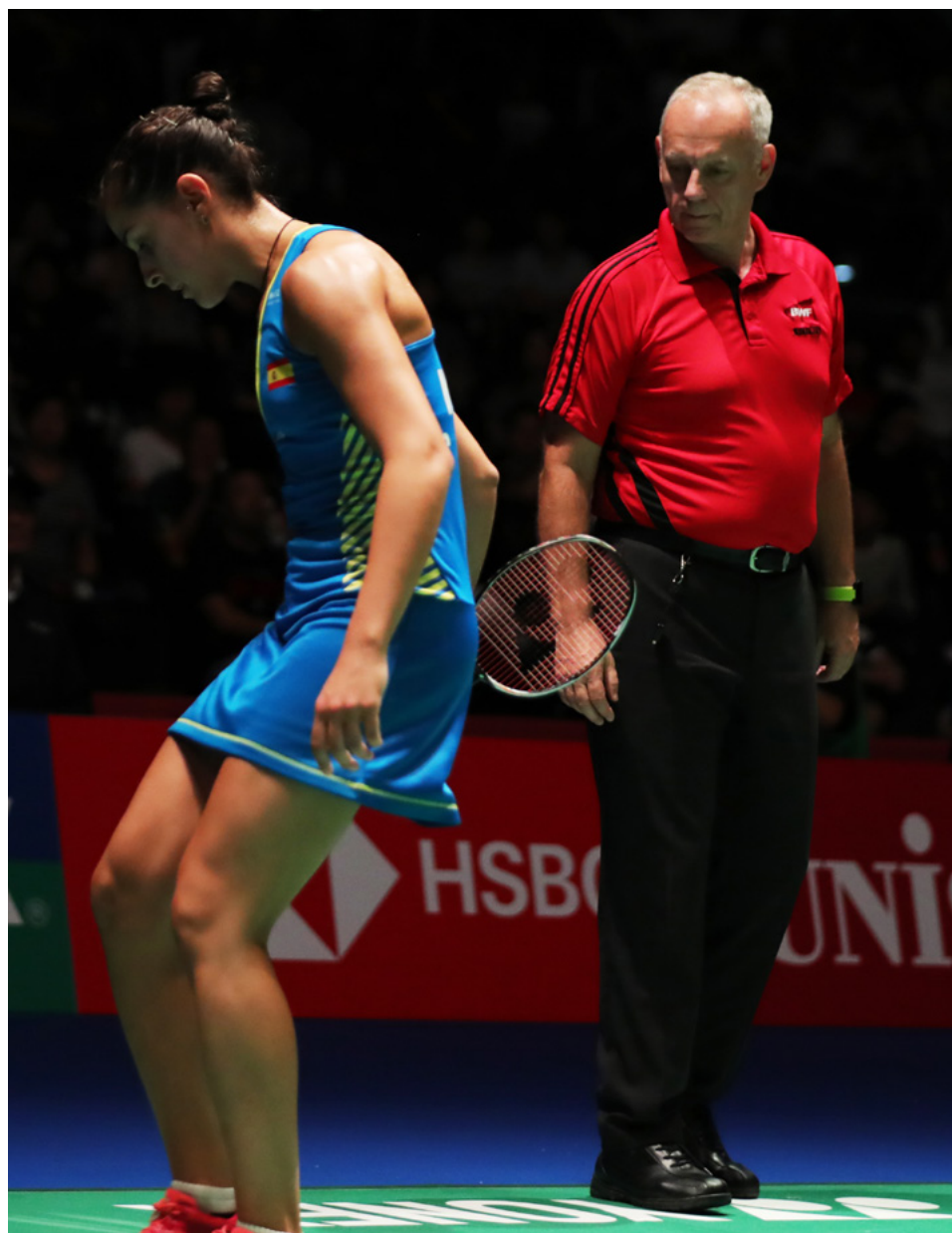
Our umpires are asked to assess and use their best judgment, using common sense to call it as they see fit at the time. This includes looking at the whole situation, and to deal with it accordingly.

I know we are all missing our life of jumping on aircraft, catching up with good friends, challenging ourselves with the responsibility of refereeing a tournament.... we need to give ourselves a big boost of encouragement and know that we will get back on track.

A quote that resonates with me these days is, “A single thread of hope is still a very powerful thing”.



From left to right: Jane Wheatley (AUS), Gilles Cavert (FRA) and Chua Soo Hock (MAS)





UPDATE FOR UMPIRES

By Malcolm Banham
Chair – BWF Umpire Assessment Panel

The latest edition of COC-Tales seems to have come around very quickly, like the strange world we are living in right now where everything seeming to be moving too quickly.

Perhaps with fewer tournaments on the calendar at the moment, BWF Umpires seem to have more time for questions. I wish to highlight the following questions raised since the last COC-Tales:

What if a player/pair refuses to warm up with the opponent?

There is nothing in the Laws or ITTO that cover this, so common sense is the only answer: Allow the players' coach to warmup the player, however, immediately inform the referee so he/she understands the reason.

Why do we have to continue to instruct the players to put their towel back in their box?

The answer is simple: Sponsors pay a lot of money to have their logo displayed on the box.

However, my advice is to find a way in the beginning to avoid having to tell the player more than once; speak to the player about their responsibility to avoid their equipment overhanging from the boxes. Cards should not be necessary.

Should the service judge remain seated after the first and second games, until the umpire announces “first (second) game won by...”, and then take the “2-minute” board to the centre of the court?

Or

Should the service judge stand as soon as the umpire calls game, wait for the announcement to finish, and then take the “2-minute” board to the centre of the court?

I asked 18 BWF Umpires this question and the answers were exactly what has been happening on court: 50% took the seated approach and 50% took the standing approach.

We will be discussing this in 2021 workshops before a final decision is made,

and I am looking forward to it already! Until then we should comply with what is written.

Thank You, Lin Na!

My thanks and gratitude go to Yau Lin Na (MAS) for her time and effort spent helping develop umpires during her time on the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel.

Lin Na retires at the end of 2020, but will continue as a BWF Referee.

We wish her all the best in her new venture.

Welcome, Kelly Hoare!

As one person moves on, we are pleased to welcome Kelly Hoare (AUS) to the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel, and I am sure she will be a great asset in her new role.

However, she will be a loss to the umpire workforce.

In conclusion, please stay safe, keep the questions coming, and I look forward to seeing you all next year!

ARTHUR JONES – FATHER OF MODERN REFEREEING

By Torsten Berg
Member – BWF Referee
Assessment Panel

We, umpires and referees, shall remember Arthur Jones (ENG) for the many initiatives he took in his 13 years on the IBF (now BWF) Council. One of them was starting modern refereeing; this included separating the duties of the host organiser and the referee, and emphasising national neutrality in the appointment of umpires and referees.

For example, when England played a tie (e.g. BWF Thomas or Uber Cup) and Arthur was the tournament referee, he stepped back and let one of his deputies take over, and I had the privilege to work as his deputy in the BWF Thomas Cup 1986 Zone Tie in San Jose (USA), and this proved to be a great learning experience.

Most prominently, of course, Arthur Jones served as President of IBF from 1989 to 1993... but who was Arthur Jones, and what did he do for badminton and BWF?

He was a “doer” and a pragmatic leader, never afraid of taking responsibility. He was forward looking, and always taking action, working hard to implement solutions. This forward-thinking approach led to establishment of anti-doping control and education for badminton - an initiative many years ahead of other international sports.

Arthur Jones, sometimes referred to as “King Arthur” by his friends, worked hard for his home county Essex, country England, and for IBF in many areas. However, this article focuses on his achievements as a technical official.

Born in 1922, Arthur Jones joined the Royal British Navy in World War II. During military training as a radio mechanic in Newcastle, he started playing badminton. He served his country on several, very dangerous missions. First, on convoys in the North Atlantic, shipping provisions into arctic Murmansk, Russia, and later on submarines in the Pacific Ocean.



After the war, he continued living dangerously: he became an umpire! And a very good one, too.

He umpired several All England Open finals as well as the 1970 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh (SCO). Outside the court, Arthur Jones took responsibility for his peers and became chairman and later president of the English Badminton Umpires Organisation. On court, as a decent club player and a fighter, he once happened to break a racket over the head of his mixed doubles partner who later became his partner for life: his dear wife Bess, who often followed him when travelling.

Always well dressed, Arthur was a gentleman both from appearance and nature. No wonder he was well dressed... he and his brothers ran the family's clothing business!

But he was also a rebel, never taking anything for granted, always trying to change and improve what he did not find right.

In 1980, Arthur was elected to the IBF Council. His first important result was the revised Thomas and Uber Cup format, designed while in Tom Bacher's garden that same summer, and implemented first in 1982. The new format, including the change in schedule where the both cups were contested every second year, preserved the future viability of both competitions, and grew the revenue generation for the federation, allowing greater development and growth of badminton until our Olympic debut in 1992.

A few years later, Arthur became chair of the “ICT” Committee, more or less what the Events Committee is today, and the most demanding role on Council.

Technical officials were led by a sub-committee of ICT, and this allowed Arthur to support Roy Ward's initiatives to establish a panel of tested and competent IBF Umpires and to initiate similar efforts for IBF Referees. He took charge himself, and Council colleagues Neil Cameron, Roger Johansson and I followed his example, trained by serving as Arthur's deputies and, together, developing the ideas and principles we still pursue.

Later, some senior IBF Umpires were trained by Arthur Jones and his students to do IBF refereeing. Neil Cameron, in particular, deserves praise in this connection. When for a few years Neil changed position from IBF Vice-President to Events Director, before becoming our Executive Director, he produced a comprehensive manual for refereeing which became a cornerstone for our teaching for many years, and even today a source of inspiration.

The distinguished ICT Chair, Arthur Jones was also an open-minded man, happy to listen to new ideas, and this became very apparent to me when I joined IBF Council in 1986. I wrote to Arthur to propose that IBF should introduce a mixed team Championship. He quickly grasped the idea and helped me to promote it, so that Council, with enthusiastic support from Indonesia that offered the name of their founding father and offered to run the first edition, agreed to establish the Sudirman Cup.

Arthur Jones' many other achievements as IBF chairman and president, and of the Badminton Association of England, are described elsewhere.

His leadership in the years leading up to our first appearance as an Olympic sport in 1992 was certainly important and successful. We, however, shall also remember “King Arthur” for what he did for technical officials during his career in badminton and in IBF.

Arthur Jones passed away in 2000.

LOOKING FORWARD AND LOOKING AHEAD



By Torsten Berg
Member – BWF Para Badminton
Commission

We are all looking forward to Para Badminton tournaments starting again so that we can enjoy the matches, officiate as referees, technical delegates, and umpires, and meet behind the courts for a chat. Hopefully soon!

While we wait, we can look ahead and prepare for a safe and happy return.

We are currently preparing an updated Para Badminton General Competition Regulations and other related Para badminton statutes, which we intend to present to BWF Council at its next meeting in November 2020.

A separate ITTO for Para badminton is next on the agenda, with additional official Vocabulary.

Moreover, BWF has entered a dialogue with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) on the Para badminton program for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

At the end of the day it is an IPC decision, and they have already made clear that the total number of athletes for all sports will be the same as in Tokyo. However, we believe we have good arguments to justify more athlete places, both to have more events, in particular SH 6 WS and XD, and also more players in each event. We shall see...

It will be of special interest to our TOs that, due to the many tournament cancellations this year, our familiarisation program as part of the integration process has been delayed already.

While no formal decisions are taken, you can consider it likely that the whole process will be delayed, both because of the safety situation and because we were advised that quite a few of the BWF Para Badminton Umpires would benefit from a longer preparation period before they assessed for BWF Umpire status.

So, altogether, there is much to look forward to!

Gunter Klützke (GER) with BWF President, Poul-Erik Hoyer (DEN) at the Opening Ceremony and Welcome Gala of the TOTAL BWF Thomas and Uber Cup Finals 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand.



From Page 1

EXPERIENCE AS A PARA BADMINTON TECHNICAL DELEGATE

By **Günter Klützke** **Para badminton Technical Delegate**

I was responsible for organising the badminton competition, and our club for people with a disability asked for an exhibition of wheelchair badminton, so we showcased a wheelchair competition inside this multi-sport event. After that first contact with wheelchair sports, I visited a lot of wheelchair badminton training sessions in that club and got involved in the organisation of the annual "German Para Badminton International".

What is your profession outside of badminton? Does your profession help you in your role as a technical delegate?

I have worked for over 20 years as a mathematician for a software company.

Currently, my work focuses on developing and leading advanced training courses for colleagues and employees of our customers.

In my master studies at university, I gained expertise in combinatorics which is a big help to handle Para badminton tournaments as technical delegate. These tournaments generate problems that are similar to well-known questions in discrete mathematics like graph theory, design theory, and related subjects.

What is interesting about the role of a Para badminton technical delegate?

In a Para badminton tournament with a lot of newly classified players, the technical delegate ends up serving, among many other responsibilities, as an ally of the players.

With two genders and six different sport classes, everyone wants to play, and so it is necessary to find a suitable format for the events to provide enough participation per event without allowing too large of an inequality of disability in each event.

From a mathematical point of view, it is interesting to work with uncertain information (e.g. sport class for new or re-classified players) and with combinations of small numbers, which appear when only a few players are registered for a tournament.

Effective communication is critical to the success of the technical delegate, as he/she is the connector between classifiers,

■ **Continued on next page**

team coaches, the referee and the organiser, regarding the competition structure.

What are some of the challenges a Technical Delegate encounters at a tournament?

Besides making numerous decisions, the technical delegate has to process a lot of information, too! This includes:

- ▶ Determining possible tournament formats after the entry deadline and publication of the classification;
- ▶ Informing specific service rules for certain classified players with special disabilities;
- ▶ Re-calculating the seeding list after the classification and re-entry phase;
- ▶ Proposing the schedule final schedule for the overall tournament;
- ▶ Organising the necessary re-draws when the group matches are completed; and
- ▶ Supervising the derived ranking points, especially in events with combined classes.

The technical delegate and referee need to work well together and this is essential to the success of the tournament.

Another challenge is dealing with classification. When the classifiers have published their results, entry numbers for each event become certain.

As noted previously, one of the tasks of the technical delegate is determining possible tournament formats in advance of the tournament, but once the classification process has been completed, there may be changes to the classification of certain players to manage, as well player withdrawals — some of which are due to disease which is not unusual for Para badminton players.

The technical delegate has to take all this new information into quick consideration to determine the required events to contest, and the schedule for day one. It's very interesting work, but also very challenging!

What do you think is your greatest achievement in Para badminton so far?

This is not an easy question to answer as it's hard to be impartial! But, trying to judge from the outside looking in, I think it has been the opportunity to impact the significant overall progress Para badminton has made over past several years, including the specification of our regulations for combinations and



extra matches which allows us to handle similar situations in a similar way. For example, there could be 13 female standing players have entered a tournament which means 105 different distributions to the sport classes SL3, SL4 and SU5.

Other accomplishments include the overall implementation of the regulations, the training of technical officials, and supporting BWF's efforts to see badminton become a Paralympic sport, working alongside other colleagues including BWF VP Para badminton Paul Kurzo, BWF Para badminton Commission member Torsten Berg, and BWF Referee Barbara Fryer.

On a very personal level, I'm proud of my role in organising the BWF Para badminton World Championships in Dortmund, Germany, in 2013, alongside Petra Opitz, to whom I'm grateful for all her hard work.

Lastly, I value the trust placed in me by players, coaches, technical officials, and organisers in my role as a technical delegate.

Describe two of your most memorable moments at a Para badminton tournament?

I will never forget Jens Behnke (GER) playing on one leg and one crutch in SL3, Neeraj George Baby (IND) playing on one leg without any crutch, and the first appearance of Elizabeth Mwesigwa (UGA) on-court in Kampala, Uganda. As I have tried to play badminton in a wheelchair, I am totally impressed by Kim Jung Jun (KOR) or Liu Yutong (CHN) floating on the wooden floor and how near European players are getting to this level with hard training.

But the most emotional moment was the first world title won by Pascal Wolter (GER) in

Cordoba 2001 where I was the German team coach and had arrived by car after a 2400km drive in my old car through Germany, France and Spain together with my wife Claudia, with all the national team uniforms!

I am impressed by the growing solidarity and sportsmanship amongst players from all over world, such as Lee Sam Seop (KOR) repairing the wheelchair of his opponent on court, or the silver medallist Leanie Oktilla (INA) carrying the injured gold medallist Ma Hui Hui (CHN) on her shoulders after the victory ceremony WD SL3-SU5 at the TOTAL BWF Para Badminton World Championships 2019 in Basel, Switzerland.

What advice would you give to aspiring Para badminton technical officials?

There is a big difference between Para badminton and badminton tournaments. When you officiate in Para badminton tournaments, you are amongst players that have more in common as their interest and talent in badminton. At badminton tournaments, technical officials may discuss more about other TOs and how to advance to higher levels, but in Para badminton tournaments, their discussion seems to be more on the players.

All TOs seem uplifted by the spirit and the on-court performances by the world-wide Para badminton community. Yes, they have physical disabilities, but it is often amazing to see which movements or tactics are possible. It may take a beginner time to learn everything about officiating at Para badminton tournaments, but I encourage everyone to be a part of this community because it's "Badminton – One Sport, One Team".

From Page 1

THE RISK OF CORRUPTION FOR BADMINTON TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

By **Chris Trenholme**
Senior Technical Events Manager
 and **Andy Hines-Randle**
Senior Integrity Unit Manager

Over the past several months, the following corrupt activities took place in a fellow summer Olympic sport, involving technical officials:

Infractions

- ▶ Taking bribes from betting syndicates in exchange for manipulating match scores.
- ▶ Deliberately delaying the updating of scores.
- ▶ Messaging the gamblers directly before updating the score.
- ▶ Failing to report approaches by individuals to alter match scores.
- ▶ Failing to report a corrupt match.
- ▶ Not cooperating with the investigation.
- ▶ Betting on the same sport.
- ▶ Contacting other officials in an attempt to manipulate match scores.

Penalties

- ▶ Barred from officiating or attending any sanctioned tournament for two and half years.
- ▶ Decertified for life.

Unfortunately, these are all actions taken by technical officials in tennis—a sport which, in many ways, is very similar to badminton in how it is organised and officiated around the world.

Could this happen to badminton?

Yes, unless we are all diligent, careful, honest, and cooperative in our activities as BWF Technical Officials.

Badminton is very popular around the world, and as it continues to grow (e.g. TV and social media), and the more tournaments are hosted, the more popular badminton becomes to the betting industry...and with it, the increased risk of corruption.

The more interest and involvement by betting operators, the more “liquid” betting on badminton becomes—meaning, the greater the amount of money to be won and greater the chance for corrupt individuals to get involved, stay involved, and ultimately, to have the opportunity to influence technical officials.

What does this mean for technical officials?

Technical officials are actually one of the stakeholder groups at highest risk to be approached, enticed, and tempted into corruption.



Corrupters favour technical officials because they:

- ▶ Do not earn prize money like players, and so the offer of money may be too enticing to turn down.
- ▶ Are involved in more matches than players during a competition week, so the return on investment for corrupters is higher than players.
- ▶ Can influence so many types of bets offered in our sport.
- ▶ Often stay in the same accommodation as the players, so it is easy for corrupters to approach TOs at the same time as approaching players.
- ▶ Can help the corrupter recruit more TOs, once corrupted themselves.
- ▶ Often perceived to be in the ‘background’ and not under the spotlight – easier for corrupters to approach TOs ‘under the radar’.

What’s going on tournaments?

BWF provides live match data to our betting operator partners, at our Grade 1 and 2 tournaments.

However, at the same time, “courtsiders” could also be at these tournaments transmitting match data from their laptop computers or mobile devices, to one or more third parties, who are then potentially selling this data to other betting operators.

As a result, there could be 50 or more betting operators gaining access to BWF match data, either legitimately or via other third parties unknown to the BWF!

Furthermore, at the Grade 3 level, there are exponentially more tournaments held, making it harder to monitor and police corrupt practices at that level.

This means the potential risk is a lot higher and corrupters could be at tournaments all around us, looking for opportunities to “corrupt” technical officials as well as players.

What do corrupters want you to do?

- ▶ Provide inside information on players to give corrupters an edge on potential match results.
- ▶ Delay inputting the score into the scorepad to allow the corrupters to bet, already knowing the result of the point.
- ▶ Officiate in such a way to influence the outcomes within rallies, games, and overall match to allow corrupters to bet on very specific aspects of the match (e.g. who gets to seven points first, first to 11 points, who wins the first game, etc.).
- ▶ Recruit other technical officials.

What other temptations are there?

Technical officials may be tempted to bet on badminton. This is strictly forbidden by BWF.

How can we combat corruption?

The BWF Integrity Unit, led by Senior Manager Andy Hines-Randle, continues to monitor and investigate all matches and suspicious activities.

BWF also has a confidential reporting mechanism for stakeholders to report potential corrupt activity. It should be highlighted that reporting any form of corrupt activity at your earliest knowledge is an obligation under the Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions. By not reporting, you would actually be in breach of the rules and could be charged, prosecuted and sanctioned by the BWF Integrity Unit.

It should also be highlighted that the nature of any corrupt activity, whether match manipulation or betting is likely to constitute a criminal offence in certain countries, so this is another key reason not to get involved should you be contacted by a potential corrupter.

We can educate ourselves about BWF integrity, being more aware of our surroundings at tournaments, and report any approaches and/or suspicious activities.

In addition, the BWF Code of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, including the Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions, and other policies and procedures (e.g. BWF Social Media Policy), are your guide to maintaining and upholding fair competition.

Let’s keep our sport fair, safe, and corruption-free!

i am clean
i am honest
i am badminton

TECHNICAL OFFICIALS IN AFRICA

By Diraj Gooneadry

Chair – BCA Technical Official Commission

Thirty years ago, badminton in Africa was new and focused on the development of players.

As players participation and performance improved, the quality of badminton in Africa changed, including more and more major tournaments, and with that, a greater need for technical officials and a higher standard of performance to adequately support these tournaments.

Up until a few years ago, the majority of BWF Technical Officials came from Mauritius and the Republic of South Africa for two main reasons: For both countries, English is the official language and these two Member Associations were hosting the majority of the major continental level tournaments.

As a result, there was definitely some catching up to do in technical official development in other parts of Africa, and BWF worked closely with BCA to run various training courses, workshops, and seminars, led by former BWF Referees Torsten Berg (DEN) and Isabelle Jobard (FRA), BWF Umpires Jean Guy Poitras (CAN), and Richard Atwell (ENG), to name a few. They invested a lot of their time and expertise and we continue to savour the fruits of their labour.

It is important for BCA to train technical officials throughout Africa, and one of the ways we did this was to maximize the opportunities for training and workshops at our various continental circuit tournaments and championships, with priority to Member Associations where badminton was less practiced and there were few or no technical officials.

Tournaments were hosted by Member Associations for the first time. This was due, in part, to successful development programmes like BWF's Shuttle Time. As a result, the badminton population rose, together with an increasing number of trained technical officials.

BCA Council delegated authority to its Technical Official Commission to promote, train and develop technical officials all over Africa, as part of its 'Vision 2020' and 'Vision 2022' strategic plans. Actions taken from those plans has seen an increase in the size of referee,



umpire, and line judge workforces at both the BCA and BWF levels, while taking into consideration gender equity and geographical representation.

Internal administration and communication continue to grow, including the promotion and sharing of all resources and important communication, and a close working relationship and support between the BCA Technical Official Commission and BCA Staff. The BCA TOC has also formalised its terms of reference and those of its assessment panels which will add stability, focus and greater accountability.

We have also made excellent use of BWF Educational Resources such as the Line Judges Manual, Umpire Level 1, Referee Level 1, and the Implementation Guidelines for National Federations.

With limited resources in the past, we were not able to fully maximize training and appraisal activities at our major tournaments, however, with increased financial investment by BCA and through BWF grants, we can now do so much more.

For example, we can now send BCA Umpire Assessors to carry out the workshops, appraisals and assessments, instead of relying on the assigned referee to take this on, in addition to his/her officiating responsibilities at the tournament. Opportunities like these have already shown results, including more BCA Umpires upgraded to the BWF level. With better planning, we will be able to achieve more across the continent.

We have a young pool of motivated and dedicated TOs who are also professionals in their life, including doctors, lawyers, researchers, engineers and educators, and they are also keen to learn more.

To that end, we are grateful to the newly appointed BWF Referee Assessor Gretha Prinsloo (RSA), who will be relied upon to mentor, train, appraise and assess our BCA Referees.

With the help of our friends from the other Continental Confederations, we have been able to send TOs abroad to get more exposure and experience so that they can best prepare for their BWF assessment.

However, BCA is not without challenges, including the financial and economic impact of COVID-19, geography, language, political instability, poor economies, inadequate sport infrastructures, and lack of funding.

As a result, it has meant that many of our Member Associations have had to prioritise other sport programming over TO development, but this is changing with the new BWF TO Grant focused on continental and national development.

One way that we can successfully overcome a barrier is through the translation of resources into languages used by our members, including French, Arabic, and Portuguese. As such, we are grateful to BWF for its continued translation of its educational resources, including French versions for its Line Judge, Umpire Level 1, and Referee Level 1 resources, with more to come.

Moving forward:

*We must step out of our comfort zone.
We must plan for the future.
We must use IT efficiently and effectively.
We must overcome barriers to development.*

While there is much work still to do, we can finally say that the rails have been set and the train is in motion.

If we continue in this direction, we will reach our destination with confidence and success.



2021 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND APPRAISALS

As of 01 October 2020 – calendar subject to change

Date	Activity	Location	Country	Tournament
Feb - TBC	Referee Assessment Panel Meeting 2021			
02 Mar - 07 Mar	Referee Appraisals	TBC	ESP	Spain Masters 2021
09 Mar - 14 Mar	Referee Appraisals	Muelheim an der Ruhr	GER	YONEX German Open 2021
17 Mar - 21 Mar	Referee Appraisals, Umpire Appraisals & Workshop	Birmingham	ENG	YONEX All England Open Badminton Championships 2021
23 Mar - 28 Mar	Referee Appraisals	Basel	SUI	YONEX Swiss Open 2021
30 Mar - 04 Apr	Referee Appraisals	Orleans	FRA	Orleans Masters 2021
30 Mar - 04 Apr	Umpire Appraisals & Workshop	New Delhi	IND	India Open 2021
06 Apr - 11 Apr	Referee Appraisals, Umpire Appraisals, Workshop and Assessment for BWF Accreditation	Kuala Lumpur	MAS	Malaysia Open 2021
TBC	Umpire Assessment Panel Meeting 2021	Suzhou	CHN	in conjunction with TOTAL BWF Sudirman Cup 2021
TBC	TOC Meeting 2021	Suzhou	CHN	in conjunction with TOTAL BWF Sudirman Cup 2021
23 May - 30 May	Referee Appraisals, Umpire Appraisals, Workshop and Assessment for BWF Accreditation	Suzhou	CHN	TOTAL BWF Sudirman Cup 2021
01 Jun - 06 Jun	Referee Appraisals	TBC	KOR	Korea Masters 2021
08 Jun - 13 Jun	Referee Appraisals, Umpire Appraisals, Workshop and Assessment for BWF Accreditation	Jakarta	INA	Indonesia Open 2021
15 Jun - 20 Jun	Referee Appraisals	Bangkok	THA	TOYOTA Thailand Open 2021
17 Jul - 22 Jul	Referee Appraisals	Akita	JPN	YONEX Akita Masters 2021
31 Aug - 05 Sep	Umpire Appraisals & Workshop	TBC	KOR	Korea Open 2021
21 Sep - 26 Sep	Umpire Appraisals & Workshop	Changzhou	CHN	VICTOR China Open 2021
28 Sep - 03 Oct	Referee Appraisals, Umpire Appraisals & Workshop	Tokyo	JPN	DAIHATSU YONEX Japan Open 2021
04 Oct - 10 Oct	Referee Appraisals	TBC	CHN	BWF World Junior Championships 2021 (Team)
19 Oct - 24 Oct	Referee Appraisals, Umpire Appraisals & Workshop	Odense	DEN	DANISA Denmark Open 2021
26 Oct - 31 Oct	Umpire Appraisals & Workshop	Paris	FRA	YONEX French Open 2021
02 Nov - 07 Nov	Referee Appraisals	Macau	MAC	Macau Open 2021
09 Nov - 14 Nov	Referee Appraisals	Fuzhou	CHN	Fuzhou China Open 2021
16 Nov - 21 Nov	Referee Appraisals	Hong Kong	HKG	YONEX-SUNRISE Hong Kong Open 2021
29 Nov - 05 Dec	Umpire Appraisals & Workshop	Huelva	ESP	BWF World Championships 2021
15 Dec - 19 Dec	Umpire Appraisals & Workshop	Guangzhou	CHN	HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2021