

COCTALES

BWF

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Olympic and Paralympic Emotions

By Gilles Cavert
Chair – BWF Technical Official Commission

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BWF Referees and Umpires of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

PARA BADMINTON PASSES A MILESTONE

Peter
Meszaros
(SUI)

By Torsten Berg, Member –
BWF Para Badminton Commission

The BWF Technical Officials formed the backbone of the successful delivery of the first-ever badminton tournament at a Paralympic Games, in Tokyo recently. Full marks to our ITOs!

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OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC EMOTIONS



BWF Line Judges of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games

FROM THE CHAIR BY
**GILLES
CAVERT**

The Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games have recently concluded with incredible memories shared by all participants.

So many matches had emotional endings - surprisingly, in many cases, it was the winner lying on the ground in tears, realising that they had reached the top of Mount Olympus.

In that context, our teams of technical officials should be congratulated for their high level of performances, allowing the players to give their best on court.

There were many "firsts" at the 2020 Paralympic Games, one of which was Freek Cox (NED) becoming the first umpire in Paralympic history to make the opening announcement of a badminton match.

We thank everyone who contributed to the successful delivery of both Games,

and hope you all had great experiences in Tokyo!

A few weeks before the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, the BWF Technical Official Commission (TOC) held its annual meeting, and like in 2020, it was held virtually.

Performance of our workforce continues to be our main focus, with different tools and strategies, including:

- ▶ Semi-Professional Referees and Umpires;
- ▶ Referee and Umpire appraisals, assessments, workshops, and webinars;
- ▶ Mentoring;
- ▶ Increased partnership and collaboration with the CCs;
- ▶ TO Recognition; and
- ▶ Integration of Para badminton technical officials into the BWF programme

We will continue to implement programming in support of all of you, guided by our strategic plan.

The TOC looks forward to working efficiently with the new leaders of the BWF Events Committee: Zhang Jun (CHN), Chair, and Sven Serré (BEL), Deputy Chair.

As a former world class player, including two Olympic gold medals, Zhang Jun, understands the important role that BWF Technical Officials play in the successful presentation of our sport.

Sven Serré is an experienced and skilful BWF Certificated Umpire and Badminton Europe Umpire Assessor, so we look forward to his leadership at the BWF Events Committee and Council level, with his understanding and support of the technical officials programme.

Lastly, it is important to note how busy, but critical the success of our slate of tournaments for the rest of the year, including:

- ▶ TotalEnergies BWF Sudirman Cup Finals 2021;

- ▶ TotalEnergies BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2020 (postponed to 2021);
- ▶ BWF World Senior Championships 2021;
- ▶ TotalEnergies BWF World Championships 2021;
- ▶ Numerous HSBC BWF World Tour Tournaments; and
- ▶ HSBC BWF World Tour Finals.

Because of the continued impact of COVID-19, there are numerous dynamics affecting the assignment process, including country entry restrictions, visas, quarantines, and related tests, so we appreciate your ongoing understanding and cooperation.

And, at the same time, I would like to acknowledge how efficiently this process continues to be administered by Events Officer Selena Lim, with support from TO Manager Suva Sivapathasundram, and Senior Technical Events Manager Chris Trenholme.

Stay safe and take care.



From left to right: BWF Referees Carsten Koch (GER), Lynne Nixey (NZL), David Chang (TPE) and BWF Umpire Coordinator Gilles Cavert (FRA).

REFEREE UPDATE

By Jane Wheatley
Chair – BWF Referee Assessment Panel

**Congratulations all round...
a job well done**

The Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be remembered and be associated with the years that COVID-19 disrupted our lives.

However, for badminton, the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games will go down in the history books as badminton's inception into the Paralympics. Our team of referees led by Barbara Fryer (SUI), with deputies Enrique Charadan (CUB) and Liu Qian (CHN), have the honour of being our first referee team for this auspicious occasion. From the comfort of my home, it was a pleasure to watch the pride, fierce competition, and

obvious joy of our Paralympians represented for the first time on the world scene.

The Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games appeared flawless under the direction of a very experienced team of Carsten Koch (GER), Lynne Nixey (NZL), David Chang (TPE) and Yves Coté (CAN).

On behalf of our BWF TO family, my thanks to both teams of referees.

2021 Calendar

Sadly, our good intentions were again thwarted with three recent World Tour tournament cancellations in this second half of the year, but we are still on track for the majority of the tournaments planned.

Please note that due to different country

restrictions, at times we have not been able to assign duties to some of our referees. Understandably, there are also been a number of referees who have been unable to make themselves available this year.

2022 Calendar

BWF is currently working on the 2022 tournament calendar and, as COVID-19 is still very much front and centre in our lives, we will be in contact with you again to ascertain availability before assigning duties.

Doping Control

You should all have received an email sent on 14 September 2021 from

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TO Manager Suva, bringing us up to date with the changes regarding Doping Control. There were five documents attached that clearly explain the role of the referee in this area. Whilst the referee is still in overall charge of the tournament, we now take a step back in the doping area where the BWF Tournament Series Manager will be liaising with Doping Control Officers, and reporting on facilities. You will note in the attached Referee Report document that reference to Doping Control no longer exists.

Please familiarise yourself with these documents.

BWF Online Preparatory Workshop for BWF Referee Assessment

On the weekend of 25 September 2021, we began our new project, the Online Preparatory Workshop for BWF Referee Assessment, and it will be conducted over five sessions of two hours, over three weekends.

We all know what a big step up it is attending a BWF Referee Assessment Workshop.

This programme has been specifically designed to close the knowledge gap between the continental and BWF levels, and is not for the beginner. An invitation has been extended to CCs to put forward candidates they consider ready for the next level.

Presenters are our very experienced Semi Professional Referees, in conjunction with the Referee Assessment Panel members, who will attend each session. Assignments are to be completed after each presentation and these will help our candidates ensure they have a strong knowledge of each topic.

Record of Work 2021

A reminder that due to COVID-19, the 2021 BWF Record of Work is to be completed by each referee but will not be formally evaluated.

Extranet

You will remember that Events Officer Selena gave a presentation at our last BWF Referee Workshop on the new Extranet programme currently under development. This is still in progress, though a somewhat slow process due to the developer having to prioritise work in other areas in the short to medium term. We are hoping to launch the Referee dashboard by the end of the year and an update will be presented at our next workshop.

As the world slowly emerges from the impact of COVID-19, I am optimistic that we too will gradually develop a new badminton "normal". I look forward to the day when our family of referees can again work together.



From left to right: Dr. Rachvind Sra, David Chang (TPE), Carsten Koch (GER), Lynne Nixey (NZL), Yves Cote (CAN), Gilles Cavert (FRA) and Dr. Wojciech Ossowski (POL)

UMPIRE UPDATE

**By Malcolm Banham,
Chair – BWF Umpire
Assessment Panel**

It is pleasing to see many tournaments getting back up and running, even though some of you still cannot travel. For now, it is good that at least some have the opportunity to get back on to court.

Congratulations to the BWF Umpires assigned to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. I hope you had a great experience even though different, due to the impact of COVID-19.

What can I do to improve?

Umpires often ask “what do I need to do to improve?”

Answer: Natural ability and a lot of hard work.

We all know a good umpire. Take the time to watch how he or she

handles different situations, how the match is kept under control and how players are treated without being officious.

As a service judge, you can learn a lot from watching your umpire closely. And, when you come off court, make sure to discuss situations that have happened while it is fresh in your minds. Be proactive and discuss with your colleagues if you think you have any weak points.

Remember that presentation skills such as voice projection, pausing at the right times and places in the match, and anticipation all add to the confidence you show to the players.

Can a player wear a baseball cap?

A question that was asked recently: Can a player play



Andrea Chiappini (ITA)

a match while wearing a baseball cap? For context, it was a plain white cap with no advertisements.

The relevant clauses are in the GCR and the ITTO:

- ▶ GCR 20.1 says that clothing is ...“anything worn or carried by a Player including, but not limited to shirt, etc.”
- ▶ GCR 20.3 says that “...all clothing worn by Players and Coaches shall be acceptable sports clothing.”
- ▶ ITTO 3.5.15.1 says “In case of uncertainty the Referee should permit the clothing in question and submit a picture of it to BWF after the tournament for review.”

So, the cap would be allowed as per GCR 20.1, and could even carry advertising within the regulations, provided the referee decides that it is acceptable sports clothing.



Ma Janelyn
T Fundal
(PHI)

In this scenario, the umpire called the referee and the referee allowed the player to play wearing the baseball cap.

As always, call the referee if you are in doubt.

Please all stay safe and hope to see you soon.



Satiawan Mahadoo (MRI) and Christian Johannessen (DEN)

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PARA BADMINTON PASSES A MILESTONE

By Torsten Berg, Member – BWF Para Badminton Commission

The BWF Technical Officials formed the backbone of the successful delivery of the first-ever badminton tournament at a Paralympic Games, in Tokyo recently. Full marks to our ITOs!

Our BWF Technical Delegate Günter Klützke (GER) and BWF Referee Barbara Fryer (SUI) and her team of Enrique Charadan (CUB) and Liu Qian (CHN) put together an order of play that gave all 90 players the opportunity both to compete hard - some in three events - and to have reasonable rest between their matches; no simple equation to solve!

Our 24-strong umpire team worked hard and with empathy over the five days of competition, and they managed to run all matches without needing to use a single yellow or red card. They worked well together as a team - One Sport, One Team - and our local star, Toi Tsutomu (JPN), was an exemplary host for his colleagues.

Our line judge team (NTOs), too, worked well with their Japanese colleagues and we had no line call disputes, even if there was no IRS in use at Yoyogi Stadium.

Our ITOs and NTOs, as well as of course the players and the few but loud spectators, did us proud and ensured that this milestone for badminton was passed with flying colours.

We learned a few things, too. The quota of 90 players was just enough to ensure fair competition in the 14 events we played. However, the WS SH6 was sorely missed, and so were the WS SL3 events. The players are there, now, and they will be ready for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

Moreover, the five days of competition are just the minimum. One more day will help a lot to ensure reasonable rest for the players between their matches. Finally, the qualification should be primarily from the singles next time; we saw a few group matches with one player having qualified as a doubles player and with his head full

of his doubles chances, leaving no focus on the singles match he actually played.

For the ITOs and NTOs, the luxury hotel accommodation in single rooms in the Keio Plaza hotel - the only place we were allowed to be beyond the stadium - was a superb reward for all the tests, paperwork, and uploading required by the restrictive COVID-19 protocols.

We will all remember badminton's first appearance in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games as a very special occasion and the start of something really big for our sport.

Finally, the Paralympic Games badminton competition served as a great opportunity for the BWF associated umpires coming mainly with Para badminton experience and those mainly with experience in BWF Grade 1 and 2 Tournaments, to work together as one team. This, I can say with confidence, went very well, and we are well under way towards the target 'One Sport - One Team' that I put on a blackboard in a small hotel in Lausanne, Switzerland, some 13 years ago.

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INTERVIEW WITH BWF SEMI-PROFESSIONALS AT THE TOKYO 2020 OLYMPIC GAMES

Lynne Nixey (NZL)

Iris Metspalu (EST)

Lynne, how did you get into badminton officiating?

I was born into a badminton family, and my father was an umpire and a referee, so I followed in his footsteps and began as an umpire. It is one of those things that if you fall into it and you are really good at it, you just keep doing it – and I did. And I have gone from strength to strength, including two Olympic Games as an umpire, and switched to the refereeing role where I am now here in Tokyo for a third Olympics, but first as a referee!

Iris, how did you get into badminton umpiring?

Unusually, I have never been a player. I have a business partner who was a player who introduced me to badminton, and then to umpiring, because he was one of the first international umpires from my country. So, one day he suggested that I give it a

try and take a course in our capital city Tallinn, which I did, and now I am hooked, and it is something that I really love to do!

For the players at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, it's 50-50, but roughly what is the current split for male/female technical officials here in badminton?

The split at these Games is 30% female and 70% male. We are trying to increase female participation, but we are actually meeting the minimum IOC guideline, so it is a good base from which to improve.

How can sports like badminton encourage a higher proportion of women and girls to have a career in officiating?

The best way is to show that it can be done. Having great role models, such as the women officiating at these Games, it sends the message that yes, it is possible, yes, women can do it, and encouraging them that there

is another pathway, I guess, other than player-coach-retirement. And officiating is a really good pathway for women and men.

Visibility is very important to that...

Absolutely, and for the referee team, we make sure that we have the balance of women and men out there on the court doing exactly what needs to be done. It is great that we have the opportunity to do that.

Iris, considering that you have been able to officiate on the international stage from Estonia where there are not as many players or technical officials, how do you encourage other women and girls to take this pathway?

By showing that people from small countries where badminton is not a popular sport, you can still achieve your goals and officiate at the

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highest level, and here I am at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, officiating alongside colleagues from top badminton countries.

If you put your mind to it, you can do it. It does not matter if you are a woman or a man, from a smaller or larger country; if you want to do it, if your heart and mind is set on it, you can make it.

What was it like to umpire the first medal match at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games?

It gives me chills, because it such great honour, and a dream to officiate a medal match at the Olympic Games. I remember when I was invited to serve as an umpire for these Games– I had tears in my eyes. I was so proud. It is a really big thing for me. I want to thank my family and business partner who introduced me to badminton and umpiring, for their support.

Lynne, in the last few years, have you seen greater opportunities for women to officiate in badminton?

There are more opportunities for everyone, but particularly for women.

What was once a narrow focus on recruitment and retainment,

has opened up giving women more opportunities.

I am fortunate in that I come from Oceania, where we have always had a great system for the recruitment of women into sport and officiating and so it has been quite a level playing field for some time. And, because there are greater opportunities for women, it is motivating women to raise their level of officiating.

How is the BWF Semi-Professional Referee programme going?

The Semi-Professional Referee programme was first of the professional teams of officials off the block, so you could say we were the “guinea pigs”, to see if it would work.

And there has been some learnings in that first three-year cycle: how do we fit in with the overall BWF Referee team, additional roles, etc., and the impact of COVID-19 on our tournament calendar.

But it is going really well now and we have found our niche. BWF has determined the best way for us to best serve the refereeing area, and encouraging us to go further.

It is a great opportunity to be in a semi-professional position



Iris Metspalu (EST)



Lynne Nixey (NZL)

because you are assigned to more tournaments per year, and you are a part of a team who are all “in the same boat” as you, that you can feed off, you can talk to, and this helps bring up your level of officiating.

Is it a career?

Being a semi-professional programme, no, we are not able to build a professional career that will sustain us at the moment, but hopefully long-term that will be different.

It would be great if someday, if we are able to recruit individuals in officiating because they know there is a possibility for it to become a full-time job—that would be the ultimate aim.

In meantime, we are happy to be a part of building the foundation toward that longer-term vision.

Iris, have you seen a shift in greater opportunities in umpiring for women?

There are more and more female umpires now in the system, with more financial investment towards development of women in badminton officiating, which is really helping.

The real value is in building both women and men together, because if you skip half of the population like women, just leave them in the background, then you are losing.

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Richard Wong (AUS) and Lynne Nixey (NZL)

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Again, like Lynne, in Estonia, we really cannot complain about not having the same opportunities like men. We have a female prime minister, a female president, and I am an example, too, and without any grants or other formal support. It is possible if you put your mind to it.

It is still possible to have a full family and professional career but officiate at a world level. And, the bonus is that officiating is a great way to expand your social circle, while helping build personal skills, like believing in yourself, self-confidence, new languages—these are all very important to me.

Lynne, what would you say to any woman who wants to get into officiating but may have doubts?

Always looks for another solution to get started and continue in



your officiating, even if you come up against barriers; the opportunities are there.

If you are involved with a country, an association, or a club that is not giving you those opportunities, there are others out there.

Ask others who are already involved how they got there, and for advice, because one of the things that we are all very good at it is sharing our advice, spreading the love, letting everybody know how we got here. We are very proud of what we have achieved so far, so we are very happy to guide others

how to succeed, through such ways as formal and informal mentoring.

Iris, same question...

My advice: Be like a postage stamp: stick to one goal and you will get there! This has really helped me in life, as well as mentoring.

If anyone is having doubts, I encourage them to come to us and we will share our experiences.

We look forward to more and more of us women in these roles, because when I started, I was very much in a man's world with the vast majority of male officials. I often wear a skirt on court to show that I can succeed as a woman.

No one should be ashamed of being who they are—male or female; we just do the best we can, and rely on our experience to continue progressing... so let's keep going!

2021 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND APPRAISALS

As of 01 October 2021 – calendar subject to change

Date	Meetings, Workshops and Appraisals	Location	Country	Tournament
09 Oct - 17 Oct 2021	Referee Appraisals, Umpire Appraisals, Workshop and Assessment for BWF Level	Aarhus	DEN	TotalEnergies BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2021
19 Oct - 24 Oct 2021	Referee Appraisals, Umpire Appraisals, Workshop and Assessment for BWF Level	Odense	DEN	VICTOR Denmark Open 2021
12 Oct - 19 Dec 2021	Referee Appraisals	Huelva	ESP	TotalEnergies BWF World Championships 2021

Retirement Ceremony for BWF Technical Officials

From left to right: Peter Tarcala (SVK), David Chang (TPE), Gerald Arseneault (CAN), Christof Odebold (GER), Pedro Garcia (USA), Richard Wong (AUS), Pierre Montreuil (FRA) and Gilles Cavert (FRA)



BWF Referees and Umpires of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games



BWF Line Judges of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games



BWF Referees and Umpires of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games



BWF Line Judges of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games



Technical Delegate Günter Klütze (GER) leading the draw ceremony for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games

