



ENSURING A HAPPY NEW YEAR

By **Torsten Berg**

Chair - BWF Referee Assessment Panel

First of all, let me wish all BWF Technical Officials, and in particular, BWF Referees, a happy 2019 and thank you for your time and effort in the past year. Our game expands and develops quickly nowadays, giving us numerous challenges but also much better support than before. However, successful and satisfying performance as a BWF TO is very much up to ourselves.

What is success as a TO, and in particular as a referee? Elements of success are surely to conduct a smooth tournament, in full accordance with the BWF Laws and regulations, satisfying to all stakeholders, players, coaches, and team managers, TOs as well as organisers and others. Success also means avoiding incidents, as far as possible, because they can cast a dark shadow over a tournament which otherwise has gone quite well (more details below).

Updated ITTO, New Regulations

The first condition for success for a referee is to be well aware of the BWF Laws and Regulations. The ITTO is now updated, in particular with details concerning the application of the revised service laws, recently confirmed by the BWF Council. A minor, but significant change is also that testing a new or re-strung racket on court, as has been the tradition, is now no longer permitted following advice from the BWF Athletes Commission, as part of an overall strategy to speed up the game.

Moreover, it was decided that a position on the reserve list should not be considered an entry as such, and as a consequence, a player or pair on the reserve list may refuse promotion to the qualifying or main draw (when there is no qualifying) even if they are present and in the draw in another event of the tournament. There are other changes to the GCR and annexes, and they were all sent to you in early December 2018; please read them carefully before officiating again. And preferably, re-read the Laws, GCR and ITTO regularly!

Dealing with Incidents

An incident can cast a shadow over a tournament which has otherwise gone well. Effort can be taken to prevent incidents and to reduce the negative effect of an incident. Also, we can do much better following up an incident, should it happen on our watch.

What is an incident? It is an unforeseen happening, normally on court, that causes considerable disturbance among players, coaches, team managers, TV commentators and the audience. For example, it could be an alleged breach of Laws or regulations, serious misconduct, or an alleged error from a TO. It could also be something that causes many adverse comments on social media.

INNOVATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TOC

FROM THE CHAIR BY
**GILLES
CAVERT**



Let me first wish the entire Technical Official community a happy and prosperous New Year.

There were several recommendations made from the BWF Technical Official Commission (TOC) that were approved by the BWF Events Committee and BWF Council at their meetings in November 2018.

I am excited by these new innovative processes which I believe will help increase the competencies and experience of all BWF Technical Officials. The following are some highlights:

Grants to CCs

The 2019 Umpire and Referee Development Grants, focused on the readiness of identified potential Continental Confederation (CC) candidates for the next assessment opportunity for upgrading to the BWF Accredited level (2020 for umpires and 2022 for referees), will now include Badminton Europe and Badminton Asia as well as the other CCs. Up to US\$30,000 has been allocated to both grants.

The 2019 TO Special Assistance Grant will remain the same in mandate and scope as in previous years, and stay at a maximum of US\$30,000 to be shared among all five CCs.

BWF TO Uniforms

A renewal of uniforms for BWF Referees and Umpire Assessors will take place this year, and

the overall kit will include:

- One jacket
- One sweater
- Three shirts to be worn on duty
- One other BWF-branded shirt which can be worn pre-tournament (i.e. referee to wear during a site visit upon arrival in the host city)

Renewals of referee assessors and umpires are planned for subsequent years.

Line Judge Terms of Service

As of now, there will no restriction on the number of four-year terms for BWF Line Judges, up to the retirement age of 65 years. CCs are still responsible for nominating new and/or renewing existing BWF Line Judges, based on submissions from their respective member associations.

More BWF Umpires for Grade 2

As of March 2019, BWF will appoint four BWF Umpires to each Grade 2 – Level 5 and 6 tournament.

2019 Umpire Assessments

For the BWF Accredited Level:

- TOTAL BWF Sudirman Cup 2019 (Nanning, CHN, May)

- DANISA Denmark Open 2019 (Odense, DEN, October)

For the BWF Certificated Level:

- TOTAL BWF World Championships 2019 (Basel, SUI, August)

2019 Referee Assessments

For the BWF Accredited Level:

- Assessment Workshop – Kuala Lumpur, MAS, January
- Practical Assessments – Various TBD – 2019 and 2020

The next assessment intake will take place in 2022 (previous practice was every two years).

It was determined that moving forward, the BWF Referee Assessment Panel will determine BWF Accredited Referee candidates for assessment for the BWF Certificated level.

Future BWF Referee Workshops

The next BWF Referee workshop, for all BWF Referees, is planned to take place in 2020 (dates and location TBD), and will take place over three days (most recent practice was over two days).

SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

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

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and I wish you all a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

While relaxing over the holidays, I was thinking about some of the frequently asked questions regarding umpiring and assessing, such as:

What is an assessor looking for in a BWF Umpire?

Those of you who read Coctales will have seen a very good article by Mike Walker. His article focused on these areas (and there were many). Most notable were his concluding remarks noting that there is no magic formula to assessing.

You have to have been in awkward situations in the chair yourself to be able to tell if an umpire has what it takes to reach the top:

- Presence
- Confidence
- Quick and accurate decision-making
- Reading the game
- Reacting to what has happened on court or seeing it coming and preventing it
- Working well with your other court officials
- General court control
- Complete knowledge of the Laws and how to interpret them

The best umpires are very self-critical and never come off court thinking they were perfect; they always want to do better, strive to improve, and never think they know everything. That is how they stay the best umpires.

How much should the service judge help the umpire when he/she knows the wrong decision is being made by the umpire?

We are there to make the game fair for all players on court.

The service judge is not expected to jump up every few minutes. However, if there is something clearly wrong in Law the service judge should help the umpire.

It is not right for a decision to be made that costs a player the game or match, and this has happened in the past. In those situations, when the service judge was asked after the match why he/she did not help the umpire, the answer was usually, "I tried". This is not an answer we can give to the players.

The game is moving fast and we have to move with it. At our highest level tournaments, there are numerous cameras which can pick up every little error.

As such, it is more appropriate for the service judge to help the umpire out of an awkward situation than allow an incorrect decision to be made, which will be shown on television.

If the service judge acts quickly, only the umpire and the service judge will know what has happened.

Consider Calling the Referee

Do not be afraid to use the referee to calm a situation that could otherwise get out of hand.

Instead of having long discussions with the player and perhaps having to use a card, it is advisable to call for the referee.

Use Common Sense

A big part of successful umpiring is using common sense.

If you have been to my workshops you would have heard repeat many times that using common sense will get you out of many awkward situations.

Enjoy your umpiring, but you are always on show. Remember to:

- Look the part
- Act the part, and
- Above all, be the part

I am very proud to chair the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel; we are a very committed group whose sole aim is to help umpires reach their full potential.

I look forward to watching you umpire somewhere in the world soon.

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In order to prevent unforeseen situations, please try to anticipate potential problems and take your precautions. Prepare carefully your courts, and select your umpires with care, in particular for matches that you foresee may cause difficulties. Pay attention to such matches yourself.

Still, one of the most common negative comments from the BWF Referee Assessors is that referees are paying more attention to the paperwork than to the field of play. When you or your deputy needs to focus on scheduling or similar duties, do that courtside, if possible, keeping an eye on the matches. When you need to leave courtside, alert your colleagues and minimise the time away. "Prevention is better than cure" was one of my father's favourite sayings, and on this one I do agree.

Should an incident happen, take action as quickly as possible. Time is NOT on your side. The longer a dispute on court drags out, the more you open yourself and BWF to criticism

from all stakeholders. Establish the facts and take your decision. Seek support, if needed, but do not waste time. Take the incident away from the court and cameras if possible.

Last but not least, report the incident immediately to BWF. Immediately means same day, or latest next morning if the incident happens in the evening. Take statements from any TO involved, add them to your own fact-finding and analysis, and deliver the report to BWF as quickly as possible. Use the Incident Report template within the referee report - or if that causes delay, just do any report, provided it comes to BWF (or your CC) quickly.

The purpose is of course that our Incident Report helps the BWF Events and Communication Departments deal correctly with any potential repercussions.

Working as a Team

To become even more successful in 2019, we — referees and all technical officials — need to work better as a team every year. Your TO colleagues will see more than you, and they can use other angles for their observations. Our successful BWF '360-degrees' referee appraisal

system has demonstrated that very clearly.

BWF invests in assessments and appraisals of referees and umpires, as well in Semi-Professional officials. The BWF Referee and Umpire Assessors as well as the Semi-Professional and other referees are key persons in this well-considered effort to raise the quality of officiating. It is of utmost importance that the BWF Referees in charge of the tournament and the BWF Referee and Umpire Assessors work closely together, before and during a tournament. Let us all put our heads together to provide optimal working conditions to all our TO colleagues in the new year.

Finally, we can be happy that nearly all proposals coming out of the BWF Technical Official Commission were approved by the BWF Events Committee and Council and are coming into effect in the new year.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!

BWF congratulates the following recently upgraded CC Level Referees to the BWF Accredited Level:

- Erik Ligtvoet (NED)
- Ashley Raju George (BRN)

NEW AND IMPROVED FORMAT

By Torsten Berg Chair, BWF Referee Assessment Panel

By the time you read this, BWF will have just finished the BWF Referee Accreditation Workshop 2019 in Kuala Lumpur with six experienced CC Level referee candidates from three continents participating. The workshop was led by myself and my fellow assessors, as well as BWF Staff, and the assistance of one of our Semi-Professional Referees.

The format of the workshop was enlarged and improved, based on the outcome from the last workshop in Birmingham in March 2017. One of the major changes has been the inclusion of an additional day of activity, for a total of four days. We added more group work, more interactive sessions, more use of BWF electronic tools, as well as the new ITTO, with less one-way classroom lessons. This reflects more accurately the work BWF Referees undertake behind the courts at Major Events and the HSBC BWF World Tour. A particular focus was preparation for

the situations where the World Tour is distinctly different from the large majority of Grade 3 and junior international tournaments.

Following successful passage of the obligatory written examination, the prospective new BWF Accredited Referees will have to lead a continental level tournament in a way that satisfies the BWF Assessors before being officially upgraded to the BWF level. We wish everyone good luck!



‘I ENJOY THE DETAIL THAT REFEREES DEAL WITH’

Interview with Lynne Nixey, Referee at the Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games (YOG)

How long have you been refereeing?

It seems that as soon as you qualify to be an umpire, people are asking you to be a referee. At least that is the way it is in New Zealand. I have been a ‘dual’ official for many years at a national level but had always said that at an international level, it was better to concentrate on being either an umpire or a referee. That is why in 2009, I retired as a BWF Certificated Umpire to concentrate on refereeing. In July 2010, I attended a BWF Referee course which was followed up by a practical assessment at the VICTOR Korea Open that year.

I have had many people ask why I retired as an umpire to referee, considering that I still had 13 years left to be a BWF Umpire. The answer was that I like to know what is going on, both on the court and behind the scenes. I enjoy the detail and the dilemmas that referees deal with and there is nothing more rewarding than watching a tournament conclude knowing that you dealt with everything that came your way.

After being successful in my BWF Accreditation in 2010, I was assessed as a BWF Certificated Referee in 2017 at the TOTAL BWF World Senior Championships in India and was delighted to be appointed at this level. It was a culmination of many years of work which had me visiting almost all the continents to officiate at something that I loved.

Before the YOG in Buenos Aires, what other multi-sport games experiences have you had as a technical official?

My first experience as a deputy referee of a multi-sport event came at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, Australia. It

became very apparent that a multi-sport event was very different to a standard BWF tournament. After all, there is an appointed technical delegate who does the majority of pre-tournament work that you would normally expect to do as a referee.

It was with great delight that I was appointed as the referee for the Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games. From my previous experience at a multi-sport event, I was not surprised that the referee was not as involved in the pre-planning as is the case with our usual tournaments. Technical Delegate David Cabello (ESP) worked closely with the host organiser at this stage of the planning process.

Also, it certainly felt different to arrive for this tournament where no draw had been made previously. Due to the uniqueness of this tournament and its regulations, the draw was completed at a special meeting two days before competition began; teams were drawn for the Relay Team event at this time as well.

What are the biggest differences between refereeing at a BWF Grade 1-3 or Junior International tournament versus a multi-sport event?

A multi-sport event throws up a lot of challenges that standard BWF tournaments do not. You have no control over transport, accommodation, schedule and who does what. In a multi-sport event, many of the positions are undertaken by people who are not badminton players or officials or supporters. They are simply people who want to be involved with the tournament and they have been appointed to badminton. The volunteers make up for their lack of badminton knowledge with their enthusiasm and eagerness to assist where possible. Include the newly introduced Relay Team Event and we were in for a really interesting time.

What have you learned from your experiences in refereeing at multi-sport games, and the Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games in particular?

The Relay Team event was one of the big success stories of the 2018 Youth Olympic Games – after all, where else can some of the lowest ranked players win medals by virtue of being part of a team? The teams were drawn to ensure that players of varying levels of ability were spread evenly between the teams.

Players who would normally never have an opportunity to talk to the top ranked players now found themselves as teammates and, in some cases, partners. Coaches quickly acclimated to this new format and every day brought about a new question on the regulations, such as who could play where, could they play the same discipline twice, etc.

The finals of the Relay Team Event provided us with lots of questions and kept us on our toes right up to the last point. To say that the event finished on a high was an understatement and I have been told by many people how exciting the whole event was.

What advice would you give aspiring referees at the national level and continental level?

The most important advice I can give to any aspiring referee -- national or international level -- is that preparation and organisation are key. If you arrive at an event and have not completed your preparation you will be on the back foot from the beginning.

Go to an umpire briefing unprepared and you will be found out (those umpires are very smart). It makes no difference what level of tournament it is – if you have not done the ground work for the event, you will struggle. I never travel to an event without re-reading the BWF General Competition Regulations, tournament prospectus, and any regulations specific to that tournament level or category.

I always have the prospectus printed out for quick reference throughout the tournament; in some ways, it becomes the 'bible' for the event. All documents for the tournament are readily available on my computer and as a referee if you need to hold off on a decision for a couple of minutes to double-check those regulations, then it is no problem at all.

Any other guidance, tips, advice, or ideas that may help a referee?

- Never stop learning. I rarely finish a tournament without having learnt something new.
- Talk to your fellow referees and other officials.
- Keep up with the latest regulations. The BWF works hard to ensure that regulations are updated and sent out to BWF Technical Officials, Continental Confederations, and Member Associations.
- Enjoy your experiences refereeing. You will meet a lot of people along the way, and go to a lot of places. Take the opportunity to enjoy this; it is a limited time that you have to participate in the best sport in the world in a position where you can be involved at the highest level.



The Team Relay event at the Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games had a unique format that was widely appreciated for promoting camaraderie among players of various backgrounds and playing ability.

2019 - CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND APPRAISALS

Date	Meetings, Workshops and Appraisals	Location	Country	Tournament
04-Mar	BWF Semi-Professional Referee Meeting 2019	Birmingham	ENG	in conjunction with YONEX All England Open 2019
06 Mar - 10 Mar	Referee Appraisals, Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Birmingham	ENG	YONEX All England Open 2019
28 Mar - 31 Mar	Referee Assessment for BWF Accreditation	Czestochowa	POL	YONEX Polish Open 2019
02 Apr - 07 Apr	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Kuala Lumpur	MAS	CELCOM AXIATA Malaysia Open 2019
03 Apr - 07 Apr	Referee Assessment for BWF Accreditation	Moriguchi	JPN	Osaka International Challenge 2019
09 Apr - 14 Apr	Referee Appraisals, Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Singapore	SGP	Singapore Open 2019
09 Apr - 14 Apr	Referee Assessment for BWF Accreditation	Hanoi	VIT	Ciputra Hanoi - Yonex Sunrise Vietnam International Challenge 2019
11 Apr - 14 Apr	Referee Assessment for BWF Accreditation	Wateringer	NED	20th VICTOR Dutch International 2019
TBC	Umpire Assessor Workshop 2019	Nanning	CHN	in conjunction with TOTAL BWF Sudirman Cup 2019
19 May - 26 May	Referee Appraisals, Umpire Appraisals, Workshop and Assessment for BWF Accreditation	Nanning	CHN	TOTAL BWF Sudirman Cup 2019
04 Jun - 09 Jun	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Sydney	AUS	CROWN GROUP Australian Open 2019
02 Jul - 07 Jul	Referee Appraisals	Calgary	CAN	Canada Open 2019
09 Jul - 14 Jul	Referee Appraisals	California	USA	Yonex US Open 2019
16 Jul - 21 Jul	Referee Appraisals, Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Jakarta	INA	BLIBLI Indonesia Open 2019
30 Jul - 04 Aug	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Bangkok	THA	Thailand Open 2019
TBC	TOC Meeting 2019	Basel	SUI	in conjunction with TOTAL BWF World Championships 2019
19 Aug - 25 Aug	Referee Appraisals, Umpire Appraisals, Workshop and Assessment for BWF Certification	Basel	SUI	TOTAL BWF World Championships 2019
03 Sep - 08 Sep	Referee Appraisals	Taipei	TPE	Chinese Taipei Open 2019
10 Sep - 15 Sep	Referee Appraisals	Ho Chi Minh	VIE	YONEX Vietnam Open 2019
17 Sep - 22 Sep	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Changzhou	CHN	China Open 2019
30 Sep - 05 Oct	Referee Appraisals and Assessment for BWF Certification	Kazan	RUS	BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships 2019
1 Oct - 6 Oct	Referee Appraisals	TBC	INA	Indonesia Masters 2019 - Super 100
15 Oct - 20 Oct	Umpire Appraisals, Workshop and Assessment for BWF Accreditation	Odense V	DEN	DANISA Denmark Open 2019
22 Oct - 27 Oct	Referee Appraisals, Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Paris	FRA	YONEX French Open 2019
26 Nov - 01 Dec	Referee Appraisals	Lucknow	IND	Syed Modi International 2019
11 Dec - 15 Dec	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Guangzhou	CHN	HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2019

RETIRING TECHNICAL OFFICIALS - 2018

NO	FULL NAME	CONTINENT	COUNTRY	POSITION
1	Isabelle Jobard	Europe	FRA	Referee Assessor
2	Hassenkhan Hyderkhan	Africa	MRI	Accredited Referee
3	Edy Rufianto	Asia	INA	Certificated Umpire
4	Jitirut Thanuakarapat	Asia	THA	Certificated Umpire
5	Zhang Peihua	Asia	CHN	Certificated Umpire
6	Erik Kirt	Europe	DEN	Certificated Umpire
7	Mike Wright	Europe	ENG	Certificated Umpire
8	Kelvin Martin	Pan Am	BAR	Certificated Umpire
9	Abdallah Ziz	Africa	MAR	Certificated Line Judge
10	Ahmed Aktar Gohobur	Africa	MRI	Certificated Line Judge
11	Rajen Pultoo	Africa	MRI	Certificated Line Judge
12	Abdul Latif Jaohari	Asia	INA	Certificated Line Judge
13	Ali Abdul Kareem	Asia	MDV	Certificated Line Judge
14	Chan Sui Chung	Asia	MAC	Certificated Line Judge
15	Cung Thuy Lan	Asia	VIE	Certificated Line Judge
16	Deepak Thapa	Asia	NEP	Certificated Line Judge
17	Huang Zheng	Asia	CHN	Certificated Line Judge
18	Jeon Seok Hun	Asia	KOR	Certificated Line Judge
19	KCKK Adikari	Asia	SRI	Certificated Line Judge
20	Kiran Karanjit	Asia	NEP	Certificated Line Judge
21	Lim Szu Ching	Asia	MAS	Certificated Line Judge
22	Mahmad Aied Ali Hatamleh	Asia	JOR	Certificated Line Judge
23	Nguyen Cong Huong	Asia	VIE	Certificated Line Judge
24	Sommart Nualkaw	Asia	THA	Certificated Line Judge
25	Tzeng Yen Wen	Asia	TPE	Certificated Line Judge
26	Wijayalakshmi Gardiye PUNCHIHewa	Asia	SRI	Certificated Line Judge
27	Allan Jensen	Europe	DEN	Certificated Line Judge
28	Antonetta Lauwerijssen	Europe	NED	Certificated Line Judge
29	Barbara Bub	Europe	GER	Certificated Line Judge
30	Ben van Deursen	Europe	NED	Certificated Line Judge
31	Francois Meston	Europe	FRA	Certificated Line Judge
32	Hildegard van de Velde	Europe	BEL	Certificated Line Judge
33	Jan Kolar	Europe	CZE	Certificated Line Judge
34	Luc Bertrand	Europe	BEL	Certificated Line Judge
35	Ole Riis	Europe	DEN	Certificated Line Judge
36	Pia Hermanns	Europe	GER	Certificated Line Judge
37	Sandra Clier	Europe	FRA	Certificated Line Judge
38	Simon Adams	Europe	GER	Certificated Line Judge
39	Vicky Ryan	Europe	ENG	Certificated Line Judge
40	Bruce Napier	Oceania	AUS	Certificated Line Judge
41	Colin Harris	Oceania	AUS	Certificated Line Judge
42	Gail Davison	Oceania	AUS	Certificated Line Judge
43	Sunny Bhatnagar	Oceania	AUS	Certificated Line Judge
44	Dennis Lam	Pan Am	CAN	Certificated Line Judge
45	Joseph Clarke	Pan Am	JAM	Certificated Line Judge
46	Maria Fernando Ramirez	Pan Am	MEX	Certificated Line Judge
47	Ricardo Javier Davila	Pan Am	GUA	Certificated Line Judge