

# COCTALES

**BWF**

THE NEWSLETTER OF BWF TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

JANUARY 2021 • EDITION NO. 30

# IT'S 2021!

**By Gilles Cavert**

**Chair – BWF Technical Official Commission**

I wish everyone in our technical officials' community a happy and prosperous new year.

Last year was a challenging one for us TOs, but we managed to maintain a high degree of communication and accomplished a lot of important work amongst our referees, umpires, assessors, staff and Technical Official Commission members, especially with the use of BWF's virtual communication platform and other online meeting opportunities.

**More  
on Page  
2**

## HECTOR ROY WARD – A BADMINTON STALWART AND THE GODFATHER OF INTERNATIONAL UMPIRING

**By Torsten Berg, Member – BWF Referee Assessment Panel and Greg Vellacott, Member – BWF Umpire Assessment Panel**

Hector Roy Ward, known to everyone in the badminton community as Roy Ward, was one of the most significant BWF Council members (IBF in his days) in the last 25 years of the 20th century.

**More  
on Page  
5**



## EXPERIENCE AS A BWF REFEREE ASSESSOR AND REFEREE

**By Chua Soo Hock – Retired BWF Referee Assessor, BWF Referee and BAC TOC Chair**

Interview with former BWF Referee, BWF Referee Assessor and Chair of Badminton Asia Confederation Technical Official Commission.

**More  
on Page  
9**





FROM THE CHAIR BY  
**GILLES  
CAVERT**

From Page 1

# IT'S 2021!

**By Gilles Cavern**

**Chair – BWF Technical Official Commission**

This year will definitely be an exciting and challenging year, too, but for different reasons.

Firstly, we have an extremely busy Grade 1 schedule:

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

BWF Technical Officials need to be prepared, and back to their former, high level of performance as soon as possible, in order to meet the expectations of our stakeholders, including players, coaches, sponsors, TV broadcasters, and fans.

Secondly, BWF continues to invest in its Semi-Professional workforce of referees and umpires, as part of its TO Strategic Plan, including the following programmes starting 01 January 2021:

- ▶ Our second cycle of Semi-Professional Referees, including all six referees from the first cycle as well as two new ones: Chris Lawrence (USA) and Nicos Vladimirov (CYP).
- ▶ Our first-ever cycle of seven Semi-Professional Umpires, from four out of our five continents.

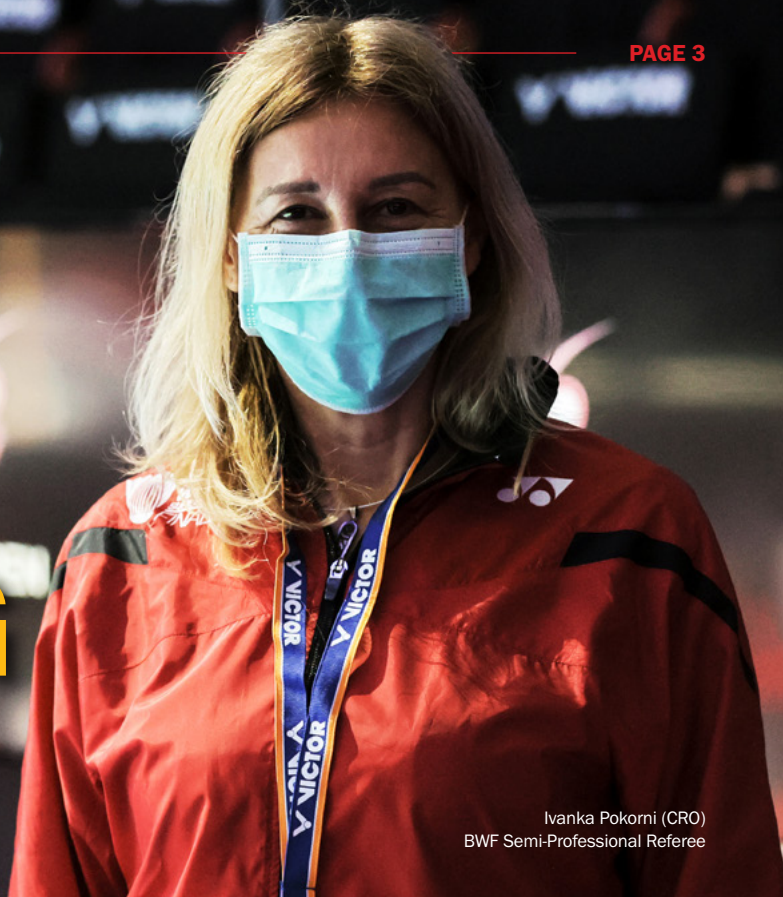
Performance is, and will remain, the main objective of BWF and its Technical Official Commission, supported by robust assessment, appraisal, and mentorship programmes.

Abdul Latif Jaohari (INA)  
BWF Accredited Umpire





# WE'RE STILL STANDING



Ivanka Pokorni (CRO)  
BWF Semi-Professional Referee

**By Jane Wheatley**

**Chair – BWF Referee Assessment Panel**

What a year we had in 2020 and I believe we still have some way to go before our world returns to what we knew.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge our BWF team in the office for their “never say die” attitude throughout 2020. Whilst our world of officiating came to a grinding halt, Chris, Suva and Selena did not stop working, adhering to best practice, and maintaining focus to achieve benchmarks set down by the BWF for the benefit of our sport and our BWF Technical Officials.

## 2021 A New Proposal

The downtime during 2020 gave me time to think about where we are going, how to prepare our future referees, and to give candidates the very best opportunity to succeed and become a member of our BWF Referee team.

I have put forward a proposal to conduct an online Preparatory Workshop for BWF Referee Assessment, which, after consultation with, and endorsement from, each CC, we are excited to formalise and plan towards.

The purpose and structure are as follows:

- ▶ To support referee development at CC level;
- ▶ To prepare candidates for the BWF Referee Assessment Workshop;
- ▶ To prepare an online virtual workshop with standardised material from our BWF Referee Manuals and other educational resources;
- ▶ To host an interactive online workshop;
- ▶ To provide consistent and standard curriculum that can be used at all CC courses; and
- ▶ To develop a theory examination to help identify top candidates for invitation to the BWF Referee Assessment Workshop (planned for 2022).

This programme, an adjunct to existing CC training, will ensure candidates are ready and able to participate in the actual BWF Referee Assessment Workshop. It will be the responsibility of each CC TOC to work throughout 2021 to prepare their candidates for the Preparatory Workshop for BWF Referee Assessment to be conducted in September/October 2021.

To ensure the very best information is prepared and delivered to our candidates I have enlisted the help of our team of Semi-Professional Referees who will contribute to the development of the programme and, along with the Referee

Assessment Panel, deliver the workshop online. Two SPs and a BWF Referee Assessor Panel member, with cross-continent SP involvement, will expose candidates to different personnel and prepare them for the BWF Referee Assessment Workshop.

CCs will continue with their current referee training programme, both theoretical and practical, in whatever manner that works for them (either online or workshop course) and the programme will also align with the BWF TOC commitment to CCs that our BWF Referees work within their continent to assist in development.

The step up from the continental level to the BWF level is a big one, and even attending the BWF Referee Workshop can be daunting. As such, our intention is to make this new workshop an opportunity to break down the divide, giving our candidates confidence to attend the BWF Referee Assessment Workshop, knowing that their knowledge and ability will enable them to contribute at our top level.

So, whilst the world certainly has been turned on its head, we are still standing, and are ready for the challenges in 2021.

My very best wishes to you all for a more badminton friendly 2021.

Bert Vanhorenbeeck (BEL)  
BWF Semi-Professional Umpire

# BE PROACTIVE

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

We all hope 2021 is going to be a better year for us all, however, for the short term, we are still dealing with the same issues from 2020, with most of the world still in lockdown at the time of writing.

The good thing is BWF managed to run an HSBC BWF World Tour Super 750 Tournament in Denmark in October 2020, two Super 1000 Tournaments and the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals in Thailand, in January 2021.

This article focuses on answering questions you've sent me over the past weeks and months. Most of the questions are very straight forward; the more interesting ones are the focus today.

## **Service Judge Helping the Umpire**

I have touched on this popular subject before but since the changes made by BWF Council on the 21st November 2020 the following is crucial from a TO perspective. It is very straight forward and something that should have been happening automatically.

6. General Advice to Umpires.

6.3 Change your decision if you have been quickly and convincingly

*advised by your Service Judge of a mistake on a point of law (e.g. incorrect administration of a challenge by a player, and unnoticed line call, scoring error).*

The service judge should not jump up and down every point.

The change has been added to keep the game fair for all the players; there is nothing fair about the service judge sitting in their chair knowing the umpire has clearly missed something and saying nothing. There are clear ways of indicating to the umpire if you are working together with good eye contact.

However, we must also make sure the service judge does not take the role of the umpire; if a player comes to you as a service judge you direct him/her to speak to the umpire as normal.

## ***"When should I get out of my chair, as a service judge, to help the umpire?"***

I cannot give a direct answer because you have to use your own judgement, but give the umpire chance.

For example, after a challenge and the umpire says the wrong score, you should be ready to help and make sure it is corrected before the next service is delivered.

But, whatever you do, make sure you are correct!

The next question was quite a strange one although this situation did actually happen even if only once.

## **Changing a Racket During a Rally**

I was sent a video clip of a rally where the player changed their racket after breaking a string. The player threw his racket off the court, but it did not land completely off the court. The rally continued.

## ***If player A smashes the shuttle and it hits the racket of player B that is lying on the court whose point is it?***

There is no question it has to be a point to player A.

You would make the same judgment if a shuttle came on court.

Deal with it before it becomes a problem.

I will look forward to talking about these more at a future workshop, whenever that may be.

In the meantime, keep the questions coming as it helps us all make umpiring more consistent and better for the players.

Stay safe, everyone, and I look forward to seeing you all soon!



From Page 1

# HECTOR ROY WARD

## – A BADMINTON STALWART AND THE GODFATHER OF INTERNATIONAL UMPIRING

**By Torsten Berg, Member – BWF Referee Assessment Panel and Greg Vellacott, Member – BWF Umpire Assessment Panel**

BWF Technical Officials would certainly not be where they are today without his initiative, and his clever and forceful ability to see his ideas through to fruition. The present standard of umpiring owes a lot to the steps Roy Ward took some 40 years ago.

He was also great fun, and there are numerous stories about his umpire training and other activities in the badminton world.

Roy Ward was an Australian—very much so when you heard him talk. Born in 1923 in the very small town of Wangaratta in the Australian State of Victoria, Roy's introduction to badminton came when he was studying to become a primary school teacher at the Melbourne Teacher's College in the late 1930s and early 1940s.

His studies were interrupted by the years of the Second World War during which he enlisted with the Royal Australian Air Force and saw service in some of the Pacific islands and Australia.

After the war he taught at a variety of primary and secondary schools in his home State of Victoria and despite being a member of a conservative political party in Victoria he was also a secretary of a branch of the Teacher's Union in Victoria for a number of years.

Roy was amazingly versatile to say the least and he became skilled in many areas. He was a champion cyclist and was

more than competent in athletics and pennant competition golf, but his passion was for badminton where he helped establish a badminton club at St Augustine's Anglican Church in the Melbourne bayside suburb of Mentone.

As with many things in life, big things grow from small beginnings.

### Roy Ward in Australia

From being involved with his church badminton club and its association with other clubs, he ultimately became involved with his State Badminton Association (Victorian Badminton Association). Roy was the first to admit that he had been "no great shakes" as a player, but he was certainly a mover and a shaker as an administrator.

By 1959 he was a council member of his state association, serving as secretary for 18 years after which becoming president. He served in this position from 1978 to 1984.

From his 'launching pad' in Victoria, Roy became president of Badminton Australia (then Australian Badminton Association) from 1983 to 1996, while already having started his involvement with BWF as an office holder.

Roy had a great curiosity about all things, including the Laws of badminton, with a very perceptive personality and keen eye for detail.

During his time as an administrator, he also developed into a very active umpire. He



was chairman of the Australian Badminton Umpires Committee for all of the time that he was President of the Victorian Badminton Association and then for another three years while president of Badminton Australia.

He also took up refereeing and by 1980 he was assistant referee at the 2nd BWF World Championships held in Jakarta. At the 1982 Commonwealth Games in Brisbane, Roy served as technical delegate for BWF.

### Roy Ward in Oceania

The concept of a Continental Confederation had been gaining momentum for some time, particularly as badminton was to become the demonstration sport at the Seoul 1988 Olympic Games, and so Roy could see the

■ Continued on next page

necessity for BWF to connect to its Member Associations through their respective Continental Confederations.

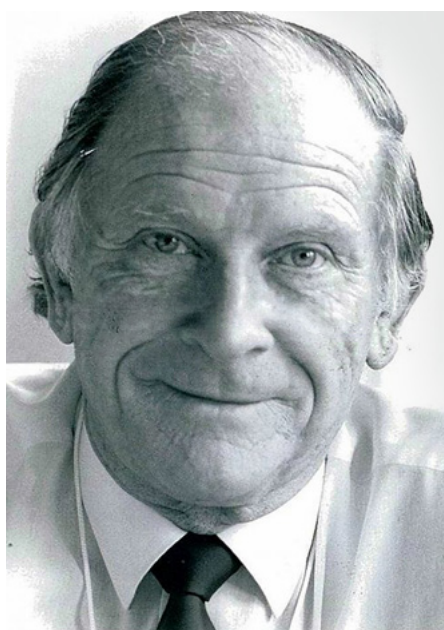
So, in 1987, Badminton Oceania was formed by the respective Australian and New Zealand Associations, with Heather Robson (NZL) serving as the inaugural president and Roy serving as the inaugural secretary/treasurer.

Heather Robson and Roy then set about establishing the structure for a technical officials committee (then called a "Court Officials Committee") which has since been built upon by their respective successors.

Today, Badminton Oceania is a diverse confederation of 16 Member Associations covering millions and millions of square kilometers where direct flight times from east to west (if they could be arranged) might take as long as 18 hours! Trained technical officials can now be found in many parts of Oceania outside of Australia and New Zealand, including New Caledonia, Fiji, Samoa and Tahiti.

#### Roy Ward and BWF Umpires

It had become apparent to Roy in the late 1970s and early 1980s from his position as chair of the various BWF committees (especially the Rules and Laws Committee) that there was a special need for a pool of properly skilled umpires to service the activities of the ever-growing needs of the international federation, and so he set about identifying people from many countries who could form this initial workforce.



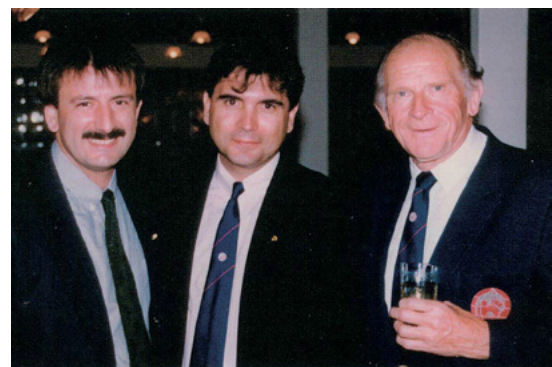
In 1983, after the World Championships in Denmark, he and others with an interest in officiating, such as his very good friend Jeff Robson (NZL) and Badminton Asia's Secretary Ram Chadha (IND) recommended 12 umpires for appointment as the initial members of what was then called the International Badminton Umpires Organisation of which he was Chairman.

For many years after that, Roy and others would prepare theory exam papers and he, often with Jeff Robson and some of BWF's most experienced and senior umpires, could be seen around the courts keenly studying umpires who were sitting for practical examination. In those days, certification as a BWF Umpire could only occur at very few high-level tournaments, and in the mid-1990s, the certification process occurred over a two-week period at such tournaments as the BWF World Championships and the relatively new BWF Sudirman Cup.

Without doubt, all of those umpires who were part of the initial intake, and those subsequently appointed, have many stories to tell about their interactions and discussions with the forthright talking Roy Ward about what he saw happening on court when they were umpiring or service judging.

#### Roy Ward as a BWF Referee

While Roy Ward did not umpire for BWF, he did use his vast knowledge of the Laws and how to apply them to referee a few major BWF tournaments. Knowledge of the game and



Roy Ward (right) in Hong Kong in 1996 with Pedro Blach (left) and José Luis Vila Piñero, an IBF Vice President for Olympic relations, both from Spain.

the ability to take and defend his decisions were his strong points. Sometimes, however, his strong Aussie accent and inclination to joke and use colloquial expressions were not helpful to get his message though to umpires and line judges who did not have English as their first language.

Roy strongly promoted the BWF World Junior Championships and supported the efforts led by Justian Suhandinata (INA) to introduce this tournament. In this connection, he refereed the Jakarta Open Invitation event that served as a forerunner and test, and it was only reasonable that Roy Ward was nominated a BWF Referee of the 1st World Junior Championships in Jakarta in 1992, while also being his last BWF Referee assignment.

#### Roy Ward at BWF

Roy Ward was elected to the BWF Council in Bangkok in 1976 as one of a wave of new, strong members, sometimes called the 'colonials'. Lorne Wortman (CAN), Ian Palmer and Jeff Robson (NZL) were other prominent newcomers, who had a major positive impact on BWF and our game.

Only three years later Roy was elected a Vice President, an office he held for 20 years, longer than anyone else in modern times, until he retired in 1999.

Outspoken and forthright, he soon made his presence known. He noticed quickly that with the introduction of licensed players and prize money, and Olympic ambitions, the provision of first-class court officials - as we were called then - was a must.

■ Continued on next page



Realising the need to amalgamate the two schools of umpiring at that time, Roy wanted to “put things right”, and cleverly teamed up with fellow Vice President Sri Ram Chadha (IND), Badminton Asia, and Jeff Robson, to established the International Badminton Umpires Organisation (IBUO), as a sub-Committee of BWF Council. Its purpose was to run high-level BWF Umpire training and testing and to ensure one worldwide standard of umpiring, as described above.

With Roy's background as a lawmaker in the Parliament of Victoria, he was the obvious selection as Chairman of the Rules and Laws Committee, when his predecessor Poul-Erik Nielsen (DEN) was elected President in 1984. Rules and Laws was one of the most important committees, and Roy was an excellent, always well-prepared Chairman, who delegated and made his Committee members work. For a new Council and committee member it was a steep learning curve!

When Poul-Erik Nielsen retired after two years, Roy's name was mentioned as a possible successor as president. However, he realised that his personality may not easily unify the Federation and he chose to continue as Chairman and support Ian Palmer who was then elected. Some people later called Roy the best President BWF never had. Roy continued as Vice President and a staunch and wise adviser of both Ian Palmer and the Presidents that followed him: Arthur Jones (ENG) and Madame Lu Shrengong (CHN).

Roy Ward also chaired the BWF Finance Committee for a while and, moreover, the Communication Committee. In the latter capacity he served as editor of our magazine 'World Badminton'. Finally, much to his credit, he pushed through the BWF Awards system and chaired the Awards Sub-Committee for several years to which some on Council called the “A-Ward's Sub-Committee”.

After retiring in 1999 he was elected an Honorary Life Vice President.

### Roy Ward and his non-badminton life

As mentioned earlier, Roy possessed many skills.

In addition to his badminton interests, Roy was a well credentialed sports writer with some of the major daily newspapers in Melbourne. I recall him once showing me a prize-winning story that he wrote about a lawn bowler being ‘flooded’ (knocked out) by a flying meat pie!

Between 1961 and 1970 he served as a councilor of a local government area in greater Melbourne, serving as mayor for one year.

He was a very good historian and he served on many historical societies in the State of Victoria between 1960-1980, and was instrumental in writing the first history of Badminton Oceania up to about 2001.

His other interests included an appreciation of theatre, fine wine, art, and sculpture.

In respect of sculpture, he was treasurer of the Public Galleries Association of Victoria, and he was chairman for many years of the Elizabeth Murdoch Sculpture Foundation (Elizabeth Murdoch being the long-lived mother of the

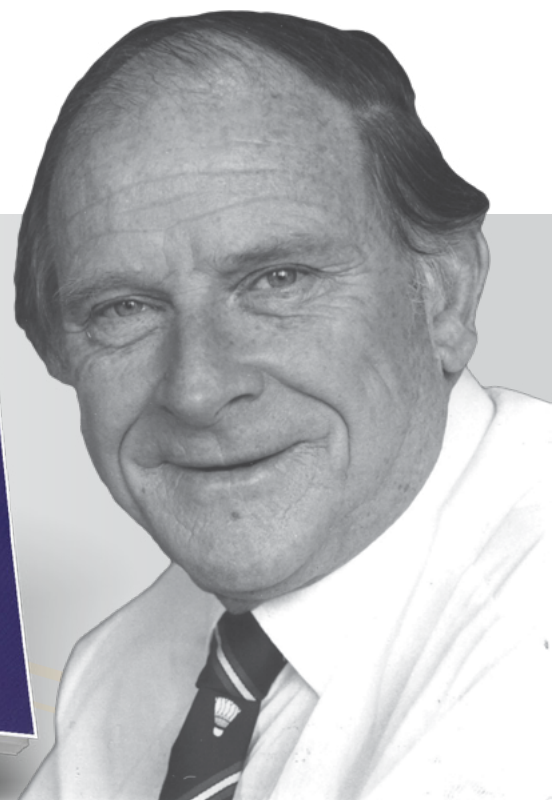
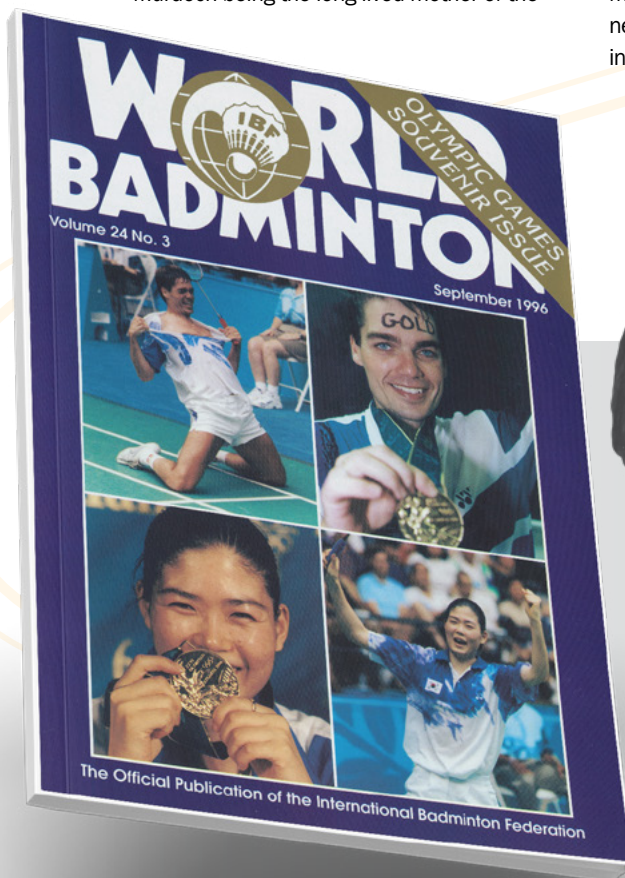
Australian born/US based media tycoon Rupert Murdoch).

His list of involvements would make your head spin but, as he was heard to say from time to time, “if you want a job done, give it to a busy man”!

To top it all off, Roy's ‘daytime (full time) job’ from 1970 to 1988 was as a member of the Upper House of the Parliament of the State of Victoria, where, depending upon the election cycles, he was variously in government or in opposition during those years.

As mentioned earlier, Roy was honoured by BWF for his services to badminton. He also received many other accolades for his contribution to society during his lifetime, including a medal in the Order of Australia in 1990 and induction into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 1995.

Roy may have appeared to many people as an ‘old school’ gruff type, no nonsense talking Australian, but even he would have admitted that he had a ‘soft side’ which no doubt was due to the effect on him of his charming and gracious wife Joan (who he married in 1949). They were married for nearly 57 years until Roy's passing away in December 2006 at the age of 83.







# PARA BADMINTON NEWS IN QUIET DAYS

**By Torsten Berg**  
**Member – BWF Para Badminton**  
**Commission**

Though we have not seen any Para badminton tournaments since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, off court activity remains robust. Focus remains on the integration process between the technical officials coming from a Para badminton background and those colleagues with experience from the HSBC BWF World Tour and major championships.

Significant progress has been made on our rules and regulations and educational resources.

At its November 2020 BWF Council meeting, a revised set of Para Badminton

General Competition Regulations (PBGCR) and related statutes were approved in principle. There will, however, be some changes to be made to the current draft, as Council also agreed some changes to the General Competition Regulations, and they will be considered for possible introduction in the PBGCR. A final proposal will be presented to Council at its earliest meeting in 2021. This revised set of Para badminton regulations will take effect 01 January 2022, to correspond with the anticipated start of a new Para badminton World Circuit.

No firm proposal has been made for the 2021 Para badminton calendar of tournaments yet, however, the priority continues to be the hosting of the last

qualification tournament for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

Moreover, Council agreed to the proposal of Dr. Shamsul Amzar Shah (MAS) to replace Silvia Albrecht (GER) as our Head of Classification. We welcome the familiar and smiling face of Dr. Shamsul in this important role and take the opportunity to express a deep felt THANK YOU to Silvia for many years of dedicated and competent service to Para badminton.

Finally, we have initiated the development of educational resources for the training of Para badminton technical officials. Two separate documents will be produced for umpires and referees, respectively, in order to facilitate the integration process, which will remain a BWF priority for the years to come.





From Page 1

# EXPERIENCE AS A BWF REFEREE ASSESSOR AND REFEREE

**By Chua Soo Hock**  
– Retired BWF Referee  
Assessor, BWF Referee and  
BAC TOC Chair

***What are the most important traits of a referee assessor?***

- ▶ Extensive experience as a referee at the highest level.
- ▶ Strong knowledge of the latest Laws and regulations.
- ▶ A pleasant and approachable personality.
- ▶ Strong leadership qualities.
- ▶ Effective and calm problem solving.
- ▶ Willingness to always learn and improve.
- ▶ Good spoken and written English.

***What have been the highlights of your career?***

As a BWF Referee

The most memorable events that I have officiated as a referee/deputy referee are the World Junior Championships. I did the WJC in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2011. These events last for over 10 days each where the Junior players compete for the team and individual titles. In each of these events, the group of technical officials comprised of four referees and 24 umpires and I would say that all of us got to know each other better and the close rapport enable us to work together as a team effectively.



As a BWF Referee Assessor

I did quite a number of assessments for upgrading of BWF Referees to Accreditation and Certification. The most memorable one was for the upgrading to Certification at the World Junior Championships 2017, held in Indonesia. I had the opportunity to work with Torsten Berg. We were a team, and we fully agreed that the event was very well carried out and most of the referee under assessment did a great job.

As Badminton Asia TOC Chair

I served as the Badminton Asia TOC Chair for a period of four years. During my tenure, I got to know a number of Asian technical officials who had the potential to be upgraded to BWF Level. In fact, I am glad to say

that a great number of them were successful in the upgrading exercise and are now serving as BWF Umpires and also Referees.

***What valuable lessons have you learned?***

I think patience is the most valuable lesson I have learned. I have found it important not to rush to form a conclusion.

Focus and alertness are also very important. It is important not to be swayed by circumstances that may arise.

***What advice would you give to aspiring referees and assessors?***

Referees:

- ▶ Stay up to date on the latest Laws and regulations.

- ▶ Be willing to listen and accept instructions.
- ▶ Develop and maintain a good rapport with all TOs working under your direction.

Referee Assessors:

- ▶ Set an example for all referees.
- ▶ Practice what we “preach”.

I would like to thank BWF for the opportunities to serve as a Referee and Referee Assessor.

To the BWF Staff, thank you for giving me your fullest cooperation and support.

And, to my fellow colleagues, thank you for all your kind words and most valuable advice.

I wish you all the best in bringing badminton to its greatest level.

At time of production, the schedule for appraisals, assessments, and meetings for 2021 are TBD