

COCTALES

**BWF**

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The Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games are almost upon us...

By Gilles Cavert

Chair – BWF Technical Official Commission

The Olympic and Paralympic Games are the ultimate challenge and goal for the majority of athletes' sporting careers, and for many, it includes aspirations to stand on the medal podium.

To perform at their best during the Games takes years of intense preparation...

The same applies to BWF Technical Officials, taking into account the unexpected impact of COVID-19, including the postponement of the both Games.

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THE TOKYO 2020 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARE ALMOST UPON US...

By Gilles Cavert
Chair – BWF Technical
Official Commission

Stage one preparation began in early 2019 when the technical official teams were selected by BWF.

Stage two preparation was the practical experience of these technical officials at BWF Major Events and HSBC BWF World Tour tournaments, including the test events at the YONEX Japan Open 2019 and HULIC DAIHATSU Japan Para Badminton International 2019 – the perfect opportunities for familiarisation.

All seemed good to go, including through the first three months of 2020, until the joint decision of IOC, IPC, and TOGOC to postpone both Games to 2021.

Unfortunately, this meant moving to “Stage three”, where technical officials had to change their calendar targets to ensure reaching their highest performance level for the rescheduled Games.

This has, and will continue to, require their flexibility, adaptability, willingness to improve, and strong resilience.

Thanks to the Asian Leg of the HSBC BWF World Tour in Thailand in January 2021, the 3rd Fazz-Dubai Para Badminton International 2021 in early April, and more tournaments to come until June 2021, the selected BWF Technical Officials will have the opportunity to further prepare and build on their officiating skills.

We have no doubt all of them will be at their highest performance level this summer, and we thank them in advance for their contribution to the success of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games!



From left: Eric Lissillour (FRA), Sébastien Bourdin (FRA), Monique Bastien (SUI) at the Orleans Masters 2021.

“GENTLE REMINDERS”

By Jane Wheatley

Chair – BWF Referee Assessment Panel

I remember saying “It’s already the 3rd of January 2021” and the way this year is flying by brings to mind an excerpt from a poem by WH Davies:

“We have no time to stand and stare.”

By the time you are reading this article we will have completed the YONEX All England Open 2021, and what an achievement! If you remember, we just managed to complete this wonderful tournament last year before the world was overwhelmed by COVID-19.

Player Clothing

By now, you will all have received the updated information on clothing and the accompanying diagrams. Positions of advertisements allowed to be placed on articles of clothing worn by players are clearly shown. With consideration of the vagaries of the English language, if you

are struggling with understanding, please contact your Referee mentor for assistance.

These are the BWF competition regulations that we are to follow. Despite this information readily available there will be occasions when sponsors supply clothing that does not comply. You have the tools to deal with this:

- ▶ Advise the player that his/her clothing does not comply with the GCR
 - ▷ If he/she cannot change their clothing they will be reported to BWF and possibly incur a financial penalty
- ▶ Take a photo for records
- ▶ Send the player out on to the court
- ▶ Let play begin

Do not overcomplicate matters. You are the referee. You must make your decision and move on. You do not have to refer to the TSM or other BWF staff. When called to the player assembly area you do not have time to start stressing about the fact that the advertisement is 0.5mm larger. Stand tall, be firm and deal with the problem, then walk away.

Common sense.....of course you are not going to allow a player to go on court wearing a shirt that contains content that is morally or religiously unacceptable. Again, make your decision and stand by it. We will support you.

“Underclothing” Versus “Compression Shorts”

As there has been some questions raised about the difference between “underclothing” and “compression shorts”, we hope the following explanation will help clarify:

In the update to BWF TOs on 2 December 2020 we noted that:

“...Underclothing refers to underwear worn underneath the shorts/skirt/dress that is not intended to be visible. It is usually no longer in length than that of the short/skirt/dress.

“Compression shorts are longer in length than ‘underclothing’.”

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As a recent example, Carolina Marin is wearing “underclothing” under her competition dress (see photo on the right). This “underclothing” is usually seen when she is lunging or some other dynamic movement, but not necessarily seen when in a static, standing position.

“Compression shorts” are usually longer in length, as low as the top of the knee, because they are intended to provide specific support to the related muscles such as the hamstring, quadricep, etc., by increasing blood flow, much like with the “compression sock” which supports the calf muscle.

The “compression shorts” are long enough that they are visible (not covered up by the short/dress/skirt) in a static, standing position.

Awareness of the Well-Being of your Umpire Team

Your umpire team should not be expected to catch the 8:00 am transport from the hotel to the competition venue, sit in the building all day and into the evening, and officiate only a handful of matches.

Please ensure to schedule rest time away from the hall for your team: If they are working in the evening, give them the next morning off; if working in the morning then late afternoon/evening off.



Give them a chance to rest and recover; this may include the opportunity to explore the beautiful host city to which they may have travelled half way around the world and/or to socialise with their colleagues.

If you want your officials working at their best, look after them.

Ready to Play

The question of “signing off on the field of play” has been asked. Please note there is no requirement for a written document to be formally signed and finalised. However, you must have checked the stadium and provide verbal “signing off” prior to the commencement of the tournament.

Incident Report

Fortunately, we rarely have to use the Incident Report that is an attachment to the Referee Report. However, it is imperative that when an incident occurs you must gather and document all required information from those involved and send this report into the BWF immediately. Do not wait until the tournament is over. The BWF Event Staff must start work on dealing with incidents while they are fresh. They may require careful analysis by BWF, and this must be completed as soon as possible as there could be consequences for the player/players concerned during the tournament.

COVID-19 Protocols/Procedures

For those of you fortunate enough to referee this year, it is very important to start working with the assigned BWF Tournament

Series Manager(s) and the host as soon as possible. The BWF has its own protocols and procedures in place but you will also have to be very aware of the host government requirements. There will be a tournament specific COVID-19 safety protocol that will provide, among other items, the following:

1. Quarantine requirements
2. Restrictions on gatherings
3. Where are the testing sites
4. Hotel requirements

If you still have questions, ask for the answers, either through the host or the BWF Tournament Series Manager.

Suva, BWF Technical Officials Manager, is currently preparing a paper that will give the referees guidance on these matters and this has been compiled following meetings and subsequent feedback with the BWF Semi-Professional Referees and Selvaam, BWF Senior Tournament Series Manager. This paper will be distributed in due course.

Bangkok Diaries

It gives me pleasure to introduce a light-hearted article written by BWF Semi Professional Referee, Nicos Vladimirov (CYP). Nicos was part of a team of three referees at the Asian Leg of events earlier this year in Thailand. I asked Nicos if he would share with us his “Bangkok Diaries” to give us an insight into how referees are managing the stresses and challenges during tournaments at the moment.

I hope you enjoy this read as much as I did.



Darren Parks (BWF Events Director) and Chris Lawrence (USA)

Knock Out Draw

BANGKOK DIARIES

**By Nicos Vladimirov (CYP),
BWF Semi-Professional Referee**

Day -1:

Finally the day of departure from home and I am almost ready to depart for a long tournament month, and not week. A final check of all the things that I might need: clothes and travel wash in the bag checked, tournament clothes checked, and all necessary documents. I hope I do not forget any essentials: T8 Form, Declaration form, Consent form, Hotel Form, Insurance documents, PCR test, Certificate of Entry, air tickets, and check in documents...I'm relieved...looks like I have everything!

Day 0:

Arrived in Bangkok after a long, strange trip having to change two planes, and being careful with the face-mask at all times. A nice gentleman was waiting for the passengers from the plane with a sign, indicating where BWF participants were to go.

Chairs with the appropriate social distancing were waiting for us. Local authorities dressed like astronauts started checking our temperature and documents, before we were moved on to another area where our documents and temperature were checked. Finally, it was on to passport control.

We had a dedicated baggage claim area, and after collecting our bags we were escorted

outside through dedicated doors, observed closely by police and other officials.

We were then led out to colour coded buses...and yes, we had a colored sticker on us in order to group us appropriately. Outside the bus we were given our seat number, our bags were disinfected, and we were asked one by one to enter the bus after we used the disinfectant.

After an hour's wait, we started our journey to the hotel with a police escort. Upon arrival at the hotel, we were called, one by one, to leave the bus and enter the hotel for the first swab test by staff dressed again like astronauts with face-masks and face-shields, gloves, hair-covers, etc. The swab test felt like my nose was being drilled, but I survived!

We then dropped our papers in a box, given our room envelope, and directed to the elevators...or rather, only one elevator in operation, where more staff were there in order to clean and disinfect after each trip up before another passenger could get in again.

There were small tables outside each room, and inside, the carpet and everything else was covered or wrapped in plastic. There was no furniture, apart from a not-so-comfortable conference chair, small fridge, and everything else (e.g. extra towels, coffees, toiletries) in a plastic bag.

The television broadcasted the same safety instructions and protocols as the ones on

the bus: check your temperature with the device given to you twice a day, report your temperature via the two mobile applications, how to discard trash (more on that later!) and all sorts of information about the quarantine.

Day 1:

My jet lag was over easily, but there was three days to wait until we could actually start working, and only if there was a valid pre-approved meeting in place...so now what?

Hmmm.....is food delivered, and was it chicken, again? Why are doors banging? Is it time for another trash collection? Okay, time to take out the trash...how are we supposed to do it, again? Oh yes...put the food leftovers, etc., in the small red plastic bag, tie it tight with the cable tie and then put that inside the bigger red plastic bag, open the door, and place it under the table for collection.

The mobile application group with all the TOs began ringing and all sorts of messages were coming through so a virtual meeting was set up for the night so we could all meet together...interesting...and, yes, it was time for the meeting. Nice to see someone even through the computer screen!

Well, I certainly learned some things... including that a hair dryer was the best way to warmup the chicken served for breakfast, lunch, and dinner!

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Day 2:

Good morning Bangkok...What's on the programme today? Well, one thing for sure: laundry!

The hotel offered to launder three free pieces, why not send a bag for cleaning today? Same drill as with trash: Put the laundry in the white cloth bag and into the red plastic bag and place it outside the room.

Meals today? You guessed correctly: all three were chicken!

Day 3:

Today is meeting day with BWF, the host, and the tournament doctors...I cannot wait to get back to the key planning and preparation.

And, breakfast was a pleasant surprise: salmon and rice!

Participants must be paged by phone to come down to the reception, and I just got my call, so on to the elevator and downstairs we go, however, what I thought would be a chance for fresh air was quickly nullified when staff lead us straight to the bus which had half the chairs removed and everything covered in plastic...an interesting solution to prevent spreading the virus.

Like on day one, a police escort to the stadium and practice hall, waiting on the bus until your name is called, temperature checks at the entrance, antiseptic gel every step we took, and standing at specified markings.

The stadium was big, with six practice courts separated with plastic partitions hanging from the ceiling, arrows on the floor for the flow of people, etc.

Between each training session, cleaning crews come in, court by court, walking the line, cleaning and disinfecting. Initially, cleaning took 30 minutes but it was reduced to 15 minutes which needed to be calculated when scheduling the team practice sessions. It will certainly be interesting to factor practice, stretching time, and possible gym time.

Day 5:

My laundry has not been returned yet, and



I was worried a bit when the hotel sent me pictures so that I could identify my clothes...

This morning we have an umpire workshop, so off downstairs I go after hearing the phone ring.

It was a good workshop, including lots of discussion and videos, and also gave all the umpires a chance to get out of their rooms and stretch their legs.

Today saw the start of the easing of restrictions with the team coaches and physiotherapist having the opportunity to visit player rooms, provided each team notified the host, and hotel COVID-19 manager to confirm the details of the visits (e.g. time to enter and depart room, room number, etc.). While walking down the corridor the team coaches and physiotherapist had to hold their hands up to indicate to the CCTV cameras that they had permission to leave their rooms.

After that:

As days passed by, the tournaments started and we had to experience the nose "drilling" procedure nine times! Every time we lined up for the test, we tried to figure out which stations had staff performing the "drill" the smoothest and least invasive.

We noticed the stress levels of the teams rising as the days progressed because everyone, especially the players, were worried of the consequences should they receive a positive test, including all the subsequent time spent with doctors, BWF, and host to solve each issue. "Positive", "false positive", and "antigen"

were new words we all now know too well!

We hoped for good news at each meeting with the doctor, allowing us to ask for further easements of certain protocols, if possible.

Finally, on the Tuesday of the TOYOTA Thailand Open (tournament two of three) "fresh air" training time was allowed. This meant at four designated and inspected areas, teams and TOs could walk or run outdoors, but this had to be scheduled by the referee team!

Conditions did improve and we could order food and coffee from designated outlets to be delivered to the hotel, received at the lobby. The procedure was rather strange as we had to order the afternoon before, pay early in the morning, and have it delivered at the requested time.

The three tournaments, held over three weeks, was based on remaining in a bubble. Throughout the whole stay in Bangkok we could only move between hotel room and venue.

Hotel amenities were all closed and we did not have the opportunity to socialise with colleagues after the long day in the competition venue like we are used to.

We could not even visit rooms so we had to resort to using technology for communication.

We certainly live in interesting times.

By the way, I never did get my laundry delivered back, but at least the hotel offered to replace the missing items.

UMPIRE UPDATE



Gavin Smith (ENG)

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

Remembering Preben Noeies (DEN)

It is with a heavy heart to note the sad news of the passing of my very good friend Preben Noies (DEN).

He will be sadly missed by many in the umpire and technical official family. Not only was Preben a very good umpire, he was also a great mentor to many umpires, and his passion was to help everyone improve.

Preben was one of the assessors at my assessments for certification within Badminton Europe, and for assessments for BWF Accreditation and BWF Certification.

We became very good friends over many years; it was his enthusiasm that convinced me to become an assessor. Working with him was always a pleasure, and I remember fondly our often-shared meals together talking about changes we would like to make in badminton.

I will miss the hunting down of ice cream that we both enjoyed so much! Most of all I will miss his fantastic company

and seeing him at events where we were both selected to attend.

Rest in peace my friend, I know you will still be watching over us all.

Resumption of the HSBC BWF World Tour

It has been another fantastic achievement to deliver both the YONEX Swiss Open 2021 and the YONEX All England Open 2021. Thank you to all the umpires who made sacrifices to officiate at these tournaments.

Although many of us have not been able to umpire for almost a year, the standard of umpiring was still very high, which is a great credit to you all. It will probably go down in history that the YONEX All England Open 2021 was the last sporting event to be held at the Birmingham Arena in March 2020, and the first one to be held in March 2021.

Keep your eyes open for the quiz question.

Service Judge – Sit or Stand Between Games?

We have previously discussed whether the service judge should sit or stand during the intervals between games.

Television broadcasters want us to be consistent, whichever way we choose.

In order to keep uniformity, please make sure to:

Wait until the umpire announces the result of the game, being first or second, then place the two-minute board, and then stand by the umpire.

At the end of the match, stand as soon as the umpire calls “game”. Watch the players on court to make sure there is no problem so that you are ready to help the umpire if necessary.

Service Judge Signals

From your regular review of the ITTO, you will notice that the photographs for service judges are now in the correct order. There is now a signal for Law 9.1.9 and there is no change to Law 9.1.7 as the signal is the same as it has always been. We plan to update the ITTO with a hand signal for Law 9.1.2 shortly.

Let's hope we can get the badminton family together again soon.

Please stay safe.

FRANK WILSON

By Torsten Berg, Member – BWF Referee Assessment Panel

More than anyone else, Frank Wilson was responsible for the development of technical officials in Badminton Europe – in those days the European Badminton Union – in the last two decades of the 20th century.

In 1980, he was elected to the Sub-Committee for Umpiring, which is now called the Technical Committee. His election, together with fellow top umpires of those days such as Paul H. Frimodt (DEN) and Karl-Heinz Helmdach (GER) meant a boost in the quality of, and interest for, the education of international technical officials in Europe. Earlier on, this was more or less left to the individual Member Associations, resulting in only a handful of countries that produced umpires with international experience.

With his distinguished colleagues, Frank Wilson served as a teach and examiner, but also as role model for a generation of European umpires. Practical umpiring in the chair was emphasized more than theoretical knowledge of rules and regulations. The examination consisted not just of a test of the latter, but also of a test of the implementation of the rule book under match play, preferably through observation during several days in a tournament at a relevant level. Their efforts brought out fine umpires from a large number of countries in Europe, where previously there was little tradition for umpiring.

In 1986, on the initiative of Joe Benes (CZE), Horst Kullnigg (AUT) and Gisela Hoffmann (GER), Badminton Europe introduced the European Badminton Circuit linking together the international tournaments of a dozen Member Associations, and from 1989, closing with a final between those players that collected most points in the circuit tournaments. The Badminton Europe Umpires educated by Frank Wilson and his team played an important role in ensuring the quality and fairness of the new circuit. The same year, in the Annual Delegates Meeting in Uppsala, Sweden, the Sub-Committee had been upgraded to a full Technical Committee, with Frank as the secretary. Frank took over chairmanship later that year when Chairman Owe Wikström (SWE) resigned because of illness in the family,



and also joined Badminton Europe Council. One of his first initiatives was to introduce a formal continental referee education and training programme along the lines of the one proven effective for international umpires.

Frank was just the right person to establish this referee programme. In 1981, he took over refereeing the All England Open from the legendary Herbert Scheele (ENG). His training for this demanding job included sitting next to Herbert in the previous edition of the tournament. The following 10 years saw Frank in charge of this most prestigious event, training his deputy Keith Hawthorne (ENG) to eventually take over, and here he accumulated experience from the top class of badminton, while his engagement in the European circuit provided insight in the kind of problems that a referee will meet in tournaments at this level. So Frank was well prepared when he, with my assistance, ran the first European Referee Course in Mülheim an der Ruhr, Germany, in 1993. We kept the principle of combining a theory test with a test of the practical performance, and this principle was later also taken over by BWF in their referee assessment and training programmes.

Born in 1934, Frank lived through the London 1948 Olympic Games as a teenager and fell in love with sport. Track and field, badminton, and



Frank Wilson, Carol Ui Fhearghail and Joao Matos at Polonia Cup in Spala 1999



European Badminton Union Council in Nymburg, 1997
(left to right: Joao Matos, Frank Wilson, Vladimir Liftshits, Olaf Fangel, Gisela Hoffmann, Torsten Berg, Audrey Kinkead, Truls Brekke, Horst Kullnigg and Jadwiga Slawska-Szalewicz)

later, tennis became his favourites. Badminton was fortunate that he chose to officiate our sport. His ability to observe and his sense of fairness, as well as his respect for Laws and regulations, made him one of the most revered technical officials. With his professional background as a chartered accountant, and his sharp brain, Frank was also extremely helpful in designing and implementing the format of European events under the changing conditions of a rapidly increasing membership during his period in charge. With limited support from his committee, Frank was responsible for the successful allocation and conduct of all European tournaments and the circuit for 14 years, and he did this without the professional office that we know today.

In the Badminton Europe Council, Frank Wilson's contribution was never limited to his technical field of expertise. He often offered his advice in other areas, such as finance, where his professional background was an asset, and his sound judgment was always important when difficult decisions had to be taken. Frank Wilson's contribution to European badminton was enormous – a true stalwart of badminton in Europe for twenty years.

CALENDAR CONFIRMED FOR 2021 – AND MORE GOOD NEWS

By Torsten Berg, Member – BWF Para Badminton Commission

With the BWF Para badminton tournament calendar confirmed, our hopes are high for the resumption of international competition, with the continued risks associated with COVID-19. We are pleased that the 3rd Fazza Dubai Para Badminton International 2021 was successfully held.

One of our most important steps ahead is the final qualification tournament for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games: the Spanish Para Badminton International 2021, in Cartagena from 11 to 16 May.

The absolute highlight of the year - of our journey into Para badminton altogether - will be the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, from 1 to 5 September. A milestone! Congratulations to those who qualify

as well as to those who are going to officiate at this historic tournament.

The next BWF major tournament of the year will be the BWF Para Badminton World Championships, also in Tokyo, from 25 to 31 October 2021.

The Paralympics mark a milestone in more than one sense. It is the graduation of Para badminton to be contested amongst other Para sports. We shall play a full part, on the greatest scene among the big Para sports.

Internally, our focus is turning towards accelerating the integration of Para badminton into the organisation, both what concerns calendar and the regulations, and what concerns technical officials and the expectations of their performance. The BWF Council at their March 2021

meeting further updated the Para Badminton General Competition Regulations to bring them in line with the General Competition Regulations, and at the same time, prepare for the new BWF Para Badminton World Circuit to start in 2022.

The journey will continue with the publication of the Para components of the Referee and Umpire Educational Resources, now well under way. Further down the line will be the more formal "Instruction to Para Badminton Technical Officials", however, as there are proposals coming to the AGM 2021 for several changes to the Laws of Badminton, the first step will have to be to update the ITTO.

Though the last many months under COVID-19 may have been pretty boring for us, as Technical Officials we live indeed in exciting times!



Freek Cox (NED) at the 3rd Fazza Dubai Para Badminton International 2021

PREBEN NOEIES



By Torsten Berg (DEN)

The passing away of Preben Noeies (DEN), at the age of 75, on 25 February 2021 from cancer, is very sad news and a terrible loss for the badminton community.

Preben was a talented BWF Certificated Umpire. He was one of the first lot of Certificated Umpires passing the course and test at the BWF World Championships 1983 in his native Copenhagen. Even before, but in particular after being certificated, Preben officiated at all the big badminton tournaments including the Barcelona 1992 Olympic Games and the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games, where he officiated the WS Final.

After his umpire career, he joined the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel in 2001, serving until his countryman Peter Ganes was ready to take over. He also served as an assessor for Badminton Europe until recently.

BWF TOC Chairman Gilles Cavert said:

"Preben was my assessor when I passed the BWF accreditation in 2003. I will always remember his incredible speech, full of empathy, when he announced the good news...!"

Preben, a naval engineer specialised in troubleshooting for diesel ship engines, travelling all over the world, was a lover of the French Riviera.

"He was a very human and special person, always keen in helping TOs improve.... More than that, Preben was a very good friend of mine and he will be sorely missed by the badminton family," added Gilles Cavert.



TECHNICAL OFFICIALS WHO RETIRED IN 2020

Referee Assessor

- ▶ Chua Soo Hock (MAS)

Referees

- ▶ David Chang Wen-Wei (TPE)
- ▶ Mojmir Hnilica (CZE)
- ▶ Nahathai Sornprachum (THA)

Umpires

- ▶ Apinder Sabharwal (IND)
- ▶ Chen Chih Shen (TPE)
- ▶ Christof Osebold (GER)
- ▶ Gerald Arseneault (CAN)
- ▶ Jan Andersson (SUI)
- ▶ Joseph Clarke (JAM)
- ▶ Louwrens Bester (RSA)
- ▶ Takahiko Tsujinaka (JPN)

Line Judges

- ▶ Chew Heng Seng (SGP)
- ▶ Emiko Ootani (JPN)
- ▶ Makoto Keino (JPN)
- ▶ Pedro Garcia (USA)
- ▶ Pierre Montreuil (FRA)
- ▶ Richard Wong (AUS)

Head of Classification

- ▶ Dr. Silvia Albrecht (SUI)

Thank you very much for all your contributions in support of BWF.

