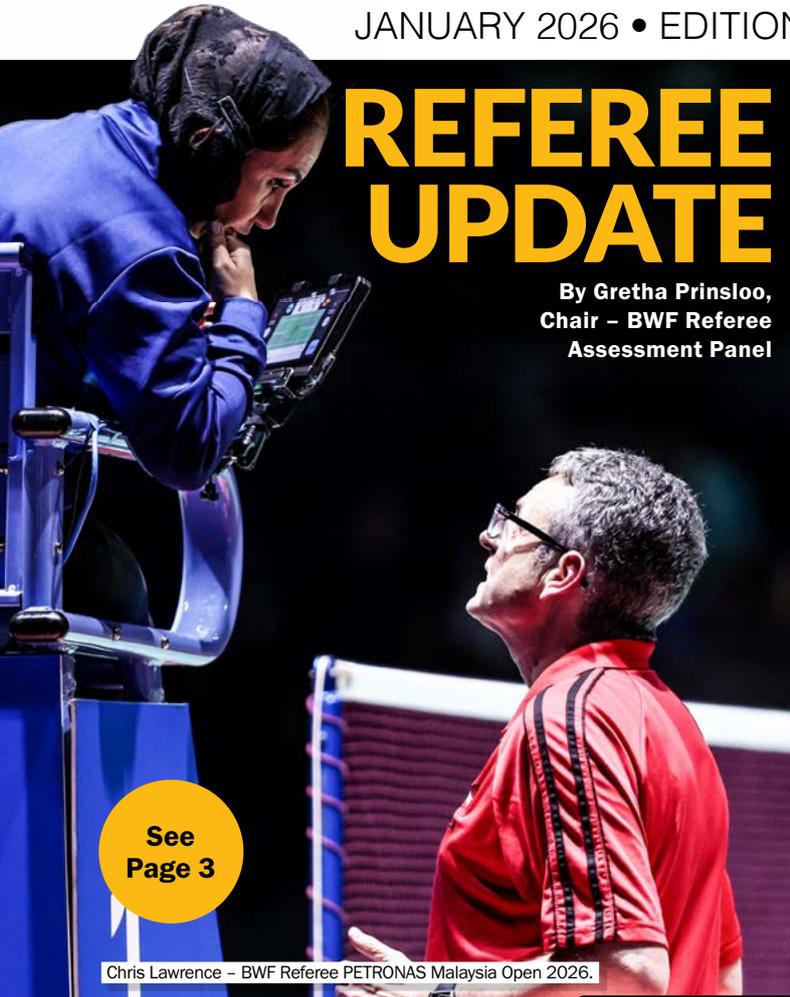


# COCTALES

**BWF**

THE NEWSLETTER OF BWF TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

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# HEAD OF TECHNICAL OFFICIALS UPDATE

**By Lynne Nixey, Head of Technical Officials**

Happy New Year to you all and welcome to 2026.

I wonder where the last year went - 2025 year culminated with the very successful HSBC BWF World Tour Finals held in Hangzhou, China and how can it be that the first tournament for 2026 is already completed? Buckle yourselves in for another busy year with loads of changes on the horizon for the years beyond.

The 2026 calendar is once again very full bringing a raft of opportunities for Technical Officials to officiate at all levels and it is important that you have all had the opportunity to review the regulation changes that came into effect in November 2025. If you have somehow missed these, check the updated regulations on the BWF website – all changes are highlighted in yellow for easy reference.

This year there will be a lot of work for the new cycle of tournaments coming in from 2027 – changes are being finalised and these will be conveyed to you once finalised. However – keep an eye out for longer Super 1000 tournaments and World Championships and who knows – perhaps a change in the scoring system after the AGM in April 2026. The proposed new scoring

system will be voted on by members at the meeting and only after this happens could a change be possible – despite all that you read in social media, this is not yet set in stone and must go through the final step. Watch this space....

COC-Tales in the format that you see now, is celebrating its 50th version. The first COC-Tales as we now know it, was published in July 2012. It is interesting to go back and read what was happening back then – there was a new Technical Official clothing line, several of our colleagues who are still Umpiring – or have progressed on to Refereeing – were assessed as BWF

Certificated Umpires and it was agreed that all scoresheets should be printed and signed – not just those identifying misconduct, injury or any other problems. Thankfully, this is no longer the case!

I recommend that you look on the BWF website in the Technical Officials section and go back and read some of the back-copies of COC-Tales. It is interesting how we have evolved and how much is still the same!

I wish you all the best for the 2026 year and look forward to seeing many of you over this time.



Referees and Doctors – HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2025 – accompanied by Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul, BWF President and Zhang Jun, BWF Chair of Events.

# REFEREE UPDATE

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HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2025 – BWF Line Judge Virge Must (EST) getting a helping hand from Anders Antonsen (DEN).

FROM THE CHAIR BY  
**GRETHA PRINSLOO**

Now that the BWF Tournaments are completed for 2025 it is time to reflect on the past year with all the challenges and successes the referee teams have faced.

There are still challenges ahead for both the technical officials and players as we look to the proposed changes for discussion at the 2026 Annual Meeting to be held in Horsens, Denmark. Changes that will bring a new dimension to our sport.

Worthy of mention are the following proposals:

- ◀ Time Clock System, with further full testing at the Indonesia Masters, and the use of cold spray by the players themselves during any break, after permission from the Umpire.
- ◀ A new relay team scoring system which was tested at the YONEX-SUNRISE BWF World Junior Team Championships.
- ◀ HSBC BWF World Tour Super 1000 tournament format changes.

We were also very pleased to have the appointment our own dedicated Head of Technical Officials, our colleague, Lynne Nixey (NZL).

Sadly, the end of 2025 sees the retirement of Lin Na Yau (MAS) and Lui Wan Swee (MAS). You will both be sorely missed and we thank you for your loyalty and support of the BWF Referee team over the years. Your tremendous work ethic was always evident and appreciated.

At the same time, we are very pleased to be welcoming two new referees to our BWF referee family. Liu PingPing (CHN) and Eugene Glazman (AUS) have successfully completed both the theory and practical examination.

Congratulations to you both and we look forward to you joining us in February at the referee workshop!

It must be noted that we are very appreciative of the addition of a daily allowance to our travel days and commonsense has prevailed with the implementation of all referees arriving on the same day to a tournament, no matter the continent. These two initiatives are a step forward that will make the referee's working roles better, both financially and practically.

Referees were tested with players requesting to leave the courts for bathroom breaks, highlighting the need for both the referee and the umpires to have a thorough knowledge and understanding of existing laws to cover these incidents.

We also dealt with the issue of red card cancellations requiring good communication between the referees and umpires to keep each party informed of changes.

■ Continued on next page

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Sincere thanks to all the referees who participated in the various workgroups. Your opinions and work is highly appreciated.

The biennial referee workshop will take place in February 2026 where focus will be on the Para technical delegate training as this role will be added to the referee's responsibilities.

BWF staff will attend the workshop to assist in our continued education of the extranet and dashboard, notional adjusted and protected rankings and the working relationship between the various stakeholders when dealing with match scheduling. Just some of the topics to be covered over the four day workshop. Our medical panel will be well represented to demonstrate the use of a Defibrillator.

As we look towards another very busy year, please accept my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your loyalty to your teams and your hard work throughout 2025. And especially to those who was always willing to fill a duty gap on short notice.



Chris Lawrence - Referee PETRONAS Malaysia Open 2026.



AirBadminton World Cup 2025 – BWF Umpire Jojan John officiates at a star player exhibition match including former players Matheus Boe and Hendra Satiawan.

# UMPIRE UPDATE

BC BWF  
TOUR FINALS  
2025

HSBC BWF  
WORLD TOUR FINAL  
2025

BWF Umpire Lakpriya Edirisinghe (SRI) and Fine C Dathan (IND) lead their line judge team out for the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2025.

By Gilles Cavert,  
Chair – BWF Umpire Assessment Panel

## Expanding Innovation

The 3 x 45 team relay scoring system was tested at the YONEX SUNRISE BWF World Junior Team Championships 2025 and the 3 x 15 scoring system was tested at the YONEX SUNRISE BWF World Junior Individual Championships 2025 as part of the overall 3 x 15 testing plan, and the Time Clock System (maximum 25 seconds between rallies) was tested at the SATHIO GROUP Australian Open 2025.

## BWF Umpire Training

A virtual workshop for BWF Umpires took place early December 2025 with more than 40 BWF Umpires in attendance. The workshop was divided into two sections:

- ◀ A regulation update conducted by BWF Head of Technical Officials Lynne Nixey; and

- ◀ A cases study presented by the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel, focusing on umpiring best practices.

## Excessive Celebration

The capacity to understand the emotional celebration expressed by the winning player/pair at the end of a match requires, from an umpiring perspective, some specific soft skills such as having a feeling for the game, and empathy.

Winning specific tournaments such as the Olympic or Paralympic Games, BWF World Championships, HSBC BWF World Tour Finals, or a HSBC BWF World Tour Super 1000 tournament, are for sure life time achievements for the players. In those particular moments, players may lose control of reality for a couple of seconds or minutes while having to face at the same time a huge emotional booster.



Fine C Dathan - last appointment as BWF Umpire.

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From Lin Dan (CHN) taking off his polo shirt after winning the Japan Open 2015, to Lee Yang (TPE) celebrating his second gold medal at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, throwing his racket in the air before falling on the ground overwhelmed by emotion, from Zheng Si Wei (CHN) and Kim Astrup (DEN) transforming their rackets into UFOs, when respectively winning titles at the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2024; to Chou Tien Chen (TPE) and Anders Antonsen (DEN) lying head to head on the court mat after an incredible final at the Indonesia Open 2019, and exchanging later on court their polo shirts.

From Viktor Axelsen (DEN), running like hell through the stadium to celebrate his gold medal at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games; to Chen and Toh (MAS), overwhelmed by emotion after winning the XD title at the TotalEnergies BWF World Championships 2024, celebrating with their two coaches, thanking their opponent, bringing the Malaysian flag on court, and taking overall two and a half minutes before shaking hands with the umpire.

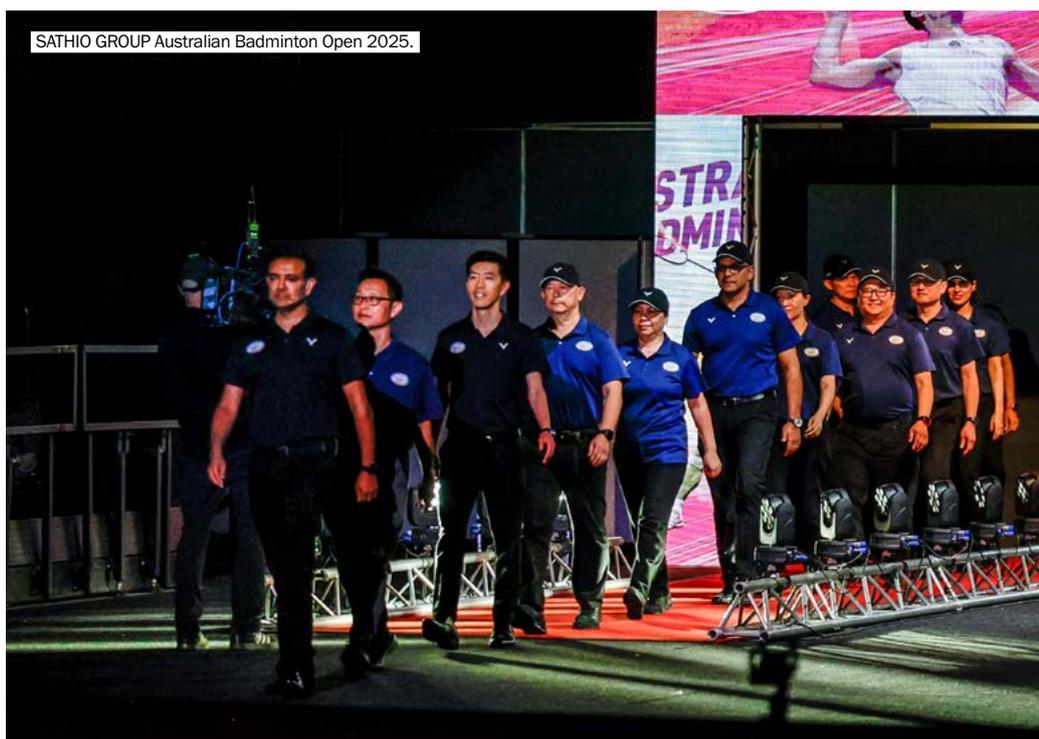
To the numerous players kneeling on the court mat and expressing their joy, knocking with their palm on the court mat or throwing rackets and polo shirts in the audience, examples of celebration are a never-ending part of the match, a unique moment for the players to celebrate with the crowd, with their fans, with their coaches, a moment whereas time is suspended.

I cannot remember witnessing any moment of 'excessive celebration' on court.

### Busy End of 2025

The end of 2025 saw BWF Umpires involved extensively in all Major Championships and World Tour tournaments and should be commended for their service and commitment.

Best wishes for 2026!





# WELCOME 2026

**By Carmen Martínez, BWF Referee**

We welcome the New Year with a host of new developments in training for technical officials and regulations.

On the one hand, changes in Para badminton General Competition Regulations (PBGCR), PBITTO, and the start of a training implementation phase, with the launch of training for referees as technical delegates in Para badminton. Without a doubt, this is a year in which we all hope to learn and evolve.

With 14 competitions on the World

Circuit, plus the Asian Para Games, and the World Championships just around the corner, coupled with changes in the playing classes, this year promises to be a turning point in the consolidation of the competitive structure.

**Changes in regulations**

**New class MD SL3-SU5**

In order to ensure gender equality in all classes and the fairest combination of players, the MD SL3-SL4 event is changed to MD SL3-SU5, with an implementation date of 15 February 2026, just after the Para Badminton World Championships 2026. This

change will generate tactical movements among players, although the MD SU5 will continue to co-exist for a time in the calendar to ensure a smooth transition for both classes and facilitate the ranking change process. We are curious to see how things develop!

Accordingly, the new class, which will now have a maximum of eight points, has been adjusted in the various regulations, PBGCR, the Para Badminton World Circuit Regulations, the Para Badminton Events Combination Chart, and the Regulations for Para Badminton World Championships, where it will be applicable for the 2028 edition.

Singles events	Doubles events	Mixed events
MS & WS WH1	MD WH1 – WH2	XD WH1-WH2
MS & WS WH2	WD WH1 – WH 2	XD SL3-SU5
MS & WS SL3	MD SL3 – SU5	XD SH6
MS & WS SL4	WD SL3 – SU5	
MS & WS SU5	MD SU5	
MS & WS SH6	MD SH6	
	WD SH6	

■ Continued on next page

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### Changes to World Circuit Regulations and PBGCR

A minor adjustment has been made to the dress code in order to simplify the creation of new pairs, which continues to be a very common situation in Para badminton. To this end, 'the same' has been replaced with 'similar' when referring to the colours that players must wear on court.

It is our duty to ensure that players perform and behave at their best, without causing them undue stress. For this reason, we must continue to educate players to avoid future penalties. A change has also been detailed, that no specific meeting will be held for "draws" anymore, so all team managers must attend the only team managers meeting.

Finally, changes have also been made to the number of players per event in the World Championship Regulations, and to some other aspects related to ranking points in order to respect gender equality.

### Changes to Para badminton ITTO (PBITTO)

#### Scheduling

As mentioned in the previous edition and now included in the new update of the regulations, if a tournament does not use LiveScore for its scoring system, competition days with group round matches, and including quarter finals, must indicate a start time for each match. For Grade 2, Level 2 and 3 competitions, it is recommended to allocate a 30-35 minute time slot.

Nor should we forget that in Grade 2, Level 1 competitions, Paralympic events should be scheduled to be played before the non-Paralympic events. The proposed calendar will be included in the next edition!

#### Entry

Another clarification regarding Grade 2 Level 1 entry, is that players must have a "Confirmed" (C) or "Review with a Fixed Review Date" (FRD) in order to be eligible for the main draw list, so that might help us to check on the M&Q list. Players who do

not meet these requirements are urged not to register for this level of competition, but we must be vigilant!

#### Shaking hands

And back to how it was done in previous years, the umpire shall step down from the chair to shake hands with players belonging to the wheelchair (WH1, WH2) and Short Stature (SH6) class. After shaking hands, the Umpire shall then make their closing announcement from the base of the umpire chair.

#### Technical Delegate training and new PB Draw Management document

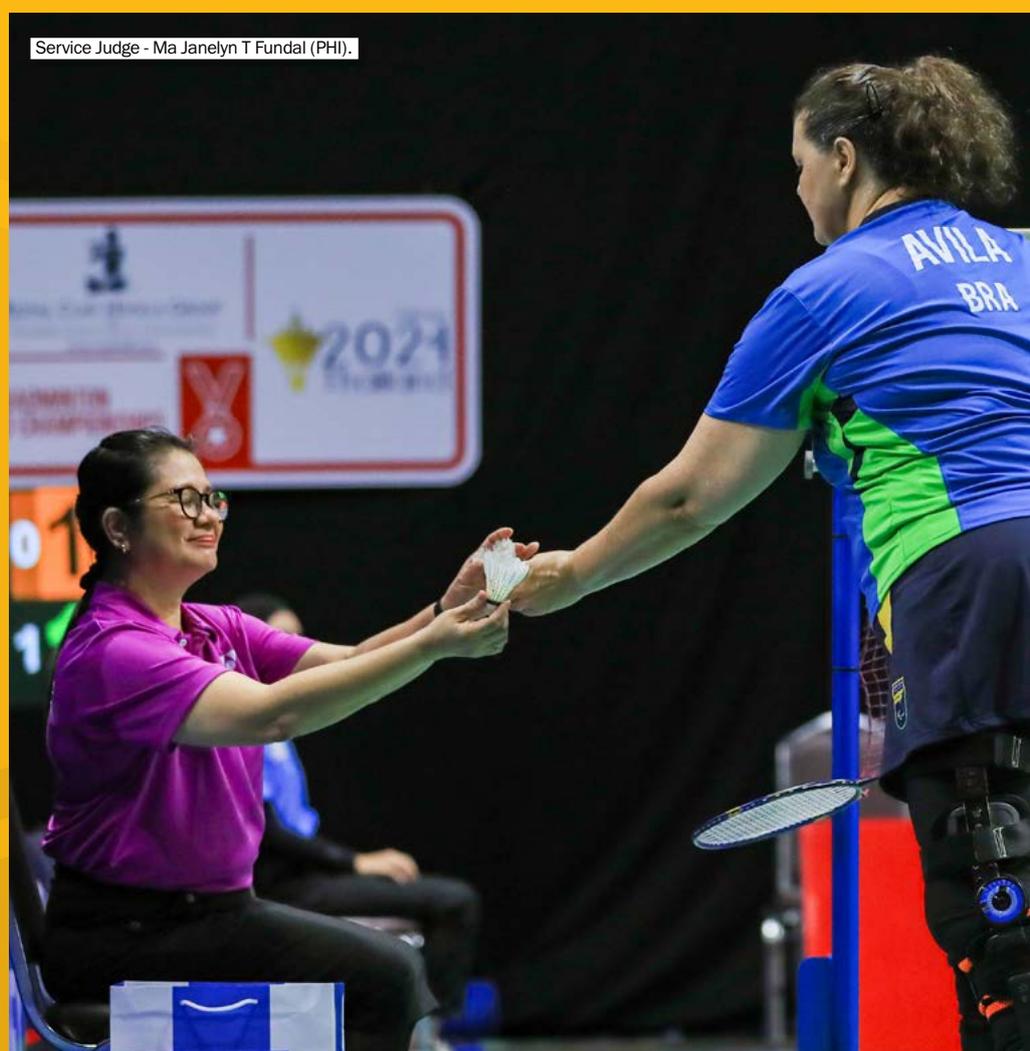
The biggest challenge for referees this year is the start of training as Para badminton technical delegates. The training will take place over two years, 2026 and 2027, and

will aim to provide all the experience, information and documentation necessary to achieve the final objective.

The first major initiative has been the development of a new Draw Management document specifically for Para badminton. Thank you, Syahmi, for all your hard work!

Similarly, Referees will have access to all documents relating to the "before", "during" and "after" stages of a competition for the TD, and will always be able to consult with more experienced colleagues. We will work together and with confidence!

Hope that all of this year's expectations and new challenges are met effectively and that we can all enjoy together! Best of luck to everyone!



Service Judge - Ma Janelyn T Fundal (PHI).

# LINE JUDGES UPDATE

By Marisa Baird,  
Badminton Scotland Line Judge  
Coordinator/BEC Line Judge  
Representative

**YONEX SUNRISE BWF World Junior Championships 2025 taking place in Guwahati, India 06-19 October 2025**

**Karen Arnold from Australia writes:**

I'm Karen (from Australia) and one of only two female BWF Line Judges selected to travel to the YONEX SUNRISE BWF World Junior Championships in Guwahati, Assam, India.

Planning my trip – well, I used a travel agent who helped with all of the flights and suggestions of where to fly into and out of Guwahati, to shorten the airport wait at Bengaluru on the way back (not much luck, had 7+ hours to wait until the next flight to Sydney). Suggestion: research the airports when you have a long airport wait to see if they have showers somewhere or book a lounge if you can. Having that kind of access makes you feel much better when stepping back onto a plane for another 12+ hours after already waiting around.

There were a couple of ways that you could arrange a visa to India. I chose to post mine to Melbourne, as I had the time to arrange it that way. Other people did it online. Always important to read the document requirement list and documentation from BWF before applying. I got mine sent back as I missed supplying my bank statements to the consulate. After that, it was a very quick process (but expensive).

Unfortunately, I didn't have any extra time in Guwahati, before or after the event. As everyone knows, BWF World Juniors is two separate events over a two-week period and it's a long time away, plus the days you lose in traveling. I wasn't able to take any extra time off work. I did manage to get to the zoo, along with my roommate. It was a 15-20 minute walk which went along some very quiet streets, which was nice to experience.



BWF Line Judges at the YONEX SUNRISE BWF World Junior Championships 2025.

Front Row L-R : Karen Arnold (AUS), Andrew Elias (ENG), Jacky Myers (USA)

Middle Row L-R : Hasanain Salah Wahhab Taqo (IRQ), Raju Thingbaijam (IND)

Back Row L-R : Maddumage Prasad Maduranga Fernando (SRI), Urs Josef Meier (SUI)

Mariusz Piotr Wojcik (Pol), Modigela Gagohata MBI (BOT).

Guwahati as a city is very large, noisy and chaotic to a first-time visitor to India, at least for the first few days. Although once away from main roads it's surprisingly quiet. After a few days we got use to the traffic and the flow of India. It didn't seem geared for tourists but there was a very big shopping mall close by that you could walk to. We also didn't have much time to go exploring when the tournaments were on. Some of the umpires and other line judges did travel outside of Guwahati to visit a temple and a waterfall. Oh, and for someone who comes from a colder climate, it was HOT..... and HUMID.

The venue itself was new (with other venues still being built around it), but it seemed a long way away from anywhere. Most days it took over an hour to get to and from the venue. As line judges we don't get the option to leave a session early (well, very rarely). They did have a 2.30 pm bus back to the hotel but if you missed that you had to wait until the end of the day/session to get another bus back to the hotel.

There were a lot of stairs as the line judge team had seating upstairs and the only way to the marshalling area was to go back outside, then back inside (i.e. there was no internal access to get from where we were sitting to the marshalling area). The food was great, a bit spicy sometimes, but on the whole very nice. Plenty of water was supplied throughout the day and we had breaks for morning and afternoon tea as well. The hotel we stayed at was also very nice and had a wide selection for breakfast.

A new scoring system was trialled during the Team tournament. It is a very long time for line judges to sit but after some discussions, it was agreed that we could stand at certain points during the matches. We also started a rotation system and moved to different seats after the first and second sets. I had never come across that practice, but it was great to move and be on a different line. After the first day, I think everyone got into the groove of the event and scoring system and had a great tournament.

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After a break, the individual event commenced with the new scoring system trial. Some matches were very, very quick and some did manage to go for a long time. I think there was a couple that went over the one hour mark. Again, after a session of getting used to the new system, the event seemed to flow really well and everyone got on with the job. Also, it was fantastic to be part of an all-female line judge team for the girl's doubles final. Go team!

### **Andrew Elias from England answers some questions:**

#### **How did you plan for your trip (such as visa requirement)?**

I've been to India several times before so getting the online Indian visa was not an issue for me. However, literally four hours before I was due to leave there was a 'curveball' in that I learnt via email that on October 1st they were changing the 'Landing Card on Arrival' procedure to a NEW online system.

Twenty minutes later I had it all sorted out and fit to go .... but for a few moments, bit of a panic, lol!

#### **Did you manage any sightseeing, did you arrive earlier or leave later than the event?**

I planned to arrive two days before the event and leave three days after it had finished. The two days before were really just for me to rest up, relax and get over the jetlag ... but I had spotted that the big four day "Diwali" would be happening at the end of the Badminton and had specifically planned to stay in Guwahati to enjoy and experience some of this ... which turned out to be a great plan as certain aspects of this "Festival of Lights" were very nice to see (i.e. fireworks and candles, etc).

#### **What were your thoughts on the city of Guwahati?**

Guwahati is a standard medium sized Indian city with all the usual parts that cities tend to have, i.e. busy and noisy roads, balanced with quite a lot of nice green spaces, especially close to the mighty Brahmaputra river which flows through the

middle of the city. Sight-seeing wise, I enjoyed a sunset Boat Cruise and visit to the Guwahati Zoo and Botanical Gardens.

#### **Did you enjoy the Tournament?**

Easiest of your questions to answer - Yes I did! For me this was my first tournament as a BWF Line Judge. One of my line judge 'Bucket List' type things has always been to be able to line judge at an tournament(s) outside Europe so I felt in coming to India I was always going to be on to a winner ... and looking back, I sure was - loved it!

#### **What were your impressions of the athletes, spectators and tournament as a whole?**

Athletes - young and looking like they're having the time of their lives! Spectators - lively, especially on the Finals Days and anytime India were playing! Whole Tournament - Great ... and the two new scoring systems made things interesting!

Perhaps the biggest compliment I can give both the athletes and organisers is that for most of my time there, both line judging and spectating in my 'down time', I often forgot I was at a 'Junior Tournament', such was the standard of play and facilities at the purpose built Badminton Sports Hall!

#### **What were the highlights of your trip?**

Being selected to line judge BOTH finals, i.e. Team plus two of the Individuals. Also Ex-World Number 1 Chen Long was the Chinese Mens Singles Players Coach ... and it was always nice to line judge a MS match and be on court with the 'great man' looking on close by from the coaches chair! Finally as I said before, first BWF Line Judge Duty ... really loved and appreciated the "I've finally made it" feeling that stayed with me for the whole event!!

The 5 Star Arista Hotel where the Overseas Line Judges and Umpires were staying was great ... BUT ... the ONLY slight downside was that it was a 20 km / 45-60 minute Minibus Ride across town to the Sports Hall. Now we were line judging 13 out of 14 days ... so we had to do this trip 26 times.

#### **Have you any tips for those traveling to future events?**

I think most of the line judges reading this are - like me - already pretty 'seasoned travellers' so not really sure what advice to offer?? That said, I was really pleased I spotted the dates of the Diwali Festival early on and was able to book my flights to give me some time to experience this.

#### **How will you transfer your experiences to your peers at home?**

I kind of 'wear two hats' when it comes to my badminton 'allegiances' in that I'm a Welsh line judge, born and living in Cardiff who has belonged to Badminton Wales for over 40 years ... who also both represents and is supported by the Badminton Line Judges Association of England (BLJAofE). I shall be 'telling BWF traveller's tales' about Guwahati to anyone who will listen, and also will be writing Newsletter Articles for both shortly.



Thai Pham (USA) - BWF Line Judge.

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BWF Line Judge Team – HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2025.



**HSBC BWF World Tour Finals taking place in Hangzhou, China 17-21 December 2025.**

**Ravi Nandan Shiva Shankar answers some questions:**

**How did you plan for your trip (such as visa requirement)**

China has unilateral Visa Waiver to Australian citizens, so it was Visa on arrival for tourists up to a month.

**Did you manage any sightseeing, did you arrive earlier or leave later than the tournament?**

I did arrive two days before the tournament and staying(ed) back three days after the tournament to visit Suzhou, Hangzhou and Shanghai.

**What were your thoughts on the city of Hangzhou?**

Hangzhou is beautiful. So many beautiful buildings and attractions to visit. Key highlights for me was Lingyin Temple and West lake.

**Did you enjoy the tournament?**

Fantastic tournament, fantastic hosts and wonderful team of technical officials. Absolutely loved it.

**What were your impressions of the athletes, spectators and tournament as a whole?**

Hangzhou Olympic Stadium was world class and amazing audio and video setup with lightshows. I haven't seen Istora. but, this was close to Olympics in Paris in terms of crowd involvement and crowd cheers.

**What were the highlights of your trip?**

Highlights have to be witnessing An Se Young (KOR), Seo Sung Jae (KOR) and Kim Wan Ho (KOR) winning 11 titles in a single year.

The Host Organisers went above and beyond to make it an enjoyable tournament for us, with snacks, food catered to high quality every day.

**Have you any tips for those traveling to future events?**

Plan ahead, speak to local friends, go with an open mindset to explore new culture, new cuisine, new friendships. As only the top eight players or pairs in each discipline on the HSBC BWF Road to Hangzhou rankings qualify for the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals, you can expect high quality matches.

**How will you transfer your experiences to your peers at home?**

Share my experience, learnings, and demands of a tournament like World Tour Finals. On surface it is just five days. But demands of the tournaments are no less to any other BWF Grade 1 tournament. Personally, it was unbelievable learnings to handle the pressure at that level.

Be open minded as things always won't work to your plan and be flexible in adjusting to it.

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**Thoughts from David Mišek, Czechia**  
**How did you plan for your trip (such as visa requirement)**

As Czechia doesn't have a visa-free agreement with China, I needed to obtain a visa first. Once I received the invitation letter from the organiser, I checked the possible flights, chose the most suitable option and managed to obtain the visa. It was extremely kind of the organisers to allow us to arrive in Shanghai instead of Hangzhou, as there were many more flights available there.

**Did you manage any sightseeing, did you arrive earlier or leave later than the tournament?**

On Sunday morning, I went sightseeing around the most important monuments in Hangzhou, especially West Lake and the surrounding area, which was packed with locals and tourists. What an experience! On previous days, when there was a bit of time between the morning and afternoon sessions, I strolled around to experience the local atmosphere.

**What were your thoughts on the city of Hangzhou?**

I had very similar feelings about the city of Hangzhou as I did about Shanghai and Beijing, which I had already visited. To me, as a European, the city was pure chaos. There were so many people, cars, motorbikes, skyscrapers, restaurants and shops. On the other hand, once you get used to the local way of life, it all starts to make more sense. For example, I had the pleasure of using the very well organised subway system.

**Did you enjoy the tournament?**

The tournament was incredible! The biggest tournament I've attended so far was the YONEX All England Open this year, but I would say that this tournament has even beaten it. I would especially like to thank the organisers for taking such amazing care of us, from the moment we arrived at the airport to the fantastic breakfast at the luxury hotel and its proximity to the venue, not to mention the care they provided for us in all matters. Of course, I also enjoyed watching the matches themselves and seeing the best players in the world trying to win such a valuable trophy. I really hope to come back for this tournament one day.

**What were your impressions of the athletes, spectators and tournament as a whole?**

It was the best athletes in the world, one of the biggest venues with the loudest spectators, and organisation at the highest level. All of these factors made this an absolutely unforgettable experience, and I'm glad I had the opportunity to contribute to the tournament as a line judge. I must also mention that the local line judges gave us a very warm welcome and helped us with any problems we encountered.

**What were the highlights of your trip?**

The highlights for me were definitely the chance to be part of such a great team of technical officials, as well as the organisational team who took care of us throughout.

**How will you transfer your experiences to your peers at home?**

Make the most of the tournament. Enjoy the company of other TOs, experience the culture, which may be completely different to what you are used to.



Accepted as BWF Line Judges. From L-R: Lærke Brix Olsen (DEN), David Mišek (CZE).



Accepted as a BWF Line Judges. From L-R: Gloria Leung (HKG), Wu Yi-Chen (TPE), Virge Must (EST).

# YONEX - SUNRISE BWF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025



## REFLECTION ON YONEX SUNRISE BWF WORLD JUNIOR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025

By **Chris Lawrence, BWF Referee**

BWF World Junior Championships is always an exciting event in the BWF calendar as the next generation of players showcase their talent and give us technical officials a glimpse of the superstars of the future that we will be watching on the courts in the years ahead. But there was added spice to this tournament in 2025 as not only was future talent on display but also for the team event two brand new innovations were introduced – a new relay scoring system and tactical substitutions.

### No ordinary tournament

This was no ordinary tournament for referees, umpires, and the host organisers as these new features required extensive modification of existing workflows, new roles and responsibilities, and a great deal of planning in the months leading up to the event. Ultimately though, judging from the feedback from our most important stakeholders - players, coaches, and team managers – the execution of the tournament can be judged as a success and has put in place an important

foundation for consideration of how these innovations might be adopted and tweaked for use in a broader array of BWF major events in the coming years. In this article we'll overview these innovations, how they were implemented, and some of the lessons learned.

### The Logistics

There was a total of 36 teams, with all continental confederations represented, and 402 players competing in Guwahati, India, with three days of Round Robin Play in groups of four or five followed by three days

of Play-Offs in which every team had three ties such that, as usual, the tournament ended with a complete ranking of all 36 teams. Both the nine courts competition venue and the practice facility were first class with wonderful hospitality from the Indian hosts for the duration of the two week stay (the seven day World Junior Individual Championships followed on from the Team competition). The format of the competition this year required an exceptionally large pool of technical officials: five BWF Referees plus a local Deputy, 44 umpires, 80 line judges, four BWF doctors, and a small army of volunteers.



Referee Team – YONEX SUNRISE BWF World Junior Team Championships.

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### The Scoring System

This built on the 2024 edition of the BWF World Junior Team Championships in which relay scoring of one tie to 110 points was used. The key feature of relay scoring is that the next match starts at the score the previous match finished at rather than reverting to love-all. For 2025, relay scoring was again in use but changed to a format of the best of three sets to 45 points. Each set consisted of a match to nine points in each of MS, WS, WD, MD and XD, with a match ending when the leading score reached 9, 18, 27, 36, and 45 points.

Teams quickly realised that the later matches in a set are where their stronger players add more value since in the first match of a set the maximum number of points a side can score is nine, whereas in the fifth match of a set a player or pair could come back from a heavy deficit (in principle trailing by a score of 0 - 36) to get to the winning score of 45 points.

### Intervals and Change of Ends

Intervals of three minutes between sets, two minutes between matches, and one minute at the midway point of each match were defined. Teams played the whole of set one at the same ends of the court, then swapped ends for set two. In set three, teams swapped ends at each mid-match interval (but not between matches).

### Team Selections

Teams were given complete freedom around their player selections for a tie – a male/female player could play in a maximum of three matches per set, so nine matches per tie, which was to the benefit of some of the very small teams in the competition who only had three or four players of each gender on their roster. No additional rest time was allocated for a player competing in back-to-back matches.

### Tactical Substitutions

As usual in team events, team managers submitted electronically the line-up of their players in a tie ahead of time (for all three

sets), but for the first time they were allowed to make substitutions for tactical purposes while the tie was ongoing. This is akin to a football coach making substitutions to his line-up while the soccer match is in progress. When the first set ended, teams could make a maximum of two substitutions for the second set, and if there was to be a third set additional substitutions for that set could be made such that the total number did not exceed three. A tactical substitution was defined as one player replacing one other player for one match.

These two innovations – relay scoring and tactical substitutions – required extensive planning and preparation. Visual Reality was engaged to make new Team Nomination and Order of Play forms as well as to modify the Live Score tablets for umpires; features which Matthieu Hecker in the BWF office tested extensively before they went live.

### Regulations and Working Group

The regulations for this major event were rewritten over a period of several months with a working group established to oversee them and brainstorm for scenarios that needed to be planned for. We wondered at times if we were overthinking what could happen and if we were writing down regulations for situations that were too theoretical and not likely to arise. As it happened though, the extensive planning proved well worthwhile as several of these more unusual circumstances did in fact

materialize on and off the courts and we were thankful that we had regulated for them. From a referee perspective, as the planning progressed we realized the extra complexity of our workload and identified new tasks that would have to be assigned; we were offered by the BWF office a fourth Deputy Referee which was much appreciated and which proved invaluable.

### Education

We recognised that with these fundamental changes to the structure of the event that some education ahead of time to the participants would be important, so two well-attended webinars were given to team managers and to umpires in the weeks leading up to the tournament so that everyone would travel to Guwahati knowing the essence of the scoring system and having at least a cursory understanding of how tactical substitutions would work.

### On the Ground

So to Guwahati itself and the execution logistics: The new features introduced required changes to several workflows: A tie could last for up to three hours and after the initial march-on of technical officials and players competing in the first match, consisted of one continuous flow of players exiting and entering the courts from their adjacent team seating areas with no formal marching on and off the courts between each of the 10 matches (two sets) or 15 matches (three sets).



Referee Team – YONEX SUNRISE BWF World Junior Team Championships.

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Clearly an umpire couldn't be reasonably expected to sit in the umpire chair continuously for that length of time! Instead, a team of three umpires was assigned to each tie (and four for the semi-finals and final), with a rotation between sets of umpire, service judge and a new role termed "off-court assist". This new responsibility included ensuring the next players to go onto court had returned from the warm-up courts and were ready and waiting in their team seating area, performing the clothing check for these players, and ensuring the remaining team members were seated and not standing.

The entire umpire crew is to be commended for how they embraced this role and for the professionalism in which they adapted to the new scoring system, including the new vocabulary that was required. The line judges too deserve major recognition for their performance - from Day three onwards they rotated seats between sets in order to help their alertness and to maintain focus.

### **Would Substitutions work?**

Before play commenced we had two concerns around how the concept of tactical substitutions would play out: First, would the opportunity to make changes be welcomed by teams or would no one see value in adjusting the original line up of players they submitted for a tie once they saw what players the opposition had selected? And second, if substitutions were used could we get the administrative steps completed in time, including getting the substitution details entered in the match control computer to update the umpire's Live Score pad, such that play would not be held up? In particular, with up to eight ties in progress in a session how would match control manage if they had to process multiple substitutions concurrently? This would be especially important once we got to the stage where we had TV.

We didn't have to wait long to get the answer to the first concern - in the first session on the first day we had the first two substitutions submitted and this quickly ballooned to the point where the majority of

ties had at least one substitution in them. For the second concern, huge kudos go to Tournament Director Girish Natu for having the foresight to arrange for three "sub-match control" stations in addition to the main match control desk run by BWF stalwart Theo Kim Thye. These three sub-match controls were set up at various points around the field of play adjacent to each referee assigned to oversee two or three ties, and with the capability to run independent of the main match control and fully able to process substitution requests for those two or three ties.

This made for a seamless procedure in which between sets a team manager would hand to the assigned referee a completed substitution form, the referee would check it and give a copy to the appropriate sub-match control who would update the League Planner file. While that was happening the referee would inform the opposing team manager and the umpire of the substitution(s) that was coming in the next set. In this way, all paperwork, computer steps and notifications could be completed within three minutes such that even if the substitution was in the first match of the next set there was no delay to the resumption of play. The sub-match controls were so important to the smooth running of the event that we recommend they be made a "must have" if tactical substitutions are adopted in future large-scale team events.

### **Injury Substitutions**

In addition to tactical substitutions, we also wrote into the regulations the provision for injury substitutions whereby a player who got injured during a tie could be replaced, under certain conditions, by another player for some or all of his remaining matches in the tie. In relay scoring this provision is desirable because of the severe consequence of a player getting injured in an early match in a set and unable to continue but having been selected to play the fifth match of that set and/or future sets. A great deal of back-and-forth discussion was had among the working group in the planning phase to strike the

right balance between allowing an injury substitution in such circumstances so that an entire set or tie wouldn't have to be forfeited on account of an injury to one player, while at the same time minimizing the opportunity for gamesmanship by unscrupulous teams looking to find an opportunity to make additional, unwarranted substitutions.

And on the second day, in the tie between Hong Kong China and Philippines, a quite complex variation of this exact scenario occurred requiring Deputy Referee Artur Zaluzhnoi to think on his feet in real time to recall and execute the course of action that the regulations we had written mandated and then communicate it to the two team managers.

### **Order of Play**

Another unique aspect of this relay format event was around the determination of the order of play for the five matches in each set. In the traditional format used in Sudirman Cup, Thomas and Uber Cup etc. this is the referee's responsibility to determine once the nominations for the tie have been submitted. In the World Juniors relay format event however, the order of play for a tie was determined by the two team managers. This happened in a meeting between them and one of the referees through a coin toss with the winner selecting which of the five disciplines would be played first in each set, the loser of the coin toss selecting which of the remaining four disciplines would be played second, then back to the winner to choose the third match, followed by the loser deciding on the fourth match. These meetings were a combination of in-person meetings at the venue (carefully timed to align with the transport schedule) and online meetings on Microsoft Teams depending on the time of day of the session being prepared. Deputy Referee Zheng Sanliang assumed this responsibility across all six days and 19 sessions of the competition and performed it so efficiently such that up to the eight such mini-meetings required for a session could be completed within 20 minutes.

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### Outcomes

When the dust had settled on Finals Day there was much to reflect on and document for what went well and what recommendations to make for consideration for future major events incorporating these innovations. The referee team had consensus on the following points:

- ◀ The best of three sets relay scoring system has good potential. There were numerous 45-44 scorelines and many instances of a team trailing after the third or fourth match in a set and then coming back to win it. Adding excitement such as this was one of the main objectives that the BWF Council wanted to see in making the modifications to the 2024 relay version of one tie to 110 points.

- ◀ The frequency of tactical substitutions exceeded expectations. This concept added interest and excitement and is recommended to continue exploring.
- ◀ Nine points is too short for one match. Recommend extending it to 11 points or 15 points such that a tie becomes the best of three sets to 55 points or the best of three sets to 75 points.
- ◀ The mid-match interval should be eliminated (including if the length of a match is extended to 11 points). This would help to reduce the fragmented feel that the progress of a tie had with a total of 45 minutes of intervals for a three set match.
- ◀ Reduce the maximum number of matches a player may play in each set from three to two.

I think it's fair to say that for all the technical officials that participated –

referees, umpires, line judges, doctors - the 2025 World Juniors Team Event is one that will stick in the memory for a long time to come, and for all good reasons. From a referee perspective, none of us were quite sure how the innovations being tried were going to be received and if we could implement them smoothly. On both counts we felt good about the outcomes. And one of the most pleasing comments we heard when all was said and done was "You guys really did work as one team". This jived with how the five of us felt – we each had distinct roles and responsibilities and we trusted each other fully to execute them independently while at the same time never hesitating to jump in to help with whatever was needed at the crunch times. And finally for me, having seen the talent that was on display on the courts for those two weeks, I came away from Guwahati confident that the future of our sport is bright indeed.



Umpire - Jason Foo (SGP) oversees India's delight on court.

# MY OWN STORY



Torsten Berg (DEN) in his role as BWF Referee at Indonesia Open 2010.

## By Torsten Berg (DEN)

Looking back on my happy life as an IBF and BWF Technical Official, I can say for sure that it was not going according to my plans. For a start, when on an October afternoon in 1964, I found two notices on the board of my club, that the regional association of Sjælland invited participants for training courses for umpires and coaches, respectively, I put - of course - my name down for both. A few days later, my coach and mentor Henning Burton Clausen came back, saying, "Torsten, you will have to make a choice, the club will only send you to one course."

Well, that was easy, as I already served as Henning's assistant coach and soon after followed him as Chairman of the Junior Department and Chief Coach, when he was promoted headmaster of a school in a neighbouring town. So, my umpiring career was over before it even started. Coaching, and later coach training and development work in Denmark and for the European Badminton Union (today BEC) were my preoccupations the following years, but that is a different story.

## Legislation and guidelines

In brief, however, when in 1984, the new IBF (today BWF) President Poul-Erik Nielsen wished to establish a Development Committee, I was co-opted and in 1985 elected to the IBF Council for that purpose, and I was delighted with this challenge.

"As a Council Member", I was told by my good friend, the IBF General Secretary Ronnie Rowan, "you have to sit on two committees, not just Development, so I have put you on the Rules and Laws Committee. It will be good for you to improve your English, and it is hard for me to recruit members to the Rules and Laws (R/L)!"

My teachers were particularly the Chairman, the Hon. Hector Roy Ward (AUS) and Neil Cameron (SCO), both with an excellent command of the English and legal language and with the shared passion of keeping Laws and regulations short and sharp, leaving room for the technical officials to apply their common sense.

Inspired by these superb teachers, I happily stayed with the Rules and Laws Committee

- later Administration Committee, and today Governance and Ethics Committee - until I retired from Council in 2013. And when I assist with writing guidelines and regulations for BWF still today, I send grateful thoughts back to Roy, Neil and many other colleagues for what I learnt in the Rules and Laws Committee of IBF. My gratitude, forward looking, goes to Chris Lawrence (USA), who brilliantly has taken the lead in this area the last couple of years.

## Refereeing

When in 1985 the Chairman of the International Championships and Tournaments Committee (today the Events Committee), Arthur Jones decided to introduce modern refereeing in IBF, he was leading by example. An experienced international umpire and referee himself, he took charge himself and refereed the major IBF tournaments in the following few years, inviting younger Council colleagues to serve as his Deputies and students including Neil Cameron (SCO), Roger Johansson (SWE), Toumo Tennilä (FIN) and myself in the first round.

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I had the great experience of being King Arthur's deputy in the Thomas and Uber Cup Zone finals in San José, California in 1986, and as this experiment went very well, and I liked the job and the hands-on way Arthur Jones wanted it done, I wanted more. From there on I was given IBF refereeing duties, in the first years often as deputy to my more senior colleagues Roger and Neil. In Europe I had already been refereeing for a few years, including Continental Championships, but that stopped when I was elected EBU President in 1992, as the two roles were incompatible.

A most challenging and also rewarding spin-off from refereeing was the appointment as Technical Delegate (TD) for badminton to the Barcelona 1992 Olympic Games, together with Sir Craig Reedie. The TD duties for the Olympic Games are mainly in the preparation, and in those days, the technology was not advanced

at all (and what we had was not compatible with the IOC's systems) and the IBF office had limited resources and naturally very limited prior experience with the Olympic Games

Sir Craig took care of the relations with the IOC and to the media and took some excellent and far-reaching decisions that placed badminton - a new sport in its first appearance in the Games - at the center of positive attention in IOC and by the TV audiences worldwide.

My duty became having a suitable hall constructed in which to play, with adequate lighting and well-trained local staff to support our IBF Technical Officials. Being a key part of this historic and successful event for the sport I love became a highlight of my life in badminton.

In Atlanta four years later, I had the pleasure to serve as TD again. Once more

we were in a place where badminton was not much played and known. When we started, I was told that there were 37 organised badminton players in the whole of the State of Georgia. The Georgia State University basketball hall was there - we did not need to build - but it was far from ideally suited, and we had a lot to do to make it playable.

In the following years, I was appointed to around 20 World Championships (WBC) and Thomas and Uber Cup Finals, some as referee, others as deputy, as well as to the Olympic Games in Sydney 2000, Athens 2004, and in London 2012, all as referee.

All WBCs were memorable, each in their own right. Glasgow, where I have had many events in various roles, Anaheim with my friend Paisan Rangsitkitho (USA) as the local organiser, Paris, where I am very much at home, and London 2011 as preparation for the Games.



BWF World Championships 2007 Referee Team - From L-R Jane Wheatley (AUS), Torsten Berg (DEN), Juniarto Suhandinata (INA), Chua Soo Hock (MAS).

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BWF World Junior Championships 2006 -  
Torsten Berg (DEN) BWF Referee.

In Sydney, we were for the first time in a country with badminton traditions, making the organisation and my job much easier. The mixed doubles in Sydney were so very close that each of the four semifinalists could have won, but in the end Zhang Jun and the fantastic Gao Ling (CHN) won the gold medal. In Athens, the stadium was ready only at the very last moment, and my team had to work much and fast. Taufik Hidayat's (INA) brilliant performance in the men's singles is my strongest memory. From the London Olympics, it is of course the drama in the women's doubles that I recollect. The action I chose in the heated moments on court in the Wembley Arena was a difficult one, but a decision I judged was right at that stage - which has also been acknowledged by many others afterwards, including the IOC: 'Accidents will happen in every sport. What is important is how they are handled.' was their comment.

I finished on a very happy note. My last tournament as a BWF Referee was

the BWF World Tour Finals 2013. The tournaments was supposed to be held in Dubai, UAE, but they were not ready, so we were in the old Jalan Cheras Stadium in Kuala Lumpur, MAS, where Peter Gade (DEN) won the BWF World Junior Championships 1994 - in doubles with Peder Nissen(DEN) - and where BWF had the office in the first period after the move from Cheltenham in 2005. My deputy was my friend Juniarto Suhandinata (INA), almost as if I had made the appointments myself. Which I also had. We tested the Instant Review System (IRS) for the first time, and it worked well. Everything went smoothly - and I could retire smiling from active refereeing.

#### **Development and training of Technical Officials**

Once again, it did not at all go according to my plans. After 10 years building up the IBF Development Department - as one of the first international sports federations having an organised development

programme - we had in 1995 obtained quite a decent budget and employed an excellent officer, Andrew Ryan. We were ready to do more and better development work. However, in the Council meeting after the AGM in Lausanne 1995, the President, to my disappointment, decided to appoint another Chairman of the Development Committee. I was offered the Chair of the Court Officials Commission (COC), as a kind of compensation.

Well, if you don't get the one you love, love the one you're with. I decided to make the most of this new challenge. To use the principles that I had applied in development to raise the standards of the technical officials. It was not easy, as the resources were few. In the Cheltenham office, the Court Officials Commission (COC) was considered a suitable area to start with for the most recently employed assistant.

Pleasant and helpful assistance, but no sparring. Moreover, soon after, in 1997 our modest budget had to be cut again because of the financial crisis that meant a massive loss of income for IBF from the tournaments in Asia. We could for the following years only appoint referees for the Super Series tournaments - no deputies, a local one had to do the honours - and only someone from the same continent. No intercontinental travel. No cross-fertilisation. These conditions, however reasonable they were under the circumstances, went directly against my priority, which was creating a truly worldwide TO community that applied the Laws and regulations in the same way, no matter where they came from and where they officiated.

When the finances improved, it became possible as a first effort to organise workshops where the IBF Umpires and IBF Referees could get together, receive instructions from our leading lights, discuss and find common ground, so that the tendencies to develop independent continental schools of thought were overcome.

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Francis Siow (MAS), Frank Wilson (ENG), Peter Ganes and Preben Nøies (DEN) were particularly helpful in the umpiring area, and Roger Johansson (SWE) and Neil Cameron (SCO) and again Francis Siow helped me with the referees. Not much changed in the first years after the office was moved to Kuala Lumpur in 2005 and the federation changed name to BWF in 2006. Noridah Jamil diligently provided the clerical assistance for several years, but it was only when first Darren Parks and in 2014 Christopher Trenholme were employed to look after the Events Department in the BWF Office and I had retired from Council that the Technical Official Commission (TOC) got the support and the partnerships that enabled the TOC and BWF to move fast forward when it came to raising the standard and numbers of TOs, introducing also a worldwide force of BWF Line Judges, so that we could ensure, as far as practically possible, that the players, spectators and telespectators worldwide could be provided with the best possible conditions to play and watch badminton of the highest standard. And we could give talents from every corner of the world the opportunity to develop their skills to the standard required at the very top.

### Quality

To improve the performance of BWF TOs, I decided to use some of the same principles and priorities concerning quality assurance as I had applied in my professional job as head of a chemical laboratory. In this way we could raise the standard and assure the quality of the performance of the BWF Umpires and Referees. Starting with defining as far as possible what should be expected, we expanded the existing Recommendations to Umpires with much more detail concerning umpiring and line judging and added full sections on refereeing to become the Instructions to Technical Officials (ITTO), a cornerstone of the work of TOs today. The standard operating principles in the ITTO define what shall be expected of the performance of a BWF TO. A special Para Badminton ITTO became my last contribution to Para Badminton, hopefully helping to raise the standard of refereeing and umpiring in this, in many ways far more complex, part of our sport.



Torsten Berg at BWF AGM 2006 in Tokyo.

Starting with the BWF Referees, we introduced regular and systematic appraisals of their performance in the World Tour tournaments and BWF Major Championships as part of the Strategic Plan. The appraisals were to be performed by the BWF Referee Assessors according to a comprehensive and well described set of criteria, that made clear for both the BWF Assessor and Referee what was expected from both sides. The performance would be graded on a scale that was also defined in detail. My BWF Assessor colleague Isabel Jobard (FRA) was very helpful in the initial stages of development of the appraisal system, and later, with the assistance of the BWF Umpire Assessors, my successors as Chair of the BWF Referee Assessment Panel, Jane Wheatley (AUS) and Gretha Prinsloo (RSA) helped Christopher Trenholme and me fine tune the criteria and adapt the system to serve BWF Umpires.

Meanwhile others, in particular Christopher Trenholme backed by our BWF Secretary General Thomas Lund, have introduced much and very useful technology that helps our BWF TOs run their duties smartly and fast. The Tournament Planner, the Service Judges Tool, to be improved, the Time Clock coming and more - excellent moves that I have only little share in.

While in the early years I strived to increase the numbers and diversity of competent BWF TOs, giving much attention to promising candidates from continents and countries where there were not so many

high-level tournaments and players, as well as to female TOs, I changed focus towards quality only when this effort appeared to have succeeded and when resources became available to introduce Semi-Professional TOs (SP). I firmly believe that the SPs have raised the bar considerably, for refereeing and umpiring as well as tournament doctors, and I do look forward to seeing this trend continue with full-time professional BWF TOs to become a reality, sooner rather than later.

Finally, something went according to my plans when it came to retirement from my responsibilities for the BWF TOs. I wanted to gradually fade away. In 2016, Gilles Cavert (FRA) took over the Chair of the TOC, doing a great job in his own calm and careful way, and I could focus on the BWF Referees, still serving as Chair of the BWF Referee Assessors.

In that capacity I worked closely with Malcolm Banham (ENG), Chair of the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel. Malcolm was through all the years a most helpful and excellent Chair, having taken over from Jean-Guy Poitras (CAN). Both represented the BWF Umpires in the TOC equally well and helped me a lot, giving my efforts much and important support in the commission meetings.

In 2020, Jane Wheatley (AUS) took over as Chair of the BWF Referee Assessment Panel, and I could not have hoped for a better successor: firm, fair and with great soft skills.

I continued until the end of 2023 as a BWF Referee Assessor, completing 10 years of this technical badminton work. The kind of work that I prefer and have chosen since I left Council and the badminton politics around elections and appointments in 2013. Being able to focus on the technical side of the game and its development, I have enjoyed these 10 years tremendously, and I take this opportunity to thank all those, Technical Officials, BWF and CC Events staff and others, who over my 30 years in this area have contributed to the work and the results and to this happy ending.

# 2026 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND APPRAISALS

As of January 2026 – calendar subject to change

Date	Meetings, Workshops and Appraisals	Location	Country	Tournament
31 Jan	BWF Referee Assessment Panel Meeting 2026	Kuala Lumpur	MAS	-
02 Feb – 05 Feb	BWF Referee Workshops 2026	Kuala Lumpur	MAS	-
07 March	BWF Medical Panel Meeting 2026	Birmingham	ENG	In conjunction with YONEX All England Open Badminton Championships 2026
10 Apr – 11 Apr	Senior Classifier Workshop 2026	Prague	CZE	In conjunction with Czechia Para badminton International 2026
24 Apr – 03 May	Referee Appraisals	Horsens	DEN	BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2026
24 Apr – 03 May	Umpire Appraisals	Horsens	DEN	BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2026
12 May – 17 May	Referee Appraisals	Referee Appraisals	THA	TOYOTA Thailand Open 2026
12 May – 17 May	Umpire Appraisals	Referee Appraisals	THA	TOYOTA Thailand Open 2026
19 May – 24 May	Umpire Appraisals	Kuala Lumpur	MAS	PERODUA Malaysia Masters 2026
26 May – 31 May	Umpire Appraisals	Singapore	SGP	KFF Singapore Badminton Open 2026
02 Jun – 07 Jun	Umpire Appraisals	Jakarta	INA	Indonesia Open 2026
09 Jun – 14 Jun	Referee Appraisals	Sydney	AUS	SATHIO GROUP Australian Badminton Open 2026
09 Jun – 14 Jun	Umpire Appraisals	Sydney	AUS	SATHIO GROUP Australian Badminton Open 2026
30 Jun – 05 Jul	Referee Appraisals	Markham	CAN	YONEX Canada Open 2026
12 July – 13 July	Umpire Assessment Panel Meeting	Tokyo	JPN	In conjunction with DAIHATSU Japan Open 2026
14 July – 19 Jul	Referee Appraisals	Tokyo	JPN	DAIHATSU Japan Open 2026
14 July – 19 Jul	Umpire Appraisals / Umpire Assessments for BWF Level	Tokyo	JPN	DAIHATSU Japan Open 2026
21 July – 26 Jul	Referee Appraisals	Changzhou	CHN	China Open 2026
21 July – 26 Jul	Umpire Appraisals	Changzhou	CHN	China Open 2026
28 Jul – 02 Aug	Referee Appraisals	Taipei	TPE	YONEX Taipei Open 2026

# 2026 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND APPRAISALS

As of January 2026 – calendar subject to change

Date	Meetings, Workshops and Appraisals	Location	Country	Tournament
04 Aug – 09 Aug	Referee Appraisals	Gwangju	KOR	Korea Masters 2026
17 Aug – 23 Aug	Umpire Appraisals	New Delhi	IND	BWF World Championships 2026
01 Sep – 06 Sep	Referee Appraisals	Shenzen	CHN	China Masters 2026
01 Sep – 06 Sep	Umpire Appraisals	Shenzen	CHN	China Masters 2026
01 Sep – 06 Sep	Referee Appraisals	TBC	INA	Indonesia Super 100 I 2026
29 Sep – 04 Oct	Referee Appraisals	Dubai	UAE	Abu Dhabi Masters 2026
05 Oct – 10 Oct	Umpire Appraisals	TBC	INA	BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships 2026
13 Oct – 18 Oct	Referee Appraisals	Kuala Lumpur	MAS	Malaysia Super 100 2026
03 Nov – 08 Nov	Umpire Appraisals	Yeosu City	KOR	Korea Open 2026
17 Nov – 22 Nov	Referee Appraisals	Hong Kong	HKG	Hong Kong Open 2026
17 Nov – 22 Nov	Umpire Appraisals	Hong Kong	HKG	Hong Kong Open 2026
09 Dec – 13 Dec	Umpire Appraisals	Hangzhou	CHN	HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2026