

COCTALES

BWF

THE NEWSLETTER OF BWF TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

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LOOKING FOR TALENT

By Gilles Cavert
Chair – BWF Technical Official Commission



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STANDING LOWER CLASSES IN PARA BADMINTON

By Carmen Martínez,
BWF Referee

Following the line of expanding our knowledge to better understand the conditions and situations of our Para Badminton competitions, we will take an in-depth look at this edition to the aspects related to SL3 and SL4 classes.

THE TECHNICAL OFFICIAL'S RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP EVERYONE SAFE

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

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FROM THE CHAIR BY
**GILLES
CAVERT**

LOOKING FOR TALENT

From Page 1

By Gilles Cavert,
Chair – BWF Technical Official Commission

The ultimate goal of the BWF Technical Official Commission is to continuously increase the performance of our BWF TOs, because we need to meet the expectations of our stakeholders (e.g. players, coaches, team managers, sponsors, TV broadcasters, and BWF Council).

To that end, I will focus today on the following groups of BWF TOs: Referees,

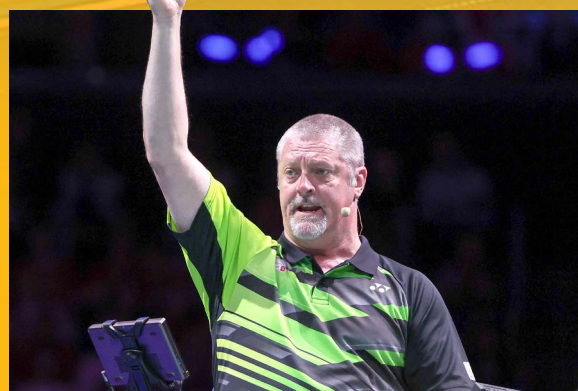


Umpires, Line judges, Referee Assessors, and Umpire Assessors.

To achieve this goal, we rely first on a skilful BWF Staff: Chris Trenholme, Deputy Events Director, and Selena Lim, Assistant Manager.

Then, and from an operational prospective, we have at our disposal a toolkit with multiple assets such as assessments, appraisals, mentoring, webinars, workshops, educational resources, masterclasses, COC-Tales, and semi-professionalization.

Badminton has changed drastically in the past several years; it has entered a new era as a sport show where the new masters of the game are the sponsors and the TV broadcasters.



In order to adapt, we must provide BWF with not only high performing TOs, but with talented TOs.

A talented TO is someone who possesses key hard and soft skills. The word talent is defined as “a special natural ability or aptitude.” The word skill is defined as “the ability, coming from one’s knowledge, practice, aptitude to do something well.”

Talented BWF TOs do not have an oversized ego, are humble, fully alert, empathetic, team players, resilient and willing to improve, and do stick to the Laws and Regulations.

In that context, they do not hesitate to step out of their comfort zone to increase their performance level. Despite their already high level of performance, their margin to improve remains big.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BWF TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

Confirmed for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games

REFEREES

| Head Referee | Deputy Referees | Umpire Coordinator | Tournament Doctors |
|----------------------|---|------------------------|--|
| Lynne Nixey (NZL) | Girish Natu (IND) Eric Lissillour (FRA) Christopher Lawrence (USA) | Gilles Cavert (FRA) | Dato Dr. Gurcharan Singh (MAS) Dr. Martin Fahlström (SWE) |

UMPIRES

| Africa | Asia | Europe | Oceania | Pan Am |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| Diraj Gooneadry (MRI) Satiawan Mahadoo (MRI) | Liu Yun (CHN) Yip Ting Pong, Chris (HKG) Qomarul Lailiah (INA) Sudip Barve (IND) Hermin Armin Mehr (IRI) Emi Sakamoto (JPN) Kang SunYoung (KOR) Wang Chao-Wei, Charles (TPE) Mai Lang Yen (VIE) | Bert Vanhorenbeeck (BEL) Kamasha Robertson-Martens (BEL) Michaela Bencova (CZE) Henrik Boas Olsen (DEN) Jacob Syndberg (DEN) Paul Buffham (ENG) Iris Metspalu (EST) Haidar Dittoo (FRA) Fabio Betto (ITA) Gunars Lusveris (LAT) Ivo Kassel (SUI) | Jiten Bhatt (AUS) Trish Gubb (NZL) | Fabio Lopes (BRA) Eric Desroches (CAN) |

LINE JUDGES

| Africa | Asia | Europe | Oceania | Pan Am |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| Ahmed Mohamed Mashaal Ahmed Aboushady (EGY) Kherraz Lamia (ALG) | Rakeshkumar Hasmukhlal Rasaniya (IND) Ayaz Al-Amin (BAN) Shi Ping (CHN) Hideaki Suzuki (JPN) Leong Choi Kun (MAC) Chang Ching-Hui (TPE) | Aurore Lequatre (BEL) Kamil Kyzlik (CZE) Himanshu Anil Shah (ENG) Michael Farrelly (IRL) Claudio Di Mauro (ITA) Lilian Kobben (NED) Mariusz Piotr Wojcik (POL) Nathalie Simone Esseiva (SUI) | Ravi Nandan Shiva Shankar (AUS) Karen Marie Arnold (AUS) | Chung Kun-il (CAN) Jacqueline Wendy Myers (USA) |

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Confirmed for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games

REFEREES

| Head Referee | Deputy Referees | Umpire Coordinator | Tournament Doctors |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| Carmen Martinez (ESP) | Julie Carrel (NZL) Jeffrey Bell (CAN) | Julien Nys (BEL) | Dr. Nisith Chowdhury (IND) Dr. Carmen Jahja (INA) |

UMPIRES

| Africa | Asia | Europe | Oceania | Pan Am |
|--|---|--|----------------------------|---|
| Faadil Sayid (MRI) Emmanuel Kgaboetsile (BOT) | Liu Yun (CHN) Au Man Fung, Simon (HKG) Qomarul Lailiah (INA) Shailesh Kulkarni (IND) Reza Roshan Omid (IRI) Eiji Nonoguchi (JPN) Kang SunYoung (KOR) Ma Janelyn Fundal (PHI) Chung Ching Feng (TPE) | Kamasha Robertson-Martens (BEL) Iris Metspalu (EST) Stephane Venet (FRA) Joerg Hupertz (GER) Seamus Halpin (IRL) Andrea Chiappini (ITA) Freek Cox-Aloo (NED) Justyna Krych (POL) Goran Jelesijevic (SRB) Peter Meszaros (SUI) | Trish Gubb (NZL) | Bertha Garcia (PER) Brian Kliwon (SUR) |

LINE JUDGES

| Africa | Asia | Europe | Oceania | Pan Am |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Modigela Gagothata Mbi (BOT) Gbati Pekoula (TOG) Manareliam Ali Awaadallah Ali Ahmed (EGY) Nyirenda Harrison John (ZAM) | Kommu Rajendar (IND) Mohammadreza Kabiri (IRI) Eri Yonekura (JPN) Khin Thaw Thaw Kyi (MYA) Ang Lay Ean (SGP) Chandana Nilantha Hewa Batagodage (SRI) Kongphon Kongnawakul (THA) Chiu Chun-Jung (TPE) Pham Thanh Tri (VIE) | Alice Riis (DEN) Michael Gerard Spear (ENG) David Cifuentes Martin (ESP) Martin Maipuu (EST) Jyrki Kalevi Krzywacki (FIN) Barbara Bub (GER) Martin Bernhard Rogge (GER) Pia Moelder (GER) Sarah Jane Kilfeathe (IRL) Gary McLernon (SCO) Urs Josef Meier (SUI) | Lok Yun Loi (AUS) Pauline Susan Eldred (AUS) Yi Cui, Renee (NZL) | Chung Kun-il (CAN) Jacqueline Wendy Myers (USA) Kevin Anthony Yung (TTO) |

REFEREE UPDATE

By Jane Wheatley,
Chair – BWF Referee
Assessment Panel

We are now in the last three months of the year, and referee team has quietly but effectively carried out their assignments in a professional manner to get us back on track. One issue that has come up this year has been the extremely high travel costs that have caused us to reassign some referees, and so our apologies to those of you affected by this and thank you for your understanding. Hopefully the airlines will have returned to some normality in 2024.

Semi-Professional Referee Team 2024-2026

Appointments have been made for the new Semi-Professional Referee team for 2024-2026, as follows:

- ▶ Chris Lawrence (USA)
- ▶ Eric Lissillour (FRA)
- ▶ Carmen Martinez (ESP)
- ▶ Girish Natu (IND)
- ▶ Lynne Nixey (NZL)
- ▶ Pencho Stoynov (BUL)
- ▶ Nicos Vladimirov (CYP)
- ▶ Artur Zaluzhnoi (EST)

Many strong applications were received and thank you to those who did apply, for your interest.

We are tasked with constantly looking towards the future and with this in mind we are welcoming two new members: Carmen and Artur.

We extended our thanks to the outgoing team members, who will continue to contribute greatly to the referee team with the expertise gained during their tenure over the past six years.

There will be continued opportunities for our younger referees to join this team in the future.



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BWF Referee Workshop 2024

Continuing with our education programme, the next BWF Referee Workshop will be conducted over the four-day period of 5-8 February 2024, in Kuala Lumpur, with the theme: “Back to Basics”.

The past two workshops have covered a lot of theory, information on how BWF functions and general updates to ensure our referee team have a thorough understanding of the background and rationale of the task of a referee.

However, the 2024 version will concentrate on the basics of refereeing: manual draws, draw management, Tournament Software, practice schedules, working with our umpires and other stakeholders, and working with our own team. All manner of basic refereeing skills that, in this fast-paced world, we need to be reminded of how to stay grounded and retain those soft skills that make a good referee.

Please note these dates in your diary. More information and instructions on the workshop will be provided later this year.

Working with our Umpire Team

Guidelines for the allocation of umpires in BWF tournaments have been developed to ensure that the umpire resources are used to their best ability. The umpires are the most important resource for the referee in order to run a successful BWF tournament. ITTO, clause 3, and in particular, 3.1.2, 3.4.11 and 3.5.6-11, give the most important guidance to how this shall be done. Key parameters are:

- ▶ Quality and Quantity
- ▶ Neutrality
- ▶ Rest and Well-being
- ▶ Allocation Systems
- ▶ Day by Day
- ▶ Delegation
- ▶ Information / Communication.

Please review these clauses in detail.

CC Referee Candidate Criteria

What is the ideal BWF Referee candidate?

The BWF Referee Assessment Panel has produced a document to give the Continental Confederations direction on how to identify their best candidates, the pathway they need to follow, and what is needed to give their candidate referees the best opportunities to achieve their goals. This document will be an attachment to the BWF Referee Assessment Panel Terms of Reference and available to Continental Confederations.

The guidelines cover the minimum criteria required to be a successful candidate:

- ▶ Age
- ▶ Experience
- ▶ Activity
- ▶ Tournament Software
- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Laws and Regulations
- ▶ Training
- ▶ Availability
- ▶ Soft Skills
- ▶ Ambition

Observations from 2023 WT tournaments

As you strive to be the best BWF Referee you can be, we acknowledge that it is difficult for a deputy referee to gain working experience at tournaments where there are only two referees. The deputy, through necessity of the size of the stadium, is often relegated to the back corner to observe matches. As we know, this takes them away from the daily running of the tournament that is carried out at the referee desk.



Therefore, the head referee needs to be mindful of this and so works to ensure their deputy is fully aware and included in the daily operations of the tournament. If the head referee takes ill, the deputy will have to step in and if they have been left in the dark, they may struggle.

Start your morning with discussion of the day's events, assign them duties, debrief at regular intervals throughout the day, swap seats, and ask for their opinion and suggestions. You are a team so please work together.

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IRS Footnote

In COCTales Version 40 we brought to your attention that you now have the opportunity to correct an IRS error (the referee can overrule IRS and make a manual decision should there be a clear system mistake, provided this is carried out before the next point is delivered). As a footnote to this instruction, please be advised that the GCR and ITTO instructions required to cover this change have been written and will need to pass through the relevant channels before they are published.

Case Study Videos

It is pleasing to see that there appear to be very few on court incidents that we need to capture for our case studies file. It would seem we are making great strides forward and both umpires and referees are working well as a team and managing the tournaments in a very professional manner, thereby limiting the problems of the past.

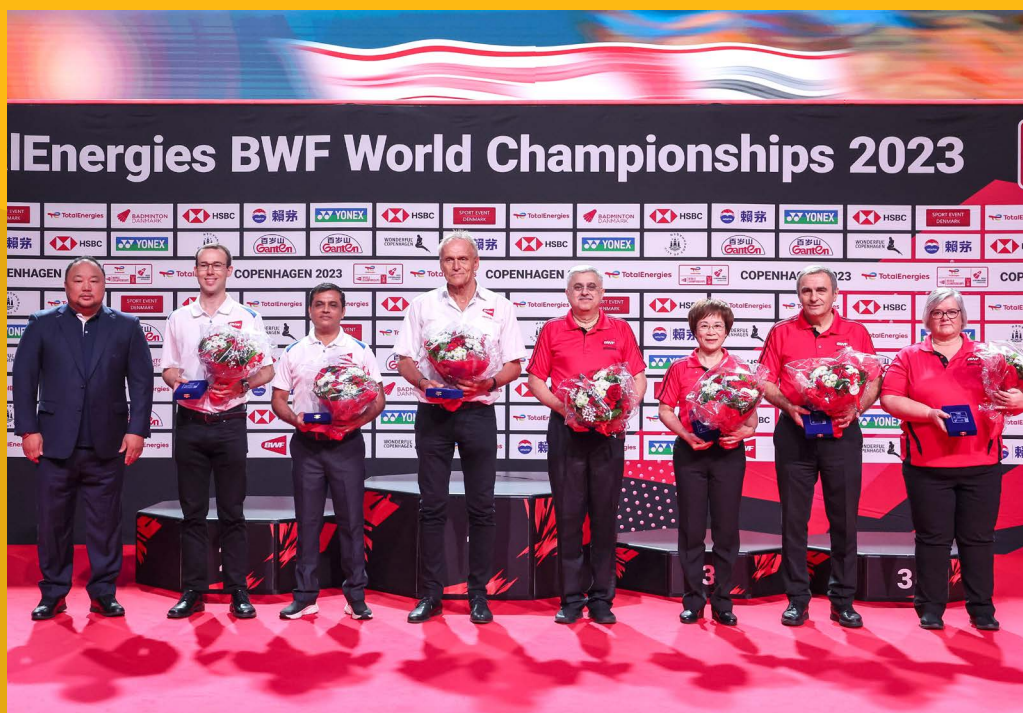
However, if you have any interesting on-court incidents, please record them in your referee report so that we have current case studies to use in training, keeping in mind that if the incident occurred on a non-TV court, please notify the respective BWF Events Staff immediately so that this video can be captured and saved.

If you have an Umpire Assessor working with you, they may also be able to alert you to useful case study matches.

2024 Tournament Assignments

The 2024 tournament calendar of referee assignments has been republished.

It is impossible to meet all your requirements, however, please keep us informed of any changes to your availability so that we can make these adjustments. Your changes may give others an opportunity to have another referee appointment more suitable to their busy lives.



UMPIRE UPDATE



By Malcolm Banham, Chair – BWF Umpire Assessment Panel

Another COC-Tales...where has this year gone? October and nearly Christmas, with a lot of umpiring and appraising still to do.

Mentoring Opportunities

The new umpires that have joined our BWF family recently are asked to take advantage of the mentoring that we have in place, in fact, we expect our new umpires to be involved in this for the first three years. There is a great deal of information on the BWF Corporate website, or please contact the BWF office if you need to confirm how to be involved.

Instructions to Umpires and Service Judges

A review is underway to update this important resource, and we expect to have this completed soon.

Managing IRS

Please make sure you are fully briefed on IRS so you know the exact procedure when a challenge is made.

The service judge should know what is happening so that they can help the umpire with the score if a mistake was made (e.g. wrong button pressed on the tablet too soon). If the service judge does not know the score I would ask, "Why not?" or "What are you doing?" Please be vigilant as you are on TV.

Umpire Uniform / Presentation

As TV and live streaming are often now on all courts, it is important that umpires are well presented in their uniform.

We are developing instructions on the required uniform for all umpires, and this information will be sent out to you soon.

Case Study Videos

There has been much discussion in the BWF Umpire Assessor Panel and BWF Referee Assessor Panel regarding the



use of video case studies for training purposes.

Should an umpire see an incident on court that could be useful as a learning tool, please inform the referee who can ask for it to be saved and sent to BWF for approval for use. These incidents can be both mistakes and excellent examples of umpiring. And, as always, there is no criticism of the umpire and service judge that are involved.

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Guidance on Use of the Fixed Height Service Device

Please note the following guidance of the use of the fixed height service device from the text from the July 2020 edition of COC-Tales:

Fixed Height Service Device

One discussion from the Umpire Assessor Workshop focused on the Fixed Height Service Device. The consensus was that service judges have mastered use of the device, however, it was noted that some are moving the device when they sit in the service judge's chair. While it was originally recommended that the device be at arm's length, this is only a guide as it will be a little different for different service judges.

Please do not move the devices, depending on the floor/court levels this can make a big difference to the height in the centre of the court. The post of the device should be placed closest to the net. The referee has the devices checked before the start of play each day to make sure they are correct and level."



Semi-Professional Umpire Team 2024-2026

Appointments have been made for the new Semi-Professional Umpire team for 2024-2026, as follows:

- ▶ Abdul Latif Jaohari (INA)
- ▶ Kang SunYoung (KOR)
- ▶ Lakpriya Edirisinghe (SRI)
- ▶ Bert Vanhorenbeeck (BEL)
- ▶ Iris Metspalu (EST)
- ▶ Jacob Syndberg (DEN)
- ▶ Trish Gubb (NZL)

Let's all keep working and striving to be the best we can.



STANDING LOWER CLASSES IN PARA BADMINTON

From Page 1

By Carmen Martínez,
BWF Referee

Following the line of expanding our knowledge to better understand the conditions and situations of our Para badminton competitions, we will take an in-depth look at this edition to the aspects related to SL3 and SL4 classes.

All functional classes are perfectly identified with their acronyms, which in this case correspond to "standing lower" players, to refer to athletes who play standing, but have different disabilities in one or both of their lower limbs.

Even though the differentiating aspects of these standing classes are not as significant as in the case of wheelchair players, there are a number of considerations to keep in mind.

About the Players

While both functional classes are showing disabilities in the lower limbs, we can state the main differences when you look from outside: walking ability and running balance.

SL3 players are showing poor walking and running balance, while SL4 players, the one with lower impairment among them, have a minimal walking impairment and good running balance.

The disability profiles can be

varied for these two functional classes: players with disabilities in one leg, with disabilities in both legs, with various conditions and alterations, with prostheses, with malformations, with amputations, and many more.

And, although our role as technical officials is far from being able to make an accurate diagnosis, it is good to know which disabilities may be eligible to compete in Para badminton and which are related to SL3 and SL4 classes:

- ▶ Hypertonia, ataxia or athetosis as a consequence of cerebral palsy, brain injury or some similar health conditions
- ▶ Limb deficiency from a trauma or congenital limb deficiency
- ▶ Impaired range of movement, like joint contractures or ankylosis
- ▶ Impaired muscle power as polio, spina bifida or muscular dystrophy
- ▶ Different length on the legs for various reasons

This high variability should make us understand the complexity of the classification process in these functional classes and the great diversity of functional profiles that can be found in a competition, including very particular cases such as this African player.



(African player BWF webpage -
Other examples of different disabilities)

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Additional Equipment

In order to facilitate the mobility of players according to their profile, BWF Statutes, Section 4.1.7 includes the additional equipment that an athlete may use, when necessary.

Prosthetic Limbs

The most common equipment are prostheses which can be used by amputee players of SL3, SL4 and, very rarely, in WH.

Although there are currently no restrictions on the design or technological aspect of prostheses, there is an obligation to ensure that the prosthetic shall have the same length as the players existing limb, and be in proportion with the player's other limbs.

As written in our Para badminton ITTO, in the event that a prosthesis is damaged and needs repair, the referee must supervise both the repair and the time it takes, and must remain on the court with the player until the situation has been resolved. As in the case of wheelchair players, we must treat these situations with sensitivity and assess the feasibility of repairing the prosthesis in an efficient manner.

Crutches

The other recognized additional equipment is the use of crutches. It is becoming increasingly rare to find these cases, but some players make use of them due to lack of access or not being able to wear a prosthesis due to the characteristics of their disability.

As in the case of wheelchairs, the crutch is considered as a part of the player's body, and the only existing restriction

is that it must not exceed the players' natural measurement from the armpit to the ground.

The Court and Common Sense

There are few differences that we should always keep in mind in our Para badminton competitions and that are directly related to the SL3 class.

One of them is the additional line for the half court situation when SL3 class is playing singles, and the additional chair to be placed on each side of the umpire's chair. As instructed in Para badminton ITTO, that chair is to be used by SL3 players during intervals to rest or to dry their limb. It can, of course, be used during any other playing situation where the player needs to adjust or reposition the prosthesis.

Common Sense in Common Situations

It has happened in many competitions that due to the quality of the tape or the type of surface, the additional line for the SL3 class break down or come unstuck. It may be necessary to check that the additional line is in good condition during SL3 singles matches, but let's not make the mistake of stopping a match to replace the line if it is not necessary. Remove it quickly and let the match continue.

During the match, we should be flexible with the time for SL3 athletes to return to the court after an interval in cases where players are finishing drying their limb. We will try to exert some pressure, but we should not rush the correct fitting of the prosthesis for safety reasons.

Please advise umpires to inform line judges at the meeting point when SL3 singles matches are to be on court, so

they will have the correct information and will be placed in the appropriate position. Service judge may help in this matter.

As far as possible, we must try to make the distance from the meeting point to the court as direct as possible, to avoid long walks for the players, and inform the umpires to maintain a walking pace according to their players. Walking too slowly is not right either!

Lastly, during situations when there may be long waits, such as the meeting point or at the medal ceremony, it is advisable to provide SL3 players with the opportunity to sit down, as in many cases the lack of balance and be waiting on a single limb can accelerate fatigue. For that reason, it may be the case that SL3 players use a wheelchair to move around, even if they subsequently play standing up.

Combinations and Scheduling

Another important aspect of the regulations is the large number of combinations in which classes SL3 to SL5 are involved. This directly affects the final schedule in which we must analyse which classes are most affected by the combinations, and especially in small competitions where we may need to combine men and women to play against each other.

Although these aspects are under the responsibility of the Technical Delegate, our job as referees will be to supervise and collaborate to achieve the best result for everyone.

It is recommended to make use of the Para badminton Events Combination Chart which greatly makes our job easier!

THE TECHNICAL OFFICIAL'S RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP EVERYONE SAFE

From Page 1

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



You have trained hard. You have experienced many tournaments in your local and national area. You have studied the technical officials educational resources, including the Line Judges manual. And, now you are a BWF Technical Official. It is very exciting to be appointed to officiate at a BWF sanctioned tournament either under the jurisdiction of BWF or a Continental Confederation. You have to plan your time away from home, your travel arrangements, plan the clothes you will wear when you are not on duty and all the things involved with attending this tournament.

As part of your preparation, you should ensure you are up-to-date with all BWF Statutes. They are in place to protect the integrity of players, coaches, technical

officials, and other stakeholders. They are regularly reviewed and updated by BWF, so reading them before each tournament is highly recommended. You may think this information is not very interesting to read, but it is very important that you follow all statutes.

The BWF Statutes is the complete set of rules. This includes the BWF constitution, guidelines, policies, the code of ethics, codes of conduct, judicial procedures, Laws, and all technical regulations for the sport of badminton and can be found at <https://corporate.bwfbadminton.com/statutes/>

As a BWF Line Judge, you may believe you have little responsibility on your shoulders, but after reading the statutes

and policies, you come to understand that you are, in fact, a very integral part of a team, required to run the tournament and, as such, you have the same responsibility as every other official.

You should read and follow the Technical Official's Code of Conduct (BWF Statutes, Chapter 2, Section 2.2.5) and be prepared to report any issues you may become aware of as explained in the Whistleblower Policy (BWF Statutes, Section 3.3). Also, you must adhere to all aspects of the Social Media Policy in order to protect the integrity of the game, players, coaches and yourself.

The most obvious statute affecting BWF Line Judges is the Laws of Badminton and Instructions to Technical Officials (BWF Statutes, Section 4.1).

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The ITTO document includes all the instructions you are required to fulfil your role as a BWF Line Judge.

The main focus for Line Judges should be:

- ▶ The Line Judges' Briefing: Clauses 3.4.13-17
- ▶ Line Calls: Clause 5.8
- ▶ Instructions to Line Judges: Clause 8

Once you have absorbed all this information you will be equipped to be a full member of the officiating team.

You may wonder why you are asked to follow so many guidelines that do not apply directly to you. It is perhaps because that in this world of instantaneous social media, we must protect everyone. You may not be aware that players especially are subjected to abuse via social media often.

Kirsty Gilmour, a top player from Scotland, has experienced constant negative comments on social media, which she recently wrote about on BBC Sport News website, and she has kindly allowed me to share the following excerpt (the whole article can be found on BBC Sport News website 25th July 2023):

"Welcome to the world of being a professional athlete. Particularly a female one. And let me tell you, it ain't pretty at times.

"Receiving nasty messages online sucks, to put it plainly. Sometimes it sucks more than others. Mostly, I honestly can just laugh it off, but it really can ruin your day just a little bit. It takes the shine off, you know?"

"There is nothing to be gained by replying to these trolls. Instead, the current course of action is to block the account, report the message to whichever social media site you are using, notify the Badminton World Federation (BWF) and go along your merry way.

"The BWF always take it super seriously, even tracking down the IP



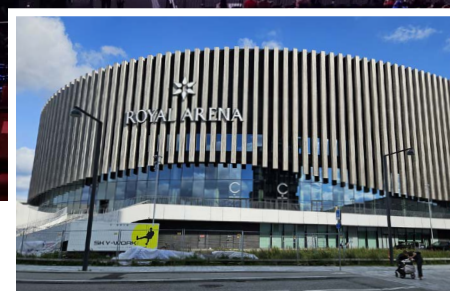
address of a death threat received by one player, and I sincerely thank them for it. But unfortunately, just by the very nature of it, it's always reactionary.

"Judging by the way they reference the scoreline in their message, that is the only thing they have seen. Numbers going back and forth on a screen rather than humans playing a match. "They haven't watched a stream, far less actually been in the hall experiencing it live. There's no comment on the shots played. Most likely, they were watching those numbers on a betting website and I have just lost them money.

"Picture the scene. I've trained for the past 25 years of my life for this moment. I am giving it my all. Sometimes literal blood, sweat, and tears. The natural ebb and flow, ups and downs of the match occur. Then it's over. I've lost. "When that last shuttle hits the floor, I feel like I've been physically gut-punched. I debrief with my coach and we agree I couldn't have done any more. I played great but it just hasn't gone my way.

"Then I reach for my phone and see a DM from an anonymous account. I open it and the usual drivel unfolds.

"If the message catches me at just the



wrong moment and pushes just the right metaphorical button, it makes me want to pulverise my phone and the message sender into a billion tiny pieces, set those pieces alight then bulldoze the ashes.

"This is just one player's experience, I'm sure there are many other examples, so it is our responsibility to protect all of the badminton family by following all statutes, guidelines and protocols issued by BWF."

TotalEnergies BWF World Championships 2023

Nine BWF Line Judges attended the TotalEnergies BWF World Championships 2023, which took place in the Royal Arena, Copenhagen, DEN, from 21-27 August 2023.

For one it was his first World Championships and for another his sixth.

All enjoyed the hospitality of Badminton Denmark and the astounding spectacle of the fantastic music and lighting, as well as the hidden lift which, from the first game, brought players into the arena to rapturous applause from the 10,000 plus spectators.

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Several of the line judges wrote about their experiences. For some, concentrating on 'your line', in this caldron of emotion, was a challenge to which all officials rose. Each line judge has a match which made this tournament extra special for them. Himanshu Anil Shah (ENG) noted that this tournament was a real test of concentration and skills, for which he was grateful for all his practice matches at tournaments nearer to home.

In 2016, Hui Chee Shing (HKG) officiated the men's singles final of the U15 Asia Juniors in Indonesia, and the same two players were facing each other for the title of World Champion here in 2023!

"What an honour to be able to watch player's development, over time, from the side of a court."

For Jan Moller Larsen (DEN), the fact that Viktor Axelsen was beaten in the semi-final was a great shock, but he commented that the players in the semifinals and finals both gave outstanding performances, and having the Crown Prince Fredrick participating in the medal ceremony made this an extra special event for Jan.

The most outstanding match for Ravi Nanadan Shiva Shankar (AUS) was the men's doubles final as the crowd were so loud and the atmosphere was amazing. Ravi has officiated at many tournaments but this was one of the outstanding ones for him.

For Claudio Di Mauro (ITA), this first experience at BWF Major Championship was wonderful and he remembers receiving his BWF certificate with special fondness.

In complete contrast, Dietmar Barten (GER) was attending his sixth BWF World Championship but this tournament surpassed the others due to the largest crowd he had experienced, the fantastic atmosphere, and the fabulous men's doubles semifinal he officiated.

Kun-il Ken Chung (CAN) felt this memorable tournament produced the best matches and an intense competition, played in the best spirit.

The only official who arrived early to the event was Ravi. He took time to take a half day trip to Malmo, SWE, and tour the scenic walks and canals of Copenhagen, including spectating the finals of the Ironman competition. He advises others to try to take time to explore the country you are visiting if you can.

All the officials took the opportunity on the Saturday morning to tour the canals and visit tourist sites in the area, taking the little time they had that day to relax and enjoy the city.

The most outstanding memories for all, is the professionalism of the two Line Judge Coordinators Allan Jensen and Ole Riis, and the friendliness and support of all officials.

Ken summed this up perfectly:

"Every tournament is different, but the badminton family is the same wherever you go: open, friendly, and accepting. Be open to meeting new people and enjoy the experience."

BWF Senior World Championships, Jeonju, KOR, 11-17 September 2023

The BWF World Senior Championships 2023 took place in South Korea from 11-17 September with five BWF Line Judges receiving certificates from BWF Technical Official Commission Chair, Gilles Calvert (FRA).

Mike Spear (ENG) noted that the BWF Senior World Championships 2023 was his first BWF assignment. Overall, the tournament was larger than expected with lots of players covering the various age categories. He noted that friendliness of the local line judges, making all the BWF Line Judges feel welcome. The days were long in the beginning with only two line judges per court, split between two venues and 15 courts. The players were extremely friendly with many coming over to thank the line judges.

Eri Yonekuna and Lok Yun Loi (JPN) were also at their first BWF assignment, enjoying the welcoming atmosphere and the chance to learn about the Korean culture. They were amazed to see players of all levels, skills, and pace staying active and playing at such a competitive level, noting the familiar saying, "We do not stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing."



PAISAN RANGSIKITPHO - TECHNICAL OFFICIAL AND MUCH MORE

**By Torsten Berg,
Member - BWF Referee
Assessment Panel**

Few, if any volunteers at all, have done as much as Pisan Rangsitkitho (THA) for BWF and for the modern game. He was a top class BWF Technical Official and much more than that. Pisan served as a BWF Certificated Umpire until 2002, and as a BWF Referee from 2001, Certificated in 2004. He stepped down from refereeing in 2008, only because he was appointed Chair of the BWF Events Committee, but fortunately he continued as a BWF Referee Assessor until 2017.

I met Pisan Rangsitkitho in December 1986, when I - as a Coach and member

of the BWF Development Committee - directed one of the first BWF coach training courses in a university outside Bangkok. Pisan was among the participants. He was a young naturalized American biology graduate of Thai origin, and a good player as well as a coach. My course programme was ambitious and demanding: even after dinner we had lessons until nine o'clock in the evening. Among my fellow teachers were capacities like Tan Joe Hock (INA) and Hans-Werner Niesner (GER). When I - tired after a long day - came back to my room and looked out the window, I was surprised and impressed: I saw Pisan leading the group of Thai participants. Until midnight he repeated the lessons for his peers in their own

language to make sure they got the most out of the course. Every night.

Pisan is the only BWF Umpire who has officiated in the Olympic Games after having retired! In the Athens 2004 Olympic Games he was the BWF Technical Delegate (TD) and umpire coordinator, having been elected to BWF Council in 1999. On the first morning of competition, barely an hour before play and the worldwide TV transmission was to start, I received a frantic phone call from one of the umpires, Mojmír Hnilica (CZE). He called from the umpires' bus telling me that the driver did not know where he was, did not speak English and that the bus was on the way out of town to the new airport!



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No way they could be in the stadium in time.

As the referee, I had to take a quick decision: I requested Paisean who wore the correct uniform in his capacity as TD to umpire the first match - fortunately we had only scheduled one - and asked Lars Riffe (SWE), an umpire present as a volunteer, to serve as Service Judge. We were ready for worldwide television just on time! I am told that another sport suffering the same problem provided TV with 45 minutes transmission of green grass only. The bus arrived just in time for the second match, and Paisean could return to his TD role.

Paisean Rangsitkitho's contribution to international badminton goes much beyond his work as a technical official. He was a driving force behind the change of scoring system to three games to 21, approved by the membership at the 2006 AGM--a major step forward for the presentation of badminton.

However, probably his most important achievement was the restructuring of the international calendar and the re-launch of the Superseries with the Superseries Final, the predecessor to the HSBC BWF World Tour. As Chair of Events from 2008, he travelled and attended almost all the Superseries tournaments, making sure they lived up to their promises and delivered to the sponsors and the players. In other words, for several years, Paisean covered as a volunteer Chair of Events the hands-on job today done by the professional BWF Events Department staff. With Thomas Lund as the new Secretary General as his partner, they built the financial engine that from then and onwards

constitutes the backbone of our tournament system, to the benefit of both the professional players and BWF.

Towards the end of his tenure on BWF Council, in 2013, he drove another innovation: the Instant Review System (IRS), putting an end to more than a century of frustrating disputes around line calls.

Paisean served on the USA Badminton Board already from 1989, initially responsible for their technical officials programme and organiser of the US Open, and finishing as USA Badminton President in 2008. Meanwhile, he had also organised the BWF World Championships 2005, at home in Anaheim, California.

The Pan American Badminton Confederation (PABC) certainly also could use his energy and know-how. He was a PABC Executive Committee member from 2003 until 2013 and served as the Technical Delegate for badminton in three consecutive Pan Am Games.

In recent years, Paisean has again been chair of the organising committee and the driving force behind numerous badminton and para badminton tournaments back in his native Thailand, including the TOTAL BWF Thomas and Uber Cup Finals 2018 and a series of consecutive top level tournaments during the difficult COVID-19 period. He never stops!

BWF and the entire badminton world can be happy that we have had, and still have, Paisean Rangsitkitho as one of our colleagues as a technical official, innovative administrator, and a very competent organiser of the most complex tournaments.

COURTSIDE

By Miriam Herbst (AUT)

Based on an idea put forward by our umpire colleague Miriam Herbst (AUT), we introduce this new column, open for your contributions and questions.

We know how crucial it is to involve and engage our readers and so this column can help to do just that. With your feedback and input we can ensure that we provide content you want or need to know.

The first contribution, focused on how umpires can best manage colder conditions, comes from Miriam:

- ▶ Danish umpire Michael Stehr always brings an extra pair of warm socks to the hall. The field of play at the YONEX Canada Open 2023 on top of an ice hockey arena so the hall was cold, so the second pair of socks ended up being very valuable!
- ▶ An Icelandic umpire Solveig Jonsdottir brings woolen underwear to wear under the umpire shirt should it get cold.
- ▶ I always bring heat patches in my luggage, in case I need these stickers for my back, when I am freezing.
- ▶ I always have an extra pair of pants with me—one size larger—so that I have enough space to put one or two woolen tights on, when it is really cold.

Please do not hesitate to put forward your proposals, tips and tricks, questions, and ideas that may help and/or interest your technical official colleagues.

Please send them to:
c.trenholme@bwf.sport

CONGRATULATIONS!

BWF congratulates the following Continental Confederation Level Referee who have been upgraded to BWF Level:

BWF REFEREE

Ilkka Vainio (FIN)

2023 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND APPRAISALS

As of October 2023 – calendar subject to change

| Date | Meetings, Workshops and Appraisals | Location | Country | Tournament |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---------|---|
| 17 Oct – 22 Oct | Umpire Appraisals | Odense | DEN | Denmark Open 2023 |
| 24 Oct – 29 Oct | Umpire Appraisals | Paris | FRA | YONEX French Open 2023 |
| 24 Oct – 29 Oct | Referee Appraisals | Surabaya | INA | BNI Indonesia Masters II 2023 |
| 31 Oct – 5 Nov | Referee Appraisals | Kuala Lumpur | MAS | KL Masters Malaysia Super 100 2023 |
| 31 Oct – 5 Nov | Referee Appraisals | Saarbrucken | GER | HYLO Open 2023 |
| 07 Nov – 12 Nov | Referee Appraisals | Tokyo | JPN | Japan Para badminton International 2023 |
| 07 Nov – 12 Nov | Referee Appraisals | Gwangju | KOR | Korea Masters 2023 |
| 14 Nov – 19 Nov | Referee Appraisals | Kumamoto | JPN | Kumamoto Masters Japan 2023 |
| 28 Nov – 05 Dec | Referee Appraisals | Lucknow | IND | Syed Modi India International 2023 |
| 05 Dec – 10 Dec | Referee Appraisals | Guwahati | IND | YONEX-SUNRISE Guwahati Masters 2023 |
| 12 Dec – 17 Dec | Referee Appraisals | Cuttack, Odisha | IND | India Super 100 II 2023 |
| 13 Dec – 17 Dec | Umpire Appraisals | Hangzhou | CHN | HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2023 |
| 11 Dec 2023 | BWF Tournament Doctor Panel Meeting 2023 | Hangzhou | CHN | In conjunction with HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2023 |
| 12 Dec 2023 | BWF Tournament Doctor Preparatory Workshop 2023 | Hangzhou | CHN | In conjunction with HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2023 |