

COCTALES

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ON THE ROAD TO PARIS 2024

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Chair – BWF Technical Official Commission

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By Chris Trenholme,
Deputy Events Director – Technical Events Management

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TECHNICAL OFFICIALS AND SOCIAL MEDIA: KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE AND FIRST BWF EXPERIENCE AS A BWF LINE JUDGE

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

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, YouTube and a whole host of other social media platforms are a great way to share information, photos and news about your life with families and friends.



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ON THE ROAD TO PARIS 2024

By Gilles Cavert,
Chair – BWF Technical Official Commission

FROM THE CHAIR BY
**GILLES
CAVERT**

With just over one year to go, the focus on the upcoming Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games grows ever greater.

The Paralympic Games Qualifying Period started 1 January 2023 and concludes on 31 March 2024. The Olympic Games Qualifying Period started 1 May 2023 and concludes on 30 April 2024.

In that context, the BWF Technical Official Commission is responsible for proposing the technical officials for both Games, including the referees, umpires, and international line judges.

Different selection criteria are considered, including performance, gender representation, and regional representation.

The selection process for Paris 2024 is almost completed, and we anticipate that BWF will confirm these appointments with respective BWF TOs very soon. This

will allow those selected to best prepare themselves in the most efficient way, to meet the pressure and expectations to perform at the highest level. This will include development and strengthening of their own soft skills.

And, as you know, soft skills are key determinants of a high performing BWF TO.

2023 Tournament Schedule

The second half of 2023 is also a very busy one with the TotalEnergies BWF World Championships 2023, BWF World Senior Championships 2023, BWF World Junior Championships 2023, and several HSBC BWF World Tour tournaments.

Semi-Professional Referees and Umpires

The second cycle for the SP Referee programme, and first cycle of the SP

Umpire programme, are concluding at the end of this year.

At the same time, BWF will be confirming teams for the next cycle (2024-2026) in the coming weeks.

BWF Umpire Assessments

Five CC Umpire Candidates were assessed at the KFF Singapore Open 2023 in June, and I am happy to say that all five were successful and will become BWF Umpires (see list on page 18).

Meetings and Workshops

The annual meeting of the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel was held in conjunction with the KFF Singapore Open 2023.

This was followed by a successful BWF-CC Referee Assessor Workshop and annual meeting of the BWF Referee Assessment Panel, both in conjunction with the KAPAL API Indonesia Open 2023. On both occasions, we had the pleasure to welcome and hear from Mr. Zhang Jun, BWF Events Chair.

The BWF Technical Official Commission will hold its annual meeting in Copenhagen, DEN, in conjunction with the TotalEnergies BWF World Championships 2023, in August.





REFEREE UPDATE

**By Jane Wheatley,
Chair – BWF Referee
Assessment Panel**

I recently had the pleasure of appraising referees at the KAPAL API GROUP Indonesia Open 2023. The one thing that stands out in my mind is the excellent teamwork of our referees and umpires, testimony to the fact that our BWF Referee and Umpire Assessor Panels' close working relationship has strengthened our understanding of the need for respect and kindness to each other.

With the support of the BWF Events Committee and Technical Official Commission, we conducted our first BWF-CC Referee Assessor Workshop, in Jakarta. Two representatives per Continental Confederation (CC) were invited to attend and all were members of their various CC's referee assessment panels. One important outcome of the workshop is that BWF will prepare a guiding document for CCs on the criteria to help identify a potential BWF Referee candidate.

It is worth remembering that many of our volunteer referees are happy to remain at the CC level and they are the backbone of our workforce. However, these CC Referees must have the same access as the BWF Referees to guidance, training, continued mentoring, and supervision to ensure they maintain the high standard required to carry out this role.

Gentle Reminders....

As in our daily lives, we must be careful not to become complacent in any role we undertake. Give your best effort, no matter what level of tournament. No tournament is easy and complacency will trip you up.

- ▶ Do not ask for briefing material from others....do your own;
- ▶ Make sure your meeting room is adequate in size, screens are visible to all, practice your presentation before the meeting. Check your equipment is in working order;
- ▶ Continue to cover recent regulations in the Team Managers' Meeting (TMM);
- ▶ Do not rush or short cut important areas;
- ▶ Know your audience and their level of experience at TMMs as this

enables better management of your meeting;

- ▶ Try to condense the number of slides, especially around the clothing advertising as these regulations have remained constant over the past few years; and
- ▶ If there are other people joining the TMM and Umpire Briefing make sure they sit at the back of the room and bring the relevant attendees to the front.

Order of Play (OoP)

If using the "Followed by" format for OoP, explain carefully to the team managers that "TBA" is there to allow the referee to move matches to other courts, as required and with suitable warning to the players, for the presentation of the sport. "TBA" does not guarantee that the match will remain on this court.



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Also, be aware that once you are comfortable that the OoP will remain as published and matches do not need to be moved, please make the change from “TBA” to “Followed by” and ensure this is updated in the TP file.

This format of OoP requires all your skills of anticipation, awareness and effectiveness. Keep a close eye on the schedule and work with your respective BWF Tournament Manager.

“Playing to one’s best ability”

(Players Code of Conduct, Clause 3.2.6)
A player must give their best effort. Struggling through a match, whilst injured, to leave the door open to be able to play in their other event, is not acceptable for presentation of the sport. This leads us to ITTO 3.6.1.3:

“.....a referee may initiate a retirement/withdrawal of a player against his wishes if the Tournament Doctor’s advice is that it is not in the player’s best interests to continue playing.”

Be very careful with these regulations and before taking this step of retiring a player there must be full consultation between the referee and the medical team.

IRS

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.

Scheduling Matches

There are seven points under ITTO, Clause 3.5.17, that give you guidance in the process of each day’s match schedule. You will be well served if you familiarise yourself with these steps.

I draw your attention to 3.5.17.4:

“Any player is entitled to a minimum of a 60-minute interval between matches, or, in exceptional circumstances, the referee can reduce the interval to no less than 30 minutes.”

At the same time, GCR, Clause 11.3, states:

“Any player participating in two matches is entitled to a minimum interval of 60 minutes between them.”

Use your discretion wisely to manage these two instructions.

Umpires

There are a several of areas for discussion to ensure best practice and management of our umpire team:

- ▶ Ensure that bottled water is provided to the service judge so that water can be given to the umpire to have a quick drink during game intervals, if required. Any opened bottles must be removed;
- ▶ Depending on the number of umpires you have on your team, shifts may or may not be required at the quarterfinals stage;
- ▶ Shifts for the umpire team are required for the semifinals stage. This means that two umpire briefings should be held. Give them fair notice so they can plan their day around their appointment.

Best Practice for Selection of Umpires for Finals

Collaborate with your referee team. At the latest, on day three ask your referee team for their top five, then second five, and this gives you the top 10 to watch.

- ▶ Look for the ultimate umpire, who correctly does everything they have been told. If non-compliant with referees’ instructions, then considering taking them off the list;
- ▶ Look at performance during the week. Do not be scared to give people a chance, although it is fine line to risk a less experienced umpire in the glare of a TV court when they have been able to blend in amongst three to four courts during the week;
- ▶ Before reaching the quarterfinal or semifinal stages, give umpires the opportunity to officiate at least one match in each event;

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- ▶ Involve the umpire assessors, if any, in the selection process, even if the referee makes the final decision;
- ▶ If appropriate, include the umpire coordinator in discussion for selection;
- ▶ Try not to give the same match in the semifinals and finals to the same umpire, whenever possible, while applying neutrality; and
- ▶ During your breaks, spend some time with your umpire team to get to know them, using your soft skills of interaction and observation.

Medical Reports

All BWF Referees are encouraged to take a more proactive approach with the host recruited medical team onsite to make this task of medical reporting easier. It would help to establish pre-tournament communication with the medical team, meeting with them onsite before the start of the tournament (and, if changing each day, at the start of each day). Ensure they are reading, among other preparations, the BWF Tournament Doctor guidelines for on-court intervention.

Feedback from the referees on the use of the medical report will be analysed by the BWF Tournament Doctor Panel.

We are halfway through the year and in the key qualification periods for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Your role in ensuring the best opportunity for the players is even more important and I wish you well.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any support.



UMPIRE UPDATE

By Malcolm Banham,
Chair – BWF Umpire Assessment Panel



At the KFF Singapore Open 2023 in June we held the annual meeting of the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel where there were good discussions on various aspects of umpiring.

Para Badminton Integration

As part of the Para badminton orientation process for the panel, David Turner (AUS) attended the Thailand Para Badminton International 2023. David provided a full and very interesting insight into to the workings of BWF Para badminton tournaments from an umpire's perspective. Based on this discussion, the panel has come up with a plan and timeline towards full integration of panel activities at BWF Para badminton tournament, including umpire appraisals

and assessments, and we will keep you abreast as these planning milestones are met.

Retiring BWF Umpire Assessors

Four long-serving BWF Umpire Assessors will be retiring at the end of 2023:

- ▶ Greg Vellacott (AUS)
- ▶ Mike Walker (CAN)
- ▶ Carol Ui Fhearghail (IRL)
- ▶ Kelvin Martin (BAR)

We would all like to thank them for their hard and dedicated work on the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel.

Between them they have spent many years helping to progress umpires to a higher level. Our new assessors have a lot to live up to.



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Workshops at Grade 1 and 2 Tournaments

Workshops for all umpires are scheduled directly after the main Umpire Briefing, so please make good use of these. They are for your benefit as we strive to gain consistency with our umpiring.

Preparing to Perform In-between Assignments

It has been observed that some umpires are not arriving at BWF Major Championships and World Tour tournaments ready and prepared for their matches. While there may be many reasons for that (e.g. impacts from COVID-19 inactivity, other personal commitments). Regardless, there are various ways to keep your mind sharp and ready for your next assigned tournament. All matches are important whether it is the first round or the final, and this is even more timely in the qualification periods for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. There are many TV cameras and live streaming, so you are always on view and lack of confidence can lead to wrong decision-making, so be prepared.

- ▶ Watch many matches on TV or YouTube, and try umpiring when you watch.
- ▶ Practice your announcement looking in the mirror.

Umpire and Service Judge Teamwork

It is good to see some very good cooperation between the umpire and service judge on court, but please remember on IRS courts that the service judge should be completely aware of the challenge and the score when the challenge was made.

BWF Umpire Assessors are always looking to see the service judge supporting the umpire when the decision is correct.

The BWF-CC Umpire Assessor Workshops, including the most recent one held in October 2022, seem to be proving successful. The failure rate of umpires being put forward for BWF assessment has dropped.

We look forward to seeing you all again soon.





BWF TOURNAMENT DOCTOR PROGRAMME 2024-2026 AND BEYOND

From Page 1

**By Chris Trenholme,
Deputy Events Director – Technical
Events Management**

Our sport continues its rapid growth seen in the increasing number of top international tournaments like those at the Major Championships (Grade 1) and World Tour (Grade 2) levels, the number of televised hours worldwide, and the overall quality of sport presentation.

High performing BWF Technical Officials are critical to this presentation, including our Tournament Doctor workforce.

As such, BWF has undergone a review of its Tournament Doctor Programme, to ensure it best meets its commitment to provide appropriate on-court medical care and advice to players at BWF Major Championships to ensure a safe and

healthy environment within which players can compete and showcase our sport.

From this review it was determined that our current volunteer workforce size is too large compared to the limited number of tournaments per year to provide each doctor adequate opportunities to build their skills and experience and ensure a more standardised implementation of policies and procedures, including training and education.

It is also recognised that our workforce, when on assignment, sacrifices personal and professional commitments, including for some, time away from their own medical practice.

With these considerations in mind, BWF has decided to implement the following

new workforce structure starting in 2024, and will undertake an application and selection process:

BWF Tournament Doctor Workforce 2024-2026

Overall Workforce Size:

Up to eight doctors, made up of:

- ▶ Three Semi-Professional BWF Tournament Doctors; and
- ▶ Up to five volunteer BWF Tournament Doctors.

Semi-Professional Tournament Doctors:

Three to four BWF Major Tournament assignments per calendar year

Volunteer Tournament Doctors:

One to two BWF Major Tournament Assignments per calendar year

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Application Information

All existing BWF Tournament Doctors are welcome to apply for either team, as well as other interested doctors not currently part of the current workforce.

Evaluation/Selection Process

Candidate doctors for both teams (Semi-Professional and Volunteer) will be evaluated on a number of factors, including experience (direct sport medicine experience) and availability of time to commit to multiple assignments in a calendar year.

Semi-Professional Employment Contract/ Remuneration

Semi-Professional Tournament Doctors will be offered a three-year appointment contract with BWF to start in 2024, and receive a salary of \$15,000 USD per annum (\$1,250 USD per month). This is on top of normal expenses while on BWF assignment (e.g. daily allowance, insurance coverage, etc.).

Application Information

Interested applicants for both teams should submit the following:

- ▶ Cover letter stating why they wish to become a BWF Semi-Professional Tournament Doctor or BWF Volunteer Tournament Doctor; and
- ▶ 'Badminton' CV including relevant sport medicine experience at the highest levels (badminton experience is preferred).

Applications should be sent to BWF by Friday, 18 August 2023 to:

- ▶ Selena Lim, Assistant Manager, at: s.lim@bwf.sport; and
- ▶ Christopher Trenholme, Deputy Events Director – Technical Events Management, at: c.trenholme@bwf.sport

Timeline

- ▶ Application deadline: 18 August 2024
- ▶ Interviews with selected candidates: September 2023
- ▶ Final selections: October 2023
- ▶ Preparatory Meeting: November / December 2023 (date TBD)
- ▶ Programme start: 1 January 2024



WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE WHEELCHAIR CLASS?



**By Carmen Martínez,
BWF Referee**

In order to gain a deeper practical understanding of Para Badminton competitions, we will be exploring the main factors that influence each sports class, starting from the ones with the highest degree of disability, to those with less impairment, as there are certain aspects that need to be approached differently.

These aspects are closely related to the wheelchair classes.

The Players

Bearing in mind that class 1 players are the most affected in terms of mobility and that they are full-time wheelchair users, will focus on their needs in and outside of the competition.

Proactivity will be necessary to ensure that these players have access to any space in use, so take your time with the venue inspection. There are some considerations that should come as no surprise, and for which we should be prepared.

Also as a preventive measure, as there may be a higher potential risk of injury

during the competition, emergency response mechanisms should be well defined and it is good to know the location of the nearest hospital.

Another highlight will be the detailed review of the wheelchair, paying attention to the angulation of the seat, any advertising and/or hanging objects. Although the players are familiar with the regulations, new ideas and additions are emerging and we need to keep an eye on them.

This also includes small details, such as an element that has been the subject of discussion in recent years: the gloves. Many of our players are wearing working gloves, on which we can see large advertising logos.

The Venue

Accessibility is the first priority for a Para badminton tournament. In addition to the overall accessibility measures (e.g. ramps, lifts, adapted bathrooms, and door dimensions), the number of wheelchair users is the most important to know, in order to anticipate potential problems. There must be a balance between the number of players and the number of adapted spaces available.

Main areas to be monitored are:

- ▶ Access areas and interior mobility, including access ramps, number of entrance/exit doors, and number of wheelchairs that can enter the lift at the same time;
- ▶ Common areas, such as catering services, information desk, stands, etc.;
- ▶ Assembly point, where we need to ensure there will be space for all players to stay, and to circulate in a smooth way, allowing wheelchairs to move around without getting stuck;
- ▶ Same principle should apply to the storage room, where players should be able to change their wheelchairs comfortably. If there are delays in getting players to their wheelchairs or the meeting point area, the schedule can be significantly affected;
- ▶ In case players would not have access to the stands, another suitable space must be reserved within the field of play to be used as a seating area; and
- ▶ Global accessibility for toilets and dressing rooms in terms of space and number must apply. Portable booths have been used as an alternative solution.

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Layout and Wheelchair Courts

According to the BWF Statutes, Section 5.5.2 (Specifications for International Standard Para badminton Facilities), for wheelchair events, it is desirable that the venue has wooden flooring, but a concrete or hard rubber surface may also be suitable, if it meets the necessary mobility and safety conditions.

In contrast to standing events, where the standards and consistency of the courts are much more established, we can find a wide variety of surfaces for wheelchair courts. This may conflict with the interests of the players, especially in that they may not know the surface in advance of the tournament, and may not have had the opportunity to train on that type of court. This could be considered for inclusion in the tournament prospectus, and certainly in our list of questions to the host organiser.

Also, it is critical that the wheelchair

courts are closest to the assembly point, in order to avoid long distance for the players. If it is more convenient, different assembly areas can be created.

Lastly, make sure the courts meet the following conditions:

- ▶ Leave the bottom half of the net untied from the post, to make it easier for players to pass from one side of the net to the other;
- ▶ Ensure the height and position of the player boxes can be reached and used appropriately; and
- ▶ Check that the access path from the assembly point is free of cables or any other obstacle. Players may lose their balance and will not feel comfortable otherwise.

Injuries, Catheterisations and Mechanical Problems

In case of injury or fall, keep calm and ask the coaches for help whenever necessary; they know their players better than anyone else.

As usual, if a player needs to leave the court to go to the toilet, he/she must be accompanied. This is a protocol, but it is worth reminding your umpires. And, it may take longer for wheelchair players!

In case of a broken wheelchair or wheel, we will have to analyse the quickest way to fix it, either by changing the wheel or the wheelchair itself.

Be patient, but ask the players or the coaches to look for the most efficient solution.

Line Judges on Wheelchair Courts

The assistance provided by line judges is always very well appreciated by all technical officials, but in Para badminton tournaments it is essential.

In wheelchair matches, it is often impossible for the umpire to see where the shuttle has landed, as the wheelchairs may block the view. As such, we need to ensure that at least two line judges can be assigned on each wheelchair court from the very beginning of the competition.

Transportation and Accommodation

Although transportation and accommodation are the responsibility of the host organiser, they can have a negative impact on the competition if they are not managed properly, so do not hesitate to ask for as much detailed information you need.

When checking the transport schedule, please note that for the practice day, and the first and last day of the tournament, wheelchair players will bring two wheelchairs with them. Check this information with the hosts. Also remember, that the time it takes to get on and off the transport can be much longer.

Regarding hotels, ensure the organiser is aware of the different levels of adaptations that player may need, including fully adapted for Wheelchair 1 players, and full accessible for Wheelchair 2 players. Provide advice if needed!



Cables on top of the wood



Cables inserted in the wood

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Medals


Dealing with medals can be much more complicated in Para Badminton, especially in competitions where we have classification. The Technical Delegate is responsible for the final calculations and providing the list of medals to be prepared.

Follow the process and be prepared in case there may be combined classes. If in doubt, it is better to have medals left over.

But, above all, make sure that the podium is adapted and that players in wheelchairs will not have access problems.

We just have to learn to see things from a wheelchair!





TECHNICAL OFFICIALS AND SOCIAL MEDIA: KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE AND FIRST BWF EXPERIENCE AS A BWF LINE JUDGE

From Page 1

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

Technical Officials and Social Media

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, YouTube and a whole host of other social media platforms are a great way to share information, photos and news about your life with families and friends. You can communicate in real time to inform or impress everyone with what you are doing and they can respond back to you, instantly.

However, there can be a riskier side to sharing information this way, especially if it is about a tournament where you are officiating, so it is important that you know, understand, and follow the BWF policies, guidelines, Code of Ethics, and Codes of Conduct, to ensure the integrity of the organisation and importantly, protect all technical officials.

BWF respects personal freedom of speech, however, in your role as a BWF Technical Official you have accepted to abide within the BWF Statutes and regulations, so careless comments and ignoring the advice within these guidelines are not compatible with being a BWF Technical Official.

The BWF Social Media Policy has been in place since 2015, but in recent months, it has been noted that some officials are posting information, photos, and/or comments that could place the technical official at risk and undermine the integrity of BWF.

Below are some examples of officials putting themselves and BWF at risk, however, this list is not exhaustive:

- ▶ Sharing photos of appointment letters to tournaments: While it may be exciting to be appointed to a BWF Major Championship, you could be targeted by unscrupulous people to persuade you to make incorrect calls and influence the outcome of a match.
- ▶ Once at the tournament, posting photos of accreditations is prohibited: these could be copied and used to gain entrance to authorised and unauthorised areas of the tournament.
- ▶ Posting photos of operational areas is also prohibited.
- ▶ Do not post daily court or match assignments online. Otherwise, you put yourself at risk of being approached to influence the outcome of a match. If you wish to share this information with family and friends, do it via a private

WhatsApp group, and share only with immediate family and trusted friends.

- ▶ Photographing and posting any specific incidents (e.g. injuries or situations which might arise during a match) and then commenting about these incidents. While you may be part of the BWF team of technical officials, you are not an official spokesperson.
- ▶ Engaging in online discussion about officiating, decisions made by officials, or anything about yours' or someone else's match, either during the tournament or once back home.
- ▶ Selfies with players or other stakeholders. This may seem innocent but could be misconstrued as favouring one player or stakeholder over another, and ultimately call your integrity and bias into question.

The safest thing for all concerned is to avoid any mention of the tournament on social media but post about the area you are visiting and the experience within the country that you are having at that time.

Once you return home, share the photos and information you want but always remain within the limits of what BWF expect of their 'professional' technical officials.

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Experiences of first-time BWF Line Judge Peter Chiu (SCO)

After more than three years of waiting, China hosted the TotalEnergies BWF Sudirman Cup Finals 2023, and this became my first intercontinental travelling experience as a BWF Line Judge.

I responded to a last-minute request from BWF to substitute for BWF Line Judge who was not able to attend, and so I did not have as much time as I normally would to prepare for a trip such as this.

To be available on short notice such as in my case, I recommend the following: Request annual leave from your employer, and check transport connections. My trip to China involved multiple flights, trains, airport shuttles, taxis, and ferries throughout the journey.

Having not been to Asia for many years, this trip offered me an opportunity to stop-over in Hong Kong to see my friends and family before travelling on to Suzhou, China.

The trip went well until I landed at Shanghai Hongqiao Airport. The volunteers who provided pick-up service went to the wrong terminal and I did not have their contact details. I waited at the arrival hall for nearly two hours before finding them. As a lesson learned, I recommend that you always ask for a local contact number for the host organiser before departing, in case of any emergency.

After a 90-minute drive, I arrived at the technical officials hotel where tournament staff were waiting to distribute accreditation badges and tournament information. Following normal practices, we were then taken to the stadium to receive our uniform and attend a briefing.

The referee team brought us into the competition area of the stadium where we were surprised by a special ceremony recognising new BWF Technical Officials. I am proud to be among the new BWF Line Judges to receive a certificate on my first day and in front of my peers.

After the ceremony, all the line judges stayed for a briefing and rehearsal for entering and exiting the court and overall field of play.

The tournament schedule was less intensive the first few days during the group stage. In between sessions, we had the opportunity to explore the stadium areas, including the vendor booths, play games and shop for souvenirs. In particular, one vendor was quite popular for its 360-degree camera to capture the movements of players in a 3-D like moving animation. Another impressive one is located at the entrance of the stadium where fans can have photos with any players of their choice through utilising modern technology. All players were photographed and filmed for a short video when they arrived in

Suzhou. At the stall, your photo would be merged into players to create an effect that looks like your favourite players are standing right next to you, shoulder by shoulder. By simply scanning a QR code, photos and videos can be shared and downloaded to your mobile within no time.

Later in the tournament, I witnessed a retirement ceremony for four Chinese national team players: Chen Long, Zhang Nan, Li Jun Hui, and Liu Cheng. The presentation and accompanying video and music were very emotional for spectators and participants. I felt honoured to have witnessed their retirement and hoped the best for their future.

The most memorable moment of tournament was in the second semifinal between Japan and China which lasted over seven hours! The atmosphere in the stadium was incredible. This team tie took place on 20 May which, in China, is a date written in the order of "520" and pronounced in a very similar way of 'I love you' in Mandarin. At this nerve-cracking moment, a very traditional song, 'the moonlight stands for my heart', was played at match intervals and attracted audiences of the entire stadium to sing along.

It was two o'clock in the morning when we returned to the hotel and so several of us decided to go for supper in the city centre where I was surprised to discover was quite busy at that hour with a variety of food and snacks on offer. What a lifestyle!



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The next day, I and two colleagues took the opportunity to visit the beautiful old town of Suzhou, known for its traditional gardens and numerous waterways. Having spent my first few days between the hotel and the stadium, this was my first opportunity to enjoy the scenery of this picturesque environment.

I really enjoyed this relaxing experience, which helped me prepare for the finals later that day.

As it was the last day of the tournament, the majority of us came together to take photos with each other, and to stay and watch the awards ceremony. It was difficult to say goodbye, but we will see each other again at the next tournament somewhere else in the world.

Here is a brief summary of my experiences at TotalEnergies BWF Sudirman Cup Finals 2023:

- ▶ The tournament programme/schedule is generally similar to that in Europe.
- ▶ Technical officials were accommodated in the best hotel in the city which is fully equipped with all facilities.
- ▶ The volunteers based in the hotel and stadium are mostly students of Suzhou University. Language is not a barrier as they speak good English.
- ▶ Lunch and dinner (wide variety) were provided at the stadium every day in the TO Lounge, enabling us to stand by for our shifts, with other snacks in between meals.
- ▶ Finally, I am very grateful for the welcome gift of Suzhou silk, and a pair of tournament waterfowl mascots "Gu Gu" and "Su Su" provided by the Chinese Badminton Association. They are happily living in Scotland now.

In addition, my personal experience tells me that street food in Asian countries is very appealing. However, I tried not to eat on the street before and during the competition, and avoided frozen drinks with ice cubes, which could easily upset my stomach.

Also, summer in Asia can be hot but keep in mind that indoor temperatures can be significantly cooler, so it is wise to carry a long-sleeved top on the go, to help maintain your body temperature.

And, pack medicine in your luggage, including Ibuprofen, Paracetamol, Charcoal, etc., as a back-up.



THREE GREAT BWF UMPIRES

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

Badminton is changing, developing all the time. Umpiring, too.

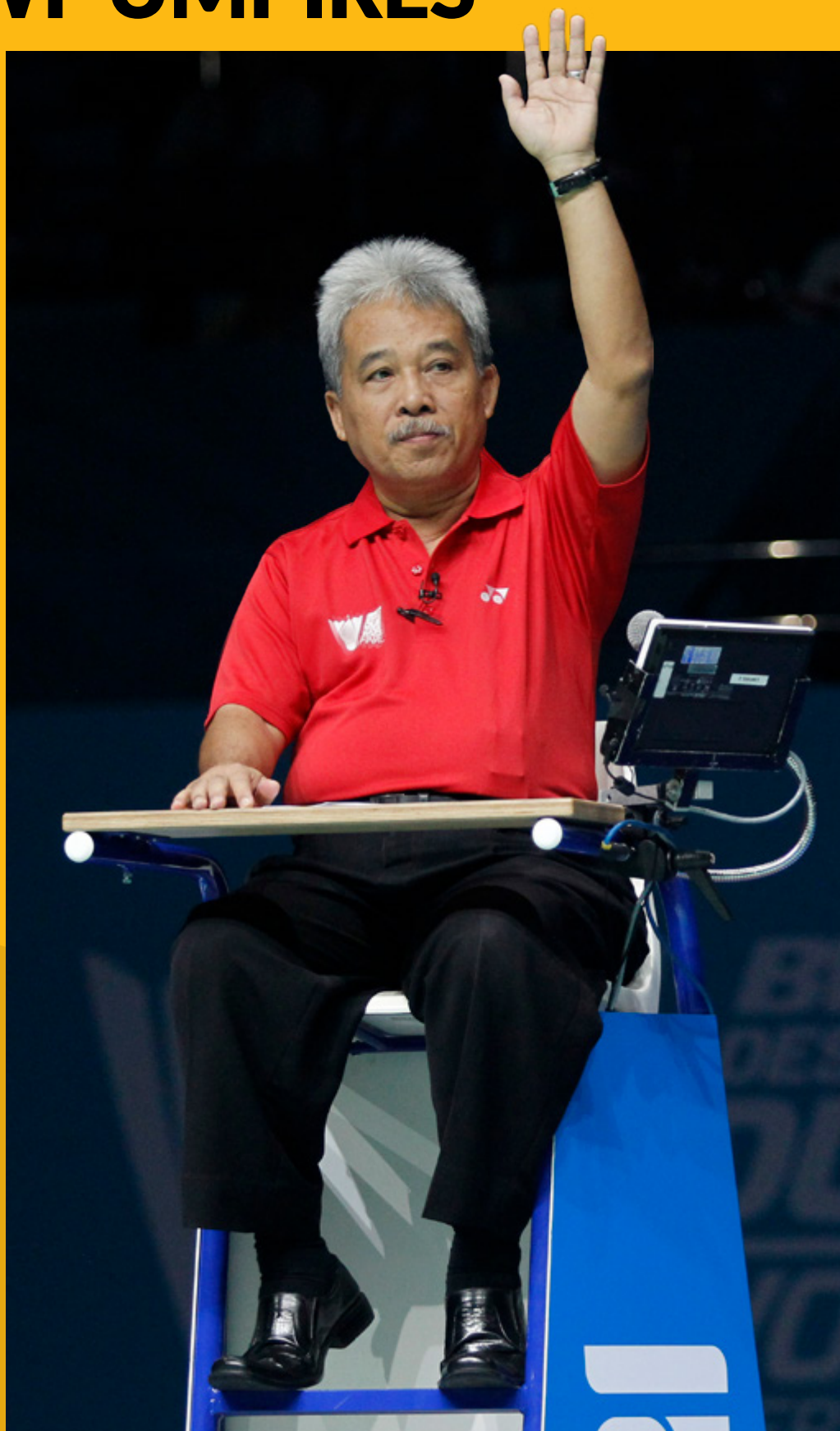
Today we have the Instant Review System (IRS), and we can hardly remember that only 10 years ago a lot of our time and energy was spent on disputed line calls. As service judges, we now have the tools that help us to decide if the service is correct. There were days when we did not even have scorepads, but used only scoresheets. However, we also then had great umpires. Umpires who were firm and fair. Umpires who controlled the matches, so that the best players of those days had confidence in them and could focus their full attention on the match.

Unang Sukardja (INA)

Unang Sukardja was one of the very best umpires and he finished at the pinnacle of his career. He was in the chair in what many have considered the best match ever played: the very close and hard fought men's singles final of the London 2012 Olympic Games between Lin Dan (CHN) and Lee Chong Wei (MAS). Unang managed that job impeccably, as he did so many other challenging duties.

His smiling appearance and friendly manners won him many friends among the BWF Technical Officials of his generation. He was an excellent example and a good teacher for younger colleagues. Sadly, shortly after having retired from BWF umpiring and embarked on a refereeing career, Unang suffered a hemorrhagic stroke and passed away at only 55 year of age.

Unang had also umpired at the Sydney 2000 and the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, and he will be remembered by those who met him for his high standard in the chair as well as for his pleasant and helpful character.



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Vemuri Sudhakar (IND)

Vemuri Sudhakar was a great umpire and a much used teacher and mentor for technical officials in India as well as for Badminton Asia (BAC). He umpired in the final rounds of the badminton competitions in three consecutive Olympic Games: Barcelona in 1992, Atlanta in 1996, and Sydney in 2000, following which he focused on teaching and training his successors, and on refereeing.

Sudhakar was a much respected umpire in his days, and in particular, a highly appreciated educator, admired for his accuracy and attention to details. At the time of his untimely death from COVID-19 in 2021, Vemuri still served as Deputy Chair of the BAC Technical Official Commission, after having finished as a BWF Umpire Assessor and representative of BAC in the BWF Technical Official Commission a few years earlier. For his services to the international game, Vemuri received the BWF Distinguished Service Award in 2015.

These three great umpires portrayed are some of the pillars on which our international badminton tournaments were built. Each of them served as an example to follow for their younger colleagues, and their personal generosity with their knowledge helped many to improve their own performance.

We owe them a great deal for bringing badminton and badminton umpiring forward in their time, and their impact—while difficult to measure—linger on until today.

Karl-Heinz Helmdach (GER)

Karl-Heinz Helmdach was one of the very best BWF Certificated Umpires and an excellent example for his colleagues, suitably terminating a long career in the chair in the medal matches of the Barcelona 1992 Olympic Games. Moreover, he was an able and constructive manager and served Badminton Europe (BEC) as a member of the BEC (then EBU) Technical Committee from when this committee was formed in 1980 until he retired in 1993.

His role was the development and management of all European umpires, a duty he fulfilled with energy and diplomacy. Karl-Heinz—or “Charly Helmdach”, as he was affectionately known—contributed substantially to the development and the rising standard of umpiring in Germany and Europe in the 1980s and early 1990s.

Karl-Heinz was also a good referee, firm but fair and always with an eye on umpire performance. His pleasant personality and many qualities made him a highly appreciated colleague among international technical officials.



CONGRATULATIONS

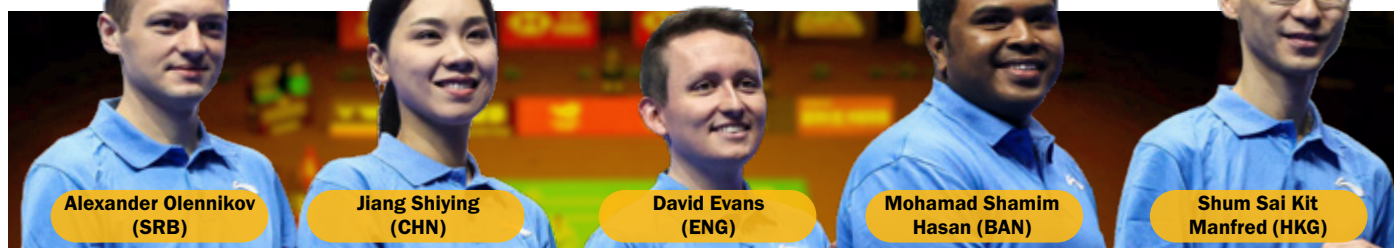
BWF congratulates the following Continental Confederation Level Referees and Umpires who have been upgraded to BWF Level:

BWF REFEREES

Jayashree Sasisekharan Nair
(BRN)

Rohana De Silva
(SRI)

BWF UMPIRES



Alexander Olennikov
(SRB)

Jiang Shiyang
(CHN)

David Evans
(ENG)

Mohamad Shamim Hasan
(BAN)

Shum Sai Kit Manfred
(HKG)

2023 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND APPRAISALS

As of July 2023 – calendar subject to change

Date	Meetings, Workshops and Appraisals	Location	Country	Tournament
25 Jul – 30 Jul	Umpire Appraisals	Tokyo	JPN	DAIHATSU Japan Open 2023
01 Aug – 06 Aug	Umpire Appraisals	Sydney	AUS	SATHIO Group Australian Open 2023
02 Aug – 06 Aug	Umpire Appraisals	Sheffield	ENG	4 Nations Para badminton International 2023
21 Aug – 27 Aug	Umpire Appraisals	Copenhagen	DEN	TotalEnergies BWF World Championships 2023
18 Aug – 20 Aug	TOC Meeting 2023	Copenhagen	DEN	In conjunction with TotalEnergies BWF World Championships 2023
05 Sep – 10 Sep	Referee Appraisals	Medan	INA	BNI Indonesia Masters I 2023
11 Sep – 17 Sep	Umpire Appraisals	Jeonju	KOR	BWF World Senior Championships 2023
02 Oct – 08 Oct	Umpire Appraisals	Spokane	USA	BWF World Junior Championships 2023
17 Oct – 22 Oct	Umpire Appraisals	Odense	DEN	Denmark Open 2023 Presented by VICTOR
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	TBC	MAS	Malaysia Super 100 2023
31 Oct – 5 Nov	Referee Appraisals	Saarbrücken	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, Assam	IND	India Super 100 I 2023
12 Dec – 17 Dec	Referee Appraisals	Cuttack, Odisha	IND	India Super 100 II 2023
13 Dec – 17 Dec	Umpire Appraisals	TBC	TBC	HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2023