

COCTALES

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HEAD OF TECHNICAL OFFICIALS UPDATE



By Lynne Nixey

Having now held the position of Head of Technical Officials for one month, I find myself considering 'what is a technical official'? The term 'technical officials' encompasses more than referees, umpire and line Judges, who are our front line and the 'face' of TOs on the court. Technical officials also include BWF Tournament Doctors and Classifiers, the Medical and Tournament Doctor Panels, Referee and Umpire Assessment Panels, and Technical Delegates. All together we strive to remain fair and uphold the regulations that govern us in our roles.

That is why it is difficult for us as TOs to hear criticism from our friends the 'keyboard

warriors' who apparently could do a better job than all of us and know the regulations better. I feel proud at the beginning of a tournament when, the first match is called, and a stream of TOs take the court to undertake their duties for that match. At that stage, we can all take satisfaction in knowing that all TOs – whether on the court, or in other roles – have done their job to their greatest ability.

Of course, the criticism will continue and with the advent of instant replays, all matches being streamed live and social media's ability to comment on every shot and drop of sweat within seconds of it having happened, it is inevitable that our performances will be

judged. After all, for some reason it is very easy to criticise but seemingly not so easy to compliment.

So, in my opening gambit as Head of Technical Officials, I would like to congratulate you all for the dedication and professionalism you all strive to achieve.

None of us ever go out there with the intention of making a mistake but these are inevitable until we are all fully replaced by robots (not currently in any plans!!).

So, I say keep up the good work, continue to strive for the best, and work constantly on improving your performance. After all, it is only a fool who thinks they know everything!



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KAPAL API Indonesia Open 2025 - Referee - Ian Ross (ENG)

FROM THE CHAIR BY
GRETHA PRINSLOO

REFEREE UPDATE

Where has this year gone? In this edition, we will discuss current issues affecting referees and their team of technical officials.

To improve the performance of our technical officials you are regularly appraised by members of our BWF Referee Assessment Panel.

There are no easy tournaments. You are dealing with an array of people with different personalities; they have very different tasks associated with tournaments and are very busy with their workload for the week. You must appreciate that they are giving their best to carry out their allocated task and a simple acknowledgement of this goes a very long way in making your job easier.

An area of importance is how we integrate with our fellow TOs. Communication skills come easily to some and may be more difficult for others and how you speak to your team needs careful consideration and

therefore preparation on how you plan to deliver your message.

It is very easy to be misconstrued if your tone of voice and body language is too firm or negative. Comments to your team should be measured in a positive and objective way to encourage them, not pull them apart. It takes a lot of effort to repair any damage.

It is imperative that your team feel safe and supported by you, their referee.

Umpires are your greatest asset, and the referee team needs to manage them in a way so that they feel supported while allowing them to work towards achieving their goal of performing at the highest level.

There is no greater support for an umpire than to see the "red shirt" nearby, obviously keeping a close watch on the match, ready to assist if needed. Referees need to get

away from the desk and have a presence in the stadium.

Laws of Badminton and ITTOs

As you know, we have tightened up on time wasting on the courts. It has taken a few years of hard work with support from the BWF and the BWF Medical and Tournament Doctor Panels who have provided the medical rationale of how we deal with on-court injuries.

This year we have seen the unusual incident of requests to leave the court for a bathroom break.

Should this occur, the player must make their request immediately the interval begins and the umpire is to ensure the player is aware they will be expected to be back on court ready to play when the umpire calls the time (Law 16.4; the umpire shall be the sole judge of any delay in play).

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If not, a player is subject to the following regulations:

ITTO 5.10.1

The Umpire shall ensure that players do not leave the court without the Umpire's permission (Law 16.5.2) except during the intervals described in Law 16.2, or that when doing so they do not delay play. A change of a racket at courtside during a rally is permitted.

ITTO 5.10.2

An offending player(s) shall be reminded that leaving the court needs the Umpire's permission (Law 16.5.2) and if necessary, Law 16.7 shall be applied.

Reference as above to Laws of Badminton as follows:

Law 16**16.2 Intervals**

16.2.2 Not exceeding 120 seconds between the first and second game, and between the second and third game shall be allowed in all matches.

16.4 Delay in Play

16.4.2 The umpire shall be the sole judge of delay in play.

16.5 Advice and leaving the court

16.5.2 No player shall leave the court during a match without the umpire's permission, causing delay to play, except during the intervals as described in Law 16.2.

and, if necessary:

16.7 Administration of a breach

16.7.1 The umpire shall administer any breach of Law 16.2, 16.5.2 or 16.6;

16.7.1.1 issuing a warning to the offending side; or

16.7.1.2 faulting the offending side, if previously warned; or

16.7.1.3 faulting the offending side in cases of flagrant offence or breach.

These references clearly define the position to be taken by the umpire and supported by the referee.

It is important that you, as referee, discuss this with your team at your briefing so you clear up any worries the umpires may have in how you expect them to administer the Laws of badminton.

It is much easier to deal with issues early in the piece and stop them from escalating and becoming a problem.

Looking forward

With half the year gone, we are now turning our attention to preparation of the BWF Referee Workshop 2026. You have received an email from the office seeking your input into topics of interest that you would like to see covered and we welcome constructive feedback and suggestions for your workshop.



Federico Valdez (PER) - 2nd from the right with Referees from PANAM at the 2020 BWF Referee Workshop.

It is with sadness that we note that retired BWF Referee Federico Valdez (PER) has passed away.

Our condolences to the Valdez Family during this time.



KFF Singapore Badminton Open 2025 - Referee - Eric Lissillour (FRA) and Umpire Assessor - Gilles Cavert (FRA)



TOYOTA Thailand Open 2025 - Referee - Girish Natu (IND), Deputy Referee - Zahra Rahmat Haghnejad (IRN), Umpire Assessor - David Turner (AUS)

UMPIRE UPDATE



KAPAL API Indonesia Open 2025 - Umpire - Sudip Barve (IND)

By Gilles Cavert,
Chair – BWF Umpire Assessment Panel

The Road to More Flexibility...

The continuity of the game has been, and remains, a key objective for us as BWF Technical Officials.

In that context, umpires do their best to manage the delay between rallies as efficiently as possible, and hence fulfil the expectations of our stakeholders, including sponsors, TV broadcasters, and BWF Council.

However, full continuity is, of course, a mirage. As such, umpires must remember that the game is for the players, including

providing them time to breath between rallies.

Badminton has become a sport show and all stakeholders are looking for spectacular rallies whereas the players can use their full potential.

BWF is currently looking for efficient court management with the upcoming implementation of time clock, limiting the break to 25 seconds between rallies.

On the other hand, BWF Umpires have been meeting unexpected and unpredictable situations in recent tournaments.

Players Leaving the Court During Intervals

There have been recent examples at World Tour tournaments where players left the court between two games for personal health reasons. Umpires should take into consideration flexibility in the on and off-court management of the players, and each tournament may require different approaches due to the layout of the FOP, distance to changerooms and toilets, etc.

This management requires close collaboration with the referee team to ensure a tournament by tournament approach.

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KFF Singapore Badminton Open 2025 - Freek Cox-Aloo (NED)

We need to consider how our Laws and regulations are perceived by our key stakeholders, fans, and media, and the impact this may have on the reputation of the BWF.

Service Judge: A Saviour of Last Resort

Since the beginning of the year, several on court situations have again highlighted the crucial role of the service judge when it comes to helping the umpire to solve tricky situations.

In that context, soft skills are essential to increase the performance level of the service judge, and more precisely, alertness, reactivity, and efficient communication (teamwork) with the umpire.



TOYOTA Thailand Open 2025 - Umpires Kang Sun Young (KOR) and Ramida Ashsawaphosop (THA).

Most of these scenarios seem to happen after an IRS challenge, with the risk of the umpire calling a wrong score. As such, full concentration of the service judge is essential!

In 99% of cases, the players are aware of the right score. And the ones who do benefit from the

umpire's mistake are not at the net, stating that the umpire is right, but are elsewhere, waiting for the case to be resolved by the umpire, the service judge or the referee!

Sometimes, in a very noisy environment, players do not pay attention to the umpire's call, and the server and receiver take their positions, assuming the correct

score. This gives the umpire clear information, and this should be considered.

We are human and mistakes will happen. Nevertheless, the global objective is to correct them as quick as possible.

Remember: the game is for the players.

WORKING ON RE-ENTRIES PROCESS FOR PARA BADMINTON

Dubai Para badminton International 2025
Referee - Karin Bester (RSA)

**By Carmen Martínez,
BWF Referee**

The season is progressing and some of the changes we announced in January have begun to take shape. As we mentioned in previous editions, both the BWF staff and the Working Group for the integration of the Technical Delegate's role and the Referee are making progress with small decisions to improve the re-entry process.

Just a few months ago, Syahmi Sabron, BWF Para Badminton Manager, established the general guidelines that are being followed this season, at a meeting held with the current active technical delegates, and which will be refined by the Working Group in the coming months.

Although this may not be the final format, we would like to share how it is



being developed, as it influences our preparations for the remaining competitions this year.

Where do re-entries come from and why are they important?

The re-entry process has been a feature of para badminton since its inception. On the one hand, doubts arising from classification, often combined with a lack of players due to the sport still being growing, meant that we were and still are faced with

situations where this 'second chance' is necessary to:

- ◀ Offer players the opportunity to participate in more events;
- ◀ Ensure a minimum number of players per event;
- ◀ Encourage new countries to fully participate;
- ◀ Confirm the final number of players in each event;
- ◀ Make it possible to hold certain events and, consequently; and
- ◀ Promote the achievement of ranking points.

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Related problems

Until recently, rankings were a manual process that took a lot of time and was prone to errors. In addition, there was classification for all tournaments, which made it difficult to evolve towards a more professional system.

Fortunately, in the current competition structure, these issues are no longer a problem, but having to wait for the second Delegates' Meeting to receive the complete list of withdrawals and pairings has continued to significantly extend the information required to finalise the draws and schedules in a 'convenient' time for players on the day before the start of the competition, making it necessary to seek solutions.

Communication and re-entries

Main key to resolving these issues was the inclusion of a prior communication system that would allow us to have all the necessary information in advance, before and up to the first, and ideally single, Team Manager's meeting.

Thus, the proposal system implemented by BWF to date is as follows:

- 1
CREATE A COMMUNICATION GROUP
- 2
DISTRIBUTE PLAYER LIST AND RE-ENTRY FORMS
- 3
BWF COLLECT RE-ENTRIES VIA MAIL
- 4
SUBMISSION OF LAST RE-ENTRIES TO T.D. AT TOURNAMENT LOCATION
- 5
FINALIZE ENTRY LIST AND DISTRIBUTE TO TM BEFORE THE MEETING
- 6
WORK ON DRAWS AND SCHEDULE AS SOON AS TMM IS FINALISED

With this new process, one week before the competition, a communication group is created to send the re-entry form to all team managers, and the TP file is updated by the BWF so that, upon arrival at the competition venue, the TD and referee will receive the updated file and can continue with the final part of their preparation.

During practice time and classification, if applicable, both, TD and referee will get the latest updates from the various Member Associations, and the almost final list of players will be sent via the communication group for review by the team managers, avoiding having to hold the second meeting.

But, given that unexpected contingencies may always arise, it is recommended that

team managers be given a limited amount of time, approximately one hour after the meeting has ended, after which we will be ready to prepare the competition draws and schedules.

Thanks to this new approach, communication between the team managers and TOs is fluid and continuous, which greatly facilitates the work prior to the competition. In addition, it helps all participants to understand and follow the process and avoid errors in the final draws.

Although it is still in the experimental phase, we are undoubtedly closer to achieving a simple and effective way of resolving the initial phase of our para badminton competitions. We will continue to keep you updated on new developments.



Dubai Para badminton International 2025

GETTING READY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR

By by Marisa Baird

**Badminton Scotland Line Judge Coordinator/
BEC Line Judge Representative**

Why are we trialling the 3 x 15 scoring system and BWF Line Judge reports from the TotalEnergies BWF Sudirman Cup Finals 2025

The BWF held its Members Forum and AGM in Xiamen, CHN, on 25-26 April 2025. Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul was elected BWF President (2025-2029) and retiring President Poul-Erik Hoyer, was honoured by BWF membership electing him BWF Honorary Life Vice President, following his 12 years of service.

Details of the AGM can be found on BWF Corporate website, but special attention should be paid to BWF Members Forum, Session 4 on "Events Innovation", led by Thomas Lund (BWF Secretary General) also including Richard Vaughan (BWF Chief Operating Officer BWF) and Greysia Polii, (Chair, BWF Athletes' Commission), which discussed the upcoming possible changes to the scoring system.

The presentation was fascinating and gave an insight into the scientific way in which the decision has been made to trial the 3 x 15 scoring system which is being tested at selected national and international tournaments (See BWF website for details).

Thomas explained that due to improved athlete development over recent years, the new system may allow games to possibly be slightly closer, scheduling would be better, and matches would be of a more consistent duration. There was merit in changing the game to adapt to the changing player, allowing for improved health and longevity while increasing the spectator excitement and overall enriching the experience of player and spectator.

Greysia spoke eloquently about the athlete's open-mindedness and willingness to try the new concept, as the players believed it would reduce physical and mental stress and it would be good for athlete well-being by making the match more aggressive from the start while reducing the time on court.

If you officiate at one or more of these tournaments, I would be happy to receive your comments for possible inclusion in a future COC-Tales edition.

The first BWF tournament featuring BWF Line Judges in 2025 was the TotalEnergies BWF Sudirman Cup Finals, which took place in Xiamen, China 27 April to 4 May 2025.

Four of the appointed Line Judges share their experiences and photos

Christy Villafior (MNP)

How did you plan this trip, did you require a visa, how was your journey to China and the event?

"China where the event was hosted required us to get Visa fortunately on my 1st assignment it was in China also and I was able to get a 10-year Visa. Thus, makes it easier for me since I don't need to process anymore."

What are your impressions of China, the arena, the spectators, the players, the food and the event as a whole?

"Overall organization was good, the spectators on the semis and finals are amazing. Players giving their best and the event as a whole was great. Food is okay."

Was your trip home eventful, how will you share your experiences with your colleagues at home, what are your lasting memories of this experience?

"Another valuable experience that I can share to our younger technical officials."

Hoping that they will be inspired and would look up that officiating is another pathway for Badminton and even if our country is small we have the chance to represent and experience world class competitions broadening our horizon and vision of the sports."

My Experience at the TotalEnergies BWF Sudirman Cup in Xiamen by Pia Mölder (GER)

From the moment I arrived in Xiamen, I was warmly welcomed by the helpful volunteers who supported us throughout the check-in process at the hotel.

The atmosphere was incredibly friendly, and I felt part of a fantastic group of both international and national line judges who were always there to offer guidance and support.

Right from day one, the matches were thrilling, and the energy during ties involving China was simply electric.

The arena itself was stunning and provided an unforgettable backdrop for the tournament.

We had one day off, which we spent together exploring the city. We visited the ferry terminal and later enjoyed a lovely dinner featuring local seafood. It was a great opportunity to relax and bond with fellow officials.

Throughout the tournament, we were well taken care of — the organizers made sure we had plenty of food and tried to minimize our waiting times between matches.

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Everything was very well coordinated.

As a European, walking across the plaza in front of the arena was quite the experience. I drew a bit of attention, which made the cultural contrast even more memorable.

One of my personal highlights was sitting courtside for the women's doubles semifinal between Indonesia and Korea. After an intense 91 minutes, the Korean pair clinched the deciding point for their team. It was a thrilling and unforgettable match to witness up close.

On finals day, watching China win the Sudirman Cup on home soil was another goosebump moment. The atmosphere created by the fans and the teams was incredible.

Aurore Lequatre (BEL)

As usual, we had a very good tournament in China. Crowds were amazing, competition was nice and colleagues were fantastic. We are always warmly welcomed in China!

I just would like to highlight some points:

- ◀ Travel expenses: knowing the situation of BWF, I am still surprised BWF is not willing to cover our flight ticket, as it's done for the other technical officials;
- ◀ Arrival date: arriving the day before the competition starts is not always easy. We don't have 24 hours (or a night) to adapt to the jet lag, the first day of the competition is usually quite difficult and exhausting;
- ◀ Having a day off was very kind of our LJ Manager and really appreciated; and
- ◀ Clothing sizes communicated by BWF to the organisers are not always correct (they have communicated our European size, which have been used as Asian size).

My TotalEnergies BWF Sudirman Cup Finals 2025 Experience by Bang EunHye (KOR)

I am a BWF Line Judge from South Korea. I am also a former national-level badminton player who transitioned into officiating and coaching after early retirement due to injury.

Being involved in badminton in so many different roles has given me a unique appreciation for the sport on and off the court. Through writing, I hope to share the passion, pride, and quiet moments that define life behind the lines.

Preparation and Journey to the Tournament

Preparing for this trip to China was relatively smooth. Thanks to the temporary visa waiver for Korean nationals visiting China (from November 30, 2024 to December 31, 2025), I did not need to go through the visa application process.

Once I received the official invitation from the tournament organizers, all I had to do was book my flight. However, since the event overlapped with national holidays in both Korea and China, securing a flight ticket was slightly challenging. Fortunately, I managed to book one in time for the meeting on April 26.

The flight from Incheon to Xiamen was quite turbulent due to severe air currents. Upon arrival, light rain was falling in Xiamen. The tournament organizers kindly arranged an airport pickup, which allowed for a comfortable transfer to the hotel. The hotel and the venue were about 25 minutes apart by bus, with the route crossing a long bridge over the sea, which left a strong impression (Figure 1).

Before the BWF Annual General Meeting, I participated in an umpire seminar, where we discussed various recent match issues. As someone currently preparing for the Badminton Asia Umpire exam, it was a valuable and enriching experience.

The way from the hotel to the gymnasium. (Figure 1)



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visit was also to Xiamen, where I had come as a coach leading a team for training.

The second visit was to Qingdao this past February for the Asia Mixed Team Championships 2025, where I served as a line judge. Given the geographical proximity, traveling to China is quite convenient, and the people I encountered in each city were always warm and kind. I could truly feel the growing interest and hospitality toward Koreans, possibly influenced by the rise of K-culture.

The event was exceptionally well organized, with an efficient system that impressed me deeply. Countless volunteers fulfilled their respective roles with dedication. I was especially struck by how each group had its own entry zones, transportation, and movement paths, allowing the tournament to run smoothly and systematically.

The Sudirman Cup Finals, being a national team event, naturally attracts top-ranked players from around the world. Watching such high-level matches was a joy. It was also thrilling to see some of my favourite players right in front of me — although as a line judge, I had to hide my emotions and maintain neutrality at all times.

After dinner and some waiting time in the line judge room, I attended the line judge meeting, where I received an unexpected and meaningful gift: my official BWF Line Judge appointment certificate.

Holding that acrylic plaque and taking a photo to commemorate the moment made everything feel real: I had truly become a member of the BWF Line Judge family.

My fellow colleagues warmly congratulated me, making the moment even more special (Figure 2).

After the meeting, we went into the stadium for an entry and positioning rehearsal. I was left speechless at the sheer size of the venue and the number of spectator seats (Figure 3). The thought of fulfilling my line judge duties in such a grand arena was both thrilling and humbling. What moved me most was the realization that I was now participating in the prestigious Sudirman Cup Finals not as a player, but as a technical official.

Impressions of China, the Venue, the Event, and Overall Atmosphere

This visit marked my third time in China; all related to badminton. Coincidentally, my first



Panoramic view of the stadium. (Figure 3)

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In terms of food, breakfast was provided at the hotel, while lunch and dinner were served as boxed meals at the venue. While the meals were decent, eating the same style of food every day did get a bit tiring. However, the organisers did a fantastic job by constantly providing snacks, instant noodles, and coffee, making sure we were always well taken care of. Still, I do feel a bit disappointed that I did not get a proper taste of local Chinese cuisine, given the country's rich culinary culture.

On the fifth day of the tournament, I had a scheduled day off, which I spent with fellow BWF Line Judges. We went shopping, had a light lunch, and later visited a tourist site. Unfortunately, it coincided with Labor Day in China, so the area was extremely crowded.

We had dinner at a seafood restaurant and explored a local market before heading back to the hotel. Since the tourist area was more than 30 minutes away by taxi, and our

daily routine usually started at 7:30 a.m. and ended around 10 p.m., there was little opportunity for sightseeing or exploring the neighbourhood. Though that was slightly regrettable, I reminded myself that I was in Xiamen to fulfil my line judge duties, and I felt no real disappointment.

Meaningful Moments, Lasting Memories, and Looking Ahead

One of the most heartwarming moments was during the quarterfinals when the organiser and technical officials held a birthday celebration for those born in April and May. Since my birthday is on 7 May, I had the pleasure of joining the celebration and receiving heartfelt birthday wishes. Sharing the cake with everyone made me feel truly valued and appreciated (Figure 4).

During the event, I also took the initiative to create a WhatsApp group chat for all participating international line judges. It

became a great platform for sharing photos, updates, and staying connected. I am happy to say that we'll continue to use it to keep in touch even after the tournament. I am truly grateful to have met such amazing colleagues and friends (Figure 5,6,7).

Looking back, I feel a deep sense of pride and satisfaction. As a former player now participating as a technical official, I can fully appreciate the importance of every role involved in running a major event. Although I retired early due to injury, I have since experienced coaching and officiating, and I now view tournaments from a completely different perspective. It's rewarding to give my best in the role assigned to me (Figure 8).

I look forward to participating in many more international tournaments and experiencing parts of badminton that I never could as a player. The excitement and anticipation are already building.





REVIEW IN PROGRESS

FAIRNESS AND PRESENTATION

By Torsten Berg

Our foremost duty as BWF Technical Officials (TO) are laid out in detail in the ITTO. They were always to control the tournament and the match with fairness and common sense and to ensure that the Laws of Badminton and other BWF Statutes are observed. Over the years, the presentation of the game to spectators and telespectators has taken increasing importance, as the presentation is key to fan experience and to the sponsorship income that drives the game forward. Much of the progress, both with respect to fairness and presentation, is due to the introduction of new technology, and here we shall pay tribute to some of those men and women - beyond our own ranks of TO - who have moved these innovations to the benefit of our TO performance and to the experience of players and audience.

In the IBF office in Cheltenham, England, there was much sympathy for the good-looking IBF Referees and Umpires in their blazers, white shirts and ties, but resources were scarce. General Secretary Ronnie Rowan and Head of Events Vanessa Freeman (both ENG) had their hands full with the daily administration, typewriters, telefaxes and telephones. The support of

the Court Officials Committee, COC - hence the name COC-tales for this magazine - was left to the youngest clerical assistant, of which Scottish Karen McCall was the longest serving. Real progress came first when Vice President and IBF Certified Referee Neil Cameron (SCO) decided to retire very early from his IBF office and a prominent job in IBM and joined the Federation as Events Director in 1996.

Neil Cameron used his extensive information technology (IT) experience for the benefit of badminton. The electronic World Ranking List (WRL) which we take for granted today, put a full stop to endless discussions about seeding. The new Events Director pushed this important instrument through the Council, supported by a Working Group with Heather Nielsen (ENG), Martijn van Dooremalen (NED) and myself. Moreover, Neil Cameron in his new role put together a most useful Event Organiser's Manual, including much advice to Referees and Umpires of international tournaments, illustrated with numerous and humorous drawings by Council colleague Cedric

Baxter (AUS). This manual really helped to lift the level of our tournaments.

Neil Cameron was also the man who introduced the red colour for Referees' dress, so that we would stand out and be easily identified in a busy stadium, where all players, of course, were in predominantly white outfit - you will remember: 'each item of clothing must be at least 75 % white'.

Deputy President Punch Gunalan (MAS) was the driving force behind the move of the Federation's office to Kuala Lumpur in 2005 as well as the name change to Badminton World Federation, BWF, the following year. Moreover, with Paisean Rangsitpho (USA/THA) as Chair of Events, live score was introduced for the World Championships in 2005, and in 2006 the scoring system was radically changed to the rally point system with games to 21 that we still use. An argument for the move of the office was to save administrative resources, so initially there was no dedicated staff looking after the Technical Officials in the first Kuala Lumpur office. Our Events Officers - Selvam Supramaniam and Venugopal Mahalingam already there - also serviced the TO. Electronic draws performed in the office followed; they represented a major step forward.

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With the changes in BWF leadership after the AGM in 2008, progress speeded up. Thomas Lund was the new Secretary General, and he recruited the experienced All England chief organiser Darren Parks as Events Director. While the administration of the TO for some years mainly was left to Noridah Jamil, Thomas and Darren worked hard on professionalisation of the game and its presentation, increasingly introducing modern technology. Well organised and well-presented World Grand Prix tournaments provided the ever-increasing financial base but also required better and better presentation for the benefit of the sponsors and the fans. The responsibility for delivering the events - in close cooperation with the local organisers - remained on the shoulders of the TO, strongly supported, first by the Events Committee Chairman Paisan Rangsitpho and the Events Director, later by a strong team of BWF Tournament Series Managers.

A major step forward was the introduction of the Instant Review System, IRS, today commonly known as Hawkeye, for review of close line calls. This happened in the World Grand Prix Finals 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, incidentally my last tournament as Referee. This innovation was largely driven by Thomas Lund and Darren Parks in the BWF Office. The IRS put an end to more than a century of often toxic disputes about line calls, at least on the courts where BWF could afford to use the - very expensive - system. The electronic eye is more than ten times sharper than the human one. Less expensive than IRS, but also useful and working in the same direction, is the BWF Line Judges (LJ) introduced 2011, a worldwide corps of experienced officials

who help to ensure neutrality among the LJs serving in the most prestigious BWF tournaments.

The support that the BWF TO enjoys from the office took a quantum leap forward when Chris Trenholme (CAN) in February 2014 was employed, particularly to look after the development and the administration of the BWF TO, and when Selena Lim (MAS), not much later became his Assistant. Strategic planning, effective and careful administration may not be immediately visible, but serves as the cornerstone for the immense bulk of work that the BWF TO as well as their Continental colleagues do every week and every year. We are fortunate still to have this Mixed Double in our team. Under their leadership, and in close cooperation with the TO Commission and the BWF Referee Assessor and Umpire Assessor Panels, many more initiatives and improvements, such as 360 degree appraisals and assessments and the Draw Management Document, have been implemented.

Enforcement of the Service Laws was always a point of contention. When some ten years ago a maximum height of 115 cm replaced the poorly defined waist, and a rather sophisticated mechanical tool was introduced (and subsequently improved) to help the Service Judge's decision, it was again the BWF office, with Chris Trenholme in front and backed by Thomas Lund, driving the change. A long-standing problem was more or less resolved, and discussions of overhand services among players, coaches and television commentators were limited. The human element in the decision, however limited,

still remains, but at present there are attempts using Artificial Intelligence to further reduce and perhaps even eliminate this uncertainty. Even the last major problematic issue remaining, i. e. continuous play, is about to be addressed through the introduction of a time clock and likely corresponding Law changes. With the recent employment of Lynne Nixey (NZL) in a new position as Head of Technical Officials, the cross-fertilisation of the efforts by the TO and the office shall most likely be further strengthened.

The general trend in international sports administration with increasing exposure and income from governments and sponsors that also applies to badminton, is reflected in a change in management and administration. When I met the IBF administration in 1976, the entire staff was the General Secretary Ronnie Rowan. All decisions, except the most trivial, were taken by the Council. Today, a very efficient office with a staff of approximately 60 under the leadership of Secretary General Thomas Lund, implements the policy decisions taken by Council and often also proposes such policy. This is of course also valid when it comes to policies ensuring fairness on court and presentation of badminton. Along the road of this development, IBF and in particular BWF staff members, some of them mentioned above, have contributed significantly to help Technical Officials providing fairness to the players on court and attractive presentation of badminton to the audience in the stadium and the telespectators worldwide. We owe them our thanks and respect.

2025 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND APPRAISALS

As of July 2025 – calendar subject to change

Date	Meetings, Workshops and Appraisals	Location	Country	Tournament
19 Jul – 20 Jul	BWF Umpire Assessment Panel Meeting 2025	Changzhou	CHN	In conjunction with China Open 2025
22 Jul – 27 Jul	Umpire Appraisals and Umpire Assessment for BWF Level	Changzhou	CHN	VICTOR China Open 2025
22 Jul – 27 Jul	Referee Appraisals	Changzhou	CHN	VICTOR China Open 2025
23 July 2025	BWF Tournament Doctor Workshop 2025	Kuala Lumpur	MAS	In conjunction with 8th AFC Medical Conference 2025
24 Jul 2025	BWF Tournament Doctor Panel Meeting 2025	Kuala Lumpur	MAS	In conjunction with 8th AFC Medical Conference 2025
29 Jul – 03 Aug	Referee Appraisals	Macau	MAC	Macau Open 2025
25 Aug – 31 Aug	Umpire Appraisals	Paris	FRA	TotalEnergies BWF World Championships 2025
09 Sep – 14 Sep	Referee Appraisals	Hong Kong	HKG	LI-NING Hong Kong Open 2025
09 Sep – 14 Sep	Umpire Appraisals	Hong Kong	HKG	LI-NING Hong Kong Open 2025
30 Sep – 05 Oct	Referee Appraisals	Abu Dhabi	UAE	Abu Dhabi Masters 2025
06 Oct – 11 Oct	Referee Appraisals	Guwahati	IND	BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships 2025
06 Oct – 11 Oct	Umpire Appraisals	Guwahati	IND	BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships 2025
08 Oct – 12 Oct	Referee Assessment for BWF Level	Lidcombe	AUS	ROKETTO Sydney International 2025
13 Oct – 19 Oct	Umpire Appraisals	Guwahati	IND	BWF World Junior Individual Championships 2025
21 Oct – 26 Oct	Umpire Appraisals	Cesson-Sévigné	FRA	YONEX French Open 2025
28 Oct – 02 Nov	Referee Assessment for BWF Level	TBD	IND	CM Trophy India International Challenge 2025
04 Nov – 09 Nov	Referee Appraisals	Gwangju	KOR	Korea Masters 2025
20 Nov – 23 Nov	Referee Assessment for BWF Level	Glasgow	SCO	Scottish Open 2025
02 Dec – 07 Dec	Referee Appraisals	Guwahati	IND	Guwahati Masters 2025
10 Dec – 14 Dec	Umpire Appraisals	Hangzhou	CHN	HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2025

SAVE THE DATE

BWF REFEREE WORKSHOP

2 - 5 FEBRUARY 2026 | KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA