

COCTALES



THE NEWSLETTER OF BWF TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

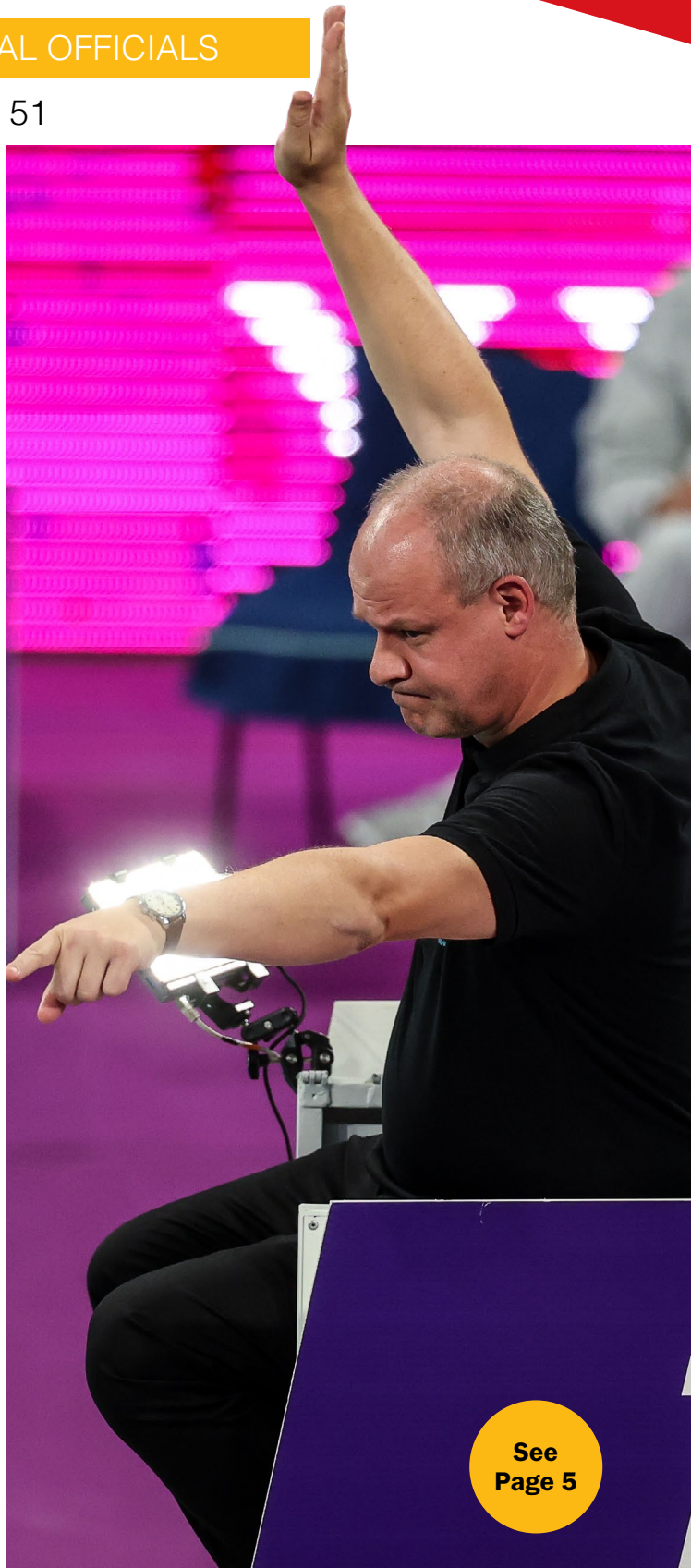
APRIL 2026 • EDITION NO. 51



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REFEREE UPDATE

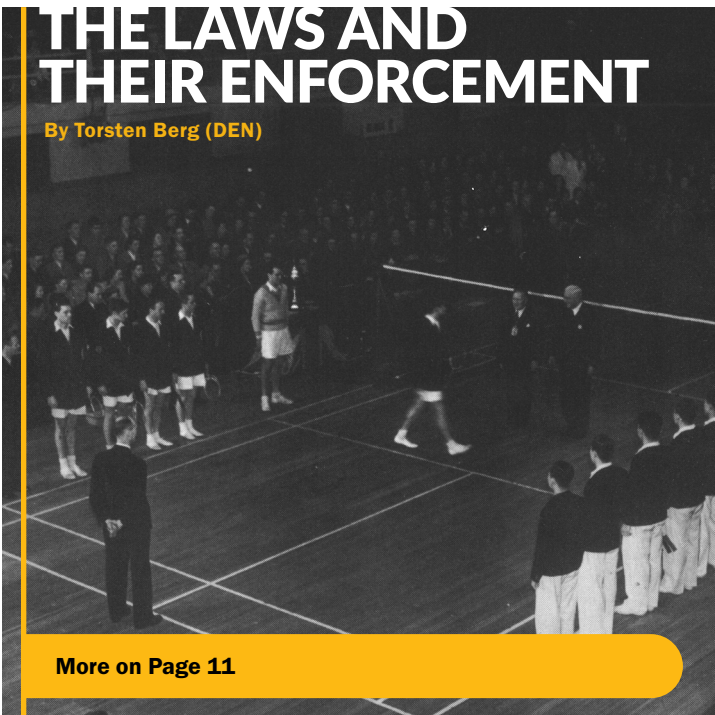
By Gretha Prinsloo, Chair – BWF Referee Assessment Panel



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UMPIRE UPDATE

By Gilles Cavert, Chair – BWF Umpire Assessment Panel



THE LAWS AND THEIR ENFORCEMENT

By Torsten Berg (DEN)

More on Page 11



By Lynne Nixey, Head of Technical Officials

Already a quarter of the year has passed and from January to March we have completed 41 badminton tournaments and five Para badminton tournaments, including the BWF Para badminton World Championships 2026.

A busy start to the year and one of which we can be immensely proud of ourselves – as without technical officials, these tournaments could not happen.

Add to this, a steady stream of online meetings and face-to-face workshops and the dedication that we all have to the sport really starts to shine.

Squeezed in between all of this is our personal lives – family and work commitments must always remain the most important thing that we do in our very busy lives.

Difficult times have been had with the middle east conflict affecting lives and travel arrangements for many of us over this time.

Our thoughts are with those colleagues who are living this day-to-day, and we hope that we see an end to this in the near future. In the meantime, those of us who can travel must continue to consider the options that work best for us all. It is a personal decision as to whether you wish to travel during this



time, and we will continue to work with you during these times to arrive at the best outcome.

February saw a gathering of almost all BWF Referees in Kuala Lumpur for the biennial BWF Referee Workshop. Four days of learning and knowledge gathering that was one of the most engaging workshops we have ever had. My thanks to the presenters from both within our referee teams and the BWF staff who contributed to making this an extremely successful event.

In March there was a meeting of the BWF Medical Panel who oversee the medical requirements for tournaments and ensure that player welfare is considered during play.

As I write this, I am in Prague for a meeting of the BWF Senior Classifiers for Para badminton.

A reminder that COC-Tales is for all technical officials – including referees, umpires, tournament doctors, classifiers and technical delegates. If you have something that you would like to share, please feel free to drop me a line and send an article – we always welcome new contributors.

Lastly – check out the article from Bert Vanhoreenbeck (BWF SP Referee). A lot of the history of technical officials has been misplaced over the years (certainly that from before the digital age) and he is hoping to ensure this is remembered before it is lost. Time to gather up that information and talk to former colleagues to ensure that this information is not lost forever.

I look forward to seeing you all out and about over the coming months.

BWF Referee Assessment Panel Meeting Participants:

L to R David Chang (TPE), Gretha Prinsloo (CHAIR – RSA), Selena Lim (BWF), Jane Wheatley (AUS), Gilles Cavert (CHAIR – UAP, FRA), Kelly Hoare (UAP – AUS), Lynne Nixey (BWF), Enrique Charadan (CUB), Chris Trenholme (BWF), Ewald Cejnik (AUT).

Saturday 31 January 2026
Traders Hotel – Kuala Lumpur



REFEREE UPDATE

FROM THE CHAIR BY
GRETHA PRINSLOO

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Another busy year ahead and 2026 began with tournaments under way in early January, with little fanfare, just all our amazing technical officials diligently performing their duties.

During the first week in February, we convened in Kuala Lumpur for a successful Referee Workshop, noted by participants as one of the best workshops they have attended. After years of detailed information dissemination, we are now able to focus on areas needing more attention. With professional presentations given by Carmen Martinez and Julien Nys, emphasis was placed on achieving a better understanding of the working environment of a Para badminton Technical Delegate as we move forward with integrating the TD into the role of the BWF Referee.

The medical section covering the use of an AED also proved valuable for our referees to understand how these life saving devices are used by our tournament doctors.

In this world of digital technology, two valuable sessions were covered with a presentation on the use of IT tools in the referee's daily routine by BWF SP Referee, Artur Zaluznoi, and an open discussion on the extranet and dashboard lead by Leon Tolner, BWF Head of Digital Technology.

Thanks are extended to all of those who presented and our Head of Technical Officials, Lynne Nixey, for her valuable assistance and guidance throughout the Workshop. Also, thanks to Selena Lim, BWF Events Manager for her tireless efforts in preparing for the workshop. We do appreciate the huge amount of work that goes into ensuring a successful referee workshop.

2027 BWF Referee Assessment Workshop

It was only last year in February 2025 that we held our previous Referee Assessment Workshop and here we now preparing for the next workshop planned for early 2027.

It must be said that the previous assessment workshops have not been the success we were hoping for in terms of the number of candidates that successfully passed both the theory and practical requirements. However, we looking at how to best implement the theoretical and practical testing programme.

Of particular importance is to make sure that our new candidates, and their respective Continental Confederation Technical Official Commissions, understand that the BWF Referee Assessment Workshop is not a course. It is the testing of the candidate's knowledge of theory and practical refereeing as BWF endeavours to bring forward only the very best to join the ranks as a BWF Referee.

The onus is on the CCs and the candidates themselves to come fully prepared for the workshop and the ensuing week of theory and practical evaluation.

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SWM – Notional Rankings

Despite another thorough session during the Workshop covering the SWM as it occurs during a Team Managers' Meeting, we have had two occasions of problems occurring that relate to notional rankings.

Let me remind you of the following:

GCR 11.6.4

A pair may have a seeding from one to four on the basis of any World Ranking but a *seeding no higher than five based on any notional ranking and/or adjusted ranking*. This only applies in the main draw.

However, if the number of players/pairs having a World Ranking is less than the

permissible number of seeding places, the remaining seeding places can be based on the notional or adjusted World Ranking.

A helpful hint

It might be a promising idea to develop your own special marker that highlights a notional ranking pair on your M&Q and Draw documents. This way you will immediately know to keep this pair no higher than position 5 – especially when using SWM and needing to promote a pair into 1-4 position.

Standardisation Information (Referee Briefings)

You will have recently received a document from BWF outlining standardisation

information for the referees. This document has been developed following discussions throughout the recent Referee Workshop through overall agreement from all the referee team.

An extra point that I would like to add is regarding Referee Briefings. Whilst it is not necessary for all referees to attend the daily umpire briefings, out of respect for your umpire team who have worked tirelessly throughout the week and are now ready to step up for the finals, it is important that the head referee attend the umpire briefings from the quarterfinals onwards. Your deputy referee can cover the FOP for the brief time you are engaged with your umpires.

Communication Issues

Please note that following:

- ◀ Copy the full recipient list for withdrawals after the deadline. (it is important that you 'cc' all the BWF Events team when you have any withdrawal/M&Q/draw queries – especially Matthieu, Roshen and Sharven as they deal with the day-to-day issues); and
- ◀ Referees must monitor emails closely as the deadline approaches. (a reminder to double-check your junk/spam/bulk folders leading to the tournament draw deadline. Prior to approving any Draws double-check these other folders to ensure that no emails have snuck in there without your notice.)

Our thoughts are with our colleagues who are caught up in the Middle East conflict and with whom we have been unable to contact in recent weeks. We wish them well and haven throughout these trying times and look forward to better days.

Remember that we represent the BWF Family of Referees, and it is expected we adhere to the BWF Code of Ethics and Technical Officials Code of Conduct. It takes a referee years of work and personal sacrifice to become the leader of a team of technical officials and your conduct must be exemplary. Wear that BWF shirt with pride.



UMPIRE UPDATE



By Gilles Cavert,
Chair – BWF Umpire Assessment Panel

BWF Umpire – Awatef Ghalloussi (TUN) at the
BAHRAIN BWF Para Badminton World
Championships 2026.

Do Not Invent New Rules

Badminton is governed by numerous Laws, regulations, instructions and codes of conduct intended for numerous stakeholders (e.g. technical officials, coaches, players, etc.).

Some umpires—fortunately, not many—tend to invent new Laws or regulations either because they are unfamiliar with the current ones, because they are overzealous, or because they want to be more in the spotlight.

Some examples:

- ◀ Calling a fault on the server when his (her) shoelace touches a line the moment the service is delivered. Imagine a 20 cm shoelace touching the centre line while the server is comfortably

positioned in his service zone. Use your common sense; the server's shoe is not on the line and there is no reason to call a fault!

- ◀ Refusing to change the shuttle, even if both players or both pairs agree. Do not be overzealous!
- ◀ Refusing to change the shuttle when the request comes from the loser of the rally. Do not invent new rules and use, on the contrary, your feeling for the game!
- ◀ Stopping a 120-shot rally and calling a let, on the grounds that both players/pairs were not using their best efforts. The Laws ask the players to give their best efforts, meaning that each side wants to win the match! In this match, having tried to finish the rally with repeated smashes, both players/pairs

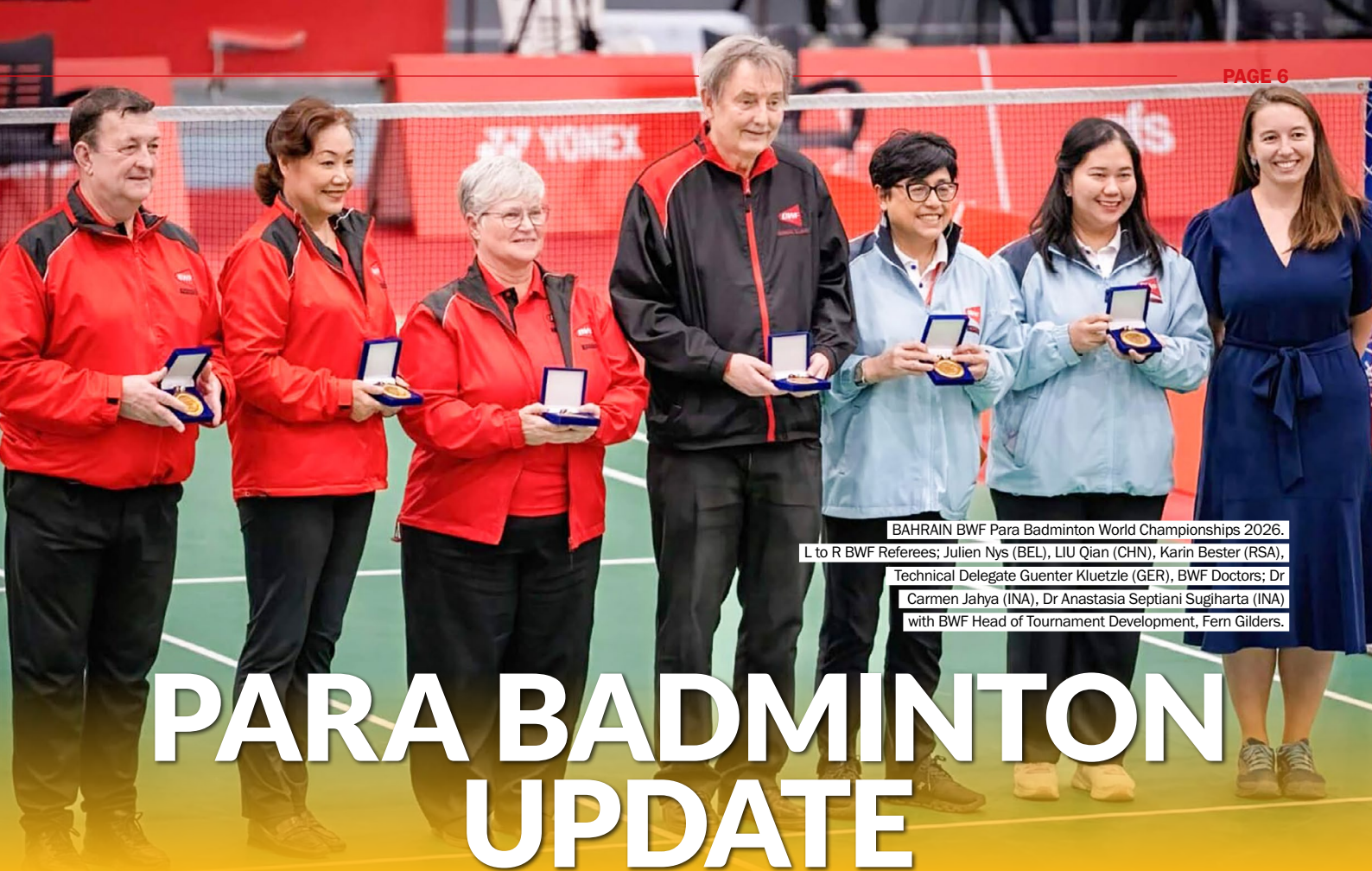
repeatedly cleared the shuttle, trying to make the other pair tired. Neither player/pair wanted to lose the rally!

Remember the Importance of Soft Skills

The lack of hard skills can lead to erroneous decisions from an umpire perspective. However, hard skills are not sufficient to officiate as a high performing BWF Technical Official.

As I continually emphasise, soft skills enable umpires to perform at the highest level, for the good of the sport.

And more precisely, “Alertness”, “Teamwork”, “Team Spirit”, “Empathy”, “Humility”, “Mental Strength”, “Willingness to Improve”, “Resilience”, “Communication”, and “Feeling for the Game”.



BAHRAIN BWF Para Badminton World Championships 2026.
L to R BWF Referees; Julien Nys (BEL), LIU Qian (CHN), Karin Bester (RSA),
Technical Delegate Guenter Kluetzle (GER), BWF Doctors; Dr
Carmen Jahya (INA), Dr Anastasia Septiani Sugiharta (INA)
with BWF Head of Tournament Development, Fern Gilders.

PARA BADMINTON UPDATE

By Carmen Martínez, BWF Referee

Get on track

The competitive season is now well and truly underway, and we are confident that 2026 will go down as a year to remember, with the important decisions due to be taken in just a few days' time in Horsens.

In this edition, we would like to include a few words from Julien Nys, regarding the World Championships, as well as revisit some of the issues that remained unresolved during the last workshop in February, which we hope to address gradually.

Para Badminton World Championships 2026 by Julien Nys

The **BAHRAIN BWF Para Badminton World Championships 2026** marked a historic milestone as the event was hosted in Bahrain for the first time, bringing together the global para badminton

community for seven days of high-level competition and collaboration.

The championship highlighted not only athletic excellence but also the continued growth and international reach of the sport. Participation numbers reflected this development impressively. A total of 389 players from 55 countries, playing 922 matches in 22 events during the week.

Flexibility and teamwork were essential to managing the scale of the tournament. Shortly before the start, organisers successfully added a sixth court for the standing sport class events – an important adjustment that the venue was fortunately able to accommodate. The five planned courts for wheelchair sport classes proved sufficient, allowing matches to proceed efficiently throughout the championship.

The referee team, LIU Qian (China), Karin Bester (South Africa) and myself arrived well prepared following the BWF Referee Workshop in Kuala Lumpur held the week

before the event. Technical Delegate, Günter Klützke, and Referee team managed to present the re-entries, substitutions and seedings at the end of the Team Managers Meeting (TMM). The draws and match schedule for the first day was published well in time, shortly after the TMM.

Although preparation sometimes presented challenges and not everything unfolded exactly as planned, the strong support of the BWF staff ensured that solutions were found quickly. As a result, players and coaches experienced a smoothly run tournament from start to finish.

Operations throughout the week were supported by a dedicated international workforce, including 44 umpires, as well as approximately 100 line-judges present across the seven days. The marshaling team, transport services, and venue operations all contributed to keeping matches running on time.

■ Continued on next page

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Beyond the courts, participants enjoyed excellent hospitality, comfortable accommodation, and high-quality catering.

The medal ceremonies provided memorable highlights, particularly the prize-giving ceremony for the standing sport classes, which featured a light show and speeches by the BWF President and local VIP guests, celebrating the athletes' achievements in a fitting atmosphere.

The Bahrain edition of the BWF Para Badminton World Championships 2026 proved to be a rewarding experience for athletes, coaches, and technical officials alike. Sincere thanks go to everyone whose efforts helped make this championship a positive and memorable event for all involved.

First experiences in MD SL3-SU5

The new SL3-SU5 men doubles category appears to have been well received by the players.

With 31 pairs taking part in the Spanish Para Badminton International in Vitoria (Level 2), and a full draw of 12 pairs in Toledo (Level 1), everything seems to indicate that players have begun to make their way, and we hope to see a consolidated ranking by the end of the year, when we will also be able to analyse the impact of this new event on the MD SU5.

Practice schedule and warm-up courts

The practice schedule is one of the aspects that has yet to be defined within the refereeing team's remit, given that, to date, it has almost always been the BWF staff who have managed this process.

In future editions, we will devote a section to detailing the guidelines to be considered when allocating practice schedule, as well as some advice

regarding the distribution of standing and wheelchair events per court.

For the time being, it would be beneficial for everyone to take some time to observe the system at the competitions they attend, to better understand how it works.

When it comes to warm-up courts during competitions, we need to assess each tournament on a case-by-case basis. In most of the tournaments, there is not enough space to have full-size courts with a pre-established system of use, so it is advisable to leave an open space where players can warm up, but not to put up any nets unless the organiser is supervising. This way, all players will be on an equal footing, and we will avoid conflicts.

Draw Management Document

The document has been reviewed and a final version will be available shortly. We are sure it will be of great help to everyone

during the competitions. We would like to thank Syahmi once again for his involvement in this process.

Medals

And finally, as we discussed in February, we would like to emphasise the importance of ensuring that medal matches are properly resolved – and that any necessary additional matches are played – when we have combined events.

Given the wide variety of situations we may encounter, it is almost impossible to draw up a guidance document, but we would like to remind that we can always ask for help, both to BWF staff, or to some more experienced colleagues. Let's not hesitate to do so when necessary!

We wish you all the best in your upcoming competitions!



BWF Referee Team at BAHRAIN BWF Para Badminton World Championships 2026 L to R, LIU Qian (CHN), Julien Nys (BEL), Karin Bester (RSA).

CLASSIFIERS ARE TECHNICAL OFFICIALS TOO...

By Lynne Nixey, Head of Technical Officials

Having spent the last few days in Prague and joined the Senior Classifiers at their BWF Classifiers Workshop, it is timely to remind everyone that Classifiers are part of our Technical Officials team.

If you are at a para badminton tournament and there are Classifiers present, ensure that they are included as part of the TO team. Referees should check in with them to make sure that they have everything they need to do their jobs and that they are being looked after by the organisers for such simple things as a supply of water and meals on classification day.

At the end of the classification day, referees should check in to see that everything went smoothly and there were no issues. If there were any, look to see if this is something that should be reported on as a breach of the Players Code of Conduct and include this in your report.

Are you curious to know what the classifiers do? Don't be afraid to ask them – they are more than happy to share their experiences and knowledge with you – just as you are willing to share yours.



It is with sadness that we note the passing of former BWF Tournament Doctor Prof Dr Abdul Halim Mokhtar from Malaysia. Thoughts are with his family and friends at this time.



BWF Classifiers Workshop.

L to R Syahmi Sabron (BWF Para Badminton Manager), BWF Classifiers; Dr Shamsul Azhar Shah (Chief Classifier), Dy Syamsul Rizal Bin Abu Amin, Jose Maria Lopez, Rebecca Bailey, Nevin Aysel Guzel, Lynne Nixey (BWF Head of Technical Officials). Front – Richard Perot (BWF VP – Para Badminton).



BWF Umpire Joao Frogaso (POR) called time on his BWF international career at the recent YONEX All England Badminton Championships 2026. All the best for the future.

LINE JUDGES UPDATE

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

I'm going to start this article by (showing my age and) quoting the title of a Bob Dylan song 'The Times They Are A Changin' in the hope I can make you aware of some of the changes that will be introduced to our great sport and may ultimately affect our Line Judges over the next couple of seasons.

I'm asking questions rather than saying what will happen...that remains to be decided by BWF."

Changes to the BWF World Tour and BWF Major Championships.

The BWF World Tour will now include 36 tournaments with five Super 1000 tournaments changing to a group play format followed by knockout rounds for singles (48 entries) and 32 draw knockout for doubles. These will take place over 11 days and across two weekends.

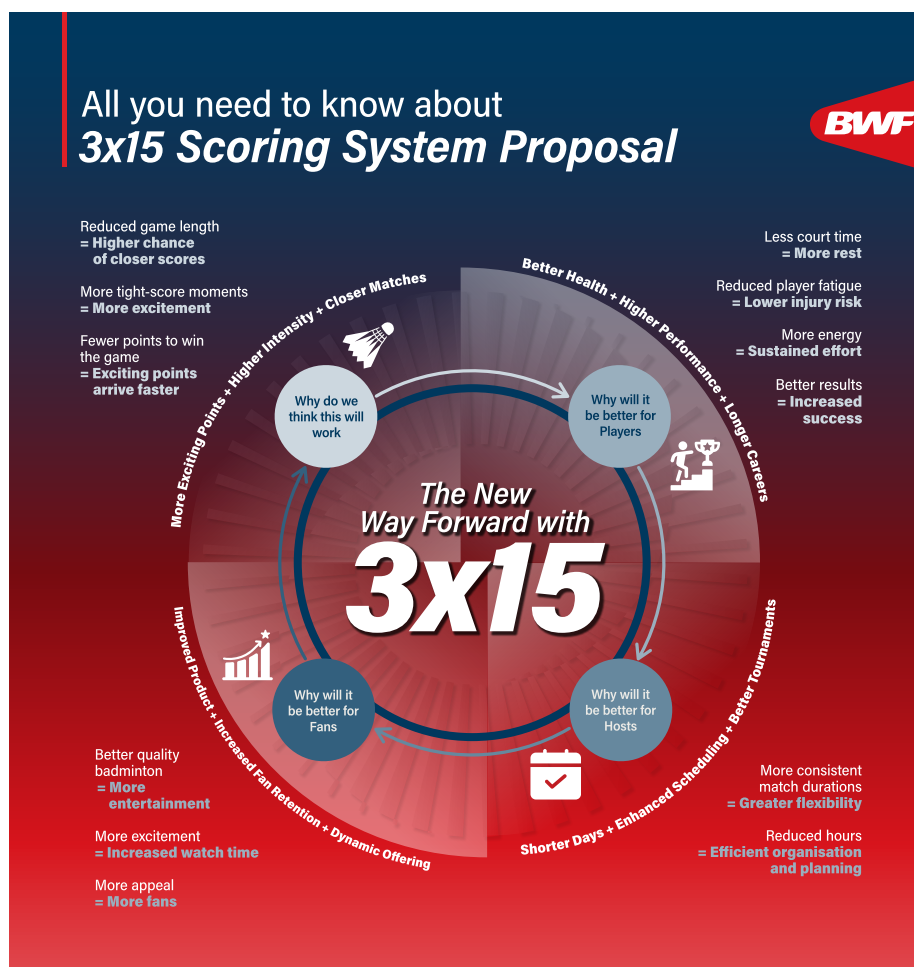
The BWF Major Championships will grow and include new developments to provide more spectator enjoyment, more matches and engage with more people throughout the world.

Starting in 2027, the BWF World Tour will include 36 tournaments including five Super 1000 tournaments changing to a group play format followed by knockout rounds for singles (48 entries) and a normal 32 draw knockout for doubles events, taking place over 11 days and across two weekends."

BWF Thomas and Uber Cup Finals, from 2028, will grow to 24 teams, and BWF Sudirman Cup Finals will, from 2027, increase to include 24 teams.

Questions

Taking the Super 1000 tournaments, which will take place over 11 days, will officials be appointed to the whole event, or will some officials be appointed to the first week's group stages and others to the knockout rounds?



Line Judge – Orleans Masters 2026.

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Changes to the Scoring System

(Please read 3x15 Scoring System, 87th BWF Annual AGM Proposal, Official Report Paper)

BWF over the years has studied different scoring systems, based on these studies BWF Council recommends changing to the 3X15 system.

This is based on analysis of 10 years of data taken from major events and comparing five different scoring systems and was part of the YONEX SUNRISE BWF World Junior Individual Championships 2025.

The finals conclusions (see 3x15 Scoring System, 87th BWF Annual AGM Proposal, Official Report Paper)

- ◀ Creates more exciting points due to fewer points per game
- ◀ Reaches those exciting moments faster
- ◀ Produces reduced and more predictable match lengths
- ◀ Balances excitement within each game and across the whole match.
- ◀ Offers more consistent match duration then 5x11

In the 'Impact For Key Stakeholder Group' conclusion it was stated that Technical Officials would have less fatigue: shorter matches help referees, umpires and service judges (and I would add here - Line Judges) stay focused and deliver consistent performance.

Questions

Will this be a popular move with players, officials, volunteers and fans?

I will let Bob Dylan have the final word...

*Come writers and critics
Who prophesize with your pen
Keep your eyes wide
The chance won't come again
And don't speak too soon
For the wheel's still in spin
And there's no tellin' who
That it's namin'
For the loser now
Might be later to win
For the times they are a
changin'*

Bob Dylan 1978



Rita Asiiimwe (UGA) undertaking an experience as a Line Judge at the BAHRAIN BWF Para Badminton World Championships 2026.

The net has remained at the same height since it was agreed in the early 20th century.

THE LAWS AND THEIR ENFORCEMENT

By Torsten Berg (DEN)

When officers and gentlemen representing nine badminton clubs in the south of England met in the afternoon of 13th September 1893 in Southsea near Portsmouth and unanimously agreed to form The Badminton Association (soon to be joined by five more clubs), one of the most important tasks for the new organisation and its President, Treasurer and Secretary, all in one person, Colonel S. S. C Dolby, who had also called and hosted the meeting at his residence 'Dunbar', was to establish a set of common Laws for the game. Until then, the clubs all had courts of different sizes, giving the home team an unfair advantage in interclub ties. An hourglass shaped court that initially was allowed was abandoned after a few years, following a proposal from Major General Shakespear, and ever since we have played on a rectangular court of the dimensions we do today. The height of the net at the posts and in the center is also exactly what was agreed at the beginning of the 20th century, with the only slight difference that the measurements are given now in meters and millimeters, no longer in feet and

inches. Our predecessors obviously got it right when they created the basis of the superbly exciting game of badminton we have seen ever after and that we enjoy today and hopefully long into the future.

On 5th July 1934, when representatives of nine National Associations - again gentlemen only and a couple of officers, no ladies - met at Bush House, Aldwych, London to form the International Badminton Federation, IBF, today the BWF, they took over the Laws as agreed and maintained by the Badminton Association meanwhile. Whereas much of the Laws is the same or similar to what we know and play today, however often rewritten for clarity, there are other points and paragraphs that have changed much over the years, such as the scoring system and the service Laws.

Here, and in a short series of subsequent contributions, I shall review and discuss the development of some of the more contentious aspects of the Laws and their enforcement. It is amazing how the game and officiating as umpires, line judges and referees has developed over the years, in

particular since it began to become a truly worldwide sport after the 2nd World War. At the time of the first Thomas Cup in 1949 IBF had only 16 Members, in 1985 when badminton was accepted into the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games there were 62 - today there are 204 in BWF.

Whereas the game, by and large, is the same, the technique, tactics and in particular the speed has developed. The development of the equipment is essential to this. Already in the early versions of the Laws there were requirements to the construction and the speed of the shuttle, with modifications allowed in places where the circumstances required it such as high altitude, but perhaps surprisingly no word about the racket. Racket development technology certainly partly explains the development of the game. When the wooden racket, such as the one I started to play with in 1959, was replaced first with a steel, then an aluminium-shafted one and later with carbon technology, the weight was reduced substantially, stringing became a science in its own right and faster, harder and more sophisticated strokes became possible.

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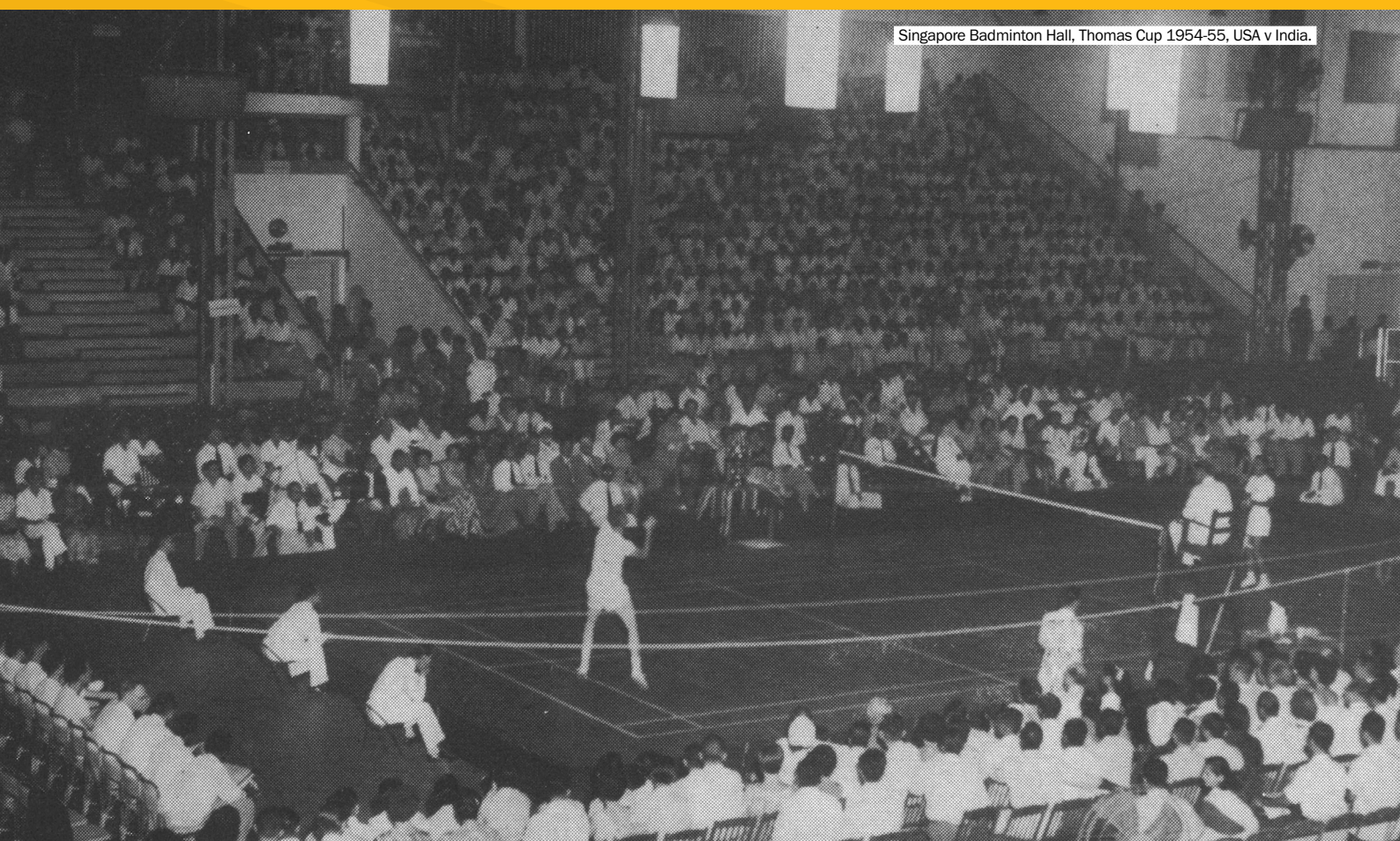
As a result of numerous minor amendments over the years, the Laws of the game that IBF took over in 1934 was quite a mess. Following a proposal from Canada, a small, selected group under the leadership of the President, Sir George Thomas, rewrote them, and in 1939 the AGM unanimously approved a much simpler and better worded, but essentially unchanged proposal. A similar exercise took place in the 1980s, where I had the pleasure to be party to a great job done by the Rules and Laws Committee led by H. Roy Ward (AUS) and later Neil Cameron (SCO) giving us more or less the Laws we have today, in 17 paragraphs only.

Keywords for both these exercises were to keep the Laws short and simple, in a logical order and for the latter effort also to define the concepts used. Only in the latter we find the duties and responsibility of the referee, the umpire and the line judges properly defined.

Laws are fundamental and necessary, but efficient only when they can be enforced. Whereas the large majority of badminton around the world is played without umpires, with players themselves responsible for knowing the Laws and enforcing them in their matches, in the following articles focus on the international competitive game under BWF, with a referee in charge of the tournament, an umpire in charge of every match and line judges looking after their duties. With the arrival and fast growth of prize money, with Olympic inclusion and with badminton proving to be a particularly attractive sport on television, the game on court has become ever more competitive and the need for competent and well-trained BWF and CC Technical Officials to ensure fairness and presentation is becoming ever more important. Any error or dubious call will be seen instantly worldwide and discussed keenly on social media.

Fortunately, technology has come and will increasingly in future be coming to our assistance.

In the next issues of COC-Tales, I shall discuss some of the points that over the history of badminton have caused discussion and contention, and how they have been addressed, including line calls, service faults, continuous play, 'no shot' and play close to the net. The most interesting history of the scoring system, having been discussed and amended ever since the game was first regulated and up to and including the Council proposal the 2026 AGM to change to three games to 15 with extension to 21 was recently comprehensively and very well reviewed by Frédéric Baillette in his e-magazine 'La vie du volant' in an excellent and well illustrated paper "**Evolution of the "Point Scoring System"**" (translation Jean-Jacques Bergeret).



Singapore Badminton Hall, Thomas Cup 1954-55, USA v India.

CALL FOR SUPPORT

LET'S WRITE THE HISTORY OF BWF TECHNICAL OFFICIALS TOGETHER

By Bert Vanhorenbeeck – BWF Umpire

Since the establishment of the International Badminton Federation (IBF) – later renamed the Badminton World Federation (BWF) – hundreds of dedicated referees, umpires and line judges' have served the sport at its highest levels. They've stood on court at World Championships, Olympic Games, Sudirman Cups, Thomas & Uber Cups, and many more tournaments.

Yet, to this day, there is no structured historical record of **who** these officials were, **when** they served, and in **what capacity** they officiated in these championships.

It's time to change that.

Why This Project Matters

Our aim is to build a complete timeline of all BWF Accredited and Certificated Referees, Umpires and Line Judges since the very beginning of the programme.

- ◀ The names of all accredited/certificated officials and their period of activity (start–end dates),
- ◀ Which Championships they were appointed to,
- ◀ The role they played in those tournaments,
- ◀ Who officiated which finals (and in which role).

While more recent data is relatively accessible, we face a real challenge gathering accurate information from **before 2007**, when digital records were less systematically kept.

Your Help Is Essential

We're calling on all current BWF referees, umpires and line judges': help us rebuild our collective history.

Think of your own journey, your former colleagues, and reach out to retired officials across all continents – no matter the era. Every name, every memory, every document helps.

Do you have access to old tournament programs, appointment records, personal archives, or photos? Do you remember specific match appointments or finals? Please share them! We'll centralize and preserve everything in a respectful and accurate way.

How You Can Contribute

Please provide the available information preferably to your **Continental Representative**, even if some details are incomplete:

- ◀ Full name and nationality of the official
- ◀ Year of accreditation/certification and the year they retired (ie. the last year they officiated as a IBF/BWF official)
- ◀ Championships they officiated (ideally with dates)
- ◀ Roles held during each tournament (umpire or referee)
- ◀ Finals officiated (which final, tournament, umpire or service judge)
- ◀ Optional: photos, anecdotes, or memories



BWF umpire Tomoharu Sano (JPN) umpiring at 2008 Beijing Olympics.

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We will verify, organise and structure the information into a timeline that will eventually be made available to the BWF officiating community and wider badminton family.

The Role of Continental Representatives

To ensure an efficient and structured approach, we kindly ask that all information be coordinated and submitted **through the Continental Representatives**.

Each Continental Representative is invited to:

- ◀ Coordinate the data collection within their continent

- ◀ Reach out to current and former referees, umpires and line judges'
- ◀ Encourage retired officials to contribute their information and memories
- ◀ Consolidate submissions before forwarding them to the central project team

This approach will help us maintain consistency, accuracy, and completeness across all continents.

Our Goal

With this project, we want to honour the men and women who helped shape our sport with professionalism and quiet dedication. At the same time, we hope to inspire future generations of officials.

Every technical official is part of badminton's history — and it's time we wrote that history down.

Contact & Contributions

✉ Please send contributions to:

BWF: Lynne Nixey, l.nixey@bwf.sport

Africa: Diraj Gooneadry, dev120369@gmail.com

Asia: Yau Lin Na, Inyau@hotmail.com

Europe: TBC

Oceania: Peter Cocker, petercwa@iinet.net.au

PanAm: TBC

Antarctica: Bert Vanhorenbeeck, bert.vanhorenbeeck@skynet.be



First submission deadline
August 1, 2026



Edy Rufianto (INA) umpiring at Rio 2016 Olympic Games

2026 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND APPRAISALS

As of April 2026 – calendar subject to change

Date	Meetings, Workshops and Appraisals	Location	Country	Tournament
12 May – 17 May	Referee Appraisals	Bangkok	THA	TOYOTA Thailand Open 2026
12 May – 17 May	Umpire Appraisals	Bangkok	THA	TOYOTA Thailand Open 2026
19 May – 24 May	Umpire Appraisals	Kuala Lumpur	MAS	PERODUA Malaysia Masters 2026
26 May – 31 May	Umpire Appraisals	Singapore	SGP	KFF Singapore Badminton Open 2026
02 Jun – 07 Jun	Umpire Appraisals	Jakarta	INA	POLYTRON Indonesia Open 2026
09 Jun – 14 Jun	Referee Appraisals	Sydney	AUS	SATHIO GROUP Australian Badminton Open 2026
09 Jun – 14 Jun	Umpire Appraisals	Sydney	AUS	SATHIO GROUP Australian Badminton Open 2026
30 Jun – 05 Jul	Referee Appraisals	Markham	CAN	YONEX Canada Open 2026
11 Jul – 12 Jul	BWF Umpire Assessment Panel Meeting 2026	Tokyo	JPN	In conjunction with DAIHATSU Japan Open 2026
14 Jul – 19 Jul	Referee Appraisals	Tokyo	JPN	DAIHATSU Japan Open 2026
14 Jul – 19 Jul	Umpire Appraisals & Umpire Assessments for BWF Level	Tokyo	JPN	DAIHATSU Japan Open 2026
21 Jul – 26 Jul	Referee Appraisals	Changzhou	CHN	VICTOR China Open 2026
21 Jul – 26 Jul	Umpire Appraisals	Changzhou	CHN	VICTOR China Open 2026
28 Jul – 02 Aug	Referee Appraisals	Taipei	TPE	YONEX Taipei Open 2026
17 Aug – 23 Aug	Umpire Appraisals	New Delhi	IND	BWF World Championships 2026
01 Sep – 06 Sep	Referee Appraisals	Shenzen	CHN	China Masters 2026
01 Sep – 06 Sep	Umpire Appraisals	Shenzen	CHN	China Masters 2026
01 Sep – 06 Sep	Referee Appraisals	TBC	INA	POLYTRON Pontianak Indonesia Masters 2026
08 Sep – 13 Sep	Referee Appraisals	Ho Chi Minh	VIE	YONEX SUNRISE Vietnam Open 2026
29 Sep – 04 Oct	Referee Appraisals	Dubai	UAE	Abu Dhabi Masters 2026

2026 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND APPRAISALS

As of April 2026 – calendar subject to change

Date	Meetings, Workshops and Appraisals	Location	Country	Tournament
05 Oct – 10 Oct	Umpire Appraisals	TBD	TBD	BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships 2026
06 Oct – 11 Oct	Umpire Appraisals	Vantaa	FIN	Arctic Open 2026 powered by YONEX
13 Oct – 18 Oct	Referee Appraisals	Kuala Lumpur	MAS	Malaysia Super 100 2026
20 Oct – 25 Oct	Referee Appraisals	Paris	FRA	YONEX French Open 2026
03 Nov – 08 Nov	Umpire Appraisals	Yeosu City	KOR	Korea Open 2026
17 Nov – 22 Nov	Referee Appraisals	Hong Kong	HKG	Hong Kong Open 2026
17 Nov – 22 Nov	Umpire Appraisals	Hong Kong	HKG	Hong Kong Open 2026
09 Dec – 13 Dec	Umpire Appraisals	Hangzhou	CHN	HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2026