

TIMES ARE A-CHANGIN'

By Torsten Berg
Chair - BWF Referee Assessment Panel

In 1963, we sang with Bob Dylan that "... you better start swimmin', or you'll sink like a stone, for the times they are a-changin'..." – and that's still true today!

The BWF Council has put forward rather radical proposals for changes to the Laws of Badminton which would change the scoring system, some of the service laws, and the law covering coaching in intervals, to the Annual General Meeting on 19 May, 2018. We, the technical officials, better start swimming to keep up with these changes, should they be approved, as they will considerably change the sport and how we do our job. We shall soon thereafter be ready with consequential amendments to the ITTO and possibly other BWF Statutes also, and we shall be ready to put the changes into practice on court.



The purpose of the proposals seems to be to speed up the sport, shorten the length of matches, and improve the presentation, in particular, at the highest levels.

Remember, a Law proposal, even coming from the BWF Council, is not in force until it is approved by the membership at the AGM. Remember too, that often these types of decisions may contain a date of implementation, so that the necessary consequential technical changes can be actioned. Several experienced TOs have lately asked if the proposed changes are already in force.

The answer is no – only the AGM can change the Laws.

The BWF Council, however, has the power to introduce experimental Laws, and that is what was done relating to the Service Law 9. In BWF Grade 2 tournaments there is an alternative Service Law in force from 1 March 2018 until the end of the year.

Once the membership has accepted any or all of these and any other Law proposals at the AGM, BWF will make and publish a new version of the ITTO and any other BWF documents that need to be updated to implement the changes to the Laws.

The BWF Referee Workshop planned for 23-24 June, 2018, in Kuala Lumpur will be an appropriate opportunity for discussion and establishing a common approach

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ASSESSORS – ULTIMATE ADDED VALUE FOR REFEREES AND UMPIRES

FROM THE CHAIR BY
**GILLES
CAVERT**



In high-level sport, a well-recognised and shared view shows that the quality of the education process, and more precisely the competencies, expertise, and know-how of coaches and educators, is one of the key factors in the performance and success of an athlete in a competitive environment.

The same principle applies for technical officials. The expertise of the assessors,

appraisers and mentors allows referees and umpires to reach their highest performance level.

Therefore, the BWF Referee and Umpire Assessment Panels have implemented a qualified and structured knowledge-management policy which focus on their expertise and skills in terms of best practices, using a human and empathy-oriented approach.

Moreover, the continuous appraisal process and recently-launched mentoring programme, highlights the objectives and priorities given to a robust and efficient workforce of referees and umpires.

This policy is fully in line with the expectations of our internal stakeholders (i.e. BWF Events Committee and Council).



IMPORTANT UPDATES

By **Malcolm Banham**
Chair - BWF Umpire Assessment Panel

BWF/CC UMPIRE ASSESSOR WORKSHOP

Thanks to the Badminton World Federation for funding the first joint workshop for BWF Umpire Assessors and Continental Confederation Umpire Assessors, held prior to the YONEX All England Open 2018. It is an initiative we hope to continue.

Three assessors were invited from each confederation with the aim of achieving the highest and most consistent standards of umpire training worldwide. It is of vital importance that CCs and BWF work together to achieve this goal.

The workshop comprised of a classroom session and a practical assessment of umpires. The practical assessments were then discussed between all assessors and a common line found.

It was a great success and very well received by all who participated. These CC assessors will now go back to their confederation colleagues and respective member associations to spread the knowledge they have gained.

APPRAISALS, ASSESSMENTS, AND WORKSHOPS

As our sport grows, the demand for the performance level of technical officials also grows and WE MUST GROW WITH IT!

BWF is keen to implement the development of TOs by providing the resources to use positive initiatives such as regular umpire appraisals

and workshops. To that end, the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel will be conducting appraisals, assessments and workshops at 12 high-level tournaments this year.

SHARE COCTALES

COCTales is an ideal way to transmit and share information worldwide so please encourage all umpires to read it.

CONGRATULATIONS!

BWF congratulates the following technical officials who were recently upgraded:

From CC Level Referees to BWF Accredited Referees:

- Teodulfo Villaflor (PHI)
- Karin Bester (RSA)

From BWF Accredited Referee to BWF Certificated Referee:

- David Chang (TPE)

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for handling changes that may come from decisions at the AGM.

Referee's Duties in 2019

When it comes to the BWF Referees' assignments, next year will also be somewhat different from previous years, as we expect to have approximately six semi-professional referees in place, and they shall take over a large proportion of the duties, in order to further standardise and upgrade the overall presentation and TO performance.

Each of the BWF Referees will by now, much earlier than last year, have received the proposals that were agreed with the BWF Technical Official Commission, and we await confirmation of your acceptance.

In 2019, the semi-professional referees will do an average of six assignments plus appraisals, workshops and other refereeing-related work. As a consequence, there

will be less BWF work for the remaining workforce. BWF Certificated Referees will still do two BWF tournaments in 2019, and so will some of the most experienced BWF Accredited Referees, while others will do one only. Some of those, however, are also BWF Para-Badminton Referees and they too will be quite busy.

The new BWF Accredited Referees, coming out of the 2017/18 assessments, can only be given one deputy appointment in 2019. This is not really enough to prepare them for future work at a higher level, so there will be a proposal to introduce a trainee programme from 2019 for these newcomers and future new talents for consideration at the BWF TOC meeting in August 2018 (and, with TOC approval, in due course, for the Events Committee and Council).

There will be an increased number of appraisals in 2019, and with a continued 360-degree system for referees and

a similar programme for umpires, we expect to provide even better service at tournaments in 2019.

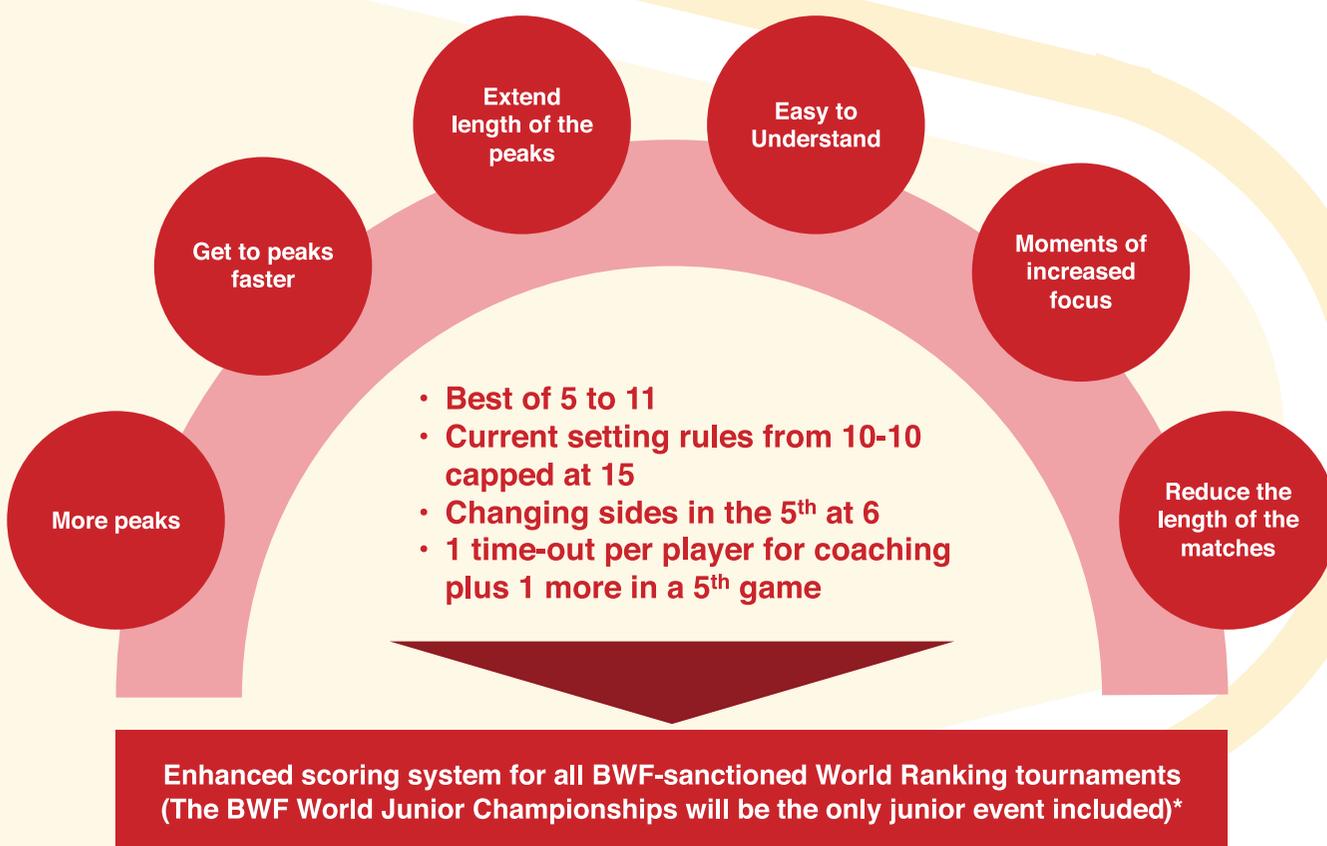
Changes and Challenges

Within the next few months there may be more changes coming to badminton than in previous years. The changes to the Laws entail major changes to the work of umpires and referees, and it is our challenge – and our opportunity – to make the most out of the changes.

We trust that the changes which are likely to come from the AGM will help to improve and consolidate the performance of all TOs, in particular referees, and contribute to the continued growth of our sport in all spheres.

In the 1960's we also sang with Pete Seeger and Joan Baez: "We shall overcome."

This too is also still true!



* National federations / member associations can opt to adopt different systems for their national competitions and an atmosphere of flexibility and adaptability of our sport should be enabled by BWF



INTERVIEW WITH BWF UMPIRE ASSESSOR SANDIE ZHENG SANLIANG (CHN)

How long did you serve as a BWF Umpire?

For eight years, between 2009 and 2016, although I did umpire at many tournaments held in China prior to reaching BWF status, including the China Open, China Masters, BWF Sudirman Cup, and the test event for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

I also served as a line judge in the BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2002, and Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

How long have you been serving as a BWF Umpire Assessor?

Since 2016.

What are some highlights of your career as a BWF Umpire?

Umpiring in top level tournaments, including the Olympic Games, BWF World Championships, BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals, BWF Sudirman Cup, All England Open, BWF World Superseries Finals, and many other BWF Superseries tournaments and multi-sport games.

What are some highlights of your experiences so far as a BWF Umpire Assessor?

The opportunity to work with other BWF Umpire Assessors is always a great experience. It also means a lot to me to be able to contribute to the improvement of the quality and consistency of performance of BWF Umpires. It's very satisfying to observe their progress and improvement, knowing this helps ensure the highest standards of fair play and sport presentation around the world.

What do you enjoy the most about umpire assessing?

Identifying areas of umpiring where improvement is most needed and observing this improvement along the way. And of course,



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supporting the overall development of umpires at all levels, including those at the national and continental levels.

What have you learned from your experiences as an assessor?

I've learned to develop my communication skills, especially when appraising umpires, to help them best manage the high-pressure environment they face in the chair. This ultimately leads them to perform better on court.

As well, I've gained new insights into umpiring and a new way of approaching umpiring, which is beneficial in helping umpires improve their performances.

What advice would you give aspiring umpires at the national and continental levels?

- Practise at as many tournaments as possible at different levels; the more experiences the better the performance!
- Be as prepared as possible before a tournament.
- Strive to perform your best.
- Learn as much as you can from each experience – including personal appraisal, feedback from assessors and observing colleagues in action.

What are the biggest challenges facing umpires at the national and continental levels?

One of the biggest challenges is getting enough opportunities to officiate in various tournaments, especially those outside of their country or region. This may be due to the cost of travel or other logistical issues.

To officiate at the highest-level tournaments, umpires need experience using the electronic-scoring system and Instant Review System, but for many umpires, they don't get exposed enough to these systems which puts more pressure on them to practise and concentrate when they are assigned to tournaments where they are used, including BWF Major Events and the HSBC BWF World Tour.

Any other guidance, tips, advice, or ideas that may help an umpire?

Read the Umpire & Service Judge Instructions, Laws, ITTO, as well as all the related rules and regulations in the BWF Statutes every time you go to a tournament. It is very important that you keep up to date!

INTERVIEW WITH BWF UMPIRE ASSESSOR YAU LIN NA (MAS)

How long did you serve as a BWF Umpire?

I became a BWF Umpire in 1998, serving in this role for the next 15 years.

How long have you been serving as a BWF Umpire Assessor?

Since 2013.

What are some highlights of your career as a BWF Umpire?

Numerous international tournaments, including the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, London 2012 Olympic Games, BWF World Championships, BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, BWF World Junior Championships, and the All England Open.

What are some highlights of your experiences so far as a BWF Umpire Assessor?

I continue to assess umpires for upgrading to BWF Accredited and BWF Certificated levels, as well as being involved in appraisals, mentoring and workshops (including most recently one on the fixed-height service).

What do you enjoy the most about umpire assessing?

The most satisfying experience is seeing an umpire receive and follow guidance well, so there are noticeable improvements in problem areas and that the umpire also recognises these improvements in their performance.

What have you learned from your experiences as an assessor?

To be more observant, patient and understanding.

What advice would you give aspiring umpires at the national and continental levels?

Keep yourself updated on all the Laws and regulations, and to umpire in as many matches as you can.

What are the biggest challenges facing umpires at the national and continental levels?

Depending on the region/country, the two biggest challenges are:

- The English language, both spoken and written.
- The opportunity to umpire in tournaments at a higher level.

Any other guidance, tips, advice, or ideas that may help an umpire?

- Observe others umpiring, both when you are at a tournament and from television or YouTube.
- Learn from more experienced umpires.



CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND APPRAISALS

Date	Meetings, Workshops and Appraisals	Location	Country	Tournament
08 May - 13 May	Referee Appraisals	Sydney	AUS	CROWN GROUP Australian Open 2018
17 May	BWF Umpire Assessors Workshop	Bangkok	THA	in conjunction with the TOTAL BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2018
20 May - 27 May	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, and Assessment for BWF Accreditation, and Referee Appraisals	Bangkok	THA	TOTAL BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2018
23 Jun - 25 Jun	Referee Assessor Workshop and Referee Workshop	Kuala Lumpur	MAS	
26 Jun - 01 Jul	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, and Referee Appraisals and Assessment for BWF Certification	Kuala Lumpur	MAS	CELCOM AXIATA Malaysia Open 2018
03 Jul - 08 Jul	Umpire Appraisals, Workshop, and Assessment for BWF Accreditation, and Referee Appraisals	Jakarta	INA	BLIBLI Indonesia Open 2018
17 Jul - 22 Jul	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Singapore	SGP	Singapore Open 2018
29 Jul	BWF Technical Official Commission Meeting	Nanjing	CHN	in conjunction with the TOTAL BWF World Championships 2018
30 Jul - 05 Aug	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, Assessment for BWF Certificated Umpire, and Referee Appraisals	Nanjing	CHN	TOTAL BWF World Championships 2018
07 Aug - 12 Aug	Referee Appraisals	Ho Chi Minh	VIE	Vietnam Open 2018
28 Aug - 02 Sep	Referee Appraisals	Granada	ESP	Spanish Open 2018
11 Sep - 16 Sep	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, and Referee Appraisals	Tokyo	JPN	Japan Open 2018
18 Sep - 23 Sep	Referee Appraisals	Pangkalpinang	INA	Bangka Belitung Indonesia Masters 2018
25 Sep - 30 Sep	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Seoul	KOR	Korea Open 2018
26 Sep - 29 Sep	Referee Assessment for BWF Accreditation	Brno	CZE	LI-NING Czech Open 2018
02 Oct - 07 Oct	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, and Referee Appraisals	Taipei	TPE	Chinese Taipei Open 2018
23 Oct - 28 Oct	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, and Referee Appraisals	Paris	FRA	YONEX French Open 2018
30 Oct - 04 Nov	Referee Appraisals	Saarbrücken	GER	SaarLorLux-Open 2018
05 Nov - 18 Nov	Referee Appraisals and Assessment for BWF Certification	Markham	CAN	BWF World Junior Championships 2018
13 Nov - 18 Nov	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Kowloon	HKG	YONEX-SUNRISE Hong Kong Open 2018
27 Nov - 02 Dec	Referee Assessment for BWF Accreditation	Mumbai	IND	Tata Open India International Challenge 2018
12 Dec - 16 Dec	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Guangzhou	CHN	HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2018