



GOOD JOB: A line judge bumps fists with tournament mascot, Plumy, at the finals of the Yonex French Open 2015.

UMPIRING - TOTAL COMMITMENT!

By Ronny De Vos
BWF Certificated Referee

Umpires today operate within an increasingly professional environment and – though still volunteers – need to uphold higher levels of responsibility, due diligence, accountability and good behaviour.

Such requirements are in keeping with badminton's overall evolution which has seen its popularity growing globally and the quality of tournament presentation improving. These factors have, in turn, helped to generate more revenue from corporate sponsorship and the sale of broadcasting rights; revenue which is often reinvested in the sport. As a result, all stakeholders involved in badminton are held to higher standards now – including umpires.

There are many roles and responsibilities which an umpire has, both before and during an event. These include:

- Accepting invitation to the event
- Organising personal travel and logistics
- Attending all required meetings and briefings
- Being available for all required shifts and roles (i.e. umpiring, service judging, IRS, etc.)
- Being fully prepared and up to date on all laws, regulations, systems and procedures to perform their official functions.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Umpires need to be available for all scheduled meetings, assignments and shifts throughout the tournament.

This means arranging travel to the host city in time to attend the first umpire briefing meeting and to be there throughout the duration of the event (i.e. the conclusion of the finals).

It seems some umpires are arranging travel that has them arriving in the host city just in time but not taking into account time required

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

With strategic plans in the pipeline for 2016-2020, you can all be happy in the knowledge that the ideas for the future are exciting and forward thinking.

Whether you are nearing retirement or just starting out as a technical official, the future for our sport looks bright and you can be proud

of the part you have or will play in achieving the goals to continue the success of badminton.

Have fun!

Regards
Vanessa Freeman
Editor-in-Chief



FROM THE CHAIR BY
**TORSTEN
BERG**

INTEGRITY TO THE FORE



We have been extremely busy recently with many BWF and continental confederation technical officials serving in either the TOTAL BWF World Championships in Jakarta, BWF World Junior Championships for the Eye-Level Cups and the Team event for the Suhandinata Cup in Lima, or the huge BWF World Senior Championships in Helsingborg, Sweden. Thank you to everyone for giving their time and efforts to ensure fair competition at these most prestigious events.

Similarly, a vote of thanks goes to those of you who have worked at any badminton event, no matter the standard of competition. It is of great importance that players, in particular juniors, are educated and understand the importance of fair play and the Laws of the Game.

The BWF Technical Official Commission (TOC) met during the World Championships in Jakarta and had a very proactive meeting. The most important issues are highlighted later in this newsletter.

As the TOC is an advisory forum, our recommendations will be put to the BWF Events Committee and Council for final decisions. Therefore we can only confirm any decisions and budget confirmations after the BWF Council has met.

There was much discussion on the development of technical officials from

2016-2020. The TOC has been looking at a strategic plan regarding this matter and working on a document called "Better and More" which will outline the BWF's Technical Officials direction and journey, concentrating on important topics such as recruitment, education and continued development. Watch this space for more information.

Focus will be on the recruitment and development of technical officials. It's essential we maintain the challenge of servicing our successful and ever-growing sport. This is particularly challenging in the area of referees. We need to work hard with member associations to recruit talented individuals, bearing in mind it could take up to ten years to gather enough experience to serve at the highest level.

Officiating at the top level can be stressful and coping with pressure requires personal integrity as well as technical skills. BWF has recently established an Integrity Unit to deal with matters such as anti-doping and match fixing, as well as other integrity-related issues. Integrity, however, is also important for each of us whenever we are on duty at tournaments.

As a BWF umpire, or referee, it is paramount to be neutral and to appear this way to others. You must be careful not to show bias for any player, pair or team. It is natural, but

still unacceptable to cheer for anyone when you are a BWF technical official, particularly if you are in uniform.

I would recommend that when off duty you sit with other technical officials, rather than with players and/or team managers; especially avoid sitting close to your countrymen.

Years ago I was coaching and responsible for the training of coaches in Denmark. Many Danish coaches and coaches from other countries attended our training courses and we all became friends. We also regularly met at events. When I had my referee hat on, I always made an effort to keep a distance, before and during any event. I quickly understood that I had to make a choice between coaching and refereeing.

Similarly, it is not advisable to be both a team manager and a technical official. It is difficult for people to understand that one weekend you are neutral, while previously you have cheered and worked hard for the success of your club or national team.

To end on a happy note – spending your time between games with other technical officials has an added bonus indeed: you may well make some of your best friends for life!

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for transiting to the meeting. Sometimes, some umpires have even arrived the morning after the first umpire briefing. This is also the case with travel on the last day where some umpires are departing before or during the finals.

We understand there may be different reasons for these deviations from the required arrival and departure protocols, including work commitments. We also know that as volunteers, it's difficult sometimes to balance work and umpiring, but to be fair to your colleagues, referees, and host organisers, a full commitment needs to be made to umpiring duties.

DURING THE EVENT

All umpires need to be available for the full event, including respecting the posted duties list or "followed-by system" for the day.

If you will be unavailable, if even for a few hours during the first few days of the tournament when the event is at its busiest, please consider declining the invitation to an assignment.

OVERALL PREPARATION

Like the organiser, players, coaches, and other volunteers, the umpire needs to be prepared to do his or her best job while at

the event. This includes knowing all the laws, RTTOs, and regulations, and keeping abreast of any changes to these. It also means, among other things, studying the Umpire Training Manual and Tips as well as the Umpire Scoring Tablet Instruction Manual (<http://www.bwfbadminton.org/page.aspx?id=14902>).

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR PARTICIPATION

While the referee will always consider special circumstances, the following are the suggested potential consequences faced by the umpire should he or she not fulfil all commitments:

SCENARIO / INFRACTION	POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCE
Umpire does not participate in the first briefing	Umpire may not be assigned to umpire or service judge in the semi-finals or finals. Umpire may be assigned to IRS duty, if applicable.
Umpire does not attend or shows up late for the daily briefing	Umpire may not be assigned to umpire or service judge in the finals. Umpire may be assigned to IRS duty, if applicable.
Umpire fails to umpire or service judge an assigned match or shift	Umpire may not be assigned to any further matches for the rest of the event.
Umpire making a gross error in a match due to lack of preparation (i.e. making a decision out of the blue)	Umpire may not be assigned to any further matches for the balance of the event.

The referee is obligated to report any of the above infractions to the BWF and/or continental confederation.

It should also be noted that the referee will always consult the respective BWF umpire assessment team members prior to assigning any umpires who are there for assessment to upgrade to the BWF Accredited or Certificated levels.

Umpiring should not be seen as a hobby or an opportunity to travel around the world. It is a serious role in a global sport.

Umpiring is more than just volunteering; it is making decisions at the highest level and being a key part of the on-court presentation of our sport.

At times, this is a sacrifice, but one for the betterment of badminton.

I look forward to seeing you on-court somewhere in the near future.



TECHNICAL OFFICIAL COMMISSION CONVENES

The Technical Official Commission (TOC) met on 14 August in Jakarta, Indonesia.

It is the TOC's mandate to make recommendations to the Events Committee for everything related to technical officials. This encompasses ongoing expertise, experience and support of the umpire and referee assessor teams. The assessor teams have been key in identifying and bringing forward recommendations to the TOC for consideration.

In addition to discussing the three key areas – referees, umpires and line judges – one of the most important agenda items was the draft Strategic Plan for the development of TOs from 2016-2020.

Whilst still a work in progress, the principle of an overall plan to build the size and quality

of our TO workforce over the next few years, under the theme of "Better and More" was recommended.

The key strategic areas include:

- Recruiting and recruiting strategies
- Educating referees and umpires
- Developing BWF line judges
- Developing and motivating current BWF referees and umpires
- Removing or reducing barriers to development
- Working towards a partly professional workforce by 2020
- Developing a TO manual to underpin the development

Once this strategic planning paper is approved by the BWF Events Committee and Council, we look forward to sharing the ideas with you.

Members of the TOC are:

- Peter Tarcala, Chair, BWF Events Committee (ex-officio)
- Torsten Berg, Chair
- Chua Soo Hock (MAS), representing Badminton Asia Confederation
- Jean-Guy Poitras (CAN), representing Pan Am Badminton Confederation
- Peter Cocker (AUS), representing Badminton Oceania
- Ewald Cejnek (AUT), representing Badminton Europe
- Diraj Gooneadry (MRI), representing Badminton Confederation of Africa
- Darren Parks, BWF Events Director (supporting staff)
- Chris Trenholme, BWF Technical Events Manager (supporting staff)



UMPIRES IN THE HEADLINES

Congratulations to new BWF certificated umpires, Andrea Chiappini (ITA) and Kristill Tan (MAS), for successfully passing their recent assessments at the TOTAL BWF World Championships.

BWF wishes to acknowledge and thank BWF certificated umpire Jane Hancock (ENG) for many years of highly professional and dedicated service to badminton and BWF.

Whilst still able to serve as a BWF umpire for another year, Jane (at right; right) has decided to step down to pursue other activities.

"Jane has been one of BWF's best umpires, and has served as a wonderful role model for her colleagues," said BWF TOC Chair Torsten Berg.

"She will be sorely missed on court, as well as in the TO community. We wish her every success with her new endeavours."





BWF REFEREE AND CERTIFICATED REFEREE WORKSHOPS 2015

Saturday 10 October was a great opportunity for referee assessors to discuss and share their experiences at a workshop in Denmark.

Gathered in Hillerød – the hometown of Chair of the Technical Official Commission, Torsten Berg – they looked at strategic plans, reviewed the Terms of References for referee assessments, the assessment program for the next two years and the assessment criteria. Other topics included referee appraisals, mentorship and the proposed Technical Officials Strategic Plan for 2016-2020.

The referee assessors were then joined by the certificated referees for a workshop the following day.

Many items were discussed, including the following:

- Continuous play and how referees and umpires can best manage during competition.
- The different responsibilities of referees at different levels of tournaments, including multi-sport games.
- New functionality within Tournament Software for referees to consider when messaging team managers and players during Level 1-3 tournaments (i.e. schedule changes or alerting teams to when a schedule will be posted).
- The implementation of the new GCR 25.1.4 and Appendix 6, Section 4.4.
- BWF's new integrity program, including current and future practices for referees. For example in BWF World Championships, World Superseries and Grand Prix Gold tournaments any matches where the players are from the same country will be video recorded from the quarterfinals onwards. The referee also has the right to consider recording matches in earlier rounds, if they think it is necessary. This is with the intent to ensure players are giving their best effort.
- BWF's critical incident protocol which outlines the communication process the referee undertakes in the event of a major incident occurring at a tournament.
- The previously circulated draw management document was

reviewed to ensure consistency with areas such as withdrawals, promotions, draw alterations (if required) and the accuracy of results.

- Team managers' meetings.
- Social media.
- Withdrawal and on-court incident reporting.
- Player clothing.
- The proposed Technical Officials Strategic Plan for 2016-2020.

"I was really pleased with the outcome of both workshops, everyone contributed and it is a great forum for sharing best practices, continued standardisation of refereeing, assessing and the chance to share valuable experiences," said Berg.

LIST OF WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS

- Assessments for BWF Accredited Umpires – Bitburger Badminton Open 2015 – 27 October to 1 November 2015 Saarbrücken, GER
- Assessment for BWF Certificated Referee – World Junior Championships – 4-8 November – Lima, PER
- Umpire Appraisals – Yonex-Sunrise Hong Kong Open – 17-22 November 2015 – Hong Kong, HKG
- Umpire Appraisals – Dubai World Superseries Finals 2015 – 9-13 December 2015 – Dubai, UAE
- Assessments for BWF Accredited Referees – Various Tournaments – Remainder of 2015 / Early 2016