

25 October 2021

Dear Member Associations and Continental Confederations:

Please find enclosed the following documents related to the decisions of the BWF Council from its meeting on 18-19 October 2021:

- Summary - Changes to Regulations
- Summary - Approved Para Badminton Regulation Changes
- Changes to the Instructions to Technical Officials (ITTO) and Vocabulary

The following are some highlights. Please refer to the attached summaries for detailed information.

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### **Approved Regulation Changes**

#### **General Competition Regulations**

- Clarification of the calculation of Notional Ranking points.
- Clarification that the order of players/pairs in group play is based on the tournament ranking order.

#### **Junior Tournament Regulations**

- Clarification that substitution only takes place after the draw has been made.

#### **World Ranking System, Clause 4.4 – Special COVID-19 Exemption**

Players/pairs who would otherwise lose World Ranking points due to clause 4.4, where the withdrawal is forced due to COVID-19 (e.g. positive test, identified close contact, etc.), the player/pair would not lose World Ranking points.

#### **Continued Flexibility for Grade 3 Tournaments in 2022**

To encourage maximum hosting of Grade 3 tournaments in 2022 during the ongoing impact of COVID-19, Member Associations are allowed to host a maximum of three additional Grade 3 tournaments in 2022, pending approval by BWF, in consultation with the respective Continental Confederation, on a case-by-case basis.

Furthermore, reduced prize money levels in 2021 will be continued for Grade 3 tournaments in 2022 as follows:

- International Challenge 2022 - \$15,000 USD
- International Series 2022 - \$5,000 USD
- Future Series – Less than \$5,000 USD



**Para badminton General Competition Regulations**

- Clarification of the calculation of Notional Ranking points.

**Instructions to Technical Officials (ITTO) and Vocabulary**

Various minor updates to instructions to referees, umpires, and line judges, as well as several updates to the Vocabulary for umpires, based on a review, including Law changes from the Annual General Meeting 2021.

To access the current versions of the BWF Statutes, please go to the BWF Corporate site at:  
<https://corporate.bwfbadminton.com/statutes/>

Please contact BWF Events Director, Darren Parks, or Senior Technical Events Manager, Christopher Trenholme, should you have any questions.

Darren Parks  
Events Director

**Approved Changes to Regulations**  
**19 October 2021**

(Yellow – Added text; Red – Text to be deleted)

**BWF Statutes, Section 5.1 – General Competition Regulations**

*Rationale: To ensure consistency in the explanation of the calculation of a notional ranking across all statutes.*

- 11.6.1 If two Players do not have a World Ranking as a pair but the Players have a World Ranking with other partners, a notional ranking is calculated for the pair. An average (the “notional” average) is taken of the **highest World Ranking points** **best average points scored** by each of the two Players with other partners. This notional average is converted into the total notional points for the pair by multiplying by 10 and taking 80%. The notional points are used to determine a notional ranking.
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*Rationale: To simplify and better organize. No material change was made to the content of these clauses.*

**NEW VERSION:**

**13. WITHDRAWALS AND PROMOTIONS**

13.1. Where Players or pairs withdraw their entry from the main competition, the Referee shall fill the vacancies from the entries in the qualifying rounds or from the reserve list if there is no qualifying draw.

13.1.1. In Events with a qualifying competition, the Referee shall promote entries from the qualifying draw until play has started in that main draw, provided these entries have not yet lost a match, even stopping a match in progress if required. The highest-ranked entry not accepted in the main draw (as described in Regulation 12.5) and which has not yet lost a match in the qualifying draw can be placed in the vacancy.

13.1.1.1 Players/pairs must accept promotion from the qualifying draw into the main draw to fill a vacancy, or otherwise be considered withdrawn.

13.1.2. In Events with a qualifying competition, the Referee shall promote entries from the reserve list to the qualifying draw, until the order of play for the qualifying draw has been published. The highest-ranked entry on the reserve list and available (as described in Regulation 12.5) can be placed in the vacancy. Where more than one vacancy arises, the relevant places shall be filled by drawing lots.

13.1.2.1. Players/pairs can decline promotion from the reserve list to the qualifying draw (for Events with a qualifying competition) and will not be considered withdrawn.

13.1.3. In Events without a qualifying competition, the Referee shall promote entries from the reserve list, until the order of play for the first day(s) has been published. The highest-ranked entry on the reserve list and available (as described in Regulation 12.5) can be placed in the vacancy. Where more than one vacancy arises, the relevant places shall be filled by drawing lots.

13.1.3.1. Players/pairs can decline promotion from the reserve list to the main draw (for Events without a qualifying competition) and will not be considered withdrawn.

13.2. The withdrawals reported until the draw is made shall be considered while preparing the draw by amending the list of participants of the main and the qualifying draw as well as of any reserve list.

13.3. The withdrawals reported during the period from the draw until the team managers' meeting shall be dealt with in the team managers' meeting according to Regulation 13.1. The organisers shall inform the next eligible Players about their inclusion in the main / qualifying draw.

13.4. The withdrawals reported after the team managers' meeting shall be dealt with by the Referee as and when they arise (as in Regulation 13.1).

13.5. Where vacancies are filled under Regulation 13.2, entry separation (as in Regulation 11.11) shall be ignored.

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*Rationale: To specify how the order in group play is established.*

## **16. RANKING IN TOURNAMENTS PLAYED IN GROUPS**

16.4 In group play, the following order, based on the tournament ranking order, is recommended:



### **BWF Statutes, Section 5.2.3 – Junior Tournament Regulations**

*Rationale: To clarify that substitutions are only considered after the draw has been made (and not before).*

- 7.3 The Referee shall be permitted to substitute Players **after the draw has been made** due to injury or other unavoidable hindrance only if play in that draw has not begun and under the following provisions:

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*Rationale: To ensure all tournament draw scenarios are referenced in regards to substitutions.*

- 7.3.3 In a Tournament with **either** a qualifying draw and **/or no** reserve list, **or in a Tournament with no qualifying draw but with a reserve list,** promotions, according to Regulation 5, take priority over substitution;



**BWF Statutes, Section 5.3.2 – Timelines for Tournaments**

*Rationale: To bring the table in compliance with BWF Statute 5.2.2 (BWF World Tour Regulations) Clause 6.4.4 (no national separation of entries in Grade 2 tournaments).*

**GRADE 2, 3, and JUNIOR TOURNAMENTS TABLE**

<b>Time Line</b>	<b>Weekday</b>	<b>Days from Start of Tournament</b>	<b>Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4</b>	<b>Level 5</b>	<b>Level 6</b>	<b>Grade 3 and Junior Tournaments</b>
Week 4	Tuesday	28	Ranking for Main draw seeding, and draw & national separation of entries	Ranking for Main draw seeding, and draw & national separation of entries	Ranking for Main draw seeding, and draw & national separation of entries	Ranking for M&Q, qualifying draw seeding, promotions



## **Approved Changes to ITTO and Vocabulary** **19 October 2021**

(Yellow – Added text; Red – Text to be deleted)

### **BWF Statutes, Section 4.1.1 – Instructions to Technical Officials (ITTO)**

2.5. When another official is unsighted, the Umpire shall make the decision. When no decision can be made, a 'let' shall be called (Law 17.6.6), unless IRS is in use, in which case it will be used to decide on the line call (BWF Statutes, Section 4.1.8, Regulation 1.2).

2.7. The Umpire's jurisdiction shall exist from entering the Field Of Play before the match until leaving the Field Of Play after the match. The Field Of Play is defined as the total area upon which the courts are laid and where spectators are not allowed.

3.2.2. The Referee shall be aware of the required timeline (BWF Statutes, Section 5.3.2) for pre-tournament activities (e.g. publishing of the Prospectus, M&Q report list, conducting the draw) and shall liaise with the BWF or CC Events Staff to ensure that these activities are completed on time.

3.2.4.2. The Referee shall ensure that the provisional schedule contained in the Prospectus (playing hours, rounds per day, number of courts), is realistic and fair to the players while taking into account the needs of the tournament and, if applicable, any BWF (or CC) regulations pertaining to that level of tournament (e.g. BWF World Tour Regulations (BWF Statutes, Section 5.2.2, Regulation 6.7)).

3.2.4.3. The tournament's provisional schedule of play shall not be published until the Prospectus is approved.

3.2.5.2. The initial checklist should focus on items that need to be confirmed well in advance of the Referee's arrival at the venue, for example ensuring that adequate practice facilities required for the level of tournament are arranged, that planning for any items pertaining to required health and safety procedures is on track, as well as any major logistical issues described in the previous year's Referee's Report.

3.2.6. The Referee shall, assisted by the BWF or CC staff, approve the initial M&Q report list in a timely manner before it is published.

3.2.6.1. The Referee shall carefully check the initial M&Q report list for accuracy around the date of the World Rankings used (BWF Statutes, Section 5.3.2), adjusted and notional ranking calculations (GCR, Regulation 11.6), protected ranking (BWF Statutes, Section 5.3.6), permissible number of entries per event per Member (where applicable), listing of entries in the main draw, qualifying draw or reserve list and qualifying draw seeding.

3.2.6.2. The Referee shall check that any updates made to the initial M&Q report list accurately reflect any withdrawals that have been received since the latest version. If not provided, the Referee shall request a copy of the official withdrawal documentation originating from the player's Member/Team Manager.

3.2.7.1. The Referee shall carefully check the draw to ensure that seeds, and byes and any qualifying entries have been placed correctly (GCR, Regulations 11.9, 11.13), and that separation of entries is in accordance with Regulations 11.11 – 11.14 of the GCR or as described in the tournament-specific Regulations.

3.2.8. The Referee shall maintain a list of all withdrawals received after the draw is published and check that the organizers correctly inform any members whose players are in line to be promoted and that responses from members are received. The Referee shall be copied on all such communications.

3.2.9. The Referee shall ensure that after it is initially published, the draw is not republished showing withdrawals etc. until the conclusion of the Team Managers' Meeting.

3.3.5.9. Confirm the arrangements (space and cost etc.) for rackets restringing.

3.3.6.5. Finalize the placement of all hardware on the Field Of Play (e.g. positioning of Umpire, Service Judge, Line Judge, Coaches and Court Attendant chairs, service height measuring devices, shuttle dispensers (if applicable), shuttle bins, interval boards cones, A-boards (manual and digital), scoreboards and TV cameras/microphones).

3.3.6.6. Check if the chairs for the Technical Officials are ergonomically suitable for prolonged seating during consecutive matches and over the multiple days of the tournament.

3.3.6.7. Confirm which areas on the Field Of Play photographers will be permitted to work from and how they will access those areas.

3.3.10.1. Ensure that the practice schedule for the first day(s) is fair to all players/teams and takes account of the size of the player contingents from each Member.

3.3.13.1. If not already established (as should be the case for higher level BWF Tournaments), the Referee shall determine whether, for the early rounds, matches will be pre-assigned to specific courts, allocated on a "next available" basis, or a combination of both (e.g. if live streaming and/or TV on some courts will be in effect).

3.4.1.5. Review with the Deputy/Deputies the material to be covered at the meeting including checking the current list of withdrawals and the logistics to be used for execution of promotions.

3.4.2.2. Make use of an interpreter may be used, if necessary.

3.4.5.3.1. A qualifying draw is considered to be severely imbalanced if, after withdrawals and promotions, more than one qualifying position (Q1, Q2, etc.) will be unfilled (GCR, Regulation 15.3.2).

3.4.10.6. If IRS will be used at the tournament, remind the Umpires to familiarise themselves with the IRS regulations (BWF Statutes, Section 4.1.8) and the associated vocabulary.

3.4.10.7. Remind the Umpires of their obligations under BWF Code of Ethics (BWF Statutes, Section 2.1) and Code of Conduct for Technical Officials (BWF Statutes, Section 2.2.5), particularly as related to betting and wagering, and the use of social media.

3.4.14.2. Make use of an interpreter may be used, if necessary.

3.5.1.4. On the first day of the tournament observe the mechanics of the general traffic flow around the Field Of Play, efficiency of march-on/march-off, audibility and appropriate content of announcements, etc. and make any necessary adjustments for subsequent days.

3.5.1.5. Whenever possible during play, ensure the Referee team is and Deputy(ies) should be positioned such that all the courts in use can be easily observed (i.e. when multiple courts are being used the Referee and Deputy(ies) should avoid being co-located for extended periods in one area, if possible).

3.5.1.6. If necessary, the Referee may go onto court during a match without being called by the Umpire.

3.5.1.7. If IRS is in operation, ensure as far as possible that the Referee or Deputy shall endeavour to watches that any challenge made is administered correctly by the Umpire, and be ready to intervene, if necessary, to ensure that any mistake is corrected before the next rally begins.

3.5.5.2. For Grade 1 and Grade 2 tournaments, In events without a qualifying competition, an entry on the reserve list may be promoted to the main draw until the order of play for the first day(s) has been published (GCR, Regulation 13.1.2).

3.5.5.3. For Grade 2 tournaments, In events with a qualifying competition, an entry on the reserve list may be promoted to the qualifying draw until the order of play for the qualifying rounds has been published (GCR 13.1.3).

3.5.15. When required, the Referee shall make decisions concerning compliance of a player's or Coach's clothing.

3.5.17.1. The next day's schedule should be published as early as possible on the preceding day (even if the identities of some of the players are not known at the time of initial publishing), but it should not be published until the order of play, and if appropriate, the court assignments are finalized. Record the time when the schedule for the next day is published and check that the publically accessible published schedule is the same as that inputted into Tournament Planner.

3.5.17.7. The Referee shall develop or check the next day's practice schedule as applicable and approve it before it is published.

3.5.22. The Referee shall ascertain from the tournament organizers the plan for the award ceremonies, and shall participate in the ceremonies, if requested. The Referee shall monitor that players participating in the award ceremonies are dressed appropriately and that they do not bring onto the podium any items that are not permitted (e.g. flags except at Grade 1 Team Tournaments, rackets) (BWF Statutes, Section 5.3.6, Regulation 1.10). Ensure that players participating in the award ceremonies are not accompanied onto the podium by family members or other persons.

3.6.1.2. The Tournament Doctor's duty is to examine the player's injury and quickly determine whether it is medically advisable for the player to continue to play. The decision, however, which shall be taken as fast as possible, remains with the player. The Tournament Doctor may apply a quick relief, such as a bandage on a bleeding injury or a spray, but no time-consuming treatment is allowed except in the regular intervals and then only if the Tournament Doctor estimates that the treatment can be completed (or nearly so) before the interval ends. The Tournament Doctor may be called to apply spray only once to a particular player per match except to administer additional sprays in the regular intervals.

3.8.1.1. Team Tournaments are frequently played in pools and groups, at least in the initial stage, and the BWF General Competition Regulations for play in groups and pools apply (GCR, Regulation 16), unless specifically stated otherwise.

4.2.2.6. Consider whether the outcome of the decision may set an unhelpful precedent.

4.2.2.7. Take the decision as soon as possible but only when ready to do so; and



4.2.2.87. Communicate the decision to the person raising the case and to all others that the decision may directly or indirectly affect.

5.1.1. Obtain the scoresheet from match control/Umpire Coordinator;

5.2.1. Carry out the toss fairly and note the choices made by ensure that the winning and losing sides exercise their choices correctly (Law 6). These choices, once made, are final; and, once confirmed, that they are noted;

5.2.2.4. Check that the Line Judge and Coach's chairs are correctly positioned.

5.4.6. Raise the left hand above the head when a decision is required from the IRS; and Renumber Regulations 5.4.7 to 5.4.16 as 5.4.6 to 5.4.15.

5.4.10. During each game, after the rally which takes a side to 11 points (or the appropriate score for matches being played using other scoring systems as outlined in BWF Statutes, Sections 4.1.3 and 4.1.4), the Umpire shall call the score followed immediately by "Interval" or "Service over", the score and then "Interval".

*Note this will be renumbered to 5.4.9 as noted above.*

5.6.4. At the end of each game the Umpire shall request the Court Attendants/Line Judges to wipe the court. After the Umpire has called "Game" and finished his announcement, the Service Judge, when appointed, shall stand up and walk to place the interval board, if provided, on the centre of the court below the net (See also Instruction 7.9).

5.6.5. If a game wins the match, after the players have shaken hands with their opponents, the Umpire and Service Judge, the Umpire shall call:  
"Match won by ..... [name(s) of player(s), or Member (in a Team Tournament)], .....[scores]"

5.6.10. In a third game, or in a match of one game, after the rally which first takes a side to 11 points (or the appropriate score for matches being played using other scoring systems as outlined in BWF Statutes, Sections 4.1.3 and 4.1.4), the Umpire shall call the score followed immediately by "interval, change ends" or "service over", the score and then "interval, change ends".

5.7.2. If any incidents happened on court that may be reported by the Referee after the tournament, the Umpire must immediately take the printed or completed score-sheet with notes on the relevant incidents (BWF Statutes, Section 4.1.5, Section 7 for examples), if necessary, to the Referee. Examples of incidents that do not need to be followed up with the Referee after the match include a clothing violation which was rectified by the player or Coach, an injury not resulting in a retirement, or suspension of play due to a minor repair to the court or its surroundings.

5.12.1. Coaching is not allowed from the moment the player(s) have taken up position to serve and receive the next service, is ready for the next service and while the shuttle is in play.

5.12.8. Coaches at courtside must be dressed appropriately as instructed by the Referee (GCR, Regulations 20 and 24.6).

5.14.1. This type of incident must be handled carefully and flexibly. The Umpire must try to determine the severity of the problem as quickly as possible and call the Referee onto court, if necessary. The Referee will decide whether the Tournament Doctor or anyone else is required on court (Instruction 3.6). The Tournament Doctor shall examine the player and advise the player about the severity of injury or sickness. No treatment causing undue delay shall be given on court. The Tournament Doctor may be called to apply spray only once to a particular player per



match except **to administer additional sprays** in the regular intervals. The Umpire shall time the delay caused by the injury.

5.14.3. If a player approaches the Umpire and expresses the wish to retire because of injury or illness, the Umpire shall ask the player "Are you retiring?" and if confirmed, the Umpire shall make the appropriate announcement (BWF Statutes, Section 4.1.5, **Section Clause 6.6**).

5.17.3. When the Umpire has to administer a breach of Law **16.2**, 16.4.1, 16.5.2 or 16.6 by issuing a warning to the offending side (Law 16.7.1.1), call "Come here" to the offending player and call:

"... [name of player], warning for misconduct", followed by a specific explanation of the misconduct (BWF Statutes, Section 4.1.5, Section 5).

at the same time raising the right hand **holding a yellow card** above the Umpire's head.

5.17.11. Misconduct after the match that happens on the Field Of Play, shall be treated as in **Instructions 5.17.3, 5.17.4 or 5.17.5** and reported to the Referee immediately.

7.5. The Service Judge, when appointed, shall administer any change of shuttle under the Umpire's instruction, **unless other arrangements are in place e.g. shuttle dispensers**, and ensure that a sufficient quantity of shuttles is readily available throughout the match in order to avoid delays during play.

8.3. If the shuttle lands out, no matter how far, call "**O**ut" promptly in a clear voice, loud enough to be heard by the players and the spectators and, at the same time, signal by extending both arms horizontally **while looking so that the Umpire can see clearly. Look** towards the Umpire.

8.6. Do not call or signal until the shuttle has touched the floor **or has touched anything outside the court boundaries, except a player.**

## **BWF Statutes, Section 4.1.5 – Vocabulary**

1.1.11. "The adverts on the shirt are not in the permitted locations."

1.1.23. "The lettering on the shirt is not visible."

1.3.2. "Line up for the march-on."

1.3.32. "Place your bag properly in the basket equipment box."

1.3.43. "Ready to play."

3.1.20. "The shuttle did not distract or obstruct you."

3.1.26. "The shuttle touched the ground before you hit it."

3.1.27. "The shuttle touched the ceiling."

3.3.7. "Return the shuttle properly".

3.3.11. You must not interfere with the speed of the shuttle."

3.4.2. "Line Judge – repeat your signal, please."

3.4.9. "The call is IN, do you wish to challenge?"

3.4.10. "The call is OUT, do you wish to challenge?"

3.6.5. "Do not coach after the players have taken up position for the next service."

3.6.9. "Coach, move your chair back to its original position."

3.7.5. "You can have spray from the doctor only once in a match except during the intervals"

3.7.6. "The bleeding needs to be treated before you can continue."

3.8.2. "Show the court attendant where to wipe the court."

3.9.12. "You must ask my permission to have a drink".

3.9.13. "You must not take so long to cut your strings."

3.10.4. "You must not scream so loudly."

4.2. "Service fault called, shaft racket head."

4.7. "Service fault called, flight."

5.6. "You screamed excessively."

5.24. "You were late getting back onto court".

6.7. "'.....' (name of player) disqualified for misconduct (followed by a specific explanation of the misconduct). Match won by '.....' [name(s) of player(s), or Member (in a Team Tournament)] '.....' (scores)."



- 7.8. Match suspended for X minutes for ... due to power failure.
- 7.17. [Name of Player] was injured their right knee. Referee and Tournament Doctor were called on court. The Tournament Doctor advised the player to retire.
- 8.8. There are too many adverts on the [item of clothing] of [name of player/Coach].
- 8.9. The advert on the shirt of [name of player/Coach] is too big.
- 8.10. There is more than one advert in the advertising band of [name of player/Coach].
- 8.11. There are visible adverts on the underclothing of [name of player/Coach].
- 8.20. There is taping on the shirt of [name of player/Coach].



## **Approved Changes to Para badminton Regulations** **19 October 2021**

(Yellow – Added text; Red – Text to be deleted)

### **BWF Statutes, Section 5.5 – Para badminton General Competition Regulations**

*Rationale: To ensure consistency in the explanation of the calculation of a notional ranking across all statutes.*

- 9.3.5.1 If two Players do not have a World Ranking as a pair but the Players have a World Ranking with other partners, a notional ranking is calculated for the pair. An average (the “notional” average) is taken of the **highest World Ranking points** **best average points scored** by each of the two Players with other partners. This notional average is converted into the total notional points for the pair by multiplying by 3 and taking 80%. The notional points are used to determine a notional ranking.