

11 May 2021

Report of the BWF Vetting Panel for the BWF Annual General Assembly

I am pleased to write this report on behalf of the Vetting Panel as its Chair. This Report introduces the Vetting Panel and describes its activities leading up to the 2021 BWF Elections.

The Vetting Panel

The Vetting Panel was created as part of the governance reforms made by the BWF membership at its AGM in July 2020. Its composition and its role are defined in Appendix II of the BWF Constitution (the “Vetting Rules”). It is broadly responsible for making sure that BWF Officials meet several criteria, thereby making them “Eligible” to take up their position.

During the same meeting in July 2020, the BWF AGM decided on rules for the appointment of the inaugural Vetting Panel. For the inaugural Vetting Panel, the Secretary General was responsible for making a recommendation to the BWF Council about the Eligibility and the selection of the inaugural Vetting Panel. The BWF Council was then delegated the power to declare Vetting Panel members as Eligible and for appointing them, subject to confirmation by the BWF AGM in 2021.

On 20 October 2020, to start this process, the BWF advertised on its website that it was seeking candidacies for its Vetting Panel, and in particular persons “who are independent from the BWF and who have experience in vetting or screening applications for appointments in official positions.”

Once the recruitment period ended, the Secretary General assessed the candidacies and made a preselection of candidates based on their experience in vetting, and with regards to their diversity, both in terms of gender and geography. A recommendation on Eligibility and on the selection of the Vetting Panel members was made to the BWF Council on 21 January 2021. The BWF Council approved such recommendation by email decision on 24 January 2021.

The Vetting Panel is composed of the following members. Their profiles can be found on the BWF website (<https://corporate.bwfbadminton.com/vetting-panel/>):

- Dr Catherine Ordway (AUS)
- Mr Niels Lindholm (FRA)
- Mr Masahiro Takamatsu (JPN)

On 3 March 2021, the members of the Vetting Panel decided to name Dr Catherine Ordway as its Chair, in line with article 5.2 of Appendix II of the BWF Constitution, which allows it to define its procedures.

Preparatory work

In preparation for the vetting processes to follow, the Vetting Panel put in place procedures describing the general vetting process, and created a declaration form, through which candidates would provide information relevant to the criteria mentioned in the Vetting Rules. The Vetting Panel also selected an external provider whose role it was to perform background checks of nominees using publicly available information and provide a report to the Panel.

Vetting Processes

Below is a timeline of the work carried out by the Vetting Panel:

- In March 2021, the Vetting Panel carried out the Vetting Process for the prospective members of the Independent Hearing Panel and for the Referral Officer.
- Between March and April 2021, the Vetting Panel carried out the Vetting Process for the nominees to the 2021 BWF elections.
- As of the date of this Report, the Vetting Panel is completing the Vetting Process for the BWF Vice Presidents (Continental) who currently hold office.

As part of this process, the Vetting Panel had four meetings by videoconference and exchanged a significant number of emails. It was supported in this process by BWF's Head of Legal and Governance, Thomas Delaye, who acted as Vetting Officer and carried out administrative tasks.

The Vetting Panel is grateful for the collaboration shown by each of the individuals being vetted. In several instances, the Vetting Panel asked for further information related to the candidacies it reviewed. In every case, the Vetting Panel received prompt feedback.

While the Vetting Panel would have preferred to complete the Vetting Process for the nominees to the BWF Elections at an earlier date, it opted to give more time to nominees in order to answer questions by the Vetting Panel.

Further recommendations

The Vetting Panel notes that this vetting exercise was the first one carried out by the BWF. In the coming months, the Vetting Panel will work together with the BWF Secretariat in order to identify aspects of the process that can be further improved. The BWF and the Vetting Panel welcome suggestions from the BWF membership on how the process or the rules can be further strengthened.

Steps ahead

The Vetting Panel will vet the members of the Sports Disciplinary Panel once these have been appointed by the continental confederations. In addition, the Vetting Panel will remain active should any individual it has vetted have a material change of circumstances in connection with the criteria of the Vetting Rules.

Dr Catherine Ordway

For and on behalf of the Vetting Panel:

- Dr Catherine Ordway (AUS)
- Mr Nils Lindholm (FRA)
- Mr Masahiro Takamatsu (JPN)