



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of the Badminton World Federation will be held at the Aarhus Convention Centre, Aarhus, Denmark on Friday 21 August 2020 at 1000 hours.

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

- 1.1 President's Remarks
 - 1.2 Appointment of scrutineers
 - 1.3 Roll call
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2. MINUTES

- 2.1 To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 23 May 2019 (**Annexure A**).
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3. DECISIONS TO POSTPONE THE AGM

- 3.1 Report on the impact of COVID-19 on global badminton.
 - 3.2 Background to the decision by Council to postpone the AGM from 22 May 2020 to 21 August 2020.
 - 3.3 **Proposal** – To endorse the decision by Council to postpone the AGM.
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4. COUNCIL REPORT

- 4.4 To receive the Report of Council and its Committees, and other reports for the year ending 31 December 2019 (**Annual Report 2019**).
 - 4.5 To adopt the Financial Statements, duly audited, for the year ending 31 December 2019 (**Annexure B**).
 - 4.6 To receive the 2020 budget and the provisional budget for 2021 (**Annexure C**)
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5. COUNCIL PROPOSALS

To consider proposals to amend the BWF Constitution (**Annexure D**). These Council proposals relate to five topic areas and shall be presented as five separate proposals:

- 5.1 Voting Strength
 - 5.2 Para Badminton Athletes' Commission Chair for Council / Term of the President / Election Protocols
 - 5.3 Judicial Provisions
 - 5.4 Council Geographical and Gender Representation – new **Appendix I** of the BWF constitution.
 - 5.5 Vetting of Officials – new **Appendix II** of the BWF constitution.
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5.1 Council Proposal 1 – Voting Strength

Proposal - To amend clause 15.20 of the BWF Constitution as below.

BWF Constitution – addition to clause 15.20 (See **Annexure D** full text)

15.20. A Member in Good Standing shall be entitled to a minimum of one (1) vote and a maximum of five (5) votes as confirmed by Council in accordance with the following criteria applied over the Assessment Period.

1 vote	Membership to the Federation
1 additional vote	More than 10,000 registered players in each of the four years of the Assessment Period.
1 additional vote	Participation in 7 6 out of these 12-10 events during the Assessment Period: Sudirman Cup (2 events) , Individual Continental Championships (a maximum of 2 events), World Championships (3 events), Olympic Games (1 event), World Junior Team Championships (4 events)
1 additional vote	Having one player or more in the top 40 world ranking in any of the five (5) disciplines as per the world ranking list for the qualification for the most recent Olympic Games held.
1 additional vote	Hosting at least one (1) of these events in three (3) out of the four (4) years of the Assessment Period: Super Series, Grand Prix, International Challenge or the equivalent World Tour events.

15.20.1 The number of votes a Member is entitled to is fixed for a four (4) year period starting after the end of the Assessment Period.

Rationale

The Sudirman Cup becomes a closed tournament in 2021 which means a maximum of 16 teams qualify. Previously this was an open tournament and therefore a relevant tournament to measure "international competition participation". There was no eligibility criteria and Members could enter teams if they wished (2019 = 31 teams competed / 2017 = 27 teams / 2015 = 35 teams / 2013 = 30 teams / 2011 = 33 teams / 2009 = 30 teams).

With the rule change coming into effect in 2021 where this is a qualification tournament of 16 teams (like the Thomas and Uber Cup Finals which is not part of this criteria for voting strength), the Sudirman Cup should no longer be an event that is counted in the next Assessment Period (1 October 2020 – 30 September 2024) under this criteria of 'participation in international tournaments'.

5.2 **Council Proposal 2 – Para Badminton Athletes’ Commission Chair, Terms for the President, Election Protocols – Secret Ballot / Acclamation.**

Proposals

- a) *To approve a new clause 17.1.4 which states that the Chair of the Para Badminton Athletes’ Commission shall be a member of Council (and related clauses as a consequence of this change).*
 - b) *To approve new wording to the last paragraph of clause 18.11 which limits the number of terms for the position of President to four terms and for this to take effect from the 2021 elections with the calculation of the term limits starting from the 2021 election.*
 - c) *To include new clauses 18.8.1 and 18.8.2 to make it clear that elections are by secret ballot and if there is only one candidate, this is by acclamation.*
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Proposal a) – The Chair of the Para Badminton Athletes’ Commission as a member of Council.

BWF Constitution – new Clause 17.4 - (See **Annexure D for full context)**

17.1 An AGM shall elect a Council which shall have administrative powers to carry on the work of the Federation between AGMs. The Council shall consist of:

17.1.1 The eight (8) officers (Clause 18);

17.1.2 Eighteen (18) ~~other~~ ordinary Council members;

17.1.3 The Chair of the Athletes Commission; and

17.1.4 The Chair of the Para Badminton Athletes’ Commission.

Clause 15.24

15.24 Members of Council shall have the right to attend and speak at General Meetings, but unless representing a Member at a General Meeting, shall have no vote.

*15.24.1 If not able to attend, the **Chairs of the Athletes’ Commission and Para Badminton Athletes’ Commission Chair** may nominate **another** a representative from their **respective** Athletes Commission, who can attend and speak, but shall have no vote.*

Clause 18.5

18.5 The Athletes' Commission Chair and Para Badminton Athletes' Commission Chair will ~~be~~ respectively be appointed by the Athletes' Commission and the Para Badminton Athletes' Commission according to a process approved by Council.

Clause 18.11 - paragraph 2

The term of the Officers and Council shall be four years, except for the Chairs of the Athletes' Commission and the Para Badminton Athletes' Commission Chair.

Clause 18.17

18.17 In case of a vacancy amongst the remaining members on Council, except for the Chairs of the Athletes' and Para Badminton Athletes' Commissions Chairs, a successor shall be elected for the remainder of the original term at the next AGM, however subject to notice being given as per Clause 15.1. Council may decide not to call for an election to fill a vacancy if such an elected Council member cannot serve on Council for at least 18 months of the original term.

Rationale

This was proposed from the floor at the 2018 BWF AGM as an idea for the future. Council currently has an athletes' representative – the Chair of the Athletes' Commission, however the Para Badminton Athletes Commission represents a different community of athletes – a smaller population with similar aspirations (to qualify for the Paralympic Games), but different issues and challenges to the badminton athlete population. Since athletes are at the centre of our work (Strategic Plan 2020 – 2024) and badminton is an inclusive sport, Council supports this community of athletes having an equivalent voice on the world governing body level to ensure their input is heard in decision making.

Proposal b) – Introduce term limits for the role of President.

BWF Constitution – Clause 18.11 (See **Annexure D for full context)**

Words added to the last paragraph of clause 18.11:

Officers and Council Members are eligible for re-election, save for the President, who shall be limited to four (4) terms.

[Implementation – the calculation of the term limits to start from the 2021 elections].

Rationale

There is a trend in sport governance towards limiting terms for the position of President to ensure any one individual does not hold this position through multiple terms which prevents new leadership to be elected and refresh the organisation with new skills, knowledge and new leadership every so often.

Up until 2009, the BWF constitution had two terms for the role of President. This proposal reinstates this principle, with more terms - the rationale for which is that any new President needs time in the role and to implement their vision to strengthen and develop the badminton community. The additional period also allows a President to build their international experience within the Olympic and Paralympic movements over a few terms, and be in a better position to be considered as a candidate for election to be an IOC member and represent our sport in that forum.

Proposal c) – *Clarify election protocols – secret ballot / acclamation.*

BWF Constitution – Clause 18.8 (See **Annexure D** for full context)

New clauses 18.8.1 and 18.8.2:

18.8 When voting for the representatives, it is the duty of each delegate to vote for as many candidates as there are vacant seats. Voting slips containing more or fewer names than the exact number of vacant seats will be invalid.

18.8.1 Voting for elections shall be carried out by secret ballot.

18.8.2 Where there is only one candidate for a position, such candidate shall be elected by acclamation, without the need for a vote to take place.

Rationale

These clauses make the long-held practice explicit in the constitution - that elections are by secret ballot and that if there is only one candidate, the election is by acclamation.

5.3 Council Proposal 3 – Judicial Provisions

Proposal

To approve amendments to the BWF constitution to come into line with the amended Judicial Procedures approved by Council and which come into effect the day after the AGM: and

- To delegate the Council to appoint the inaugural members of the Independent Hearing Panel with immediate effect, with such appointments being subject to confirmation by the 2021 AGM, with the inaugural term being valid until the 2022 AGM; and
- To delegate the Council to appoint the President and the Deputy President of the inaugural Independent Hearing Panel with such appointment being subject to confirmation by the 2021 AGM, with the inaugural term being valid until the 2022 AGM.

BWF Constitution / Rationale

Clauses	Rationale / Explanation
<p>7. DEFINITIONS</p> <p>7.3 Appeals Panel — means a panel appointed in accordance with Clause 31.6.</p> <p>7.10. Disciplinary Committee — means a committee appointed by Council in accordance with Clause 19.9.</p> <p>7.11. Doping Hearing Panel — means a panel appointed by the Chair of the External Judicial Experts Group in accordance with Clause 19.17.</p>	<p>The new Judicial Procedures which are due to come into effect the day after the AGM, refer to the Independent Hearing Panel as ultimate hearing body within the BWF.</p> <p>The new Judicial Procedures has two bodies that can hear cases – the Sports Disciplinary Panel for sports related cases and the Independent Hearing Panel for ethics related cases.</p> <p>This is redundant. The BWF Anti-Doping Regulations now refers alleged cases to the CAS Anti-Doping Division. The Doping Hearing Panel therefore does not exist anymore.</p>
<p>19.1.9. Appointing Nominating the president, the deputy president and the members of the Independent Hearing Panel, for approval by the AGM a standing Disciplinary Committee and, subject to Clause 31.6, make recommendations to the AGM for the membership of the independent Appeals Panel;</p>	<p>This aligns the existing clause with the new judicial body - the Independent Hearing Panel – the membership of the Panel and the president and deputy president of the Panel.</p> <p><i>[Interim arrangements for implementation if adopted]</i></p>

Clauses	Rationale / Explanation
<p>19.1.17 Appointing the External Judicial Experts Group president, the deputy president and the members of the Sports Disciplinary Panel as defined in the BWF Judicial Procedures.</p>	<p>The new Judicial Procedures due to come into effect the day after the AGM replaces the External Judicial Experts Group with the Independent Hearing Panel.</p> <p><i>[Interim arrangements for implementation if adopted]</i></p>
<p>29. DISCIPLINE</p> <p>Council, or any Disciplinary Committee disciplinary committee it appoints, shall have power on behalf of the Federation to penalise a Member, player, coach, competition official, or other person for infringement of the Statutes, for misconduct during competition, or for actions that bring the game of Badminton or the Federation into disrepute.</p>	<p>See above rationale. The term disciplinary committee is no longer a defined term, hence there are no capital letters.</p>
<p>Clause 30 – AUTHORITY – Part f) (see Annexure D for full clause).</p> <p>f) that the Appeals Panel shall be the first and only point for any appeal against decisions of the Federation and its Disciplinary Committee other than decisions of a General Meeting and of the Doping Hearing Panel. The Appeals Panel shall operate in accord with the Procedural Rules (Clause 32) any appeal against decisions of the Federation and its judicial bodies must be lodged in accordance with the BWF Judicial Procedures.</p>	<p>The amendments are in line with the new Judicial Procedures.</p>
<p>31. JUDICIAL BODIES OF THE FEDERATION</p> <p>31.1. The following bodies of the Federation have judicial powers in accordance with the Federation’s Statutes:</p>	

Clauses	Rationale / Explanation
<p>31.1.1. The General Meeting;</p> <p>31.1.2. The Council;</p> <p>31.1.3. The Ethics Independent Hearing Panel and any other Disciplinary Committee appointed by Council; and</p> <p>31.1.4. The Doping Hearing Sports Disciplinary Panel; and</p> <p>31.1.5. The Appeals Panel.</p> <p>31.2. With the exception of the Doping Hearing Panel, the Ethics Independent Hearing Panel and the Appeals Panel, the bodies may delegate their power. In all cases the procedural provisions of the Constitution shall be followed.</p>	<p>Title of the relevant body as defined in the new Judicial Procedures.</p> <p>The Doping Hearing Panel is no longer relevant – cases are now referred to the CAS Anti-Doping Division.</p> <p>The Sports Disciplinary Panel is a new panel that replaces the Disciplinary Committee.</p> <p>The Independent Hearing Panel in the Judicial Procedures takes on the role of Appeals Panel for sports-related cases.</p> <p>The Doping Hearing Panel no longer exists as cases are referred to the CAS Anti-Doping Division.</p> <p>New name for the Ethics Hearing Panel – Independent Hearing Panel</p>
<p>31.5. Suspension of a player or official may be imposed by the Council, where there is strong evidence of serious misconduct, until the disciplinary process is concluded. The suspension may be terminated by Council or another judicial body of the Federation.</p> <p>31.6. Appeals may be considered by the Appeals Panel. The Appeals Panel is appointed by a General Meeting upon recommendation by the Council. No less than ten (10) members, two (2) from each Continent are appointed to form a pool of Panel Members. Federation Council members, Federation staff, Continental Confederation Council members and Confederation staff may not</p>	<p>These clauses are no longer relevant given the new Judicial Procedures that will come into effect the day after the AGM.</p>

Clauses	Rationale / Explanation
<p>serve on such a panel.</p> <p>Each appeal shall be considered by a three (3) person Appeals Panel, one Panel member being selected by the appellant. Each arbitrator shall have a knowledge of the sport, and at least one (1) member of the each three (3) person Appeals Panel to consider an appeal must be legally trained.</p>	

5.4 Council Proposal 4 - Geographic and Gender Representation of Council

Proposal

To approve amendments to the BWF constitution to ensure geographical and gender representation.

BWF Constitution

- See the proposed **Appendix I** (Council Geographical and Gender Representation) of the constitution (**Appendix D**).
- See below relevant clauses in the body of the constitution.

Clauses	Rationale / Explanation
<p>PART 4. COUNCIL</p> <p>17. COUNCIL STRUCTURE</p> <p>17.1. An AGM shall elect a Council which shall have administrative powers to carry on the work of the Federation between AGMs. The Council shall consist of:</p> <p>17.1.1. The eight (8) officers (Clause 18);</p> <p>17.1.2. Eighteen (18) Twenty (20) other members; and</p> <p>17.1.3. The Chair of the Athletes Commission.</p>	<p>The new Appendix I of the constitution has a calculation that requires an additional two members of Council to ensure the minimum requirements for geographical / gender representation by continental region described in Appendix I of the constitution are achieved.</p>

Clauses	Rationale / Explanation
<p>18.1 The President, the Deputy President, one (1) the Vice President Para Badminton and eighteen (18) the twenty (20) other Council members are elected for a four (4) year term by the Federation AGM in the year after the Summer Olympic Games.</p>	<p>This clause has been amended to come into line with Appendix I to achieve the representation outcome of Council – both geographical and gender.</p>
<p>Representation requirements for Council positions</p> <p>18.10 Representation requirements shall apply as detailed in Appendix I (Council Geographical and Gender Representation).</p>	<p>A new clause on representation requirements that refers to Appendix I for the details of the representation.</p>
<p>Conditions and Terms of Appointment</p> <p>18.11 The President, the Deputy President, the five (5) Vice Presidents (Continental), one the (1) Vice President Para-Badminton and the eighteen (18) twenty (20) ordinary Council Members shall assume office immediately upon the conclusion of the AGM at which they are elected.</p>	<p>The new Appendix I of the constitution has a calculation that requires an additional two members of Council to ensure the minimum requirements for geographical / gender representation by continental region described in Appendix I of the constitution are achieved.</p>

Rationale

The objective is to put in place election procedures to ensure geographical and gender representation of Council Members.

In relation to geographical representation, the objective is to allocate seats to Council members coming from regions that represent the world badminton community, based on voting strengths, practice and historical factors.

The gender representation has been put into place with the objective of having at least 30% of each gender represented on the BWF Council.

Together, the geographical and gender representation rules provide a framework for carrying out the elections, in order for both objectives to be fulfilled.

5.5 Council Proposal 5

Proposal

To approve amendments to the BWF constitution which brings in minimum eligibility for candidates and elected officials of the BWF; and

- *To delegate the Council to declare prospective members of the inaugural Vetting Panel to be Eligible, on a recommendation of the BWF Secretary General in accordance with the BWF Statutes and his duties to the Federation; and*
- *To delegate the Council to appoint members of the inaugural Vetting Panel on the recommendation of the Secretary General, in accordance with the BWF Statutes and his duties to the Federation. Such appointment being subject to confirmation by the 2021 AGM and whose inaugural term shall be valid until the 2022 AGM.*

BWF Constitution

- See the proposed **Appendix II (Vetting of Officials)** of the constitution (**Annexure D**).
- See below relevant clauses in the body of the constitution.

Clauses	Rationale / Explanation
17.2 To be a candidate, and to remain on the Council, an individual must be deemed to be Eligible, as defined in Appendix II (Vetting of Officials).	This clause introduces Appendix II Vetting of Officials which contains the detail for 17.2 – what the eligibility criteria is and the process of vetting.
18.4 Staff members of Continental Confederations cannot serve as Council members or Officers.	Clause 18.4 has been moved to the new Appendix II of the constitution.

Rationale

BWF is a very different organisation to where it was 10 years ago with a significant annual turnover (more than 20 million USD), 44 staff, significant global corporate partners who are investing in the sport and a community who demands the highest levels of good governance practice of the organisation.

The expected standards of contemporary sport governance are high. BWF is an International Federation in the Olympic and Paralympic movements and the expectation is that governing boards are made up of elected representatives who embrace and embody high standards of good governance.

These amendments provide minimum criteria and a process of vetting candidates for election to the Council.

6. SUBSCRIPTION

To consider Council's proposal that the unit of subscription for the year 2021 should be set at US\$200 per unit (unchanged).

7. AUDITORS

Council proposes that the services of BDO PLT be maintained.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9. NEXT MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting is proposed to be held in May 2021 in conjunction with the TOTAL BWF Sudirman Cup 2021 in Suzhou, China.

The exact date will be announced to the membership, not later than 31 October 2020.

By order of the Council of the Federation.

Thomas Lund
Secretary General
03 April 2020