



Indian Women's Singles star, Saina Nehwal, is among the players supporting the campaign for clean sport.



FIGHTING FOR CLEAN SPORT

Technical officials have a key role in implementing regulations that ensure fairness and that players are not manipulating match outcomes for any advantage or reward.

TOs have good access to observe player behaviour and to report suspicious behaviour regarding the manipulation of the outcomes of matches and betting in badminton.

Badminton World Federation's position on the integrity of sport is clear: athletes have the right to compete in clean and fair sport. It is our responsibility – BWF and its members – to ensure strong systems are in place around anti-doping and anti-match-fixing.

There are two major risks to the integrity of sport – doping and match-fixing (any illegal activity against BWF regulations that aims to influence the results of matches).

In late 2014, the BWF formed an Integrity Unit, an operational unit within BWF office, to manage the daily anti-doping and anti-match-fixing programmes. It has focused on:

FOCUS AREA	GOAL	OUTCOME
Rules, Regulations & Jurisdiction	To strengthen anti-match-fixing regulations and to have powers to investigate and initiate judicial processes.	The recent upgrading of Appendix 5 of the GCRs is an example of this.
Intelligence Gathering & Reporting	To develop systems to gather information/ intelligence and to involve law enforcement agencies where necessary.	A whistle-blower system. A systematic approach to gathering intelligence. Training staff on information analysis and getting external expertise.
Tournament Setup	To implement tournament-based monitoring systems to reduce the potential of match-fixing activities.	Same country matches are now videoed at Superseries and GPG from the quarter-finals onwards.
Education, Communication & Awareness	To ensure consistent messaging on the integrity of badminton and to run values-based "integrity of badminton" awareness campaign.	The 'i am badminton' integrity campaign was launched at the BWF World Junior Championships in November 2015.

There are two main motivations for match-fixing:

1. To get a sports advantage.
2. To get money through betting on matches where the outcome is already pre-arranged.

Awareness and education of players and all other persons involved in badminton is essential. The 'i am badminton' integrity campaign, unveiled at last year's BWF World Junior Championships in Lima, Peru, is an important tool in raising awareness.

This initiative is about players, coaches, technical officials and administrators working together to protect our sport from threats like doping, match-fixing, illegal betting and corruption which threaten the integrity of sport.

The campaign focuses on the majority of players who are proud to compete clean and honestly.

It provides an opportunity for players to proudly declare:

- i am clean
- i am honest
- i am badminton

For further information, please contact: **Andy Hines-Randle – Integrity Manager** a.hines-randle@bwfbadminton.org

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

As you will see from Torsten's report, his last meeting as Chair of the TOC Committee will be in May. I first met Torsten way back in 1987 when I started working for the International Badminton Federation (IBF) and over the next 30 years I've had the fortune to call Torsten my friend.

Being part of a sporting family is a special privilege and when we feel passionate about something, it is easier devoting time and indeed one's life to it. Torsten, however, takes this passion to another level. His commitment, dedication and enthusiasm are outstanding. Torsten has given hundreds of hours of his personal time, written thousands of reports and chaired so many meetings

over the years for the sport he loves. He has been the catalyst of so much development within the sport. Indeed, he can tell you many stories of his initiatives that have made badminton the great sport we see today.

I hear Mr. Berg's words of wisdom in my head and his jolly laugh. He has the biggest heart and is one of the kindest people I've had the joy to know. Torsten will continue to play a huge role, but for now a big thank you, Torsten, from all your fans.

Regards
Vanessa Freeman
Editor-in-Chief



FROM THE CHAIR BY
**TORSTEN
BERG**

CHANGE AND CHALLENGES

The Olympic qualification period is ending and the TOTAL BWF Thomas and Uber Cup Finals 2016 in Kunshan, China, are almost upon us. Badminton is again in the sports media headlines worldwide. This means exposure to the players - that is what we want - but also to our technical officials. Any decision from an umpire or referee may be discussed by commentators and fans. We need to be up to this challenge and the situation will only grow in the future.

In the meetings of the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel and the Technical Official Commission (TOC) in Kunshan, we will address some of these challenges and hopefully make recommendations for some important changes. The decisions belong to the Events Committee and BWF Council, which are also meeting in Kunshan after our meetings.

The fast growth of the top-level game presents us with the challenge to provide better and more technical officials to serve these tournaments. As it takes both adequate education and, in particular, years of experience, we have had to rethink our approach and methods, especially for referees, where we currently work our best people very hard to cover the BWF Major Events and Superseries tournaments.

BWF STRATEGY CONCERNING TOs

First and foremost, the TOC will follow up on the overall BWF Strategy adopted by Council in October 2015 for the period 2016-2020.

The technical officials section was given higher priority, with recruitment and education being key words.

Standard BWF education material will be produced for referees and umpires as well as line judges along somewhat similar lines that many will know from the BWF Coach Education material and Shuttle Time. Having over the last few months completed the overall concept and the recruitment of staff, the TOC will discuss in detail the content of the material and the production process.

Another prominent initiative will be the introduction of professional BWF referees, earlier than originally foreseen. The TOC will discuss the concept and carefully design the process, so that we identify a group of highly skilled and experienced referees that can adequately serve the top level of the game. We will also look after the development and training of all other BWF and continental referees, so that while they service the other levels of the international game they acquire the necessary experience that will enable them to progress towards the highest level, if that is their ambition.

RULES AND REGULATION CHANGES

Rules and regulations are always on the agenda.

I recently sent you a letter pointing your attention to the new and much more detailed BWF regulations on betting and wagering. Please pay close attention. It is serious business!

Another issue now being addressed is the name on the back of players' shirts. From 1 July 2016 the name must correspond to the player's name in the BWF database - a wish we have had for a long time is now being fulfilled. Funny coincidence, it is almost to

the date 25 years ago that I proposed IBF should introduce names on players' shirts for identification, as it was already being done in other sports.

The GCRs and Annexes are under a general review and the result is expected later in the year. The revised GCRs will surely become easier to read and hopefully also to understand and implement.

One bit of practical advice, particularly to referees, that I hasten to share with you: based on a recent incident, please note that time is a very important factor when a referee's decision is needed on a televised court. As soon as you have established the facts (if you were not already watching the court), make up your mind as fast as possible and say so - with conviction! Time is NOT on your side!

WITH GRATITUDE AND LOVE

The TOC meeting in Kunshan will be my last as TOC Chairman after 21 years of service. I would like to thank all those with whom I have worked closely over the years: IBF and BWF Events Chairs, IBF and BWF staff and all the technical officials who work so hard and diligently to ensure that badminton means fair play and that our game is well presented to media and spectators.

My best wishes to Gilles Cavert who will succeed me. Gilles, you have already made an excellent start taking the lead on the development of TO training material.

My wish for you is that you will enjoy the TOC and the day-to-day work with all the dedicated and enthusiastic BWF and CC technical officials as much as I have done.





Isabelle Jobard shares a laugh with Chinese colleague, Fan Haibo.

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

Isabelle Jobard, BWF Referee Assessor and recently-retired BWF Certificated Referee, opens up about her diverse experiences as a top BWF referee and her other interests:

What do you do in your spare time?

Since I retired a few months ago from my university, I have at least had a bit more time for my hobbies that I have neglected for so long. I'm rather good with my hands and I like painting and sculpture. When I stay at my place on the Mediterranean coast I like doing DIY (do-it-yourself) and gardening. When I'm at home in Paris, I'm lucky to have such a large choice of art exhibitions and museums that I like to visit with friends or family.

The most interesting place you've visited as a referee?

As I have been fortunate to visit so many places being a referee, I could name a variety of interesting places. I will only say that I've really appreciated most Asian countries where the hospitality is so remarkable and people are badminton enthusiasts.

One country you'd like to go back to as a tourist?

During the last 20 years, I have been lucky to travel as a referee to about 50 countries in all five continents. Of course when refereeing, the time for sight-seeing is unfortunately very limited and this was indeed a little frustrating. There are definitely many places, especially in big countries like China, India and Indonesia that I would like to visit as a tourist; actually I would like to visit and discover other countries where I have never been yet. For example, I have only been to a few places in North America. So I would really like now to visit one of the South American countries.

Any interesting or particularly challenging referee experiences you had to contend with?

There are many of course. There are interesting experiences in nearly every tournament. I can share a couple with you:

I remember an unexpected problem I had in an Italian city with no experience at all in badminton organisation. The hall had large bay-windows and play on courts was impossible due to very bright light as it was very sunny outside. Despite their efforts, the organiser could not find any curtain or material to cover the windows. So, at the last moment, a weird solution was found – traffic was stopped and fire trucks came along the sport hall building and the firefighters on top of the fireman's ladder painted all the windows with black paint! Sometimes, thinking out of the box and desperate measures are needed!

I also remember difficult situations relating to very bad weather conditions causing long suspensions of play. I have even been involved in a tournament in Singapore where a tropical storm caused such heavy rain there were serious water leaks in the hall. I had to cancel a dozen matches and reschedule them in an extra session the next day. This decision had important implications (financial amongst others) for the organiser and for volunteers, players, spectators and media.

In Tokyo, a hurricane threatened the running of the tournament. To secure all the participants, we were compelled to stay locked in the hall for several hours while the hurricane raged outside.

Maybe these extreme weather circumstances were a hint to remind me of my 'real' work as one of my research subjects was severe rainfall events!

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What would you like badminton to address – from a referee's point of view?

I think it is urgent to change the service rule 9.1.6 concerning the whole shuttle being hit below the server's waist. The reference to the "lowest part of the server's bottom rib" is totally subjective as no one can see this bottom rib! This rule cannot be objectively respected and I think it is unfair to blame umpires for not being consistent when judging the service. It is unrealistic and it is a systematic source of discussions and complaints. It is hard to understand why this flawed service rule is still implemented when there is now so much at stake in a match.

On one hand, there is real progress in fairness with the introduction of the Instant Review System but, on the other hand, we keep a rule

which is outdated and a cause of unfairness. The change of this service rule is for me the most challenging issue to solve in the near future.

As a woman, did you ever feel that you were sometimes perceived as not being as 'important' as a man?

Definitely yes, especially in a few countries, but personally I did not suffer too much from the macho situations I encountered because I was used to having a similar experience in my working environment.

It is a difficulty to overcome for women, but there are so many interesting and rewarding aspects in this activity, it is worth facing this extra challenge, and this should not stop or discourage women from serving as referees.

It is a pity that the proportion of female referees is still very low in many countries and it is important and fair to encourage women to take their place at all levels of refereeing.

What assignments are you most proud of?

Of course the two Olympic Games I have participated in: Athens in 2004 and Beijing in 2008. I also remember 2014 because I had a tremendous series of appointments with three BWF events in a row (Thomas & Uber Cup Finals in India, World Championships in Denmark and the World Superseries Finals in Dubai) and two World Superseries (India and Indonesia). I was also appointed for the World University Championships in Spain.

What is your favourite tournament?

I have refereed all the BWF World Superseries tournaments including the Finals. They are all great badminton events, but my favourite is the Indonesia Open in Jakarta. The organisation is very professional, willing to do the best in every aspect, with great hospitality and the crowd is so enthusiastic it creates an incredible atmosphere - for me it is the top badminton place to be a referee.



Isabelle Jobard (second left) participated in a panel discussion during the BWF's annual gathering of its membership in 2014. Other participants were (from left) Nahathai Sornprachum, Susan Hunt and Claudia Bokel.

EVER CONSIDERED PARA-BADMINTON?

Refereeing para-badminton and serving as a technical delegate is clearly more complex and demanding than serving the regular game in similar positions.

If you are a current BWF or continental confederation referee and interested in learning how to master this specialty, BWF would like to hear from you.

Para-badminton needs referees, in particular from Asia, to cover existing competitions and requires a larger pool of referees in the coming years.

Refereeing para-badminton has the same requirements as refereeing in general, as the Laws are similar. However, Para-Badminton Competition Regulations are considerably more complex than the GCRs and it takes experience to handle para competitions.

The reason for this is – simply put – there are up to six sport classes, a small number of players in each class and those players often are classified only just before the tournament starts, and play is often conducted through group and knockout draws.

Reward for this work is the opportunity to experience the special spirit among para-badminton players.

If you wish to learn more about becoming a para-badminton referee or technical delegate, please contact BWF Para-Badminton Officer Syahmi Sabron at: s.sabron@bwfbadminton.org.

BLUEPRINT FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE

BWF has an approved strategic plan for the development of technical officials for 2016-2020 with the theme of “Better and More” — raising the standard of performance and building the pool of officials at all levels, including those at the BWF Certificated level.

Areas of focus include: recruitment and education/training resources for all member associations, especially those who do not currently have any programmes in place; reducing barriers to development; incentives for those already in the pipeline; and professionalisation of the workforce.

In the short to medium term, BWF is progressing with development of the first levels of education/training resources for referees, umpires, and line judges.

Plans for the next several months include:

- Hiring contracted writers to develop the content of materials.
- Bringing together a panel for each group (referees, umpires and

line judges) made up of representatives such as members of the TOC, Umpire and Referee Assessors, BWF TOs, BWF staff and other TO experts from among our member associations to propose the overall scope, structure and delivery of the programme.

- The Technical Official Commission to review each proposal and make a formal recommendation to the BWF Events Committee and Council for overall approval.
- The writer to work closely with BWF staff with an oversight by the respective panels to build content based on these approved plans.

This is truly a team effort involving our entire TO badminton community, and we look forward to your ongoing support as these resources progress.

Another update will be provided to our TO community — either in the next edition of COCTales or in a formal direct update.



CONGRATS, VEMURI SUDHAKAR!

Congratulations to India's Vemuri Sudhakar on recently receiving the BWF Distinguished Service Award.

Sudhakar (above: second right) is one of the most experienced and respected BWF technical officials and a deserving recipient of this honour. This award is presented in recognition of long, distinguished and exemplary service to badminton at the international level for at least 15 years.

Sudhakar started his BWF career in 1988 when he was accredited; getting his BWF certification just three years later. As an umpire, he served badminton at the highest level in more events than we can mention here. Just to illustrate, Sudhakar umpired at three Olympic Games: Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000. That top-level service included several medal matches and even Olympic finals. Well-attired in the chair, his quiet yet firm control of matches and his eye for the presentation of badminton made him a role model for his peers.

In his current role as a BWF Umpire Assessor, Sudhakar has generously shared his experience with younger colleagues and he has become a highly appreciated teacher and mentor for a generation of BWF umpires. His ability to observe matches and the performance of umpires, his polite and precise use of English as well as his understanding of badminton have made him a most valuable member of the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel for many years.

BWF is grateful to Vemuri Sudhakar, one of the most deserving and appreciated members of the TO community, for his service to the game.

Congratulations are also in order for two other technical officials who received Distinguished Service Awards. They are Ernest Robinson (France) and Federico Valdez (Peru).

CLOTHING COMMON SENSE

The following is in reference to whether the clothing is proper sports clothing – not to advertising or colours which are regulated in detail.

Referees sometimes have to determine whether a player is dressed in accordance with BWF regulations. Some referees come to BWF for guidance, so here are a few considerations that may help.

The relevant regulation is in the General Competition Regulations, Clause 19.2:

GCR 19.2

In order to ensure attractive presentation of badminton at tournaments organised or sanctioned by the BWF, all clothing worn by players shall be acceptable badminton sports clothing. It is not acceptable to tape over nor to pin on advertising nor in any other way to modify such clothing to comply with advertising or other regulations.

The BWF advice to referees is to use their common sense in applying GCR 19.2.

The playing conditions in Canada or Sweden in winter time – or even in halls without heating in a cold climate – may well justify warm sports clothing. Elsewhere, players might be required to compete in a tropical climate in halls without air-conditioning.

In some countries, the sports-clothing standards are more traditional than in others. Some players may for religious reasons prefer specific designs. In some tournaments presentation is very important; in other tournaments it is less so.

Generally, the advice is that the referee should be reasonably liberal as long as the clothing is intended for sports use (beach wear is certainly not acceptable).

You should consider the playing conditions, the tournament environment and the player's reason for dressing a certain way – and then decide what is acceptable badminton sports clothing.

ADDITION TO BWF FAMILY

BWF is pleased to welcome our newest Events Officer Noor Syahida Nawawi to the team.

Syahida (pronounced 'Shy-heeda') has an extensive administrative background and her family members are big fans of badminton.

She will be responsible for the day-to-day administration of technical officials, including the following:

- Maintaining the TO database
- Invitations for confirmed TO assignments
- TO travel booking approvals
- TO expense claim processing
- TO certificates
- TO uniforms
- Logistical support for TO-related meetings and related workshops
- Supporting the implementation of the new Strategic Plan for TO Development 2016-2020 where applicable
- Other projects as assigned

She can be reached directly at: s.nawawi@bwfbadminton.org



CALENDAR OF WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS

- Umpire Assessors Panel Workshop, 13-14 May 2016 – Kunshan, China
- Technical Official Commission Meeting #1, 17-18 May 2016 – Kunshan, China
- BWF Certificated Umpire Assessments, TOTAL BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals, 15-22 May, Kunshan, China
- Umpire Appraisals/Workshop, Xiamenair Australian Badminton Open, 7-12 June, Sydney, Australia
- BWF Referees Workshops, 24-26 September, Kuala Lumpur
- Umpire Appraisals/Workshop, Yonex Open Japan, 20-25 September, Tokyo, Japan
- Umpire Appraisals/Workshop, Yonex Denmark Open, 18-23 October, Odense, Denmark
- Technical Official Commission Meeting #2, October – Location TBD
- BWF Accredited Umpire Assessments, Yonex French Open, 25-30 October, Paris, France
- Umpire Appraisals/Workshop, Thaihot China Open, 15-20 November, Fuzhou, China
- Umpire Appraisals/Workshop, Scottish Open, 23-27 November, Glasgow, Scotland
- Umpire Appraisals/Workshop, Dubai World Superseries Finals, 14-18 December, Dubai, UAE

NOTE: BWF will not be publishing a hard-copy version of the Laws, RTTO, General Competition Regulations (GCRs), or tournament-specific regulations for 2016.

As such, please make sure you stay up-to-date on these regulations on the BWF corporate website at: <http://bwfcorporate.com/regulations>

This website is already mobile friendly so technical officials can access these laws and regulations from wherever they are.

We are also planning to launch an app specifically designed for our laws and regulations in early 2017 for use on all mobile devices.