

POINTS TO PONDER

By Torsten Berg

Chair - BWF Referee Assessment Panel

The Women's Singles final of the 2018 US Open Tennis Championships between Serena Williams (USA) and Naomi Osaka (Japan) hit more headlines worldwide than expected due to an incident between the umpire and Williams.

From a Technical Official's point of view it might be interesting to analyse how tennis, a racket sport somewhat similar to badminton, dealt with an incident that is a possibility in our sport.

Is an exchange of ideas possible?

In brief, the home darling Serena Williams played not quite up to standard and lost the first set to the young Japanese underdog.

Struggling to come back early in the second set, Williams' coach gave her advice from the stands, which is not allowed in tennis at this level of tournament, and the player got a warning. Williams got upset, claiming that she had not heard him and that she never cheated.



Soon after, she smashed her racket into the ground in frustration, earning her a lost point for racket abuse. Called to the chair, Williams, in a lengthy discussion, lost her temper and called the umpire a thief, among other abuse, and the umpire punished her again, now by a lost game for verbal abuse, in accordance with the regulations.

Only then did the Tournament Referee come to the court. However, the decisions of the umpire were upheld. Soon after, Osaka won the match. Subsequently, Williams was fined US \$ 17,000 for the offence -- a large sum per se, but a minor sum compared to the prize money.

Coaching from the Stands

The first discussion point is the coaching from the stands. It is not allowed in badminton too, but in any case this rarely happens nowadays at the international level, since coaches are allowed to sit behind the court and coach between the rallies. However, coaching was a major problem for referees before this change.

A proposal was put to the membership at the BWF Annual General Meeting 2018 to remove coaches from the field of play. However, it was withdrawn as a consequence of the defeat of the scoring system proposal.

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FROM THE CHAIR BY
**GILLES
CAVERT**



FLAWLESS PERFORMANCE SHOULD BE THE GOAL

My recent articles have been focusing on the performance of TOs as a critical part of the successful presentation of our sport to the world.

Performance is defined in many ways, including by viewers – both at the venue and on television - and all stakeholders. As far as BWF is concerned, performance is sought to be measured as precisely as possible with the 360-degree evaluation system, which is already well underway for BWF Referees, and in a testing phase for BWF Umpires.

The ultimate event in the career of a BWF Technical Official is selection for the Olympic Games.

Performance will be one of the key selection criteria for BWF TOs for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, within a distribution of spots allocated to each Continental Confederation.

The BWF Technical Official Commission (TOC) has proposed a team of four BWF Referees, and BWF is currently considering nominations of BWF Certificated Umpires from each of the CCs.

All of these names will be proposed to the BWF Events Committee, and if accepted, proposed to the BWF Council for approval at its meeting in late November 2018.

The selected TOs will be assigned to the Japan Open 2019, which is serving as the test tournament for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

The Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games will take place in August, that is to say less than two years away, so far away but yet so near. Our aim should be to deliver flawless performance at the world's biggest event, for which we have to consistently set high standards for ourselves in the run-up to Tokyo!

ASSESSORS KEY TO IMPROVING CONSISTENCY

By Malcolm Banham
Chair - BWF Umpire Assessment Panel

At the recent TOC meeting in Nanjing, we discussed the possibility of increasing the number of Umpire Assessors on the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel.

At the moment we have seven BWF Umpire Assessors covering numerous assignments and responsibilities worldwide.

The TOC has proposed an additional member to the panel, and this will be considered by the BWF Events Committee, and if accepted, will be considered for approval by BWF Council, at its meeting in late November 2018.

We look forward to having this new member support our existing assessment and appraisal programmes starting next year.

Our goal has always been to push the standard and consistency of umpiring higher, which I believe will be achieved by attending more tournaments, carrying out more appraisals and holding more workshops.

We hope that the consistency of umpires will improve with the number of tournaments the assessors are able to attend.

The last assessment for BWF Certification in Nanjing proved we are moving in the right direction.

All the CC umpire candidates passed -- which is the goal our panel always wishes to achieve.

We want to avoid umpires failing assessments; we can realise this objective by providing more training.

It is always a pleasure to see how flexible and adaptable umpires are, even when faced with last-minute and unexpected challenges both on and off the court. Dealing with these situations in a calm and professional manner is an essential quality for all umpires.

We are a great family that sometimes does not meet often enough, but it is always a great pleasure to get together and enjoy each other's

company as we work together to push our performance higher, and contribute towards an even better presentation of our sport to the world.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!

BWF congratulates the following recently upgraded CC Level Umpires to the BWF Accredited Level:

- Abdul Latif Jaohari (INA)
- Lau Chen Lea (MAS)
- Jeon Seok Hun (KOR)
- Justyna Krych (POL)

BWF congratulates the following recently upgraded BWF Accredited Umpires to the BWF Certificated Level:

- Kuo Pan Hsien, Benjamin (TPE)
- Wong Wai Nap, Victor (HKG)
- Iris Metspalu (EST)
- David Graf Von Schwerin (AUT)
- Gunars Lusveris (LAT)

BWF congratulates the following recently upgraded BWF Accredited Referee to the BWF Certificated Level:

- Yves Cote (CAN)

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Should the coaching proposal have passed, we would again have had the impossible task of policing such a regulation. Even tennis, with its army of paid technical officials, also cannot efficiently do so.

Tennis could consider a coaching regulation similar to ours, which, though not ideal, virtually eliminates coaching from the stands.

And for badminton, should BWF Council again consider putting forward a proposal disallowing coaching from the chairs behind

the court, the proposal must contain effective measures to contravene coaching from the stands.

The Sequence of Calls

The second point is the sequence of calls from the umpire, which all cool heads agreed was quite in accordance with the regulations.

In badminton, the coaching would have warranted a yellow card, and the subsequent racket abuse a red card.

With the red card, the BWF Referee would have been called on court and taken over the situation. There would have been no

prolonged discussion between the player and the umpire.

In my experience, the appearance of this new and neutral official, having had no share in the previous discussions on court, would have de-escalated the situation to the benefit of both players, the match and even tennis as such.

Tennis could also consider a regulation similar to ours, making it mandatory for the umpire to call the referee on court when a point punishment to the opponent (a 'red card') is issued. The takeaway from this incident for us is that we should remember this regulation and call the referee on court every time a red card is issued, which still does not always happen!

NEW CHALLENGES AWAIT US

News and Reminders for BWF Referees - from the BWF TOC

By **Torsten Berg**
Chair, BWF Referee Assessment Panel

When the BWF TOC met for its annual meeting in Nanjing during the TOTAL BWF World Championships 2018, there was general agreement that refereeing in the BWF tournaments is progressing on the right track.

However, there are also new challenges coming from more tournaments and hence more exposure of players and officials. As you will know, TOC is an expert forum that makes recommendations to the BWF Events Committee and BWF Council, so I shall not go into detail with the recommendations here, but will come back when the budget for 2019, hopefully accommodating the great majority of our proposals, has been approved in late November 2018. It should be noted that the TOC passed nearly all the proposals that came out of the BWF Referee Workshop in June 2018.

With the Instant Review System (IRS) in place and with the service height regulation change - though still experimental until the end of the year - the problems related to two points creating most controversy on court (i.e. line calls and service fault calls) are substantially diminished and in fact, have almost gone away on the higher levels of the game. Focus changes now to umpire's calls on a point of fact, such as Law 13.3 and 4.

The 360-degree review system and the appraisals have contributed to improving our standard, and the system also tells us where and on what we need to focus to satisfy

players, team managers, organisers and other stakeholders, in particular, the millions of TV viewers.

Preparing Umpires

We can still do better in preparing of our umpires. It is important that in every tournament we focus on training the correct use of the scoring device, especially how to correct an error if something goes wrong, and on how to deal with IRS.

Training is also important in the use of the service height measuring tool - particularly the new one that will most likely appear after the end of the experimental period. It is also important to ensure that the tool is set up correctly.

Fair Distribution of Practice Time

Another area of concern is fair and equal distribution of practice time in the playing arena and elsewhere. Too often we face misgivings from team managers (hardly ever from the host team, though) that the time in the practice hall is not distributed according to regulations. There may be issues that cannot be helped because of external circumstances, and BWF is reviewing the wording of the regulations as well as the host contracts, but referees shall pay attention to providing a fair schedule and in particular, that the schedule is policed and adhered to.

Neutrality of Court Officials

Fairness shall also prevail when it comes to the match assignments of umpires and service judges. Neutrality is the key word.

Should that mean that some umpires are requested to do more matches than others in a tournament? Yes, if there is no other option.

Should it be impossible, in a Grade 3 tournament for example, to provide both a nationally neutral umpire and a service judge to a match, the umpire position is the first priority for neutrality.

Should there be pressure put on you or your deputy referee or on umpires from the hosts, you will have to resist; you are always entitled to call in support from BWF or your Continental Confederation.

Team Managers' Meeting

For the team managers' meeting, please use the updated BWF template. This will help you to focus on the issues that are important for those listening to you so that you provide the right level of information and you can focus on the best possible delivery; this could include practising your presentation at home and/or in the hotel.

At the end of each day, and in particular at the end of the tournament, the results go to BWF, for updating the World ranking lists and for other purposes. These results are your responsibility.

Please remember to use the correct nomenclature for withdrawals and promotions and in case of doubt consult the BWF Draw Management document for the correct names and references.

With this advice in mind, your job will be easier, the tournament better, and all your stakeholders will be happier!

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND APPRAISALS

2018

Date	Meetings, Workshops and Appraisals	Location	Country	Tournament
23 Oct - 28 Oct	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop, and Referee Appraisals	Paris	FRA	YONEX French Open 2018
30 Oct - 04 Nov	Referee Appraisals	Saarbrücken	GER	SaarLorLux-Open 2018
05 Nov - 18 Nov	Referee Appraisals and Assessment for BWF Certification	Markham	CAN	LI NING BWF World Junior Championships 2018
13 Nov - 18 Nov	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Hong Kong	HKG	YONEX-SUNRISE Hong Kong Open 2018
28 Nov - 02 Dec	Referee Assessment for BWF Accreditation	Mumbai	IND	Tata Open India International Challenge 2018
12 Dec - 16 Dec	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Guangzhou	CHN	HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2018

2019

Date	Meetings, Workshops and Appraisals	Location	Country	Tournament
08 Jan - 13 Jan	Referee Appraisals	Bangkok	THA	PRINCESS SIRIVANNAVARI Thailand Masters 2019
15 Jan - 19 Jan	BWF Accredited Referee Assessment Workshop, BWF Referee Assessor Meeting	Kuala Lumpur	MAS	in conjunction with Malaysia Masters 2019
06 Mar - 10 Mar	Referee Appraisals, Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Birmingham	ENG	YONEX All England Open 2019
12 Mar - 17 Mar	Referee Appraisals	Basel	SUI	YONEX Swiss Open 2019
02 Apr - 07 Apr	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Kuala Lumpur	MAS	CELCOM AXIATA Malaysia Open 2019
09 Apr - 14 Apr	Referee Appraisals, Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Singapore	SGP	Singapore Open 2019
19 May - 26 May	Referee Appraisals, Umpire Appraisals, Workshop and Assessment for BWF Accreditation	Nanning	CHN	BWF Sudirman Cup 2019
04 Jun - 09 Jun	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Sydney	AUS	CROWN GROUP Australian Open 2019
16 Jul - 21 Jul	Referee Appraisals, Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Jakarta	INA	Indonesia Open 2019
30 Jul - 04 Aug	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Bangkok	THA	Thailand Open 2019
02 Aug - 11 Aug	Referee Appraisals	Katowice	POL	BWF World Senior Championships 2019
13 Aug - 18 Aug	Referee Appraisals	Akita	JPN	Akita Masters 2019
19 Aug - 25 Aug	Referee Appraisals, Umpire Appraisals, Workshop and Assessment for BWF Certification	Basel	SUI	BWF World Championships 2019
10 Sep - 15 Sep	Referee Appraisals	Ho Chi Minh	VIE	YONEX Vietnam Open 2019
17 Sep - 22 Sep	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Changzhou	CHN	China Open 2019
17 Sep - 22 Sep	Referee Appraisals	TBA	INA	Indonesia Masters 2019 - Level 6
15 Oct - 20 Oct	Umpire Appraisals, Workshop and Assessment for BWF Accreditation	Odense V	DEN	DANISA Denmark Open 2019 presented by VICTOR
22 Oct - 27 Oct	Referee Appraisals, Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Paris	FRA	YONEX French Open 2019
28 Oct - 02 Nov (tentative)	Referee Appraisals and Assessment for BWF Certification	TBC	TBC	BWF World Junior Team Championships 2019
29 Oct - 03 Nov	Referee Appraisals	Macau	MAC	Macau Open 2019
20 Nov - 24 Nov	Referee Appraisals	Glasgow	SCO	Scottish Open 2019
26 Nov - 01 Dec	Referee Appraisals	Lucknow	IND	Syed Modi International Badminton Championships 2019
11 Dec - 15 Dec	Umpire Appraisals and Workshop	Guangzhou	CHN	HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2019