



Badminton World Federation
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FAO:
Member Associations
Badminton World Federation

Dear Badminton Colleagues

CHANGES & ADDITIONS TO EXPERIMENTAL LAWS & REGULATIONS

BWF Council, at its recent meeting on Friday 14 November 2014 agreed upon a number of decisions relating to the Laws of Badminton, RTTO's, General Competition Regulations, and specific competition regulations.

It was agreed to place the following proposed changes to the Laws of Badminton on the Agenda, for consideration by the membership, at the forthcoming 2015 Annual General Meeting.

BWF Council also agreed upon the following additions and changes to RTTO's, General Competition Regulations, and to specific competition regulations, including, in particular, those relating to the MetLife BWF World Superseries, and the Thomas & Uber Cup competitions.

The updated Regulations will soon be on BWF's website and will all come into immediate effect unless stated otherwise.

EXPERIMENTAL SCORING SYSTEM

BWF Council decided to continue testing variations of the 5x11 scoring system to further explore the possibility of optimizing the scoring format in the future. Any prospective change to the scoring system will only be considered for introduction after the Rio 2016 Olympic Games and that more testing, including two setting options, would be trialled next year.

Between February and April 2015, organisers of BWF Level 3 (Grand Prix), Level 4 tournaments and international junior tournaments will be invited to test a five games to eleven system either with setting (two clear points needed to win the game up to a maximum of 15 points) or a different system with a three-point decider ('tiebreak') if the score reaches 10-all. There will only be a one-minute break between games.

LAWS

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

Part II Section 1A Laws of Badminton

9.1.1 neither side shall cause undue delay to the delivery of the service once the server and the receiver are ready for the service.

9.1.2 On completion of the backward movement of the server's racket head, any delay in the start of the service (Law 9.2) shall be considered to be an undue delay;

Clause 9.1.1 to be divided into two as 9.1 is called by the Umpire and second part (new 9.1.2) is called by service judge. All subsequent points to be renumbered accordingly (so 9.1.9 becomes 9.1.10).

13.3.2 passes through or under the net

13.3.3 fails to pass over the net **between the net posts**

(delete clause 13.3.2 as not needed - already covered by 13.3.3)

16.7.1.2 faulting the offending side, if previously warned. **Two** **One such fault (followed by a warning)** by a side shall be considered to be a persistent offence; or

Part II – Section 2 – RTTO

Section 3.3 During the Match

3.3.1.5 raise the right hand above the umpire's head, if assistance is needed from the Referee. **or the left hand when a decision is required from the referee on any line call challenge using the Instant Review System.**

3.3.1.6 raise the left hand above the Umpire's head when a decision is required from the nominated technical official on any line call review using the Instant Review System.

Section 3.4 Line Calls

3.4.3 In the absence of a line judge or if the line judge is unsighted, the umpire shall immediately call:

3.4.3.1 "Out" before calling the score when the shuttle lands outside the line; or

3.4.3.2 the score, when the shuttle lands in; or

3.4.3.3 "Let" when the umpire is also unsighted. **When an Instant Review System is in operation, the Umpire shall request a decision from the nominated technical official. The Umpire shall call "Line Judge unsighted", and at the same time raise the left hand above the Umpire's head and indicating towards the appropriate line.**

- 3.4.4 If the call by the line judge (Recommendations 6.2, 6.3) or the call by the umpire (Recommendations 3.4.2 and 3.4.3) is challenged by a player / pair / country where an Instant Review System is in operation (Law 17.5.2, Part III, Section IB, Appendix 7), the umpire shall ensure that the player / pair has a valid right to challenge. The player should clearly say "Challenge" to the Umpire and at the same time, make a clear signal by raising the arm.
- 3.4.4.1 If there is a right to challenge remaining the umpire shall call: ".... [name of the player / pair / country team, as appropriate] challenges. Called IN (or OUT or LET, as appropriate)" at the same time raising the left hand above the Umpire's head and indicating towards the line on which the call has been challenged.
- 3.4.4.2 The nominated technical official will review the call by using the Instant Review System and indicate to the umpire the result of the challenge by giving the final call IN, OUT or LET NO DECISION.
- 3.4.4.3 To announce the result of the challenge, call:
- If challenge is successful: "Correction, IN" or "Correction, OUT" [as appropriate]. Thereafter call "Service over", where appropriate, followed by the score. Call "Play".
 - If challenge is unsuccessful: "Challenge unsuccessful" "Service over", where appropriate, followed by the score. Thereafter call, [name of player(s)/country / pair / country, as appropriate] ["one" or "no", as appropriate] challenge remaining." Call "Play".
 - "Let" when no decision can be given. If the final call is "No Decision" then "Let" shall be given on review of a call "Line Judge unsighted", otherwise the original, challenged decision stands.

Section 3.5 During the match, the following situations shall be watched for and dealt with as detailed.

- 3.5.4.3 During the game, if play is not unduly held up, the players may be allowed to have a quick towel and/or drink at the discretion of the umpire.
- 3.5.10.2 Any breach of Players' Code of Conduct Regulations 4.6, 4.7, 4.10 to 4.16 4.11 to 4.17 (Part III, Section 1B 1A, Appendix 4) shall be considered to be an offence under Law 16.6.4.

Section 3.7 Misconduct

- 3.7.2 Misconduct between games during intervals (Law 16.2) is treated as misconduct during a game. This should be followed with the appropriate call in either of Recommendations 3.7.3 to 3.7.5 immediately on occurrence of misconduct. At the start of the following game play after interval (Law 16.2.1), Call,

".....game; love all."

Only in cases of administration of misconduct under Law 16.7.1.2 or 16.7.2, the Umpire shall call

".....[name of player], faulted"

Thereafter, call "Service over", where appropriate followed by the score.

Call "Play".

If the player is disqualified by the Referee, call

".....[name of player], disqualified for misconduct"

Thereafter, call in Recommendation 3.3.8

For misconduct in intervals, at the start of the game resumed after the interval, repeat the score followed by "Play".

Only in cases of administration of misconduct under Law 16.7.1.2 or 16.7.2, the Umpire shall call

".....[name of player], faulted"

Thereafter, call "Service over", where appropriate followed by the score.

Call "Play".

3.7.7 Misconduct before and after the match while on court, shall be treated as in RTTO 3.7.3 to 3.7.6, as appropriate. Record and report any incident of such misconduct to the Referee and the action taken. However, it shall have no effect on the score of the match.

5.3 The approved hand signals are:

Laws 9.1.2 and 9.1.3

During the delivery of service (Law 9.2, 9.3) the server and or the receiver are not standing within diagonally opposite service courts, if they are touching a boundary line of these service courts, or if one or both feet are not in contact with the service court, and in a stationary position until the service is delivered.

Changes to General Competition Regulations & Specific Competition Regulations

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

Part III – Section 1A – General Competition Regulations

Section 10.3 Member Associations must issue an invitation to Member Associations which includes as a minimum the following information:

10.3.3 Key Dates - dates of the tournament, closing date for entries, M&Q release date, seeding date, draw date, date for withdrawal without penalty, ranking dates to be used for M&Q, seeding & draws and date for team managers meeting;

12.6.1 If a pair has no World Ranking 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 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.

Section 12.7 To seek even strength throughout the draw and to avoid players from one Member Association meeting in the early rounds, the draw may be seeded or arranged subject to the following restrictions:

12.7.1 A maximum of 16 seeds if there are 64 or more entries;
 A maximum of eight seeds if there are 32 to 63 entries;
 A maximum of four seeds if there are 16 to 31 entries;
 Two seeds if there are less than 16 entries.

Section 12.8 Placing of Byes and Seeds in a draw

Entries	No of seeds	Seed 1	Seed 2	Seeds 3/4	No of byes	Placement of byes
3	1 2	1	4		1	2
4	1 2	1	4		0	
5	1 2	1	8		3	2, 4, 7
6	1 2	1	8		2	2, 7
7	1 2	1	8		1	2
8	2	1	8		0	
9	2	1	16	-	7	2, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15
10	2	1	16	-	6	2, 4, 6, 11, 13, 15
11	2	1	16	-	5	2, 4, 6, 11, 15
12	2	1	16	-	4	2, 6, 11, 15
13	2	1	16	-	3	2, 6, 15
14	2	1	16	-	2	2, 15
15	2	1	16	-	1	2
16	4	1	16	5, 12	0	-

Section 15 - ALTERATIONS and SUBSTITUTIONS IN THE DRAW

- 15.1 In Level 1 to 4 tournaments except **Eye Level Cups** tournaments with nationally restricted entries, no alterations or substitutions are permitted to the draw after the draw has been made of except under corrections as in Regulation 15.3.1 or promotions as in Regulation 14.2. **In case of Eye Level Cups** In tournaments with nationally restricted entries (i.e. Eye Level Cups), substitution under 15.3 to 15.5 shall be permitted being the tournament with nationally restricted entries.

Section 19 - Clothing (General)

- 19.1 For the purpose of these Regulations, an article of clothing shall be defined as anything worn or carried by a player during play, except the racket, and including but not limited to, pullovers, shirts, shorts, skirts, socks, shoes, headbands (including headscarves and turbans), towels, wristbands, bandages and medical supports.

Section 20.3 – Singles Matches

- 20.3 Each player must wear, as far as colour and design is concerned, shirts and shorts (or equivalent articles of clothing) in accordance with Regulations 20.3.1 to 20.3.10 throughout a match. The player must wear the same colour and design of shirts and shorts (or equivalent articles of clothing) throughout a match.
- 20.3.8 In **Thomas & Uber Cups** continental stage, it is recommended that the opposing players in each match wear significantly different colours from each other. In Thomas & Uber Cups final stage, it is mandatory that the opposing players in each match wear significantly different colours from each other.

Section 20.4 – Doubles Matches

- 20.4 Each player in a given pair must wear, shirts and shorts (or equivalent articles of clothing) of the same colour and similar design throughout a match in accordance with Regulations 20.4.1 to 20.4.10. The player must wear the same colour and design of shirts and shorts (or equivalent articles of clothing) throughout a match.
- Section 20.6 In individual and team championships if the opposing players/pairs involved in a match are not wearing significantly different coloured clothing, the player/pair ranked lower will be required to wear clothing of a significantly different colour. Where both players/pairs have the same or no ranking the player or pair listed lower in the first M & Q report made for the tournament will be required to change the colour of clothing.

Section 25 – Withdrawals

25.1.4 For the purpose of these regulations, retiring from a match shall not be considered to be a withdrawal. A 'no show' for a match in a tournament shall be treated as walkover to the opposition and shall not prevent a player / pair from competing in another event in the same tournament. However, a 'no show' will carry a higher penalty than a withdrawal and will be in addition to the existing withdrawal penalty.

Section 26 – Conduct of Tournament and Fixtures

26.6 At all Level 1 and 2 tournaments, 2, and 3 tournaments, BWF may appoint a BWF Tournament Director.

GCR Part III, Section 1A Appendix 2 - Specifications for International Standard Facilities

Section 3 Flooring

GCR Part III Section 1B Appendix 2

3.1 It is desirable a requirement to have a wooden sprung floor, or equivalent surface, together with approved non-slip court mats. BWF has the authority to approve any equivalent surface to a wooden sprung floor, if necessary.

NOTE: This affects GPG and GP tournaments.

GCR Part III, Section 1A Appendix 4 – Player’s Code of Conduct

4.6 Trying to influence linejudges technical officials

Trying to influence the decisions of linejudges technical officials by arm, hand, or racket gestures, or orally.

GCR Part III, Section 1A Appendix 6 – World Ranking System

6.5 World Junior Ranking points table (1st September 2014 table)

	Winner	Runner Up	3/4	5/8	9/16	17/32	33/64	65/128
World Junior Championships & Youth Olympic Games	6000	5100	4200	3300	2400	1500	600	300

GCR Part III, Section 1A, Appendix 9 – Conduct for Coaches, Team and Technical Officials

Section 2.1 Coaches / Team Officials, during a match and / or while they are on or off the court in the field of play,

2.1 shall be dressed appropriately in team uniform and or shirt/polo, shirt/blouse or long trousers/skirt. Inappropriate clothing (amongst other items) includes jeans, flip flops/sandals and beach/Bermuda shorts. The Referee will decide if a Coach is inappropriately dressed.

Section 3. Sanctions for Breach of Code of Conduct for Coaches and Team Officials & Technical Officials

3.1 If a Coach / Team Official

3.1.1 attempts to convey information to a player by any means while shuttle is in play (2.3) the Umpire will call a 'let' (Law 14.2.5). The Referee shall be called immediately, on recurrence of such incident.

Part III – Section 1A – Appendix 11 – Offences & Penalties

Failure to comply with GCR 19-2123 - For every incidence US\$250

Failure to comply with GCR 19-2123 by a team in a team championship - For every instance \$500

Part III – Section 10 – Superseries – BWF World Superseries Finals

1.2 Invitations to the Superseries Final

1.2.1 The highest ranked eight players/pairs in the Superseries Standings list will subject to the following (1.2.2 & 1.2.3) receive invitations to compete in the BWF World Superseries Finals.

New 1.2.2 (existing 1.2.2 becomes 1.2.3) BWF will grant a wild card invitation to reigning World Champions in a non-Olympic year, and to the reigning Olympic Champions in the Olympic year, if they do not qualify as of right via the Superseries standings list, are in the top 20 of the World Rankings on the date of invitation by BWF, and subject to 1.2.3. Where BWF grant such a wild card entry the number of players/pairs in the event will not exceed 8.

This regulation would become effective 1st January 2015

1.2.3 Players/pairs will qualify unless a total of two player/pairs from any one Member Association would thereby be exceeded in that event.

Part III – Section 10B - Superseries - Annexure B – Schedule

Monday		Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Arena practice	MS	Q16	L32	L16	L8	L4	L2
	WS	Q16	L32	L16	L8	L4	L2
	MD	Q16	L32	L16	L8	L4	L2
	WD	Q16	L32	L16	L8	L4	L2
	XD	Q16	L32	L16	L8	L4	L2
	No. of matches	40 (Draw size to be decided* as per	80	40	20	10	5

	Superseries Regulation 6.6.4)						
No. of courts	4 or more	4 or more	4 or 3	2 or 3	1 or 2	1	
Mins per match	35	35 40	35 40	45	45	60	
	Following figures based on 4 courts	Following figures based on 4 courts		Following figures based on 2 courts	Following figures based on 1 court	Following figures based on 1 court	
Total mins	Draw size to be decided* as per Superseries Regulation 6.6.4	2800 3200	1400 1600	900	450	300	
Time	Draw size to be decided as per Superseries Regulation 6.6.4	12 13.5 hours	6.5 hours	7.5 hours	7.5 hours	5 hours	
No. of sessions	Flexible	Flexible	1 or 2	1 or 2	1 or 2	flexible	
Suggested hours of play	10:00 - 22:00	1000 9:00 - 22:00 22:30	16:00 - 22:00 30	14.30 - 22:00	12 noon	12 noon	

* The draw size of the qualification will be decided by the organiser. The draw size in each category should be decided based on the number of entries with the highest world ranking position.

Variations to the above Schedule can be made on application to, and agreement of, the Chair of Events Committee.

GCR Part III, Section 11 Grand Prix Regulations

Section 7.12. Dope-Testing

7.12.1 Dope-testing is mandatory at all Grand Prix tournaments. The organisation and cost of such testing is the responsibility of the Grand Prix organiser unless otherwise advised by the BWF. At least **four six** drug-tests must be done during each Grand Prix tournament at the organiser's expense. Personnel conducting **Dope testing** **dope-testing** must be qualified and experienced as per anti-doping regulations.

Group Play - RIO 2016 Test Event – Brazil Grand Prix 2015

It was agreed that BWF may use group play in the Rio 2016 test event, if required, to fully simulate the competition conditions for the results service providers OMEGA.



Changes to BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Competitions Regulations

BWF Council agreed changes to the Thomas and Uber Cup Competition regulations to reflect the reintroduction of a qualifiers from continental championships.

Policy on redistribution of Medals and World Ranking system process for suspended players (and world rankings system process for retired players)

BWF Council agreed the following processes should a player be suspended for whatever reason (i.e. failed a test for a banned substance) for the World Championships and Olympic Games.

If a player has won a medal at the World Championships, he/she will lose the medal. If he/she had won the gold medal, the losing finalist will be promoted to the gold medal position and the player who lost to the original gold medalist will be promoted to the silver medal position.

If a player has won a medal at the Olympic Games, he/she will lose the medal. If he/she had won the gold medal, the losing finalist will be promoted to the gold medal position and the bronze medalist will be promoted to the silver medal position. The losing semi-finalist (i.e. 4th place finisher) will be promoted to the bronze medal position.

If the suspension is for one year or longer, the player will be removed from the world ranking.

In addition BWF Council agreed the following process when a player retires:

If a player formally retires, the player will be removed from the world ranking.

Any problems or questions relating to the above additions and changes please do not hesitate to contact me or Technical Events Manager Chris Trenholme.

Kind regards

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