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REFLECTING ON 2022

By Jane Wheatley Chair - BWF Referee Assessment Panel

BWF Referees and Umpires are one team and by supporting each other we have achieved more professional outcomes on-court for our players. Worthy of mention is the better team work between umpire and service judge that has enabled de-escalation of potential problems.

Yes, we can do better but we are on the road to success.













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I wish the BWF Technical Official Family, and all the technical officials around the world, a happy and prosperous 2023.

This new year launches a new HSBC BWF World Tour calendar with a total of 31 events, and the start of a new four year hosting cycle with increasing media exposure and prize money. In that context, the demand for BWF TOs to perform at the highest level will continue to grow.

In order to achieve this goal, the focus should be on specific skills such as a willingness to improve, and alertness; these two elements are, by far, key factors when it comes to increasing performance.

Some recent on-court situations have highlighted the fact that TOs must be fully prepared to deal with more and more unexpected and potentially destabilizing situations. In these situations, the ability to

solve the problem, allowing for you and the players to perform in an optimal manner, is what we call resilience!

Therefore, an overall and precise knowledge of the Laws, regulations, ITTOs, Codes of Conduct (hard skills), combined with a continuous development of

human competences (soft skills) remain the sole answer to these challenging situations! No matter your role-referee, umpire, line judge, assessor, tournament doctor, technical delegate, classifier-alertness is essential if you want to meet the expectations of our close stakeholders.

Officiating is not an individual task. Teamwork and team spirit are essential. For

example, the referee team is one team, and for the umpire, the service judge is the one who can help solve 99.99% of the problems on-court.

As an umpire, do not argue with a player who seems unhappy with your decision when the player point of view is supported by the service judge. Just be humble, and take on board both the body language of the player and the service judge's opinion!



Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games Selections

The process to choose the technical officials teams for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games is underway, and we hope to have this confirmed by mid-2023.

REFLECTING ON 2022



From Page 1

By Jane Wheatley Chair - BWF Referee **Assessment Panel**

As I reflect on 2022 and prepare for 2023, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all BWF Referees and the BWF Referee Assessment Panel members for their support.

BWF Referees and Umpires are one team and by supporting each other we have achieved more professional outcomes on-court for our players. Worthy of mention is the better team work between umpire and service judge that has enabled deescalation of potential problems. Yes, we can do better but we are on the road to success.

BWF Technical Official Commission Meeting 2022

Paris, FRA, in conjunction with the YONEX French Open 2022, was the venue for our first face-to-face meeting of the BWF Technical

Official Commission (TOC) since 2019. Specific outcomes in the form of recommendations were put forward to BWF and some items of interest are:

- The 2022 BWF Referee Record of Work is not to be formally evaluated, however BWF will resume formal evaluation of the 2023 BWF Referee Record of Work.
- BWF will also review and propose minimum tournaments numbers and the level standards for consideration for the 2023 Record of Work.
- Following the successful **BWF-CC Umpire Assessor** Workshop 2022 held during the Denmark Open 2022, it has been recommended through the TOC, it would be beneficial for the BWF Referee Assessor Panel to conduct a joint BWF-CC Referee Assessment Workshop in the first half of 2023.

Feedback from Umpires

During the Denmark Open 2022 the opportunity was taken to convene a meeting with BWF Technical Officials personnel and several BWF Umpires. As a team of technical officials, umpire issues are also referee issues and areas of concern to the umpires were discussed as follows:

Delay of play:

- Systemic delaying behaviour by many players walking to the back of the court after having picked up a new shuttle.
- Always touching the partner's hand more than once before serving (doubles).
- Players often "bark" once or twice before serving.

It was proposed that the BWF develop a 'delay package' with advice to umpires and players/ team managers on what behaviour is not considered acceptable and should be dealt with.

Use of Cards:

- Some umpires are reporting that some referees are directing umpires not to use their cards. A referee will always encourage umpires to be pro-active and to endeavour to control the player's behaviour on court, however, the cards are the umpire's tools and are to be used when needed. There has never been any instruction coming from the BWF Assessment Panel or BWF to discourage the use of the yellow or red card when necessary.
- Regulations do allow the referee not to report a card given, but the referee must advise the umpire if the card is not going to be reported. It is then the responsibility of the referee to have a good discussion with the umpire to explain the rationale for not reporting. It is an opportunity for education. The referee must also inform the player if this card is not going to be reported.

Continued on next page



Reminders for Referees

- Focus on your own appointments, rather than a colleague's.
- Be a team, including awareness of your colleagues' strengths and weaknesses, and work accordingly.
- Remain alert throughout the tournament. Never assume.
- If you receive a withdrawal during the tournament, have the courtesy to advise the opposition manager/ player immediately. Do not leave the manager/player to find out when checking the draw.
- Umpire and team managers are pleased to see the "red shirt" in the vicinity of their court when there is a tough match.
- Sign off on the next day's schedule of play so that it becomes a formal document.
- At the end of a tournament, be confident that you have left a legacy of having imparted new tournament refereeing skills to your host.

Practice Schedule (BWF ITTO 3.3.10)

"The Referee shall review and approve the practice schedule...."

Please note the word "review". It has become normal practice that the

referee team prepares and controls the practice schedule for our BWF Level 1 tournaments (BWF World Championships, Sudirman Cup Finals, and the Thomas & Uber Cup Finals). At these tournaments we have four referees.

In our World Tour tournaments, it can be helpful to have the host involved in preparing the practice schedule, if they have personnel with experience in this area. With only two referees, it can be a time-consuming task and can also require a referee to remove themselves to a guiet area to prepare the schedule for the next day. This could leave only one referee in the stadium.

Establish if the host has the expertise to prepare the practice schedule, ask what procedure and plans they have in place, and if you are confident in their ability, allow them to do the job. It goes without saying, if the host does not have the expertise to carry out this duty then of course you must take on the job. Otherwise, your task is to review and approve the schedule.

Umpire Schedule (ITTO 3.3.13.2)

The same instruction applies to the umpire schedule. If the host has the personnel and ability to carry out the task of preparing the umpire schedule, work with them, however, take on the responsibility of semifinals and finals selection.

Do not take away these skills from our tournament hosts; as referee, you have enough work and responsibility. Checking these two tasks can be one of the duties delegated to the deputy.

How to make the best team onsite at Grade 1 tournaments

We often forget that at BWF Level 1 tournaments we have a team of appointed BWF Line judges. These line judges are well trained and can offer a strong role as members of the line judge team. They usually just arrive and melt into the group of line judges which sometime leads to their experience and being overlooked. The referee team can

help in this area:

- Refer to the list of assigned BWF Line Judges provided by BWF.
- Make it your business to acknowledge their presence at the first briefing with a formal welcome.
- Ask them to introduce themselves.
- Take time to point out their role as representatives of the BWF.
 - Continued on next page

BWF Tournament Doctor Commission

During 2022, the BWF **Tournament Doctor Commission** has held extensive meetings to look into our current practice dealing with on-court injuries. I am sure you will have noted a recent publication on the BWF website "Player and Coach Information on Handling On-Court Injuries" dated 5 December 2022. This document clearly clarifies what can and cannot be done in case of injury or illness on court. It is important that you read this article and have it to hand when meeting with your tournament doctors.

Recruitment of Semi Professional Referees in 2024

2023 will see the end of the current cycles of the Semi Professional Referee and Umpire teams. A new Semi Professional referee cycle will start in 2024 and so I encourage all BWF Referees to carefully consider their interest and availability to be part of this team.



Referee Calendar for 2023

With 62 events on the 2023 tournament calendar and a number of retirements in 2022, we have a busy year ahead of us.

Referee appraisals will be carried out on all referees who have not been appraised during 2022. We have been able to assign our younger referees to the role of main referee,

supported by a more senior referee, and, as our number of referees has decreased, the increased number of duties will allow you to improve your refereeing expertise.

We are also continuing to work towards all our referee team gaining experience with Para badminton.

As we look towards the new year, we must be mindful

of the responsibility we hold as referees. Badminton is a professional sport and has a huge television following. Competition will be fierce as the race for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games begins. Your role is to ensure the game is fair for all players.

Stay alert, keep up to date, ask for help if needed.
Support each other.

SANTANDER 2022 BWF WORLD, JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

UMPIRE UPDATE



I hope everyone had a successful, safe, and prosperous holiday.

Now, welcome to 2023!

I mentioned in the last edition we were about to hold a BWF Umpire Assessor meeting and a BWF-CC Umpire Assessor Workshop to gain more consistency in assessing/appraising between assessors from all over the world, and from feedback received, it has been a huge success.

BWF Umpire Assessment Panel Meeting (October 2022 – Denmark)

An important focus of the meeting was progression of the 360 evaluation process, to make it more consistent for all. The panel will continue its work on this through an upcoming meeting.

The use of video clips for workshops was also discussed and thought to be a good idea, however, it is important that none of the clips show the umpire or other technical officials in a negative way.

Video clips are tools to help colleagues progress their own umpiring performance.

If there is anything of interest that you

see while at a BWF Grade 1 and 2 tournament, please mention it to the BWF Referee who may be able to get the match from TV or the streaming team to send to BWF for approval for use in workshops. All video clips will be checked for suitability before use by the Chair of the BWF Referee Assessment Panel and the Chair of the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel.

We have also planned on earmarking tournaments where we have BWF Umpires that have not been appraised in the last two years, and these tournaments will be decided when we have all the umpire assignments in place.

The one assessment opportunity for CC Umpire candidates in 2023 is planned for the Singapore Open 2023. As a result of only one assessment tournament

in 2023, BWF Umpire Assessors can perform more appraisals to catch up on our mandate.

We also discussed succession planning for the BWF Umpire Assessment Panel to ensure a strong, capable team moving forward.

BWF-CC Umpire Assessors Workshop 2022 (October 2022 – Denmark)

It was a very busy three days of class room sessions, on-court practice, CC Assessors working with BWF Assessors, and breakout sessions for groups to discuss what they have seen on court to gain a consensus on their appraisals, for the three CC Umpire Assessors from each Continental Confederation.

There should now be a much better understanding of what is required before CCs send candidates for BWF assessment. This was a valuable experience for the CC assessors that were in attendance and is something BWF hopes to continue every two years. Thank you to all the CC Assessors who sent feedback expressing how much they benefited from the experience.



Looking ahead for BWF Umpires that have not umpired yet due to the pandemic, we will hold a virtual BWF Umpire workshop to help with getting back onto court with confidence.

However, in the meantime, you can also keep in touch by watching many of the on line matches.

Items since our last COC-Tales

It would appear that some umpires are not pushing themselves in what they consider an easy match but instead just go through the motions. This is unfair to the players and to your pride as a BWF Umpire. All matches matter, so please make sure you are ready for all your matches and perform to your best.

Not giving the correct score following an IRS challenge is becoming more frequent. We have discussed this in previous COC-Tales, noting the importance to make sure you watch the player on a close line call to make sure he/she is not going to challenge.

Pressing the button on the tablet too soon seems to be the main problem, so please take care. It does not look good on TV when a clear scoring error has occurred. My comment every time this happens is "Why does the service judge not know the correct score and help the umpire?".

You are there not just as a service judge but to umpire the match so you are ready to help the umpire if needed.

I hope to see you all during 2023 when everyone can get back to umpiring as normal.

Please take good care.





2022 ROUND UP AND A LOOK FORWARD TO 2023 FOR BWF LINE JUDGES

By Marisa Baird
BWF Line Judge and Line Judge Coordinator, Badminton Scotland Court Officials Group



BWF World Junior Championships

One of the last events of 2022 was the BWF World Junior Championships held in Santander, Spain with the team championship from 17-22 and individual championships from 24-20 October. Ten BWF Line Judges were assigned to these championships, and so I would like thank and acknowledge Basel, Jyrki, Pauline, Frederique, Modigela, Jan and Mehdi for sharing their experiences which are included in this report.

The BWF World Junior Championships 2022 was a wonderful tournament, showcasing future world class players, and for many of our line judge workforce, the first tournament without COVID-19 restrictions! Everyone enjoyed not having to quarantine or wear masks, and could go outside to enjoy the warm autumn weather. A couple of brave Line Judges, even took a swim in the sea!

The accommodation was in a lovely hotel that was situated near the beach and within a 15-minute walk of the

arena. Most took the opportunity to walk to and from the competition venue to enjoy the scenery and when able, the many varied restaurants, where fresh seafood was especially appreciated.

Our team of line judges were joined by 20 young local line judges. They began the tournament inexperienced but through support and encouragement from the more experienced line judges, were signalling and calling as confidently as their mentors by tournament's end.

Everyone supported each other and communicated well. The local line judges repaid the help they received by helping translate briefings which were mainly in Spanish, and a BWF WhatsApp group was set up to ensure everyone was aware of departure times, the programme for the day, and any last-minute changes which required a prompt response.

The first week was the team championship and everyone enjoyed the atmosphere in the competition venue, including the spirit within each nation's teams showcased each day by their own special 'battle cry'.

The host organiser arranged a 'Day of Culture' for technical officials, players, coaches and volunteers on the day off before the individual championships. This included sightseeing in the city, sampling local cuisine (a huge paella), watching some local arts and tickets to a football match in the local football stadium.

Line judges were sometimes only two per court for the start of the individual championships, monitoring the baseline and half of a side line when eight or nine courts were in use. No Instant Review System was in operation, so the line judges had a greater responsibility to ensure their calls and signals were correct. The atmosphere from spectators and players in the arena was again fantastic, which enhanced the enjoyment of all officials.

The BWF Line Judges were able to share the umpire's lounge and attend the umpire's workshop, which provided a great opportunity to share experiences and knowledge which will ultimately enhance their teaching and support of more junior officials in their own country.



HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2022

The final tournament of 2022 and the highlight of many players, officials and spectators was the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals from 7-11 December in Bangkok, THA. Six BWF Line Judges participated and shared their experiences.

Foo Leng Huat (MAS) wrote:

"It was a great experience and moment for me to join this end of year tournament, gathering some of the best players during 2022. Every match felt like a final and our line calls will be challenged by players with the presence of the Instant Review System. We need to be professional and stay focused on the court at all times to ensure every call we made was correct for all players.

"It is indeed fortunate to work with many experienced and energetic young colleagues. Everybody knew and understood our responsibilities. We motivated and supported each other throughout which helped build a high performance culture. And, from a social perspective, it was great meet and now know many more friends.

"I gained valuable experience that I am able to share with my colleagues in my home country.

"Thank you to BWF and Badminton Association of Thailand (BAT) for giving us so many great and memorable experiences and moments to remember in life."

Grégory Pouget (FRA) wrote:

"This tournament was one of my best experiences given the world class players, the quality of all matches similar to the later rounds of our top tournaments. And, it was exciting to attend the opening gala dinner which allowed me to attend the various draws as well as the awards ceremony for the players of the year and to have been able to see the players in a different context dressed in traditional outfits or "princess" dresses.

"The HSBC BWF World Tour Finals is different from other BWF tournaments in which I participated because this time I was invited as a substitute following a withdrawal of another BWF Line Judge, but also because while it was planned in China, it was moved to Thailand a few weeks and I saw the responsiveness and

professionalism of BWF and the host organiser. "My advice to new BWF Line Judges is to prepare for your participation in tournaments like this by practicing whenever possible in your country and to be available to respond to such an invitation."

"I could not extend my stay for sightseeing but it was possible to visit the former Royal Palace in Bangkok, which was a wonderful discovery.

"This tournament will be my last as a BWF Line Judge as my 2019-2022 term has ended and I am not on the list for 2023-2026.

"I wish to thank BWF for the opportunity to participate and to the Badminton Association of Thailand for the excellent welcome

Looking Forward – A BWF Line Judge Workshop – 17 January 2023

As 2022 closes and BWF Line Judges, such as Grégory retire, we look forward to welcoming the newly appointed BWF Line Judges for the 2023-2026 cycle.

As such, BWF invited all of its line judge workforce to participate in a virtual workshop of 17 January 2023, taking place in two sessions 18:00 – 20:00 hrs (KL time) and 20:00 – 22:00 hrs (KL time). Each

line judge can choose a session which better fits with their time zone.

The main focus will be to inform new and continuing BWF Line Judges of your roles and responsibilities, how to best work with and support your other technical official stakeholders (e.g. referees, umpires, line judge coordinators, etc.), and will include an open forum for questions you may have about being a BWF Line Judge.

We look forward to seeing you there.

SOME OF THE BEST UMPIRES

By Torsten Berg, Member – BWF Referee Assessment Panel

Having had the privilege to referee for BWF from the Thomas Cup Zone Finals in San Jose, California in 1986 until and including the Super Series Finals in Kuala Lumpur 2013, I have enjoyed watching and working with a very large group of BWF umpires. Who was the best of this lot?

I cannot give a simple answer, as in my view a good

umpire needs to possess a combination of many qualities. Some are stronger in presentation; others in court management. Some can control difficult players; others are good team players and role models. Some can handle huge pressure. However, I think I can point to some of the best umpires I have seen and enjoyed working with and here I shall present a few of those.

Obviously, as the game changed over the years, umpiring has had to change, too. Overruling was introduced in 2002. The rally point scoring system started in 2006. IRS started in 2013, actually in my very last tournament: the Super Series Finals 2013. Service laws were changed more than once. We have moved from pen and paper scoresheets to electronic

scorepads, and much more. The qualities demanded from the umpire have changed with the changing circumstances around the game, but badminton remains, more or less, the same, and I believe the best umpires of the past would also have been good today.

Here are profiles of some of the best I have seen.

PETER GANES (DEN)

Peter Ganes possessed almost all the qualities that make an excellent badminton umpire. By nature, the tall and strong policeman with the deep voice had a personal aura of authority that helped him to control even the most difficult players, and his ability to immediately take decisions in the chair and announce them with conviction made him an obvious choice for potentially difficult matches. He gained the players' confidence, as they felt comfortable trusting his fairness and deep knowledge of Laws and regulations.

Peter was accredited in 1991 and certificated the following year. He umpired Olympic finals in Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004 before, to everybody's surprise, he retired early in 2006, only 45 years of age. He gave the reason that he had now tried everything in the chair and wished to contribute in other ways to umpiring.

So he did. For more than 20 years Peter and Preben Nøies (DEN) educated and trained Danish umpires, and several of his students have reached the highest levels. BEC used him as an assessor from the start of BEC formal assessments, and Peter also served BWF as an assessor until 2015.

Sadly, Peter Ganes passed away in 2018, at the age of only 57, suffering from cancer to the esophagus, leaving a legacy as a role model as well as a teacher and mentor for the next generation of umpires.



REN CHUN HUI (CHN)

Calm, smiling and elegant, Ren Chun Hui is one of the best umpires I have seen. In his own quiet way, he controlled the game without attracting attention. The top players of the world felt that the game was in safe hands when Ren Chun Hui was in the chair.

I met Ren Chun Hui 1991, when he was certificated at the Sudirman Cup and World Championships in Copenhagen. He was soon selected for the most demanding matches at BWF's top tournaments, with the pinnacle being the men's doubles finals of both the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta and the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

In 2004, Ren Chun Hui was entrusted with the prestigious and very important job as competition manager for the badminton tournament

at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games—an excellent choice for this key position. Having been nominated early, he prepared himself very well by joining the organisation of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games and shadowing his predecessor. He made his country proud. No wonder that badminton in the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games—the first time our game was played in a country with experience in major badminton competitions—became the best organised so far.

After the Games, Ren Chun Hui continued to serve the game he loves in many capacities in his home country China, both in administrative capacities as Vice President and Deputy Secretary General and as a successful organiser of many of the major BWF tournaments played in his home country until he retired in 2019.



HÅKAN FOSSTO (SWE)

Håkan Fossto was the youngest candidate in Roy Ward's first certification workshop during the 3rd World Badminton Championships in Copenhagen 1983 and one of the very best. Starting young, Håkan's career is one of the longest. He retired from BWF at the age of 55 in 2012, but continued umpiring for BEC for another five years, and I would not be surprised to see him in the chair again. His many qualities and his long career has provided Håkan with a record that likely will never be beaten: he umpired five consecutive Olympic Games, from Barcelona to Beijing, with many finals.

Håkan was a good junior player, winning bronze medals in men's doubles and with the Swedish team at the 1975 European Junior Championships, and building upon his high-level playing experience and his ability to take fast decisions and announce them clearly and with conviction, he quickly earned the respect of the top players of the world. Always helpful to his colleagues and other officials, Håkan has made many friends worldwide

and served the game not only as one of our best umpires for nearly three decades but also as a good example to younger umpires.

Did BWF only have male top class umpires in the early years? No, but, top female umpires were few. We are doing much better nowadays: Sue Smallwood (ENG), Val Andrews (ENG), Jane Hancock (ENG), Nahathai Sornprachum (THA), and Liu Daidi (CHN) were among the pioneers that paved the way for the next generations.

Should I compare the standard of umpiring today with that of yesteryear, there is no doubt we are generally doing much better today. The job is getting more and more demanding, the game is growing in pace and complexity, and the eyes of the world are on our every move. We also have better tools, both technical such as IRS and helpful guidelines such as the detailed ITTO and Vocabulary. Nevertheless, we have had some excellent umpires in the past as the ones portrayed here, and there were others that we shall come back to in a future issue of COC-Tales.

2023 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND APPRAISALS

As of January 2023 – calendar subject to change

Date	Meetings, Workshops and Appraisals	Location	Country	Tournament
07 Mar - 12 Mar	Referee Appraisals	Mulheim an der Ruhr	GER	YONEX German Open 2023
28 Mar - 02 Apr	Referee Appraisals	Madrid	ESP	Madrid Spain Masters 2023
04 Apr - 10 Apr	Referee Appraisals	Orleans	FRA	Orleans Masters 2023
21 May - 27 May	Referee Appraisals	Suzhou	CHN	TotalEnergies BWF Sudirman Cup Finals 2023
23 May - 28 May	Referee Appraisals	Kuala Lumpur	MAS	Malaysia Masters 2023
TBC	BWF Umpire Assessment Panel Meeting 2023	Singapore	SGP	in conjunction with Singapore Open 2023
06 Jun – 11 Jun	BWF Umpire Assessment for BWF Level	Singapore	SGP	Singapore Open 2023
TBC	BWF Referee Assessment Panel Meeting 2023	Indonesia	INA	in conjunction with Indonesia Open 2023
TBC	BWF/CC Referee Assessor Panel Workshop 2023	Indonesia	INA	in conjunction with Indonesia Open 2023
20 Jun – 26 Jun	Referee Appraisals	Taipei	TPE	Taipei Open 2023
04 Jul – 09 Jul	Referee Appraisals	Calgary	CAN	Canada Open 2023
08 Aug – 13 Aug	Referee Appraisals	Auckland	NZL	New Zealand Open 2023
TBC	TOC Meeting 2023	Copenhagen	DEN	In conjunction with TotalEnergies BWF World Championships 2023
TBC	BWF Tournament Doctor Commission Meeting 2023	Copenhagen	DEN	In conjunction with TotalEnergies BWF World Championships 2023
05 Sep - 10 Sep	Referee Appraisals	TBC	INA	Indonesia Super 100 I 2023
24 Oct - 29 Oct	Referee Appraisals	TBC	INA	Indonesia Super 100 II 2023
31 Oct - 5 Nov	Referee Appraisals	TBC	MAS	Malaysia Super 100 2023
31 Oct - 5 Nov	Referee Appraisals	Saarbrucken	GER	HYLO Open 2023
07 Nov - 12 Nov	Referee Appraisals	Tokyo	JPN	Japan Para badminton International 2023
07 Nov - 12 Nov	Referee Appraisals	Gwangju	KOR	Korea Masters 2023
28 Nov - 05 Dec	Referee Appraisals	Lucknow	IND	Syed Modi India International 2023
05 Dec - 10 Dec	Referee Appraisals	TBC	IND	India Super 100 I 2023
12 Dec - 17 Dec	Referee Appraisals	TBC	IND	India Super 100 II 2023