

Unit No. 1, Level 29
Naza Tower Platinum Park
No. 10 Persiaran KLCC
50088 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

29 November 2017

Dear Badminton Colleagues

CHANGES & ADDITIONS TO LAWS OF BADMINTON & REGULATIONS

The BWF Events Committee on Tuesday 14 November 2017 and BWF Council on Friday 17 November 2017 agreed upon a number of decisions including proposals to the next Annual General Meeting on the Laws of Badminton and amendments relating to General Competition Regulations and tournament specific regulations.

The updated regulations have been published on the BWF's corporate website ([linked here](#)).

Please note that will come into immediate effect unless stated otherwise below.

For those coming into effect on 1 January 2018, these have been published on the following page of the corporate website ([linked here](#)).

Changes to Laws, RTTO and General Competition Regulations

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

Changes to Laws of Badminton

Section 9 - Service

Current Wording:

9.1.6 the whole shuttle shall be below the server's waist at the instant of being hit by the server's racket. The waist shall be considered to be an imaginary line round the body, level with the lowest part of the server's bottom rib;

9.1.6.1 *In Wheelchair Badminton, the whole shuttle shall be below the server's armpit at the instant of being hit by the server's racket;*

9.1.6.2 ***For Fixed Height Experiment: The whole of the shuttle shall be below 1.10 metres from the surface of the court at the instant of being hit by the server's racket.***

New Wording:

9.1.6 the whole shuttle shall be below 1.15 metres from the surface of the court at the instant of being hit by the server's racket.

9.1.6.1 *In Wheelchair Badminton, the whole shuttle shall be below the server's armpit at the instant of being hit by the server's racket.*

9.1.6.2 ***Alternative Service Law: the whole shuttle shall be below the server's waist at the instant of being hit by the server's racket. The waist shall be considered to be an imaginary line round the body, level with the lowest part of the server's bottom rib;***

Current Wording:

9.1.7 the shaft and the racket head of the server's racket at the instant of hitting the shuttle shall be pointing in a downward direction;

New Wording:

9.1.7 ***Alternative Service Law: the shaft and the racket head of the server's racket at the instant of hitting the shuttle shall be pointing in a downward direction;***

Section 16 – Advice and Leaving the Court

16.5.1 Only **during intervals** **when the shuttle is not in play (Law 15)**, shall a player be permitted to receive advice during a match.

16.6 A player shall not:

16.6.3 behave in an offensive **or inappropriate** manner; or

**Proposed Changes to
General Competition Regulations
and Other Tournament Regulations**

For Immediate Effect Unless otherwise Stated

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

Part III – Section 1A – General Competition Regulations

Section 5 – Online Entries and Control of Entries

5.10 In level 3, 4, and junior tournaments, if the host Association does not have an entry in the main draw in an event they may elect to include a wildcard entry in that event. Wildcards will not win World Ranking points or World Junior Ranking points unless they win a match. A walkover does not count as winning a match.

The wildcard, if eligible, will be the highest ranked player/pair entered from the host Association, in each event, if applicable.

The host Association must confirm with BWF before publication of the first MQ report, which eligible players/pairs entered (if any) will be chosen as wildcards.

If the host Association declines to choose the highest ranked eligible player/pair entered by the host Association, no other wildcards will be granted in that event.

Once designated as a wildcard, the player/pair remains a wildcard throughout the tournament.

Section 16 – Ranking in Tournaments Played Under the Pool System or in Groups

Current Wording:

16.3.9 If a team is unable to complete a match in a tie, the result of that match shall be considered to be 21-0, 21-0 for the purpose of deciding ranking in the pool system. Retiring during a match shall be considered to be not completing the match.

New Wording:

16.3.9 If a team is unable to complete a match in a tie (e.g. retiring or conceding a match due to illness, injury or other unavoidable hindrance), the result of that match shall count as if completed without the conceding side scoring another point.

Section 23 – Advertising of Players’ Clothing

23.3 Other Clothing

Each sock may carry two advertisements (including manufacturers’ logos/emblems) of 20 square centimetres or less. The total number of advertisements allowed on each leg/foot is just two should a player wear a compression/support sock as well as a regular sock.

Note: These changes will also be implemented in the new General Competition Regulations that will enter into force on 1 January 2018.

Part III – Section 1A – Appendix 7 – Explanation of Adjusted and Notional Ranking

Section 1 – Notional ranking for seeding and MQ

1.1 Explanation

- 1.1.2 The notional ranking is a method to estimate the strength of this pair which is used to determine order for the main and qualifying lists, and to seed them when appropriate.

Section 2 – Adjusted ranking for seeding

2.1 Explanation

- 2.1.1 A pair composed of two strong players who have played together in less than eight active tournaments on the World Ranking, and who would in all likelihood achieve a higher World Ranking once they have played together in more tournaments.

- 2.1.2 The adjusted ranking is a method to estimate the strength of this pair which is used to determine order for the main and qualifying lists, and to seed them when appropriate.

- 2.2 The process of computation of Adjusted Ranking points as stated in Regulation 12.5.2 is illustrated in the flow chart below.

Note: This new additional wording will also be implemented in the new Tournament Regulations that will enter into force on 1 January 2018.

Part III – Section 6B – Youth Olympic Games Competition Regulations

Section 6

Current Wording:

6.4 It is mandatory for all players qualifying for the Youth Olympic Games to play in each tie of the Relay Team competition. If however a player on the team is injured the team may use another player from the same team to play in two matches with permission of the Referee.

New Wording:

6.4 It is mandatory for all players qualifying for the Youth Olympic Games to play in each tie of the Relay Team competition.

6.5 If however up to two players on the team are injured the team may use up to two players from the same team to play in two or more matches, with permission of the Referee.

6.6 Substitutions of players of the same gender can be made prior to start of each match. No substitutions can be made during a match.

6.7 Any conceded matches due to injury (e.g. third player of same gender is injured) will follow the points structure in regulation 7 (Method of Competition).

Section 7.22.4

Current Wording:

The winner of the draw will choose the first match and third matches. The opposing team will choose the second and fourth matches and the match not having been chosen will be played last.

New Wording:

The first five matches of the tie must contest one of each of the disciplines (i.e. MS, WS, MD, WD, and XD).

The winner of the draw will choose the first and third matches. The opposing team will choose the second and fourth matches. The match not having been chosen will be played fifth.

The last five matches (i.e. matches six to 10) follow the same order as the first five matches already determined as per above.

Part III – Section 10 – Regulations for Superseries

Section 6 - Draw

6.6.3 If the host Association does not have an entry ranked in the 28 highest-ranked entries in any event, they may elect to have a maximum of two wildcard entries in the whole tournament. If the host Association has only one entry in the 28 highest-ranked entries, they can elect to have one wildcard entry in the whole tournament. Host Associations can choose which event(s) the wild cards will play in. These wildcards will play in the main draw. Wildcards will not win World Ranking points unless they win a match (a walkover does not count as winning a match).

The wildcard, if eligible, will be the highest ranked player/pair entered from the host Association, in each event, if applicable.

The host Association must confirm with BWF before publication of the first MQ report, which eligible players/pairs entered (if any) will be chosen as wildcards.

If the host Association declines to choose the highest ranked eligible player/pair entered by the host Association, no other wildcards will be granted in that event.

Once designated as a wildcard, the player/pair remains a wildcard throughout the tournament.

Note: This new additional wording will also be implemented in the new Tournament Regulations that will enter into force on 1 January 2018.

Proposed Changes to New General Competition Regulations

For Effect 1 January 2018

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

BWF Statutes, Section 5.1 – General Competition Regulations

Section 4 – Tournaments

4.2.2 It is the intention of BWF that the ownership of the BWF Sanctioned Tournament Rights shall subsequently be shared as follows:

Tournament defined in GCR	Grade of Tournament	Ownership of BWF Sanctioned Tournament Rights owned by and the extent of ownership
2.2	Grade 1	Determined by the BWF regulations / contracts associated with each Tournament.
2.3	Grade 2	Retained by BWF as per BWF World Tour host contract.
2.4	Grade 3	All rights granted to the Continental Confederation who will share it with the promoting Member in accordance with the regulations for the Continental Tournaments as approved by the BWF, except for purposes retained by BWF under the GCR.
2.5	Continental Championships	All rights granted to the Continental Confederation, except for purposes retained by BWF under the GCR.
2.6	Multi-sport Games	All rights retained by BWF and may be granted at its sole discretion.
2.7	International Junior Tournaments	All rights granted to the promoting Member, except for purposes retained by BWF under the GCR. All rights granted to the Continental Confederation who will share it with the promoting Member in accordance with the regulations for the Continental Junior Tournaments as approved by the BWF, except for purposes retained by BWF under the GCR.
2.9	BWF Sanctioned Team Leagues	International Team Leagues: All rights retained by BWF and may be granted at its sole discretion. National Team Leagues with International participation: All rights granted to the promoting Member, except for purposes retained by BWF under the GCR.
2.8, 2.10-2.12	Other international Tournaments	All rights granted to the promoting Member, except for purposes retained by BWF under the GCR.

Section 11 – The Draw

- 11.2 The draw shall be done by the organisation doing the seeding (Regulations 11.1.1, 11.1.2 and 11.1.3), as per the timelines specified in the Time Lines for Tournaments (BWF Statutes, Section 5.3.2). The draw must be published as soon as possible after it is done, but in all cases not later than 24 hours after the draw has been made. The qualifying rounds, if any, count as part of the Tournament for these purposes. **The draw should not be published until it has been approved by the Referee.**
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Section 14 – Withdrawal Fees

- 14.1 It is a condition of entry to a BWF Sanctioned Tournament that the Tournament organisers must be notified by the Member entering the Player of any withdrawal of a Player / pair or team from the Tournament or any Event thereof.
- 14.1.1 Where such withdrawal is made no later than the **Monday Sunday** immediately preceding the draw no penalty is involved.
- 14.1.2 Any withdrawal after the **Monday Sunday** immediately preceding the draw for any reason whatsoever, renders the Member concerned liable to a withdrawal fee, due to the inconvenience caused by the withdrawal, of:

Note: The new timeline will come into effect for tournaments starting in February 2018.

Section 15 – Promotions and Redraws

- 15.3 The Referee shall do a redraw only if play in that draw has not begun and either:
- 15.3.1 an error has been made in the control of entries (Regulation 7.1) or making the draw (Regulation 11); or
- 15.3.2 a particular qualifying draw has been rendered severely imbalanced. **A qualifying draw is considered to be severely imbalanced if, after withdrawals and promotions, more than one qualifying position (e.g. Q1, Q2, etc.) will be unfilled; or**
- 15.3.3 In exceptional circumstances if a particular main draw has been rendered severely imbalanced, provided there is no qualifying.

Section 18 – Advertising in the Playing Area

Current Wording:

18.8 The Posts

Each post pole can have a maximum of two identical emblems on the pole. Each emblem must face an end of the court, be flush with the surface of the post and be 30 centimetres high or less, and three centimetres broad or less. Emblems on the base are allowed. Each base of the post can have a maximum of three identical emblems. These must be flush with the surface of the post and be 30 centimetres high or less and three centimetres broad or less.

New Wording:

18.8 The Posts

18.8.1 Post Pole

Each post pole can have a maximum of two identical emblems on the pole. Each emblem must face an end of the court, be flush with the surface of the post and be 30 centimetres high or less and three centimetres broad or less.

18.8.2 Base of Post

Each base of the post can have a maximum of three emblems of the same brand. These must be flush with the surface of the base of the post and be 30 centimetres high or less.

BWF Statutes, Section 5.2.1 – Major Events Tournaments Regulations Table

World Senior Championships

Section 9 - Format

As per General Competition Regulations (BWF Statutes, Section 5.1), **except that GCR 14.1.4 does not apply.** (Forced Withdrawals)

Section 14 - Substitutions

After the closing date for entries, a player who has entered may be unable to take part through illness, injury, or other unavoidable cause. That player's place in singles or doubles or both may be taken by a player who has already entered another World Senior Championships event, provided the provisions regarding maximum number of entries in clause 7 are respected.

Substitutions are allowed to be made until the end of the Team Managers' Meeting for normal withdrawals, and in events that have not already started (for those players who suffer an on-court injury in another event).

Otherwise, nNo other changes or substitutions of any kind can be made after the Sunday prior to the draw date, and also not to the draw after it has been made, except according to GCR Regulation 15.3.

Suhandinata Cup

Section 9 - Format

- If there are five or fewer teams in the last group they shall all play each other for the final ranking.
 - A vacancy in a ranking competition draw due to a team withdrawn in the first stage shall be filled by a team from the next lower group, drawn by lot.
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World Men's & Women's Team Championships (Thomas & Uber Cup Finals)

Section 10.3 – Seeding and Draw

Draw for the Knock-out stage:

- The draw for the knock-out stage of the Competition shall be done immediately after the last match of the group play off is over.
 - Two top ranked teams from each group will qualify for this stage.
 - A random draw to determine places in the knock out stage (quarter finals) will be made. The top two ranked teams from each group cannot play each other in the quarter finals stage.
 - The top teams of each group will be ranked in order of their strength in the manner described in Regulation 4.2.3, based on the most recently published World Ranking immediately preceding the date of the draw. These teams will be considered as Seed No. 1 to 4 for the draw.
 - The 4 seeded teams will be placed in the draw as per General Competition Regulation 12. Remaining teams will be placed in the draw by lot.
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World Mixed Team Championships (Sudirman Cup)

Section 10.3 – Seeding and Draw

Draw for the Knock-out stage:

The draw for the knock-out stage of the Competition for shall be done immediately after the last match of the group play off is over.

A random draw to determine places in the knock out stage (quarter finals) will be made. The top two ranked teams from each group cannot play each other in the quarter finals stage.

The top teams of each sub-group will be ranked in order of their strength in the manner described in regulation 9 based on the most recently published World Ranking immediately preceding the date of the draw. These teams will be considered as Seed No. 1 to 4 for the draw.

The four seeded teams will be placed in the draw as per GCR Regulation 11. Remaining teams will be placed in the draw by lot.

Full details of the draw at every stage shall be notified forthwith to each competing Member.

BWF Statutes, Section 5.2.2 – BWF World Tour Regulations

Section 6.4.5

In BWF World Tour, GCR Regulation 11.11.1 (nationality separation) does not apply for Level 1-46; instead nationality separation of entries for Level 3-46 Tournaments shall be used in the main draw or in the qualifying draws so as to avoid, wherever possible, the entries from any one Member meeting in the first round. No nationality separation according to GCR Regulation 11.11 applies for Level 1 and 2 Tournaments.

BWF Statutes, Section 5.2.3 – Junior Tournament Regulations

Section 3 – The Draw

- 3.2 The draw shall be done by the organisation doing the seeding (clauses 3.1.1 and 3.1.2), as per the timelines specified in Section 5.3.2 of the BWF Statutes. The draw must be published as soon as possible after it is done, but in all cases not later than 24 hours after the draw has been made and not less than 24 hours before the first scheduled match. The qualifying rounds, if any, count as part of the Tournament for these purposes. The draw should not be published until it has been approved by the Referee.

BWF Statutes, Section 5.3.1 – Tournament Sanction Policy

Section 14

	Grade 2	Grade 2			Grade 3		
	Level 2 and Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	International Challenge	International Series	Futures Series
	1	1	1		1		
	1	1	1			1	
	1	1	1				1
	1	1		1	1		
	1	1		1		1	
	1	1		1			1
	1		1	1	1		
	1		1	1		1	
	1		1	1			1
		1	1	1	1		
		1	1	1		1	
		1	1	1			1
	1	2			1		
	1	2				1	
	1	2					1
		2	1		1		
		2	1			1	
		2	1				1
		2		1	1		
		2		1		1	
		2		1			1
	1		2		1		
	1		2			1	
	1		2				1
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		1	2			1	
		1	2				1
			2	1	1		
			2	1		1	
			2	1			1
	2	1			1		
	2		1		1		
	2			1	1		
	2	1				1	
	2		1			1	
	2			1		1	
	2	1					1
	2		1				1
	2			1			1
	2				1	1	
	2				1		1
	2					1	1
	2					1	1
	Any two Grade 2 in different levels (except two Level 4 or 5 allowed)				1	1	
	Any two Grade 2 in different levels (except two Level 4 or 5 allowed)				1		1
	Any two Grade 2 in different levels (except two Level 4 or 5 allowed)					1	1
	Any one Grade 2				1	1	1

However, the BWF reserves the right to accept additional Tournaments under special circumstances.

BWF Statutes, Section 5.3.3.1 – World Ranking System

Section 6.5.1.1

At the request of the Continental Confederation, points earned in the Continental Multi-Sport Games Individual Championships where badminton is included on the program will can be included in the World Ranking as well as the instead of Continental Individual Championships as specified in clause 6.5.1 above. The Continental Confederations shall ensure that such Multi-Sport Games Individual Championships follow similar competition regulations as the Continental Individual Championships.

Section 6.5.1.2

The level of Tournament for Continental Multi-Sport Games Individual Championships within each Continent for the ranking points purposes shall be the same as specified in clause 6.5.1.

Section 8.1

Tournaments concluded within 52-week period complying with the following criteria shall be included in the World Ranking:

- 8.1.1. Results of the latest Tournaments.
 - 8.1.2. Only one BWF World Championship.
 - 8.1.3. Only one Continental Championship (Individual) from each continent.
 - 8.1.4. Only one Continental Multi-Sport Games Individual Championship from each continent.
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BWF Statutes, Section 5.3.1 – Tournament Sanction Policy

Section 9

Unless otherwise approved by BWF, the use of the title "OPEN" is only allowed for the highest-level Tournament offered to participants from one Member. For example, the highest Grade/Level Tournament – Malaysian Open part of the BWF World Tour would be entitled to use the title 'Open' as the highest level sanctioned Tournament in Malaysia. Other Tournaments held in the Member would take a different title such as 'MASTERS'. For example, the second highest Grade/Level Tournament in Malaysia could take the title 'Malaysian Masters part of the BWF World Tour.

BWF Statutes, Section 5.3.2 – Timelines for Tournaments

Grade 1 – Individual Tournaments

Time Line	Weekday	Responsibility	World Championships	World Junior Championships	World Senior Championships
Monday Sunday immediately preceding to 13 ¹⁴ days prior of the start of the Tournament	Monday Sunday	Member	Withdrawal without penalty	N/A	N/A

Grade 1 – Team Tournaments

Time Line	Weekday	Responsibility	World Team Championships	World Men's & Women's Team Championships	World Junior Team Championships
First World Ranking date after last Continental Stage Tournament	Thursday	BWF	N/A	Remaining Qualifiers to be decided	N/A

Grade 2, 3, and Junior Tournaments*

Time Line	Weekday	Days from Start of Tournament	Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Grade 3 and Junior Tournaments
Week 3 ⁴	Monday Sunday	22 23	Withdrawal without penalty	Withdrawal without penalty	Withdrawal without penalty	N/A

***Note:** The new timeline will come into effect for tournaments starting in February 2018.

Any problems or questions relating to the above additions and changes please do not hesitate to contact Events Director, Darren Parks or Senior Technical Events Manager Chris Trenholme.

Yours faithfully

Darren Parks
 Events Director
 E: d.parks@bwfbadminton.org