



BWF umpires in discussion with players.

KEEP IT ON! UMPIRES' USE OF MICROPHONES



By Carol Ui Fhearghail
BWF Umpire Assessor

SHOULD UMPIRES LEAVE THEIR MICROPHONES ON MORE OFTEN?

Many referees show a preference for microphones to be kept on so they hear what the situation is as they can sometimes miss what has happened on a particular court, while attending to other duties.

If they hear the umpire speaking to a player or players, they would realise the need to be close to that court in case their involvement is required. Referees could then be aware of the situation prior to coming on court so they can make a provisional decision about handling the matter.

Additionally, Law 17 in the Laws of Badminton should be noted. It says players and spectators are to be kept informed of the progress of the match. Progress does not just mean the score but the whole match. By covering the microphone, umpires are neglecting to let spectators, specifically those in the stadium, know what is happening.

Umpires should note that with modern technology (i.e. umpire scoring tablets), which have built-in microphones, everything they say may be broadcast anyway. Often, at TO briefings, reminders are given to umpires and service judges to be careful what they say to each other as it may be heard on television and live stream. The abundance of microphones surrounding the courts (e.g. on the net posts and next to the players' boxes) means voices are likely to be picked up more frequently. Further to this, more microphones are added to the field of play at the end of the week.

Continues on page 3

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

This issue has lots of key information which we hope you will find useful; from understanding why policies are in place to practical tips and an overview of new decisions.

We have listed who has been selected for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games as well as our newly qualified Accredited Umpires – many congratulations to both – as well as a list of useful key dates.

Despite everything else going on in the world, you have an extended family in your badminton life. Stay in touch, stay safe and enjoy your officiating!

Regards

VANESSA FREEMAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



FROM THE CHAIR BY
TORSTEN BERG



BWF Technical Delegates, Torsten Berg (right) and Craig Reddie (now Sir Craig), at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games.

The summer – of course in the northern hemisphere, as my predecessor Roy Ward would have remarked – is often a quieter period in the badminton calendar. However, with the Sudirman Cup, SEA Games, the first European Games in Baku, the MetLife BWF World Superseries, Grand Prix Gold events, the Summer Universiade and Pan Am Games, we have been constantly busy.

The Olympic Qualifying Period started on 4 May 2015, so we shall see large draws and fierce fighting on courts across the globe and, of course, we have the TOTAL BWF World Championships taking place in Jakarta in August.

So there will be plenty for BWF technical officials to do.

The selections for the Olympic Games in Rio 2016 have been made (Page 8). The ones who have been chosen will be delighted but those who have not will naturally be disappointed.

There is a wide nationality spread, fair gender balance and many will have their first Olympic experience.

I would like to congratulate those who are going to Brazil. The Games are always an incredible experience and I should know as I have done the six since Barcelona. Let us take time to remember that we have fairly generous numbers of TOs going to the Olympics and send a vote of thanks to the technical delegates of the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona who successfully negotiated the numbers with the IOC.

Who were they? See the photo.

When the Technical Official Committee (TOC) meets in August in Jakarta, the main issue will be updating the strategy for developing technical officials over the coming years. An important part of this will be the focus on recruitment of new international umpires and referees. It appears from statistics that our

weakest link is the transition from national to international level. Another matter for discussion will be a standardised training course supported by videos and other audio-visual materials.

Let me finish by making another plea to all TOs, referees, umpires and line judges for better teamwork. The umpire in the chair, or the referee called on court, might be in focus and in camera shot, but it is the BWF's reputation for fairness and presentation that is at stake. So, it is important the service judge follows the game closely to assist in rare cases where an umpire loses track of the score or needs assistance otherwise. The referee may also need assistance and advice occasionally. Working as a team, we are better servants to the game than any one of us can be on our own.

Enjoy your summer and any break you may have – it is well deserved.

JEAN-GUY POITRAS HONOURED

Canada's Jean-Guy Poitras – BWF TOC member and Umpire Assessor – received a special birthday present last month: an email inviting him to serve as umpire coordinator for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

“This is the most wonderful gift I have ever received on my birthday,” said Poitras.

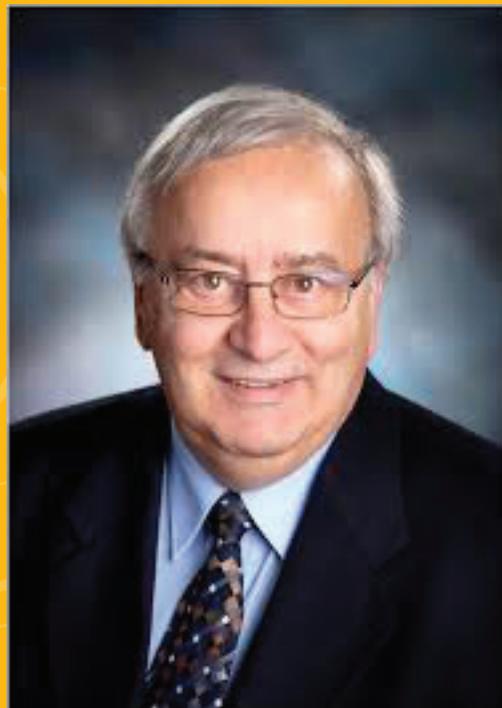
“I want to thank BWF for my nomination and I am honoured to serve this organisation as I always do.”

In his role as BWF Umpire Assessor, Poitras has assessed 23 out of the 24 umpires who will be participating

in the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, for either BWF Accredited and/or Certificated levels, and has subsequently helped appraise the 24th.

“It is for me a familiar and super group of umpires and I am so excited to be working with them, and all the other technical officials expected to be in Rio next year.”

BWF is proud to have Poitras as a part of the technical official team in Rio, and looks forward to his extensive experience in helping lead the team of BWF umpires throughout the competition.



Continued from page 1

If microphones are turned off, the only people excluded from the picture are the spectators in the hall and the referees.

The practice of covering or turning off the microphone when calling players to the chair to talk with them has been so spectators and television audiences do not hear umpires telling players:

- not to delay
- to wait until the receiver is ready
- to refrain from bad language or being aggressive towards their opponent
- to refuse their challenge on an IRS court because they took too long or there is no camera on that line
- miscellaneous other matters

Consequently, viewers are left guessing about what's happened. Umpires may have heard players use bad language but the spectators could not hear, so they have no idea what the problem is. Often, on-looking fans may think

umpires are being harsh on the players and umpires end up being “the bad guys” for simply doing their job and keeping the game going in a fair manner.

Of course, there are exceptions to every rule and if referees must discuss something with the umpire then the microphone should be off and the umpire should do their best to ensure as little as possible is overheard.

Regardless of whether microphones are on or off, it is critical to remember: umpires must be aware of what they say to players and more importantly, how they say it.

Note from the TOC Chair: Thanks to Carol for an interesting article and a good proposal. BWF is happy that our umpires follow her suggestion and try changing their habits in tune with developing technology in this area which is not, and should not be, regulated.

REGULATION CHANGES

- FOCUSING ON BWF INTEGRITY

As you are already aware, in response to proposals by the BWF Athletes' Commission and to enable the best possible level of integrity and fairness during the Olympic Qualification Period, new general competition regulations 25.1.4 and Appendix 6, 4.4 have been agreed. The changes are part of an ongoing and general review conducted by the BWF in recent years related to ethical behaviour and integrity:

GCR 25.1.4 (NEW WORDING):

"For the purposes of these regulations, retiring from a match shall not be considered to be a withdrawal, however, should a player be entered in more than one event, by retiring or withdrawing from that one event, the player must be withdrawn from all other events in which the player is entered. A 'no show' for a match in a tournament shall be treated as a walkover to the opposition and will carry a higher penalty than a withdrawal in addition to the existing withdrawal penalty."

If a player withdraws, after the draw has been made, or retires injured/ill during a match, they will then be withdrawn from all other events entered in the tournament. Clearly this is normally the case as most players, when injured or ill, have to withdraw from the tournament but this regulation makes this obligatory for those rare occasions when this is not the case. This helps protect perceptions of integrity around such withdrawals and also protects the player from further injury or a re-occurrence of the illness. The regulation states 'player' and not 'pair' as it only affects the particular injured/ill player, not both players in the pair. The uninjured player in a pair is free to continue in the tournament if they have entered other events.

NOTES FOR REFEREES AND UMPIRES:

- For retirements in doubles events, it is very important for the on-court umpire to identify and note which player in the pair was injured causing the retirement. This information should be noted for the Referee so the appropriate subsequent withdrawals from other events can be implemented.
- For withdrawals in doubles events, it is very important for the Referee to keep track of which player from the pair was the cause for the withdrawal

so the appropriate subsequent withdrawals from other events can be managed. No withdrawal fees are charged for subsequent or "forced" withdrawals as a result of this regulation. The withdrawal report should only list players/pairs who are to be charged a withdrawal fee and/or no-show penalty. As normal, if the player/pair withdrawing is at the tournament, no withdrawal fee is charged.

GCR APPENDIX 6 – WORLD RANKING SYSTEM – REGULATION 4.4 (NEW):

"In the World Championships or a Level 2 event, if a player or pair withdraws or retires from a match played against a player or pair from the same member association they will not receive ranking points for that tournament."

First tournament for implementation: Total BWF World Championships, 10-16 August 2015.

"Best efforts" must be given in every match and players must give their best in an attempt to win. This consequently means that it is not allowed for players forming part of a team to lose with the purpose of giving an advantage to other members of the team.

In case of an injury leading up to or during a match between players/pairs from the same member association, the player/pair with the injury should not play or continue playing irrespective of the tough measure of losing World Ranking points for the tournament. The BWF will closely monitor that no player/pair is playing matches in an irresponsible way with injuries, and if determined in consultation with the tournament doctor, the BWF Referee has the power to withdraw a player/pair in any such matches – however still with the consequence that no points are given for that player/pair.

BWF recognises this is a tough measure to take but it demonstrates BWF's willingness to ensure as strongly as possible fair play. It is always up to the players themselves to take the decision if they are able to continue playing a match, but at the same time BWF will closely monitor matches to protect players from playing with injuries that put their health at risk.



TEAM MANAGERS' MEETINGS

– FOLLOW-UP FOR REFEREES

Further to the letter sent to BWF referees in June, the following provides more information about the referees' presentation at a Team Managers' Meeting.

LENGTH OF MEETING: The team managers' meeting should be long enough to cover all essential information, as well as necessary formalities concerning the program. However, please don't make the meeting longer than necessary and avoid trivial information and too much detail. Twenty to 30 minutes should be adequate but major team events may take longer. Additional information can be given out in writing.

CONTENT: The briefing's contents should be carefully prepared taking into account your audience. If the team managers are experienced, as is often the case, the referee can take for granted that they know the most important regulations and parameters which are the same for all events on the given level. If you have a meeting with experienced team managers then you can focus on what makes a particular event and stadium unique from other events on the same level. The referee may need to provide more standard details for less-experienced team managers or a mixed audience.

DELIVERY: The delivery of the team managers' meeting is important. The referee should make the presentation with conviction and energy, as that helps to get the message through to the audience and keep their attention. It is also important to appear approachable, so that if possible, any pertinent questions or criticism from the team managers are brought up and can be dealt with before the matches start. If an issue is important to all team managers and relevant to the event, it is much better to have a full discussion and decision in the meeting, rather than to carry it forward causing further uncertainty.

BWF can provide a skeleton PowerPoint presentation to help referees give better Team Managers' meetings. It is however important to adapt the standards and tailor presentations to specific audiences and events. This can often only be done on the spot, shortly before the delivery, when the referee has confirmed all details of preparation with the organising committee and other stakeholders. The referee may also choose to hold a Team Managers' meeting without a PowerPoint presentation, or with a presentation made especially for that event.

WITHDRAWALS/PROMOTIONS/DRAWS: As there may be some confusion around withdrawals/promotions, especially if several team managers come with additional withdrawals in the meeting, it is recommended that this section of the meeting is saved until the end. This way, team managers are more likely to focus their full attention on important information that needs to be communicated.

If possible it's always nice to make a few jokes and finish the meeting with a good luck message.

PARA-BADMINTON CONSIDERATIONS: For para-badminton events, there are additional issues to cover.

Important extracts of the Para-Badminton General Competition Regulations should be highlighted and care should be taken as some players may not be part of a team and hence serve as their own team manager.

The regulations on combining classes and finding doubles partners after classification may often necessitate more than one meeting.

IMPLEMENTING NEW STANDARDS

BY TORSTEN BERG

Recommendations from the BWF Umpire Assessors' Workshop in May will be considered by the Technical Officials Commission (TOC) in Jakarta in August.

Technical officials will be informed about the TOC's decisions in due course but there are other issues which I would like to highlight and discuss here.

We changed, with immediate effect, the standard match requirement for a BWF umpire to officiate 100 matches in a minimum ten events annually that has applied ever since introduced by Roy Ward (right) some 30 years ago, to 60 matches, including service judge and IRS duties. The 60 matches, however, must be matches of the International or National Championship level.

2015 UMPIRE RECORD OF WORK

Since the implementation of the new 'record of work form' for 2015, we have received questions and feedback from some people. BWF uses the annual record of work reports as a guideline; we ask questions if someone is below their quota and serious questions if anyone has not umpired much, or not umpired at all for a year. There may well be legitimate reasons for that, i.e. changing employment, maternity leave, etc. and the umpire remains on the list. A few lose interest or some prefer refereeing and these are taken off the list.

We have no regulations in place for the monitoring of activity. It is on an individual case-by-case basis. Nobody will be downgraded or removed from the list because of lack of activity without dialogue and a final decision will always be taken with mutual agreement/understanding.

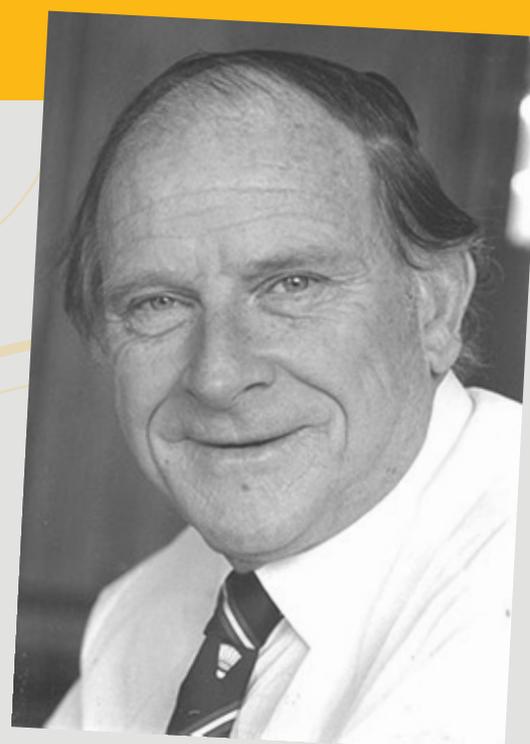
We have now updated the standards, reflecting the requirement for BWF umpires to umpire quality matches. If it is thought that 60 matches is not the right number, we will reconsider this number based on our experience this year.

We have also added IRS duties which will count as umpiring or service-judge duties and also a report on any appraisals during the year as from 2016 we will endeavour to appraise all BWF umpires at least every second year.

We will use the new standard like we used the previous one. So we see no problem in using the new record throughout 2015. No-one doing a decent job and putting a reasonable effort into umpiring internationally will be affected negatively.

CHECKING THE NET HEIGHT

We have also discussed the necessity of the service judge checking the height of the net before every match and decided to discontinue this as a standard procedure. If the net is not the correct height (or very close), a trained eye can spot that easily from



far away. It then needs to be corrected by skilled staff (left), normally with better tools and skills than any service judge, in a break or before play starts.

As part of his/her routine, the referee checks the nets every morning before play starts and after every break. Referees are scared stiff every time a service judge grabs the measuring stick, in case an over-zealous and butter-fingered colleague decides to adjust the net a few millimeters up or down while the world is watching on television, waiting for the match to start.

We ask that all referees implement this change now and only have the net height checked and possibly adjusted when there is a specific reason to do so.

NEW BWF ACCREDITED UMPIRES

BWF is proud to announce and congratulate the following newly BWF Accredited Umpires, having successfully passed their practical assessments at the VIVO BWF Sudirman Cup 2015 in May, in Dongguan, China:

- Gunars Lusveris (LAT)
- Andre Van Der Merwe (RSA)
- Daniel Law Chi Kwong (HKG)
- V. Pethaperumal (MAS)
- Benjamin Kuo Pan Hsien (TPE)
- Qomarul Lailiah (INA)
- Bertha Garcia (PER)



Gunars Lusveris on duty

TECHNICAL OFFICIALS' CALENDAR

- Technical Official Commission Meeting – 14 August 2015 – Jakarta, INA
- Assessments for BWF Certificated Umpires – World Championships – August 2015 – Jakarta, INA
- Umpire Appraisals – Yonex Open Japan – 8-13 September 2015 – Tokyo, JPN
- Assessment for BWF Certificated Referee – World Senior Championships – 20-26 September – Helsingborg, SWE
- BWF Referee Assessor and BWF Certificated Referee Workshops – October 10-11 – Copenhagen, DEN
- Umpire Appraisals – Yonex Denmark Open – 13-18 October 2015 – Odense, DEN
- Assessments for BWF Accredited Umpires – Bitburger Badminton Open 2015 – 27 October to 1 November 2015 – Saarbrücken, GER
- Assessment for BWF Certificated Referee – World Junior Championships – 4-8 November – Lima, PER
- Umpire Appraisals – Yonex-Sunrise Hong Kong Open – 17-22 November 2015 – Hong Kong, HKG
- Umpire Appraisals – Dubai World Superseries Finals 2015 – 9-13 December 2015 – Dubai, UAE
- Assessments for BWF Accredited Referees – Various Tournaments – Remainder of 2015 / Early 2016

TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

RIO 2016 OLYMPIC GAMES

NAME	POSITION	COUNTRY	CONTINENT
Mojmir Hnilica	Referee	CZE	Europe
Jane Wheatley	Deputy Referee	AUS	Oceania
Nahathai Sornprachum	Deputy Referee	THA	Asia
Ronny De Vos	Deputy Referee	BEL	Europe
Jean-Guy Poitras	Umpire Coordinator	CAN	Pan Am
Elaine Kong	Umpire	USA	Pan Am
Lynn Maund	Umpire	USA	Pan Am
Eric Desroches	Umpire	CAN	Pan Am
Gerald Arseneault	Umpire	CAN	Pan Am
Trish Gubb	Umpire	NZL	Oceania
Kelly Hoare	Umpire	AUS	Oceania
Louwrens Bester	Umpire	RSA	Africa
Diraj Gooneardry	Umpire	MRI	Africa
Zheng Sanliang	Umpire	CHN	Asia
Chen Chih Shen	Umpire	TPE	Asia
Simon Au Mun Fung	Umpire	HKG	Asia
Edy Rufianto	Umpire	INA	Asia
Uday Sane	Umpire	IND	Asia
Hidetomo Kasahara	Umpire	JPN	Asia
Teo Kian Joo	Umpire	MAS	Asia
Janelyn Fundal	Umpire	PHI	Asia
Klaus Schlieben	Umpire	AUT	Europe
Bert Vanhorenbeeck	Umpire	BEL	Europe
Ivanka Pokorni	Umpire	CRO	Europe
Michaela Bencova	Umpire	CZE	Europe
Erik Kirt	Umpire	DEN	Europe
Mike Wright	Umpire	ENG	Europe
Michael Fyrie-Dahl	Umpire	NOR	Europe
Marcel Schmit	Umpire	SUI	Europe
Florencia Biracouritz	Line Judge	ARG	Pan Am
Lina Marcel Zapata	Line Judge	COL	Pan Am
María Fernandez Ramirez	Line Judge	MEX	Pan Am
Ingrid Morey	Line Judge	PER	Pan Am
Dennis Lam	Line Judge	CAN	Pan Am
Enrique Charadan	Line Judge	CUB	Pan Am
Ricardo Javier Davila	Line Judge	GUA	Pan Am
Joseph Clarke	Line Judge	JAM	Pan Am
Leon Argi Danoe	Line Judge	SUR	Pan Am
David Matoff	Line Judge	USA	Pan Am
Mehdi Moghaddam	Line Judge	IRI	Asia
Mahmad Aied Ali Hatamleh	Line Judge	JOR	Asia
Jeon Seok Hun	Line Judge	KOR	Asia
Ung Tai Vai	Line Judge	MAC	Asia
Nopphorn Suwannachote	Line Judge	THA	Asia
Ali Abdul Kareem	Line Judge	MDV	Asia
Deepak Thapa	Line Judge	NEP	Asia
Wijayalakshmi Gardiye	Line Judge	SRI	Asia
Alice Riis	Line Judge	DEN	Europe
Barbara Bubb	Line Judge	GER	Europe
Boriana Stoyanova	Line Judge	BUL	Europe
Yvonne Pedersen	Line Judge	SUI	Europe
Andy Baxter	Line Judge	ENG	Europe
Jack Beauperin	Line Judge	FRA	Europe
Luc Bertrand	Line Judge	BEL	Europe
Rene Hollemann	Line Judge	NED	Europe
Akhtar Gohobur	Line Judge	MRI	Africa
Kishore Singh	Line Judge	RSA	Africa
Greg Busch	Line Judge	NZL	Oceania
Sandra David	Line Judge	AUS	Oceania