



Badminton World Federation
Stadium Badminton Kuala Lumpur
Batu 3 ½ Jalan Cheras,
56000 Kuala Lumpur
Tel :6-03-2141 7155
Fax:6-03-2143 7155

23 December 2011

FAO:
Member Associations
Badminton World Federation

Dear Badminton Colleagues

CHANGES TO REGULATIONS

The recent BWF Council meeting on Friday 9 December 2011 agreed a number of changes both to General Competition Regulations and to specific competition regulations including those relating to the Olympic Games Competition Regulations, OSIM BWF World Super Series, World Championships, Sudirman Cup, World Junior Championships, and Thomas & Uber Cup.

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

Unsanctioned Tournaments

It was agreed to cross reference GCR 3.6.2;

The BWF has power to vary the requirement of Regulation 3.6.1, provided an application giving reasons is made at least two months in advance

to 10.2.2 No player shall participate in a tournament or exhibition matches which are promoted or organised by an individual or company (or other organization) unless it has been sanctioned by the Member Association concerned or the BWF.

And also include a new penalty in Appendix 11 Tables of Offences and Penalties of \$500 USD if a player appears in an unsanctioned tournament or exhibition match.

GCR 3.2.1 – Sanction Fee Cap

BWF Council agreed in May 2011 a Sanction Fee Cap starting January 2012. The following wording will be included in General Competition Regulations;

'Level 1 - 3 BWF sanctioned tournaments or international tournaments offering prize money US\$ 50,000 or more shall pay a sanction fee to BWF at the rate of 10 per cent of the prize fund up to and including the first US\$ 500,000 and a lower rate of 5 per cent for prize money in excess of US\$ 500,000'.

A table illustrating the above will be included for clarity.

Level of tournament	Total Prize fund		sanction fees % of the total prize fund
	More than (USD)	Up to (USD)	
1, 2, 3	50,000	500,000	10%
1, 2, 3	500,000		USD 50,000 + 5% of the prize fund in excess of USD 500,000

GCR 8 Eligibility Rules – Multi Sport Games

The following revised wording (in bold) was agreed:

‘Notwithstanding the foregoing Regulations, in the case of any officially recognized competitive multi sport games in which Badminton is included, the qualifications for the representation of a Member Association shall be in full accordance with the conditions laid down by such a multi sport international games. **However BWF eligibility regulations take precedence and should not be contravened (Regulations 8.2 to 8.4) with the exception of the Olympic Games, where the Olympic Charter takes precedence**’.

GCR 23 – Advertising on Player’s Clothing

The following revised wording was agreed to be implemented from **1st January 2012**:

‘Advertisements may appear on the following locations: left sleeve, right sleeve, left shoulder, right shoulder, left collar, right collar, left chest, right chest **and centre chest**. Each advertisement must be 20 square centimetres or less. Other than front of shirt, only one per location; and there must be no more than **five** in total. National flags or emblems for the purpose of this regulation count as an advert and’;

It was also discussed that in order to help promote the players and build their star profiles the player names on the back of shirts should be given more prominence by reducing the size of country names and advertising on the back of shirts.

The following revised regulations (GCR 23.2.2, GCR 22.3.4, and GCR 22.3.3) were agreed to be implemented from **1st January 2013** (the later date given to allow manufacturers and MA’s time to implement the change):

GCR 23.2.2 Advertising contained in a band of uniform width not exceeding 10 centimetres **on the front and not exceeding 5 centimetres at on the back**; such a band may be at any angle and may be on the front of the shirt, the back of the shirt, or both.

New GCR 22.3.4 Country Name lettering must be a maximum height of 5 centimetres.

GCR 22.3.3 revised with the following additional wording in bold;

In order that **player's names** be legible from a distance for spectators in the stadium and television viewers lettering must be a minimum height of 6 centimetres and a maximum height of 10 centimetres.

Coaches Code of Conduct – clothing standards

The following regulation change was agreed:

2. 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 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.

Remainder of old clause 2.1 and remaining clauses to be renumbered appropriately

New 2.2 (was combined with appropriate dress in 2.1) - must remain seated in the designated chairs provided at each end of the court behind his/her player/players except at the approved intervals;

New 3.2.1 Is inappropriately dressed (2.1)

Renumber onwards from previous 3.2.1 – which becomes 3.2.2 - fails to remain seated while play is in progress (2.2)

Also update Appendix 11 – Table of Offences and Penalties to include:

Breach of Coaches Code of Conduct
2.1 – Inappropriately dressed.

World Championships Regulations - Wildcards

The following revised wording was agreed:

WCR 3.2.10 In each event where the host Member Association **does not have a player or pair eligible via the BWF ranking list** they shall be entitled to nominate a wild card entry. The host Member shall inform BWF its intention of nominating wild card entries as stated in date lines in annexure 1.

Also it was agreed to delete **'This wild card entry may be from a Member Association different from the host Member Association'**.

WCR 3.2.12 also to be deleted (which relates to nominating a player or pair from a different association)

World Championships Regulations 3.2.20 – Eligibility Date (End of Qualifying Phase)

The following revised wording was agreed:

'To be eligible, players/pairs must conform to GCR 8 regarding International Representation. With regards GCR 8.2.1 they must hold a passport of a country whose territory the Member Association has jurisdiction over by the Phase 1 deadline for Member Associations to confirm whether or not eligible players/pairs will enter'.

Other clauses renumber after new 3.2.20.

BWF Superseries Regulations - Clothing Regulations

There was a contradiction between GCR and Superseries Regulations. GCR states it is mandatory that players wear different coloured clothing to their opponent(s) from the first televised stage (which is last 16 in Superseries Premier and quarter finals onwards for Superseries). GCR states it is mandatory from the main draw of Superseries.

Therefore the following revised regulation was agreed:

SSR 6.14.1 'Advertising on clothing and colour of clothing shall be regulated by General Competition Regulations 19 to 23'.

Superseries Regulations – rewording of 6.6.7 (players from same MA do not meet in first round) to be clearer

The following regulation was not changed but additional wording included to make the regulation clearer:

SSR 6.6.7 In Superseries, General Competition Regulation 12.10.1 does not apply, instead separation of entries shall be used in the main draw or in the qualifying draws so as to avoid, to the extent possible, the entries from any one Member Association meeting in the first round.

BWF Superseries Neutral Umpires

It was agreed due to problems with some tournaments in the Superseries failing to provide the full complement of neutral Umpires, to extend the support BWF already provide to Superseries Premier events to all Superseries tournaments.

BWF will now pay the full air fare of 4 nominated BWF Umpires to Superseries Premier (up from a contribution of \$500 USD) and BWF will now nominate 4 Umpires to each BWF World Superseries tournament with a contribution of \$500 USD. Hosts are still required to provide 2 CC level overseas Umpires and it was agreed to implement a 'step in' procedure that if BWF learn that a host is unable to provide the minimum requirement BWF will make such nominations necessary and withhold \$US1,000 per Umpire to facilitate their travel from any fees owed to the host member association.

10.3.13 Players Code of Conduct (off court offences) & player etiquette on leaving court

It was discussed at Events Committee that there is a growing trend for players to hug coaches, take off shirts and celebrate before shaking hands with opponents and the Umpire. It was agreed that in general some judgment needs to be displayed by Umpires and Referees in this matter as in some situations this can be an understandable emotional reaction. However if a player consistently takes off his shirt to celebrate every time they win a match and after being told not to by the Referee then a Referee can take action under Players Code of Conduct 4.16 Unsportsmanlike Conduct.

In addition it was agreed to include a revised wording in **Players Code of Conduct 4.1.2:**

'Before, during and after any match does not comply with the goodwill formalities such as thanking TO's, shaking hands with opposing players, etc. **Players must thank their opponents and Umpire before leaving the field of play to celebrate with their Coach or the crowd etc'.**

It was agreed to also include failure to fulfill the above as a **Breach of Players Code of Conduct in Appendix 11 Table of Offences & Penalties** - \$USD 100 fine per occasion.

Recommended actions related to betting, wagering and irregular match results

BWF are developing, based on recommendations from ASOIF to International Federations to combat the above problems, proposals on rules and regulation relating to the above. Many of these proposals are being shaped with a view to firm recommendations being put before BWF Council in May 2012. However the following revised wording was agreed to be implemented with immediate effect:

GCR 31.1 Any player / pair, coach, **Technical Official** or team official, tournament organiser who commits an offence as referred to in Regulation 31.2 shall be levied with a penalty as stated in Regulation 31.2 to be retained by the BWF.

GCR 31.2 For the details of offences (**including betting/wagering offences**) covered under this regulation and penalties payable therefore, please refer to **Players Code of Conduct or Code of Conduct for Coaches, Team Officials and Technical Officials** or the Table of Offences and Penalties (Part III Section 1 B - Appendix 11)

GCR 31.4 The Referee shall send a report for any misconduct warranting a disqualification of a player, team official **or Technical Officials**, covered by the Players Code of Conduct (Part III, Section 1B, Appendix 4) and Code of Conduct for Coaches, **Team Officials and Technical Officials** (Part III, Section 1B, Appendix 9).

GCR 31.5 Any player / pair who is issued a black card in any BWF sanctioned tournament shall be disqualified from participating in all events (in case of a team championships, subsequent matches and ties) in the tournament in which such black card was issued. For the purpose of these regulations, Suhandinata Cup and **Eye-Level** Cups shall be considered to be different tournaments.

GCR 31.6 On receipt of a report of a black card or a report of misbehaviour of a player or a person covered under Code of Conduct for Coaches, Team **Officials and Technical Officials** (Regulation 31.4), the BWF shall immediately initiate the disciplinary proceedings as per the Disciplinary Regulations.

GCR Appendix 6 - 9.2 Overseas player/pair in draw in order for event to qualify for World Ranking points

It was agreed that in order to count for World Ranking points there should be at least one 'overseas' player in the draw in order to count for World Ranking points. It was agreed that from May 2012 (post Olympic qualifying period) **Appendix 6 World Ranking System** should include a new clause where in order for an event to count for world ranking points at least one player or pair must be an entry in the event draw.

Olympic Games Competition Regulations – Section 6B

To be consistent with the late athlete replacement policy agreed with IOC and LOCOG the wording for the above regulation has been revised to make it clearer.

OGCR 4.2 A player/pair may participate in an event of the Olympic Games Badminton Competition only if the player's/pair's entry is made by the closing date for entries as established by the relevant Olympic Games Organising Committee **or in line with the IOC's late replacement policies.**

Clarify Regulation 5.5 – Process for handling overlapping entries

There has been some confusion over how BWF normally handle situations where players make overlapping entries and how it is described in GCR 5.5. Therefore GCR 5.5 and a new 5.6 have been revised/added to make the situation clearer:

GCR 5.5 No player/pair shall enter or be entered in two BWF sanctioned committee competitions if the published date of the competitions overlap **except as provided in 5.6 below.** A player is deemed to have entered, for the purpose of this regulation if the entry has been made and not been withdrawn by the Member Association, by midnight local time of the BWF Headquarters on the closing date. Any subsequent withdrawal by a player/pair accepted in the main or qualifying draw of the tournament will not allow him to enter in any other tournament with overlapping dates.

NEW GCR 5.6 A player/pair may withdraw from a tournament with an earlier closing date if they have not been accepted into the main or qualifying lists and enter another tournament with a later closing date.

Also new Appendix 8 Timelines. Release of M & Q on Friday (instead of Monday).

National Separation in Tournament software.

It was explained that clarification was needed on which M & Q list is used to determine National separation in Tournament software, whether it should be the first M & Q issued or the subsequent M & Q used for seeding.

The following revised regulation was agreed; that National separation should be made based on the latest World Ranking:

Change Appendix 8 Timelines to include - Ranking for main draw seeding and draw **& for National separation of entries.**

On Line Entry – Ranking players

Problems were discussed that have occurred with some Member Associations putting their players (without a world ranking) in national ranking order. It was felt that the online entry system would be stronger if more players can be included in the automatic processes than ranked manually. The proposal to reduce this problem is to include for purposes of the M & Q list only players who have one current world ranking tournament (two are required to be on the World Ranking list).

The following revised regulation was agreed:

New 13.2.1 'For the purpose of creating the M & Q list players who have participated in only one World Ranking tournament will be ranked in the M & Q list according to the points achieved in that tournament.

Definitions of Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles & Mixed Doubles

After a request by the Constitution Working Group it was agreed to include the following simple definitions of the five Badminton event categories in General Competition Regulations:

GCR 2. Definitions (delete Tournament)

2.1 The BWF recognises the following categories of Events:
Men's Singles – played by two opposing male players.
Women's Singles – played by two opposing female players.
Men's Doubles – played by two opposing pairs of male players.
Women's Doubles – played by two opposing pairs of female players.
Mixed Doubles – played by two opposing pairs, each containing one male and one female player.

The current 2.1 categories of tournaments then becomes 2.2 and renumber onwards.

GCR 10.2 Specify official tournament invitation details

It was agreed that member associations must send an official invitation to other member associations which states among other obligations that they must specify the draw size for their tournament. It was also suggested that a sample invitation (prospectus) template be sent to MA's for their convenience. The following revised wording was agreed:

GCR 10.2 Member Associations must issue an invitation to Member Associations which includes as a minimum the following information:

- a) Name of tournament organiser, telephone, fax number and e-mail address.
- b) Date of the tournament.
- c) Venue: full name and address of the tournament venue.
- d) Draw sizes
- e) Clothing and advertising regulations.
- f) Entry fees and the process for payment of the entry fees.
- g) Provisional schedule
- h) Visa support letter request process and any special information

Clothing Regulation Fine – Team Championships

It was discussed that where an entire team has shirts which breach Clothing Regulations and are unable to change, that instead of each player being fined as the regulations currently insist, there should instead be a team penalty added to Appendix 11 Table of Offences and Penalties of \$500 USD. The Events Committee agreed but felt that the regulation should be more firm and also include the right to refer any persistent breach of regulations to the Disciplinary Committee. Therefore it was agreed to add a **Clothing team penalty to Appendix 11 Tables of Offences and Penalties (\$500 USD) and that if the team continues to breach the regulation that they may be referred to the BWF Disciplinary Committee.**

Appendix 10 – Sanction Policy - Sanction for Seniors & Parabadminton tournaments

It was agreed to add the following wording (in bold) to clause 1 Appendix 10 – Sanction Policy:

'The Member Association (**except in the case of Seniors tournaments**) must apply for and receive the sanction form from the BWF for a tournament and competitive matches as defined in General Competition Regulations 2.2 to 2.12. BWF may give special dispensation to Exhibition matches. **BWF may at its discretion sanction organisations other than Member Associations for Parabadminton and Seniors tournaments**'.

World Championships Regulation 8.2 & 8.3 Substitutions & World Junior Championships 7.2 & 7.3 Substitutions

It was agreed to revise the above regulations as below:

GCR 8.2 After the closing date for entries **until the Sunday prior to the draw date**, a player who has entered may be unable to take part through illness, injury, or other unavoidable cause. That player's place in singles and / or doubles will be taken by the next eligible player / pair as per Regulations for Eligibility and Processing of Entries for World Championships (Part III, Section 8B).

GCR 8.3 No changes or substitutions of any kind can be made **after the Sunday prior to the draw date**, and also to the draw after it has been made except corrections as in Regulation 15.3.1 of General Competition Regulations.

GCR 7.2 After the closing date for entries but before the draw is made, 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 can be taken by a player from the same Member Association who has already entered another **Eye-Level** cups Championships event.

GCR 7.3 No changes or substitutions of any kind can be made to the draw after it has been made **except corrections as in Regulation 15.3.1 of General Competition Regulations**

World Junior Rankings

BWF are pleased to announce that the first World Junior Ranking list should be published early in the New Year. All Member Associations can assist BWF with the future weekly publication by ensuring all their players have the correct BWF ID in Tournament Software and that their Date of Birth is included.

Any problems or questions regarding any of the changes above please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Events Manager Venu Mahalingam.

Kind regards



Darren Parks
Events Director
Badminton World Federation
www.bwfbadminton.org

Ph. Tel :+ 603-2141 7155 Fax:+603-2143 7155 Mob +60 19 260 0823