

Badminton World Federation
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FAO:
Member Associations
Badminton World Federation

Dear Badminton Colleagues

LAWS OF BADMINTON – CHANGES & ADDITIONS TO LAWS & REGULATIONS

Introduction

BWF Council have agreed by email decision on Thursday 4th April 2013 the introduction of a new experimental Law to be added to the Laws of Badminton as a new Appendix 7 (and other consequent changes to the Laws and RTTO) to enable the implementation of a 'Instant Review System' for line calls.

In addition BWF also welcome Member Associations to conduct trials of a Fixed Service Height (as previously outlined in the letter to Member Associations detailing decisions made relating to Laws and Regulations at the November 2012 BWF Council meeting).

Instant Review System

BWF Council on 30 November 2012 approved the trial of an 'Instant Review System' where a third person (a member of the Referee team) can, after a challenge by the player, review the line call decision by the Line Judge (or Umpire overrule) via a ultra slow motion replay. Players will start a match with two challenges which if successful they retain, but lose, when they make an incorrect challenge. The system will only be in place initially at high profile televised tournaments such as BWF Major Events and BWF World Superseries tournaments but it is intended in time to expand its implementation to a wider profile of tournaments.

Laws of Badminton - Fixed Service Height Experiments

As stated in the Letter from BWF to Member Associations of 7 December 2012, following a positive trial at the World Championships in Paris in 2010, and the conclusion of the Olympic Games 2012, BWF would like to invite Member Associations to undertake trials of a fixed service height.

These should take place in domestic (non-World Ranking) tournaments and be agreed with BWF in advance. BWF have agreed the adoption of the necessary experimental Law to enable this to happen and have created a 'measuring tool' for use by Service Judges at tournaments conducting trials.

Please inform BWF when you intend to conduct your trial and we will send to you the appropriate number of 'measuring tools' and a questionnaire which will guide you as to the areas BWF desire feedback on (and which then allows BWF to gather some consistent and comparative data).

Please see attached the new Laws of Badminton relating to the introduction of the new experimental Laws enabling the implementation of a 'Instant Review System'.

Any problems or questions relating to the above please do not hesitate to contact me, or Events Manager Venu Mahalingam.

Kind regards



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Amendments as an Experiment to the Laws

LAWS OF BADMINTON – Amendments to Law 17.5 – *(note – new numbering and wording in yellow)*

17.5 An official's decision shall be final on all points of fact for which that official is responsible except that if,

17.5.1 in the opinion of the umpire, it is beyond reasonable doubt that a line judge has clearly made a wrong call, the umpire shall overrule the decision of the line judge, **or**

17.5.2 an Instant Review System is in operation, the Referee shall decide on any line call challenge using the system (Appendix 7).

New Appendix 7 – Instant Review System

[Note – all this section below is new]

LAWS OF BADMINTON - APPENDIX 7 - INSTANT REVIEW SYSTEM

On a court where an Instant Review system is in operation a player/pair may challenge a Line-judges call, or the overrule call of an Umpire.

PLAYER CHALLENGE

The challenge must be made immediately the shuttle has landed and the call made, and before the commencement of the serve for the next rally.

On receiving the player's challenge the Umpire will signal the Referee who will review the line call using the Instant Review system.

If the call by the line-judge or overrule by the Umpire is deemed incorrect, the players challenge is successful, and the decision by the line-judge or Umpire is reversed.

LOSING THE RIGHT TO CHALLENGE

A player/pair has two rights to challenge line calls during the duration of the match.

If a call, after review, is deemed correct then the player/pair loses one right to challenge.

If the player/pair is deemed to have incorrectly challenged twice then they lose any further right to challenge during the match.

If the player/pair's challenge is successful they retain the right to challenge and do not lose it.

Amendments as an Experiment to the Laws - RTTO

NOTE – Yellow highlights show amendments.

RTTO:

2.4 An official's decision shall be final on all points of fact for which that official is responsible except that if, in the opinion of the umpire, it is beyond reasonable doubt that a line judge has clearly made a wrong call, the umpire shall overrule the decision of the line judge (Law 17.5.1) or where an Instant Review System is in operation the referee shall decide on any line call challenge using the review system (Law 17.5.2). If, in the opinion of the umpire, the line judge needs to be replaced, the umpire shall call the Referee (Law 17.6.4, Recommendation 2.3).

3.3 During the match

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

3.4 Line calls

3.4.1 The umpire shall always look to the line judge(s) when the shuttle lands close to a line and always when the shuttle lands out, however far. The line judge shall be entirely responsible for the decision except Recommendation 3.4.2 or 3.4.4 below.

3.4.2 If, in the opinion of the umpire, it is beyond reasonable doubt, a line judge has clearly made a wrong call, the umpire shall call:

3.4.2.1 "Correction, IN", if the shuttle has landed "in"; or

3.4.2.2 "Correction, OUT", if the shuttle has landed "out".

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

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

3.4.3.2 the score, when the shuttle lands in; or

3.4.3.3 "Let" when the umpire is also unsighted.

3.4.4 If the line call by the line judge (Recommendations 6.2, 6.3) or the overrule by the Umpire (Recommendation 3.4.2) is challenged by a player / pair where an Instant Review System is in operation (Law 17.5.2, Part III, Section 1B, Appendix 7), the umpire shall ensure that the player / pair has a valid right to challenge.

3.4.4.1 Depending on the number of challenges remaining, the umpire shall call:

"You have (two/one/no) remaining challenges."

3.4.4.2 If there is a right to challenge remaining, the umpire shall call:

“..... [name of the player/team, as appropriate] is challenging the [line judge call or overrule call, as appropriate] on the [right / left court (as appropriate) side / far side / back / doubles service / short service / center (as appropriate) line”

at the same time raising the left hand above the umpire’s head and indicating towards the line on which the call has been challenged.

3.4.4.3 The Referee will review the appropriate call by using the Instant Review System and indicate to the umpire the result of the challenge by a thumbs up or thumbs down.

3.4.4.4 To announce the result of the challenge, call:

- If challenge is successful:

“Correction, IN” or “Correction, OUT” [as appropriate]. Thereafter call “Service over”, where appropriate, followed by the score.

Call “Play”.

- If challenge is unsuccessful:

“Challenge unsuccessful” “Service over”, where appropriate, followed by the score.

Thereafter call, [name of player(s)/country, as appropriate] [“one” or “no”, as appropriate] challenge remaining.”

Call “Play”.

6. INSTRUCTIONS TO LINE JUDGES

6.1 The line judges shall sit on chairs in prolongation of their lines at the ends and sides of the court and preferably at the side opposite to the umpire. (See diagrams).

6.2 A line judge shall be entirely responsible for the line(s) assigned except that the umpire shall overrule the call of the line judge, if beyond reasonable doubt, in the opinion of the umpire, a line judge has clearly made a wrong call or the referee shall supersede the line call by the line judge or the overrule by the Umpire if challenged by a player / pair where an Instant Review System is in operation (Law 17.5.2, Part II, Section 1B, Appendix 7).
