

BWF TECHNICAL OFFICIALS' RESOURCES  
**REFEREES' GUIDE TO  
INCLUSIVE EVENTS**



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## REFEREES' GUIDE TO INCLUSIVE EVENTS

### MATERIALS DEVELOPERS

- Carmen Martínez Villanueva (Para badminton sections)
- Mathew Varghese (Special Olympics sections)

### EDITOR

- Sharon Springer

### REFEREE EXPERT PANEL

- Torsten Berg
- Günter Klützke
- Jane Wheatley
- Girish Natu
- Barbary Fryer
- Gilles Cavert
- Christopher Trenholme

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Created by:

**BADMINTON WORLD FEDERATION**

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

Tel +603 2381 9188  
Fax +603 2303 9688

[bwf@bwf.sport](mailto:bwf@bwf.sport)  
[bwfcorporate.com](http://bwfcorporate.com)



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## 01. INCLUSIVITY IN BADMINTON

The BWF understands the importance of making our educational resources inclusive, meaning that they apply to ALL those who practice our sport, as well as those who support them. The integration of Para badminton into the BWF gave rise to our philosophy of “One Sport, One Team”, and our practice is aimed at ensuring that the same opportunities and support systems are available from “grassroots to podium” for not only able-bodied enthusiasts, but also those with physical impairments and those with intellectual disabilities. This includes our resources for players, coaches, technical officials, and others, and is reflected not only in our inclusion of Para badminton, but also in our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Global Development Strategy Plan with Special Olympics International.

When we refer to “inclusive badminton”, we are talking about making the sport accessible to all players, which encompasses:

- Para badminton (for players with physical disabilities)
- Badminton for players with intellectual disabilities
- Badminton for the deaf

As we also emphasise in our grassroots (Shuttle Time) and coaching resources, inclusive badminton is, first and foremost, still badminton. The most important part of inclusive badminton is remembering that you are dealing with *players*, some of whom happen to have different challenges. This means that everything that you already know and do in your practice (as a teacher, as a coach, as an umpire, as a referee, as a person) still applies. Throughout our programmes, the aim is that:

- Shuttle Time teachers use their group management skills, their experience in education, and their knowledge of badminton to ensure that ALL pupils have a positive experience with badminton.
- Coaches use their interpersonal skills, their ability to plan and to assess progress, and their knowledge of badminton to help ALL players advance.
- Technical officials use their solid people skills, their expertise in court management, and their knowledge of the regulations to ensure that ALL players are guaranteed conditions that allow them to focus on the competition at hand.



This supplement to the Referees’ Manuals builds on the sound principles and practices covered throughout the manuals. As such, those ideas will not be repeated here, but rather referees are expected to apply them as part of their duties, no matter who the players are. The idea of this section is simply to highlight the additional information that referees need to know in order to effectively handle tournaments for players who happen to have disabilities. Naturally, referees should always employ clear communication, effective management skills, and a solid understanding of applicable regulations in any tournament in which they are involved. This is exactly what we mean by “inclusive”.

The guide will be divided into two main parts, each focusing on the additional information that referees need in order to manage tournaments for:

- Para badminton players (from grassroots to Paralympic Games)
- Players with intellectual disabilities (from grassroots to Special Olympics)

Finally, there is also a mention of some of the best practices to ensure optimum conditions for deaf players, who follow standard BWF regulations. These practices are mainly aimed at facilitating understanding and encouraging smooth communication between technical officials and players, whether or not these happen at competitions specifically for the deaf (up to and including Deaflympics).

Remember, a referee's main role is to be in overall charge of the tournament, ensuring that it runs fairly and smoothly for the players, the spectators, and the team of technical officials, and these pages are simply aimed at examining the details needed to do that with a wider circle of players.

## 02. PARA BADMINTON OVERVIEW

The BWF strives to bring Para badminton in line with able-bodied badminton to the extent possible. This can clearly be seen in the Laws, which include only the fairly few additions that are necessary for players with disabilities to play the game. The Para Badminton General Competition Regulations (PBGCR) are also, as much as possible, in line with the GCR, adding only what is necessary for Para badminton tournaments to be played fairly and effectively, and in accordance with the players' needs. Because Para badminton is developing quickly, the PBGCR are often updated. While all referees must keep up to date with any changes in laws and regulations, this is especially true in Para badminton. It is also worth noting that a Para badminton version of the ITTO will be developed in 2022.

In the short time that Para badminton has been under the governance of the BWF, and in particular after its inclusion in the Paralympic program, the number of classified Para badminton players has increased. There are also more tournaments on the calendar, and they have become more and more competitive and professional. This positive trend is expected to continue, and this will influence the duties of Para badminton referees and their cooperation with other Para badminton technical officials.



The continuous evolution and growth of Para badminton has generated recent modifications to the structure of competitions, along with adjustments to the Para Badminton General Competition Regulations.

The Para badminton competition structure consists of three grades, with the main differences being:

- whether **classification** will be carried out at the tournament or not
- whether the number of **entries** is restricted
- whether the number of **events** is restricted

The following table provides a summary of these aspects for each grade of tournament:

GRADE	TOURNAMENTS	CLASSIFICATION	ENTRIES	EVENTS
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paralympic Games</li> <li>• World Championships</li> </ul>	No	Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited</li> <li>• All</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level 1</li> <li>• Level 2</li> <li>• Level 3</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No</li> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• Yes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited</li> <li>• Open entries</li> <li>• Open entries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All</li> <li>• All</li> <li>• Limitation allowed</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continental Championships</li> <li>• Other multisport events</li> </ul>	To be determined by the BWF		

It is worth noting that in Grade 2 Level 2 tournaments, there may be restrictions on the number of players due to limited space in the hall, but not as a general condition.

For Para badminton referees, in addition to the roles and responsibilities that have been described throughout the BWF Level 1 and Level 2 Referees' Manuals, there are some additional areas of consideration. These require a solid understanding of the:

- **sport classes**, which group players according to their impairments so that they compete against others with reasonably similar abilities. BWF regulations classify players into six different sport classes, each with its own events. These will be addressed in Section 3.
- **classification process**, which determines in what sport class (if any) players will compete. While referees do not carry out the process itself, they do need to understand it, as they are responsible for the overall handling of the tournament, which includes the classification process. This will also be addressed in Section 3.
- **different tournament officials** involved in Para badminton tournaments (including the classifiers and the technical delegate). Their roles will be explored in greater detail in Section 4.
- **additional considerations** that come into play in handling a Para badminton tournament. These are above and beyond those already discussed here and in the BWF Level 1 Referees' Manual and will be explored in Sections 5 and 6.
- **timelines** involved in Para badminton tournaments, which include some additional elements beyond those covered in the rest of the manual. These will be addressed in Section 7.

It is important for referees to be aware that Para badminton players are generally keen to play as much as possible once they have entered a tournament. There are considerably fewer competitive players in each sport class as compared to able-bodied badminton. Most players will enter all three events if they have (or can find) doubles partners. Players traditionally paid their own way to the relatively few Para badminton tournaments, and many still do, so they tend to want as much

international play as possible for their investment of time and money. For the same reason, the standard competition format in Para badminton is pool-play followed by play-offs. In contrast, able-bodied badminton in tournaments with open entry almost always includes knockout play only. Medal distribution and ranking points becomes important, as there is at present no prize money in Para badminton.



### 03. SPORT CLASSES AND CLASSIFICATION

Para badminton players may have a wide range of impairments, and players shall preferably compete against others with reasonably similar abilities. BWF regulations classify players into six different sport classes, based on an evaluation of their impairments, and each of these six classes has different events. While able-bodied badminton has five events (MS, WS, MD, WD, XD), Para badminton tournaments could technically have a total of 22 events (if the number of entries allows).

This section will address:

- how **classification** is carried out
- what a **sport class** means
- what a **sport class status** means

Although the classification process will be carried out by the classifier team, referees will need to understand both the process and the characteristics of the different sport classes. These areas will be explored in the coming pages, to ensure that referees have a clear idea of what each sport class means, how the classification process works, how it may affect tournament timelines, and what their role is during the competition.



## HOW CLASSIFICATION IS CARRIED OUT

Para badminton players need to be classified before they can compete internationally. Regular competitors will already have a classification, while new players will have to be classified before the start of the tournament. The latter also applies to players who, for one reason or another, may need to undergo classification again.

As described in the Para Badminton Classification Regulations (available in the Para badminton section of the [Statutes](#) page of the BWF website), classification involves:

- defining who is eligible to compete in Para sport;
- grouping players into the appropriate sport class; and
- assigning every player a sport class status.

It is important to understand that having an impairment does not guarantee eligibility to compete in Para badminton. A player must have an eligible impairment as listed under the BWF regulations and meet the minimal impairment criteria. A player may be assigned 'Not Eligible' (NE) if the impairment is deemed insufficient to qualify for a sport class.

Classification is conducted by BWF educated and certificated specialists (classifiers), under the leadership of a chief classifier and according to specific regulations. This is carried out in the days leading up to the tournament. The referee is responsible for the overall handling of the tournament and, as such, oversees the classification process as well.

Some BWF tournaments do not have classification and will restrict entry to players that are not required to undergo classification. Most tournaments, however, will include classification. It is important for referees to be aware that classification has a major impact on the timeline of the tournament and on the schedule of preliminary meetings with the team managers. In tournaments

with classification, there will be at least two team managers meetings. The first will be similar to such meetings in able-bodied badminton, while the second will focus on the re-entry process and on finalising the entries in each event to prepare the draws and the schedule of play.

At Para badminton tournaments with classification, entries to each event can only be finalised once the classification process is completed and all players are classified. The final classification results may impact not only the singles entries but also the doubles partnerships. As such, in tournaments with classification, some players will need to re-enter events after the classification results are published.

## WHAT A SPORT CLASS MEANS

The sport classes and their regulations are designed to provide information regarding players' degree of impairment and mobility and to facilitate competition on equal terms, given that there are multiple reasons why an athlete might be involved in Para badminton.

There are six sport classes included in the BWF Para badminton classification system. They can be categorised into:

- lower-limb impairments (classes 1 to 4)
- upper-limb impairments (class 5)
- short stature (class 6)

The different sport classes will be explored in greater detail below.

### Wheelchair classes:

- **Wheelchair 1 (WH 1):** Class 1 is the most affected in terms of mobility. Players in this sport class usually have impairment both in lower limbs and trunk function, and many of them will wear a belt around their waist as a physical support. Players use a wheelchair to play and are full-time wheelchair users.
- **Wheelchair 2 (WH 2):** A player in this class could have impairment in one or both lower limbs, with minimal or no impairment of the trunk. Some players may be able to walk (with prostheses or crutches) but will use the wheelchair to play.

### Standing classes:

- **Standing Lower 3 (SL 3):** Players must play standing in this class, even though some may use a wheelchair in their daily lives. Most of them will use prostheses or crutches. They will have impairment in one or both lower limbs and will generally have poor walking and running balance.
- **Standing Lower 4 (SL 4):** Players will have impairment in one or both lower limbs, but will have minimal impairment in walking and running balance. Generally speaking, SL 4 players will show a slight limp, but can run and jump much more smoothly than SL 3 players.
- **Standing Upper 5 (SU 5):** Players will be affected by different impairments to their arms but will not have impairments in their lower limbs. Players with amputations are not allowed to use a prosthetic arm while playing (and it is worth highlighting that upper-arm prosthetics are never permitted in badminton, in any sport class). It is common for those with poor mobility in an arm to fix the arm to their bodies, in order to prevent unnecessary movement during play.
- **Short Stature 6 (SH 6):** Players in this class have short stature, which may be due to a genetic condition. The main parameters to determine eligibility in this class are measurements of standing height together with arm length. Players younger than 18 years old will be reviewed periodically to monitor their growth.



## WHAT A SPORT CLASS STATUS MEANS

When a player is assigned a **sport class**, he/she will also be given a **sport class status**, which indicates whether the athlete has completed his/her classification process or will need to undergo future reviews.

Each sport class status in the BWF Para badminton classification system is explained below:

- **New (N)** is assigned to players who have not been evaluated by an international classification panel. Players must attend an evaluation session prior to competing at an international tournament.
- **Review (R)** is assigned to players who need to be re-evaluated for different reasons such as progressive impairment or age.
- **Fixed Review Date (FRD)** is assigned to players with particular circumstances that should be reviewed at a specific time. An example of this status would be an SH 6 player who has not yet turned 18, or a player who is recovering from a non-chronic pathology (injury, accident, etc.).
- **Confirmed (C)** is assigned to players who have completed their evaluation.

Furthermore, there are a couple of other potential outcomes to the classification process, which are explained below.

- **Classification Not Completed (CNC)** may be assigned by the head of classification or the relevant chief classifier if, at any stage of athlete evaluation, a classification panel is unable to assign an athlete a sport class. This may also apply in other special circumstances where a player may request or be required to undergo a re-evaluation. A player who is designated as CNC is not eligible to compete in Para badminton.
- **Sport Class Not Eligible (NE)** may be assigned during the classification process when a player is determined to be ineligible to compete in Para badminton.

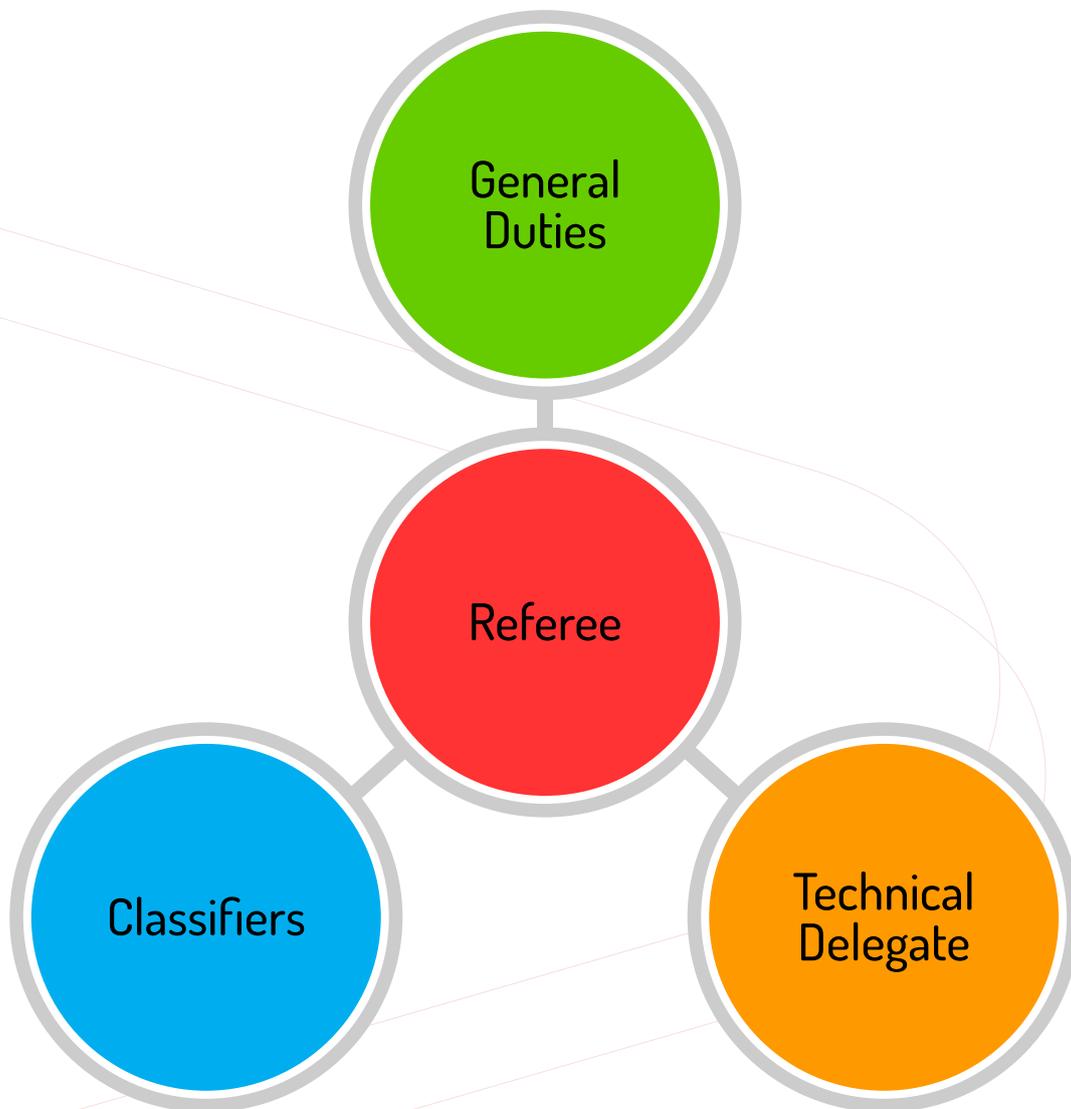
## 04. KEY ROLES IN PARA BADMINTON TOURNAMENTS

There are quite a few additional considerations to be handled in a Para badminton tournament, which may seem overwhelming at first. However, it is also important to recognise that there are other specialised tournament officials who help in this process. The additional team members have different skill sets and each plays a different part, which means that the referee's role in providing leadership is especially important. The referee's people skills and organisation are key to ensuring that the team operates as efficiently and effectively as possible.

This section will explore these different roles, as follows:

- the role of the **referee**
- the role of the **technical delegate**
- the role of the **classifiers**
- coordination and distribution of responsibilities

These different roles can be seen to constitute the three basic pillars of a competition. However, it is important to keep in mind that it is the referee that plays the central role.



## THE ROLE OF THE REFEREE

The general duties of the referee have been discussed in detail in the Level 1 and Level 2 manuals. The Para Badminton General Competition Regulations mention two additional points, which are:

- Being in overall charge of the tournament, with the exception of duties allocated to the technical delegate and the classifier team;
- Determining combinations of sport classes, confirming the seeding, and conducting the draw (except when a technical delegate is been appointed).

Naturally, all the knowledge, skills, and qualities of a successful referee (such as communication, delegation, leadership, etc.) apply to Para badminton tournaments as well, and may even be more important due to the collaboration required with other tournament officials.

## THE ROLE OF THE TECHNICAL DELEGATE

The BWF shall appoint a technical delegate where deemed necessary. The technical delegate will be **directly responsible** for determining combinations of sport classes, confirming the seeding, and conducting the draw.

In addition to these functions, the technical delegate is generally responsible for:

- receiving and accepting the entries (and re-entries)
- working with the chief classifier to confirm the players to be evaluated
- answering questions from teams or players
- preparing the general schedule for the tournament
- supporting the referee as needed

The referee assists the technical delegate with handling the re-entry process, and then the technical delegate decides which events shall be played. The technical delegate will make this decision based on the number of entries for each event, once the classification process has concluded. The technical delegate may also combine events to achieve the minimum number of entries required for an official event to run.

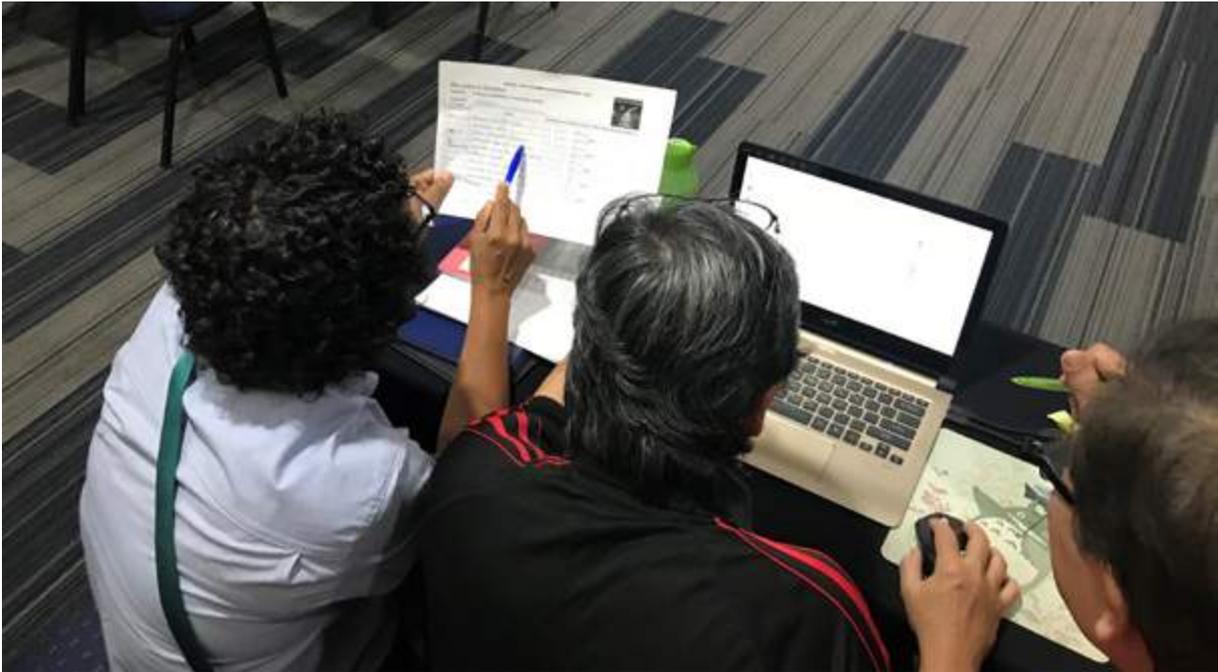


Photo credit: Carmen Martinez

Combined events may contain players from different sport classes, as well as (occasionally) players of different genders. There are regulations describing in detail the seeding and the prize distribution of combined events (see the Para Badminton General Competition Regulations, on the Statutes page of the BWF website).

Only when the re-entry process is completed, after the final team managers meeting, can the seeding, draws, and eventually the schedule of play be created and published. The referee and the technical delegate will assist each other in this process.

## THE ROLE OF THE CLASSIFIERS

Classifiers are responsible for coordinating and implementing the classification process. All levels of classifiers have received specialised training and are subject to the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Classifiers Code of Conduct.

When classification is being carried out during a tournament, the BWF shall appoint a chief classifier, along with one or two classification panels (with a minimum of two qualified international classifiers each). The Head of Classification will propose the classification panels for tournaments during the year.

The basic process of classification during a competition consists of three phases, including:

- a physical examination
- a technical examination
- on-court observation

For further details and the most updated version, refer to the Para Badminton Classification Regulations, which are periodically updated.

Given that the last phase of classification consists of observing the players on court during the competition, the referee and the classifiers will need to work together to ensure that this happens efficiently. The referee shall attend to the needs of the classifier team as part of his/her overall functions. *(Photo credits: Carmen Martinez)*



Classification room



Classification court

## COORDINATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

In a Para badminton tournament, besides the regular duties, referees will need to manage some additional matters relating to the classification process. The referee's pre-competition communication with the chief classifier will be mainly limited to receiving the list of players who must be evaluated. For tournaments including classification, much of the work will be carried out in the two days prior to the start of the tournament, once the referee has already arrived at the competition site. However, the ongoing contact and the prior work with the organiser and the technical delegate will be fundamental for the success of the competition. The referee and the technical delegate will work together, much as the referee and deputy do in other tournaments, ideally making decisions as a team.

The BWF Level 1 Referees' Manual emphasises the importance that the referee assess the level of experience of the tournament organiser, and this is especially true in Para badminton. Because of the logistics involved in a Para badminton tournament, the experience of the organiser can greatly influence the success of the competition. The referee should get as much information as possible from the previous referee's report, as well as any other reports available, in order to identify in advance any weak points or aspects to be improved. The referee's contribution in the early stages of preparation may be key to the eventual success or failure of the tournament.

The interactions and respective contributions of the different team members are examined across the four different stages below.

### Initial entries

Once the entry deadline has passed, the **referee** will receive the list of players per event from the **technical delegate** or the designated person in charge from the BWF (depending on the level of the competition). The technical delegate and the referee will then work together to estimate the number of matches and initial schedule, which will later be adjusted depending on withdrawals, classification results, and re-entry of players into different and/or additional events.

### Classification

When a tournament is scheduled to conduct classification, the **referee** will receive the list of players to be classified approximately four weeks before the tournament. That list must be taken into account in the preliminary calculations of events and matches. As previously mentioned, the main part of the classification process will be carried out in the two days prior to the start of competition. At the tournament, the **chief classifier** will try to provide the results of classification before the first meeting, and the re-entry deadline will be announced at the end of that meeting.

### Sport classes

Once the re-entry period is over and before the start of the second meeting, the **technical delegate** will have a very short period of time to determine the final combination of sport classes (where applicable), check that the new doubles pairs comply with the regulations, and re-check the rankings and seedings. These tasks are crucial to the competition, so it is vital that the **referee** support the technical delegate throughout this process.

### Draws and scheduling

After the second meeting has finished and the definitive list of players has been established, the **referee** and the **technical delegate** will still have to prepare the draws and schedule of play for the first day of competition.

Once the tournament is underway, the **technical delegate** will be responsible for preparing additional draws (for knockout rounds) and competition schedules for the remainder of the tournament, with the cooperation and approval of the **referee**.

The **referee** must be present for the knockout draws and will validate the schedule before it is published, also in addition to reviewing all other general areas of the tournament with the **organiser**, to ensure that the competition runs smoothly.

The timeline prior to and during competition is summed up in the chart below.

TIMING	TASK (& RESPONSIBLE PARTY)	COMMENTS
2 days before	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classification meeting (chief classifier)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Referee and technical delegate to be present</li> </ul>
1 day before	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classification (classifier panel)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Referee and technical delegate to wait for the results</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publication of classification results and protest period (chief classifier)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Referee and technical delegate to adjust players' information in the Tournament Planner (TP) file</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publication of final classification list after protest period (chief classifier)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Referee and technical delegate to double-check the TP file before meeting</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First team managers meeting (referee)</li> <li>Explanation of re-entry process (technical delegate)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deadline for re-entry to be announced (normally one hour)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second team managers meeting (technical delegate)</li> <li>Pairing of remaining "partner-wanted" players by lot (referee and technical delegate)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team officials to be consulted about moving players to a less impaired class, as needed, in order to enable everyone to play</li> <li>Final list of players per event and ranking to be published</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation of draws and schedule (technical delegate and referee)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draws to be published when ready</li> <li>Schedule to be published as soon as possible</li> </ul>
Day 1 of competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Usual duties (referee)</li> <li>Preparation of schedule &amp; knockout draw, as applicable (technical delegate with referee)</li> <li>Observation of classified players on court (classifiers)</li> </ul>	

TIMING	TASK (& RESPONSIBLE PARTY)	COMMENTS
Day 2 of competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Usual duties (referee)</li> <li>• Preparation of schedule &amp; knockout draw, as applicable (technical delegate with referee)</li> <li>• Observation of classified players on court, if needed (classifiers)</li> </ul>	
Day 3+ of the competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Usual duties (referee)</li> <li>• Preparation of schedule &amp; knockout draw, as applicable (technical delegate with referee)</li> </ul>	

**Distribution of duties and responsibilities**

The number of tournament days may differ for each tournament, which means that different stages of the competition may begin on different days. The total number of competition days will, however, be determined prior to the publication of the tournament prospectus. (Ideally, the referee and the technical delegate will have both given any necessary feedback during the development of the prospectus.) There may also be additional matches to be played due to event combinations. This means that the referee and the technical delegate will have to work together to accommodate the final number of matches within the established timeline.

Finally, if there will be no classification carried out, the work of the referee and technical delegate will be as per the table above, but they will be able to conduct the meetings and withdrawals as per conventional procedures.

**05. PARA BADMINTON TOURNAMENT PREPARATION**

There are a great many aspects that need to be considered well before the tournament starts. Many of these aspects are addressed in the BWF Level 1 Referees' Manual, and will, of course, apply to Para badminton tournaments as well. However, there are obviously additional considerations that come into play with Para badminton tournaments, and the referee will need to ensure that these are taken into consideration.

As mentioned previously, the referee will need to determine how experienced the tournament organiser is (with badminton tournaments in general, as well as with Para badminton tournaments). Many of the aspects discussed in this section will need to be handled on site by the tournament organiser before the referee's arrival, but the referee may need to provide the organiser with guidance during the process. This section will explore some of the main areas that need to be carefully considered by the tournament organiser, with the support of the referee.

**PARA BADMINTON CHECKLIST**

The standard referee checklist in Section 3.4 of the BWF Level 1 Referees' Manual covers a wide variety of areas that are considered for all tournaments. The checklist here includes additional details that need to be considered for a Para badminton tournament. As mentioned above, the tournament organiser will have to make many of these arrangements/assessments, but the checklist will help the referee and the tournament organiser work together in preparation for the competition.

QUESTION	ANSWER
<b>Hall/Stadium</b>	
Is it accessible for wheelchair players (including the meeting rooms)?	
Are there court mats for standing courts? (What brand? / What colour? / How many?)	
What type of flooring is there for wheelchair courts?	
Are standing courts and wheelchair courts in the same hall or different ones?	
Is there a sufficient number of adapted toilets and changing rooms?	
Is there a spectator area for wheelchair users?	
What are the arrangements for practice facilities (if any)?	
Is there a warm-up area available at the venue for both standing & wheelchair players?	
Is the designated assembly point accessible and fit for purpose?	
Will there be repair service (wheelchairs, prostheses) available?	
<b>Court Set-up</b>	
Is the extra line (half-court, lengthwise) marked on the mats for the standing courts?	
Are there chairs on each side of the umpire's chair on the standing courts (for players, one per side)?	
Are the baskets on court accessible for wheelchair and SH 6 players?	
<b>Stadium Equipment (if classification will be done)</b>	
Is the classifiers' room equipped with a toilet, a table, chairs, a bed (adjustable height) and a refrigerator?	
Is there a court assigned for classifiers to use during the classification process?	
Is there a table and chairs for classifiers on the field of play for the first two days of the tournament?	
<b>Court Officials</b>	
Are there at least two line judges available per wheelchair court?	
Is there at least one court attendant (or designated line judge) for mopping per standing court?	
<b>Doping Control Facilities</b>	
Are these accessible for wheelchair players (testing room and toilet)?	

QUESTION	ANSWER
<b>Players' Facilities</b>	
Is there a room with mats or cushions where wheelchair players can get out of their chairs and rest?	
Is there an area for wheelchair storage (day chairs / sport chairs)?	
<b>Catering &amp; Media Facilities</b>	
Are these accessible for wheelchair players?	
<b>Accommodation &amp; Transport</b>	
Are there accessible & adapted rooms available in accordance with the entries?	
Is there accessible & adapted bus service available?	
<b>Prize Ceremony:</b>	
Are podiums wheelchair accessible (with enough space for presenters, as well)?	

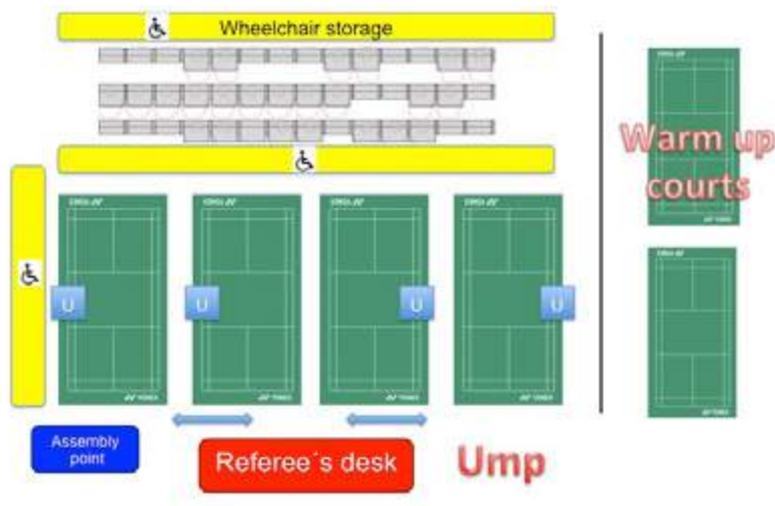
**STADIUM REQUIREMENTS AND SPECIAL AREAS**

When choosing a sports facility in which to hold a Para badminton competition, the first criterion must be **accessibility**.

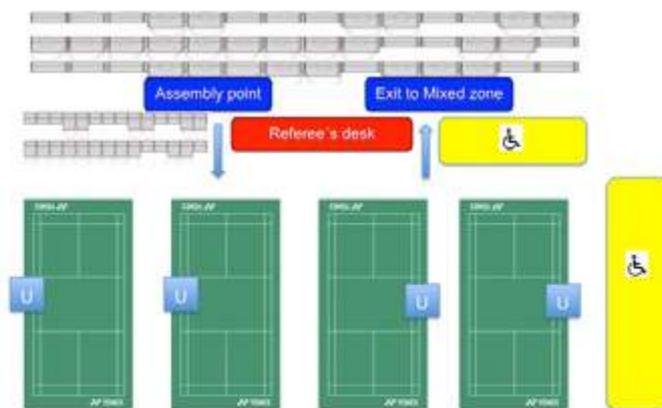
The accessibility of a hall is not measured simply by whether it has wide doors, interior ramps, a lift, or adapted bathrooms. These are just some of the conditions to which referees should pay attention. It is also important that the number of these adapted elements in the sport facility be proportional to the number of wheelchair users. For instance, it is not reasonable to think that for a total of 60 to 70 wheelchair players, a single adapted toilet or a lift will be sufficient. It is here that common sense must come into play. All those involved in the organisation must be mindful about the welfare of the participants, both on and off the field of play.

The competition-specific areas needed for a successful Para badminton tournament have been mentioned in the checklist, but the list below will go into a bit more detail on general-access areas:

- **Access areas and interior mobility:** Access ramps, number of entrance/exit doors, and space in the lift must allow for smooth mobility.
- **Common areas:** These must also be accessible to all, including services such as catering, information desk, stands, etc. Catering areas should contemplate ample space in which to move around in a wheelchair, as well as appropriate table height in the case of self-service. It is also recommended to leave some places at the tables free of chairs, to facilitate access for wheelchair players and their possible companions.
- **Seating area:** Wheelchair participants and their companions also need to have their space as spectators (in both wheelchair and standing halls, if applicable). In the event that it is not possible to have an accessible space in the stands, another option is to provide a reserved space within the field of play (the yellow areas, in the examples below).
- **Toilets and dressing rooms:** These must comply with global accessibility standards in terms of both space and number. If necessary, portable booths can be installed in areas adjacent to the hall, in which case the same hygiene and care measures must be observed as for the rest of the stadium.



Layout example 1



Layout example 2

For more comprehensive information on accessibility standards, referees and organisers may want to consult the [IPC Accessibility Guide](#). Finally, it is never a bad idea to get in a wheelchair and try to navigate the hall to see where any potential problems lie.

## TRANSPORT AND HOTELS

Transport and hotels become especially important aspects for the smooth functioning of a Para badminton tournament. Although these areas fall under the responsibility of the organiser, they can have a serious negative impact on the competition if they are not handled properly. Detailed information will need to be available well in advance, and the referee will want to be sure that this is the case.

Regarding transport, once the number of participants in wheelchairs is known, the organiser must make an initial assessment regarding the needs versus the availability of **accessible** and **adapted** places, as follows:

- In an **accessible** transport, the players will sit in the standard seats once they access the vehicle using the ramp or elevator.
- In an **adapted** transport, the players will remain in their own chairs, which will be fixed to the vehicle with an anchorage system.

It is also necessary to look into the transport schedule, with particular attention to the practice day, the first day of competition, and last day of the tournament. Wheelchair players, in most cases, will have two wheelchairs with them (a day chair and a sports chair, see photo). Inexperienced hosts may not realise this, and a lack of preparation in this area may affect all movement to and from the airport, the hotel, and the venue. The transport schedule must allow sufficient time for loading and unloading of wheelchairs.



Regarding hotels, the organiser should be aware whether the room adaptations meet the needs of the participants. However, the referee should ensure that these details have been taken into account and may be able to provide advice, if needed, as detailed in the checklist.

**NUMBERS AND TYPES OF COURTS**

An important characteristic of Para badminton is the differentiation in the type of flooring for **wheelchair** and **standing** courts.

The **Specifications for International Standard Para Badminton Facilities** (available in Section 5.5 of the [BWF Technical Regulations](#)) state that:

- For wheelchair events, it is desirable that the venue have wooden flooring, but a concrete or hard rubber surface may also be suitable, if it meets the necessary mobility and safety conditions for the game.
- For the standing events, approved court mats shall be used.



Once the entry deadline has passed, the technical delegate will prepare a first draft with the expected maximum number of matches, for both wheelchair (WH) and standing (ST) events, as follows:

Day		Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
WH	Matches	72	56	46	40	7
	Courts	4	3	3	3	2
	Hours	10,50	10,89	10,22	10,00	4,20
ST	Matches	85	92	92	78	12
	Courts	4	5	5	5	2
	Hours	12,40	10,73	10,73	10,40	4,50
Timing		09:00-22:00	09:00-20:00	09:00-20:00	09:00-20:00	09:00-14:00

The total number of matches and the number of competition days will determine the final number of **courts** required each day. However, it will also be necessary to consider the different type of **surfaces** for wheelchair and standing courts, as well as the total number of hours of play per day.

In addition to these variables, there is also the uncertainty arising from the number of matches in events where players are going through classification. This may affect the number of matches, and the final adjustments can only be made the day before the tournament begins.

While it is not common, it may be necessary to change the respective numbers of wheelchair and standing courts during the competition, in order to adjust the total time required for each type of court. In the above chart, it can be seen that there will be eight courts in use from Wednesday to Saturday, but that the distributions are different. On Wednesday, there will be four wheelchair courts and four standing courts, while the other days will require three wheelchair courts and five standing courts.

Such a decision must be taken once confirmation is received from the organiser regarding the feasibility of changing the court layout. Otherwise, a different plan will need to be established.

## COURTS: OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Naturally, referees will always check the readiness of the courts, as has been discussed throughout the Level 1 and Level 2 manuals. However, with Para badminton tournaments, there are some additional key factors that should be kept in mind.

### For wheelchair courts:

- The **bottom half of the net** should be left untied from the post, to make it easier for players to pass from one side of the net to the other.
- The **height of the baskets** for the players should not be higher than players can reach from the chair.
- The **access path** to the courts from the assembly point should not cross any areas with cables fixed to the ground. Players may lose their balance and will not feel comfortable. If there are no other routes available, cables must be covered and made as secure as possible for wheelchairs to cross over. See images below (*Photo credits: Carmen Martinez*).



*Cables on top of the wood*



*Cables inserted in the wood*

- **Access ramps**, where necessary, must be wide enough and have an appropriate slope so that players can manage without help, both on the way up and on the way down.
- The **storage room** for the wheelchairs should be nearby and easily accessible from the assembly point, in order to avoid unnecessary delays in the competition. This should be taken into account when the layout is being designed.

**For standing courts:**

- A **chair** should be placed on each side of the umpire's chair (one per side) to allow players to rest during intervals and dry off their prostheses as necessary.
- The **additional line** to divide the court into two lengthwise halves will need to be marked (from one centre service line to the opposite one) for SL 3 singles matches.
- The **height of the baskets** for the players should be no higher than can be reached by the SH 6 players.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF LINE JUDGES IN WHEELCHAIR MATCHES**

The assistance provided by line judges during a competition is well appreciated by all technical officials. In Para badminton tournaments, this assistance becomes a necessity in the case of wheelchair matches. It is often impossible for the umpire to see where the shuttle has landed, as the wheelchair may well block the view of a shuttle that lands near a boundary line.

Once information has been received from the organiser regarding the number of line judges, the referee will want to ensure that at least two line judges can be assigned on each wheelchair court.

**MEDALS**

Despite the uncertainty regarding the final number of events in Para badminton tournaments (especially those with classification), it will still be necessary to provide a list of medals to be prepared.

In the case of a tournament without classification, it will be possible to provide an actual list of the maximum number of events to be played. However, if classification will take place, all possible options regarding combinations of classes will have to be taken into account. This is the job of the technical delegate, as the one who is responsible for determining the combinations and conducting the draws. The referee, however, must always check that all possible options have been considered. As always, the teamwork between the referee and the technical delegate is crucial.

As specified in the Para Badminton General Competition Regulations, in the case of combined classes where the more impaired class has sufficient players/pairs in the draw, the players from the more impaired sport class will receive prizes as if there had been no combination made. For example, if a player finishes second in a combined WH 1/WH 2 event and is the best of five competing WH 1 players, he/she will receive the first place reward. In this situation, there will be two winners of the MS or WS WH 1/WH 2 combined event, so if the name of the event will be included on the medals, the extra medals will have to be taken into account (i.e., for WH 1 as well as for the WH 1/WH 2 combined class). It is always better to have medals left over if there is any doubt!

Due to the number of events in Para badminton tournaments, it is recommended to distribute the medal ceremonies across different slots. In all cases, it is also advisable to pre-arrange the players by events and plan for a good distribution of space. As mentioned in the referee checklist, the podium should be adapted as necessary for wheelchair players (as well as presenters).



PHOTO CREDIT: Carmen Martinez

## 06. GETTING READY TO START

There has been a good deal of emphasis on the importance of preparation and communication in the early stages of planning for a Para badminton event. This will certainly make the days leading up to the tournament much smoother for all those involved. However, there are a few final considerations that will need to be handled with the same degree of attention and care, in order to ensure that all the hard work and planning comes together for a successful competition.

### THE IMPACT OF CLASSIFICATION ON THE GENERAL TIMELINE

As previously mentioned, when classification is being carried out during a tournament, the referee and the technical delegate will not have the final number of entries until the classification process has been completed and the re-entry period is closed. This includes the protest period (and the time needed for a decision by a second panel of classifiers, if any). They can, however, start to incorporate the changes made during the classification process and prepare the TP file for the first meeting.

A protest regarding a player's assigned sport class may be submitted to the chief classifier within the timeframes specified by the BWF. Teams are generally given one hour to submit a protest after the publication of classification results.

Having classification at a tournament means that, in addition to the conventional timeline of activities, referees will also need to:

- Receive the list of players requiring classification from the chief classifier or the technical delegate (four weeks before).
- Consider, when preparing the entry list for each event and schedule for the tournament, all possible modifications and combinations regarding the final number of players per event (calculation of matches, number of wheelchair and standing courts, re-entries, "partner-wanted" players, etc.).
- Attend the classification meeting (two days before the start of competition).
- Make sure that the classification is in process (one day before the start of competition) and that the classifiers have everything they need.
- Receive the initial results of classification and wait until the protest period is over (and potentially for a second panel to classify any protesting players).
- Extend the first team managers meeting to allow the technical delegate to explain about re-entries and the respective deadlines. Re-entries are accepted by the technical delegate when they comply with entry regulations.
- Help the technical delegate during the re-entry period in the preparation of the draws.
- Have a second team managers meeting for draws and draft schedule. Players who have yet to find a partner for doubles events can be paired (by drawing lots). Players can also be moved to a less impaired class (in consultation with the team managers).
- Prepare and publish the draws and schedule as soon as possible.

### COMBINING SPORT CLASSES

According to the BWF Para Badminton General Competition Regulations, Para badminton competitions shall be structured as pool-play followed by play-offs. It is important to note that this does not mean that there are qualifying rounds, but rather that this is the official format.

An official draw is made with four or more entries (players/pairs) from two or more countries, as follows:

- An event with four or five entries will be played as a round-robin format.
- If an event has six entries or more, there will be pool-play followed by play-offs. See the table below for further explanation.

Number of entries	Competition format
4 to 5	1 group
6 to 8	2 groups followed by play-offs
9 to 11	3 groups followed by play-offs
12 to 16	4 groups followed by play-offs
17	5 groups followed by play-offs
18 to 23	6 groups followed by play-offs
24 to 32	8 groups followed by play-offs

- Singles entries to each sport class are restricted as follows:

Sport class	Eligible players
<b>WH 1</b>	players classified WH 1
<b>WH 2</b>	players classified WH 1 or WH 2
<b>SL 3</b>	players classified SL 3
<b>SL 4</b>	players classified SL 3 or SL 4
<b>SU 5</b>	players classified SL 3, SL 4 or SU5
<b>SH 6</b>	players classified SH 6

- Doubles entries are a bit more complicated and work on a "class point" system (*in which a WH 1 player has 1 class point, a WH 2 player has 2 class points, and so on*), with the following sport classes and restrictions:

Doubles entries	Conditions
<b>WH1-WH2</b> (MD, WD and XD)	<b>Maximum of 3 class points</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• possible combinations are <i>WH 1 + WH 1</i> and <i>WH 1 + WH 2</i></li> </ul>
<b>SL3-SL4</b> (MD)	<b>Maximum of 7 class points</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• possible combinations are <i>SL 3 + SL 3</i> and <i>SL 3 + SL 4</i></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WH 1, WH 2, SU 5, and SH 6 not eligible</li> </ul>
<b>SL3-SU5</b> (WD and XD)	<b>Maximum of 8 class points</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• possible combinations are <i>SL 3 + SL 3</i>, <i>SL 3 + SL 4</i>, <i>SL 3 + SU 5</i> and <i>SL 4 + SL 4</i></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WH 1, WH 2, and SH 6 not eligible</li> </ul>

Doubles entries	Conditions
SU5 (MD)	<b>Maximum of 10 class points</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>possible combinations are <i>SL 3 + SL 3</i>, <i>SL 3 + SL 4</i>, <i>SL 3 + SU 5</i>, <i>SL 4 + SL 4</i>, <i>SL4 + SU 5</i> and <i>SU 5 + SU 5</i></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WH 1, WH 2, and SH 6 not eligible</li> </ul>

- In the event that there are insufficient entries for a draw, the technical delegate will use the definitive list of entries per event (taking into account the re-entry process) to make the necessary combinations until the minimum number of players is reached. Detailed information on the combined events can be found in the PBGCR.

The final number of events, along with the players or pairs in each, will be announced at the second (and final) team managers meeting. Referees will need to pay close attention to the following details:

- When two or more classes are combined in an event with more than five entries, there shall be two seeded entries per group (one from the least impaired sport class, and another from the next least impaired). Medals will be awarded according to the Para Badminton General Competition Regulations.
- Where combinations occur between men's singles (MS) and women's singles (WS), the combined event is titled 'singles' (S).
- Where combinations occur between men's doubles (MD) and women's doubles (WD) or mixed doubles (XD), the combined event is titled 'doubles' (D).
- If the permitted combinations do not result in all players/pairs being able to compete in a combined event with four or more entries from two or more nations, the affected players/pairs shall not officially play in that event in the tournament. They shall, however, be allowed to compete in an unofficial event for the purposes of participation and practice, without receiving any official medals, awards or any BWF Para Badminton World Ranking points.

**MEETINGS IN PARA BADMINTON**

Meetings held at Para badminton tournaments usually involve quite a bit more work and communication with teams. This is due, in part, to the classification process and the probability of changes to the competition format. Even if there is no classification at the tournament, there will still be at least two team managers meetings.

Each of the meetings will address very different aspects, as detailed below. It is worth noting that the usual pre-competition meetings (for example, with the organiser or BWF representatives) are not included in this list, nor are the general details of a badminton tournament meeting. These are covered briefly in Chapter 5 of the BWF Level 1 Referees' Manual, and in greater detail in Section 4 of the Level 2 Referees' Manual.

It is worth mentioning that, as Para badminton grows globally, more new countries are participating in international tournaments for the first time. This means those attending meetings often have different levels of experience, and the newer or less experienced team managers may not be familiar with the processes and structures of Para badminton tournaments. It is important for referees to keep this in mind and provide ample opportunities for questions, both during and at the end of the meeting.



### **First Team Managers Meeting – Key Points**

The content of the first meeting will include contents that are similar to any other badminton competition. However, there are specific aspects which will require particular attention. For example, information should be provided regarding:

- Introduction of relevant persons, including the technical delegate and the chief classifier
- Location of accessible entries and of lifts and ramps
- Availability of wheelchair and prosthetics repair service
- Stadium layout and designated areas for wheelchair users
- Number and location of adapted dressing rooms and extra adapted toilets
- Location of the room for wheelchair players to rest (if there is one available)
- Location of the wheelchair storage room
- Clarification on additional requirements for Para badminton.
  - A wheelchair player's feet must be fixed to the footrest of the wheelchair.
  - A player's body may be fixed to the wheelchair.
  - No part of the trousers may dangle from the wheelchair.
  - A part of the trunk and legs shall be in contact with the seat when the player strikes the shuttle.
  - The seat of the wheelchair, including any padding, can be horizontal or angled backwards. It cannot be angled forwards.



- A wheelchair may be equipped with (a) (rear) supporting wheel(s).
- The wheelchair must not have any electronic device to assist.
- An upper- or lower-leg amputee player may use a crutch.
- An amputee may use (a) prosthetic lower limb(s).
- The use of prosthetics limbs is not allowed in SU 5.

- Other special considerations regarding faults in wheelchair classes, such as cases where:
  - The trunk is not in contact with the seat at the moment the shuttle is hit.
  - The fixation of a foot is lost during a rally.
  - The player touches the floor with a foot while sitting in his/her chair during a rally.
- Rules on repairs (wheelchair, prosthesis) on court
- Rules on leaving the court in order to catheterise
- Service fault rules
- Requirement that wheelchair players must attend the prize/medal ceremony in their wheelchairs

This general information will be followed by the technical delegate's presentation, which will include the competition format as it has been established up to that point. This is where, if needed, the re-entry process will start.

### **Second Team Managers Meeting – Key Points**

The second meeting will be led by the technical delegate, with the following main points to be covered:

- Final number of entries per event and competition format
- Combination of classes (as appropriate)
- Entries for doubles with partner wanted, including re-entries (to be drawn by lot by the referee)
  - *Note: A "partner-wanted" entry for doubles that ends up with no partner drawn by lot will be put into the same event in a less impaired class, provided that this is in accordance with the conditions stated in the invitation and that the team official accepts.*
- Announcement of events that will commence play the following day, for both wheelchair and standing classes

### **Umpire Briefing – Key Points**

The meeting with the umpires is a crucial moment for the smooth development of the competition. The referee should try to find out about the technical officials team beforehand (regarding their general experience, as well as their experience in Para badminton). The aspects to be highlighted during the meeting include:

- Stadium layout and designated areas for wheelchair users
- Assembly-point procedures
- Attention to players' pace during march-on and march-off
- Special instructions about additional requirements for Para badminton



- Other special considerations regarding faults in wheelchair classes
- Service faults for standing and wheelchair players
- Handling of on-court injuries and falls

- Other potential interruptions in play (such as drying off prosthesis, repair of wheelchair, leaving the court in order to catheterise, etc.)
- Special situations with players (for example, players who are required to use left or right hand, who are deaf, etc.)
- Procedure for coming down from the chair at the end of the match for WH and SH 6 matches

If there are umpires with little experience, it is advisable to have some slides highlighting the differences for Para badminton within the Laws of Badminton (including court sizes, service faults, faults, lets and continuous play). Better to review the basics and make sure everyone has them clear!

## 07. SCHEDULING AND LOGISTICS FOR PARA BADMINTON TOURNAMENTS

Since general timelines have been discussed in previous sections, this section will focus on the schedule of the competition, as well as on compulsory aspects from the regulations.

### FINAL NUMBER OF ENTRIES AND SCHEDULING PROCEDURES

As previously explained, for tournaments with classification, the final number of entries for each event can only be determined once classification and the re-entry process have been completed. Only then can the draws be prepared.

Some basic details may have been entered in the TP file, such as the number of competition days, allocation of courts for wheelchairs and standing events, etc.

The usual procedure is:

- Make the draws, so that they can be published while the schedule is being prepared.
- After that, allocate draws to the different courts, depending on whether they are for wheelchair or standing players. This can be done by going to the “properties of the draw” in the TP file.
- Then it is possible to start preparing the schedule, according to the plan that has been designed, until the desired number of matches per day is completed.

The chart below shows an example of a scheduling plan. Also, further details on draws and scheduling in general can be found in Chapter 4 of the BWF Level 1 Referees' Manual.

### WHEELCHAIR

No	Events	Entries	Grouping	Round Robin			Play-offs				
				RR1	RR2	RR3	32TH	16TH	Q/F	S/F	F
1	MS WH1	25	8 (3,3,3,3,3,4)	9	9	9		8	4	2	1
2	MS WH2	20	6 (3,3,3,3,4,4)	8	8	8		4	4	2	1
3	WS WH1	14	4 (3,3,4,4)	6	6	6			4	2	1
4	WS WH2	11	3 (3,4,4)	5	5	5			2	2	1
5	MD WH1-2	21	6 (3,3,3,4,4,4)	9	9	9		4	4	2	1
6	WD WH1-2	12	4 (3,3,3,3)	4	4	4		4	4	2	1
7	XD WH1-2	21	6 (3,3,3,4,4,4)	9	9	9		4	4	2	1
Total of Matches				50	50	50		28	26	14	7
Total of Hours				7,29	9,72	9,72		6,22	6,50	3,50	2,63
Duration per Match				35	35	35		40	45	45	45
Court Usage				4	3	3		3	3	3	2

## STANDING

No	Events	Entries	Grouping	Round Robin			Play-offs				
				RR1	RR2	RR3	32TH	16TH	Q/F	S/F	F
8	MS SL3	22	6 (3,3,4,4,4,4)	10	10	10		4	4	2	1
9	MS SL4	26	8 (3,3,3,3,3,3,4,4)	10	10	10		8	4	2	1
10	MS SU5	26	8 (3,3,3,3,3,3,4,4)	10	10	10		8	4	2	1
11	MS SH 6	21	6 (3,3,3,4,4,4)	9	9	9		4	4	2	1
12	WS SL3	10	3 (3,3,4)	4	4	4			2	2	1
13	WS SL4	8	2 (4,4)	4	4	4				2	1
14	WS SU5	12	4 (3,3,3,3)	4	4	4			2	2	1
16	MD SL3-4	23	6 (3,4,4,4,4,4)	11	11	11		4	4	2	1
17	MD SU5	13	4 (3,3,3,4)	5	5	5			4	2	1
18	MD SH 6	10	3 (3,3,4)	4	4	4			2	2	1
20	WD SL3-SU5	14	4 (3,3,4,4)	6	6	6			4	2	1
21	XD SL3-SU5	26	8 (3,3,3,3,3,3,4,4)	10	10	10		8	4	2	1
Total of Matches				87	87	87		36	38	24	12
Total of Hours				12,69	10,15	10,15		4,20	5,07	3,20	4,50
Duration per Match				35	35	35		35	40	40	45
Court Usage				4	5	5		5	5	5	2

## SCHEDULING AND TIME BETWEEN MATCHES

Although there is no specific rule on which event to start the day with, it is recommended to start with mixed doubles matches, followed by singles, and then level doubles. Starting with mixed, followed by singles, makes quite a lot of sense in Para badminton, as most of the players are involved in two or three events. Draws and timing may be much more complex if this order is not followed. Of course, the overall number of events, as well as the number of players per event, will also need to be considered.

In events where the format of competition is a single group, a match should always be reserved for the final day of the competition and the schedule prepared proportionally for the other matches.

Experience from past competitions shows that it is recommendable to plan for 30-minute rounds on the first day, increasing to 35 minutes on the following days, and finishing with 40-minute rounds in the final stage of the competition. This situation can vary, especially during the pool-play stage in competitions with a high number of new or less-experienced players. Matches that include newer players against very experienced players are often much shorter.

The minimum 30-minute rest time (check the PBGCR for the most updated version) must always be respected, although referees should be able to analyse the proposed schedule and where possible, arrange for more rest time. It is important to keep in mind that the more events there are, the easier it will be to facilitate longer rest time for players. When preparing the schedule of events with wheelchair players, the reduced number of events makes it slightly more challenging to achieve longer rest periods, especially when many of the players play more than one event.

In addition to the above considerations, and especially on the first day of competition, it is advisable to schedule a slightly lower number of matches on the wheelchair courts. This will make it easier for players to familiarise themselves with the hall, the location of the storage room, and how the assembly point works. If these aspects are well established on the first day, the rest of the competition will be much easier for everyone.

## CONDUCTING DRAWS

During the competition, once the pool-play stage is completed for a specific event and play-offs are going to be carried out, it is advisable to announce the draw and invite team managers to witness the process. The draw process can be conducted for two or more events during the same session.

Draws must be done by the technical delegate in the presence of the referee and must comply with the Para Badminton General Competition Regulations. It is also advisable to use double-blind draws,

meaning that there is a random drawing of a player/pair, followed by another random drawing for the corresponding position in the draw.

## ASSEMBLY POINT IN PARA BADMINTON

The concept of “space” will be the fundamental characteristic that defines the assembly point in a Para badminton competition.

If there are two separate competition areas for wheelchair and standing events, the location and characteristics of the assembly point(s) may be quite different. The main requirements for the area designated for wheelchair players are as follows:

- The path to the assembly point and to the field of play must be wheelchair accessible.
- There must be smooth circulation to and from the storage room, the assembly point, and the area for wheelchair players on the field of play.
- There should be enough space in the storage room to allow players to access and change their wheelchairs comfortably. This will reduce traffic and ensure that the competition schedule is not affected.
- At the assembly point, the space must be at least wide enough so that two wheelchairs can move around and change positions without getting stuck. It must have a clear passage for other people that need to cross the area.
- It is also important to be aware of the time that wheelchair players may need to go to the toilet. As such, they may take slightly longer to arrive at the assembly point when their match is called.

The assembly point area for standing players, if different from that for wheelchair players, must meet the usual badminton tournaments conditions.

## 08. THE PARA BADMINTON FAMILY

The concept of the “Para badminton family” has been mentioned over the years on numerous occasions by players, coaches, technical officials and organisation staff. This concept reflects the fact that there was originally a reduced number of players, many of whom have been active in Para badminton tournaments for many years, meaning that traditionally everyone knows each other.

Another important aspect is the impairment factor, which has generated a multitude of challenging situations over time. All those involved in tournaments, in all different roles, have done their best to help each other achieve the best performance or find the best solution for everyone. This has resulted in an overall sense of camaraderie that has been as important as the competitive spirit.

Tournament conditions, especially in the early years, were not always the most conducive, yet everyone has done their best, resulting in the exponential growth of Para badminton in recent years. It has been a job *for everyone* and *by everyone*, on and off court, and it has contributed to the widespread growth of this sense of belonging.



### A WORD OF ADVICE

For the reasons mentioned above, it is not uncommon to have situations such as players circling the whole court at the end of a match to thank the line judges, and referees needing to remind coaches to wait until after they have left the field of play to greet the umpires. Referees will want to mention in their presentations, for example, that pictures should be taken off court at the end of the match. By communicating such details clearly, referees can still foster the camaraderie and bonding that is typical of Para badminton, while keeping the tournament running smoothly and on time.

Beyond the competitive aspect, which will always be present on the court, each Para badminton tournament is a meetup for the community, eagerly awaited by all.



Being a referee at a Para badminton tournament is not about any particularly novel aspects regarding general principles. The technical delegate will help and deal with draw management, and an experienced referee knows how to fill out a report. However, managing both time and people in Para badminton can require a good deal of understanding, flexibility, and emotional intelligence, and referees must be especially prepared to handle this.

### SITUATIONS ON AND OFF COURT

In Para badminton, the referee will most often be called on court not because of behavioural problems, but due to technical problems, medical situations, or issues related to additional equipment (falls, punctures to a wheel, cleaning or drying of prostheses, etc.).

At this point, the concept of time becomes relative. When a player hurts his/her only leg and has to crawl around the court or hurts his/her only arm and is unable to sit up, this is not the time to rush, but rather to apply common sense. The role of the referee, more than ever, is to be there for the players.

Off court, conversations with coaches and team managers are more frequent in Para badminton.

These may arise from the competition itself, from injuries, or from transport/accommodation issues. Naturally, all the suggestions around communication, handling requests, and resolving issues that are discussed in the Level 1 and Level 2 Referees' Manuals will apply to Para badminton tournaments as well. As always, the referee should try to help and solve any issues as efficiently as possible, and a bit of tact and empathy will go a long way towards maintaining the sense of community.

This sense of community will be obvious at the end of the competition, when the referee will receive many smiles of appreciation and affection. Technical officials are undoubtedly also part of the Para badminton family!



## 09. SPECIAL OLYMPICS OVERVIEW

The Special Olympics movement was founded in 1968 from a firm belief that active involvement in sports training and competitions can have a positive impact on people with intellectual disabilities. It was recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1988, and through the relationships with international sports federations and national sports governing bodies, the Special Olympics movement is now active in around 172 countries. Badminton is a fast-developing sport in the Special Olympics world and currently has more than 370,000 players engaged in the game globally.

Special Olympics World Games are often cited as the world's most significant inclusive sporting events, where thousands of athletes with intellectual disabilities compete together in 26 or more summer sports. In addition to World Games, there are also competitions at regional and national levels, as detailed in the tournament structure below. In the case of local clubs or organisations that are interested in holding competitions for players with intellectual disabilities, they should liaise with their national programme in the interest of establishing mutually beneficial cooperation.

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS COMPETITION STRUCTURE

Special Olympics World Games	<p>Special Olympics World Games occur every two years, alternating between Summer and Winter Games.</p> <p>The next Special Olympics World Winter Games is <a href="#">Kazan 2022</a> (to be held in early 2023).</p> <p><a href="#">Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023</a> (June 2023) expects over 7,000 Special Olympics athletes and Unified partners from approximately 170 countries to compete in 24 sports.</p>
Special Olympics Regional Games	<p>Held in each of the seven Special Olympic Regions (Africa, Asia Pacific, East Asia, Europe/Eurasia, Latin America, Middle East/ North Africa, and North America), with participating athletes from the regions.</p>
Special Olympics National Games	<p>Organised by the respective Special Olympics Accredited Program for athletes within its geographical boundary.</p>

Badminton has been a sport at Special Olympics World Games since 1995. The 2019 edition of the Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi had above 200 players from 60 Special Olympics delegations participating in badminton competitions. The 2023 edition of Special Olympics World Games in Berlin expects to host nearly 220+ badminton players from almost 75 countries.

Sport for All and Inclusion through Sport are at the heart of both the Badminton World Federation (BWF) and Special Olympics International (SOI). The transformative power of sports to instil confidence, improve health and create inclusive communities is at the core of what SOI and the BWF do. Badminton provides both competitive and non-competitive participation opportunities for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, delivered in a safe, fun, and inclusive manner.

The BWF and SOI signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2019, in the interest of increasing the growth, quality, and frequency of badminton participation across Special Olympics programs globally. This was followed by the outlining of their Global Development Strategy for the 2020-2024 period, aimed at growing badminton and providing meaningful opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities to be involved in all aspects of badminton.

## BADMINTON EVENTS AT SPECIAL OLYMPIC GAMES

The following badminton events are actively promoted across all Special Olympics programmes.

Singles	Doubles	Unified Doubles
Men’s Singles	Men’s Doubles	Unified Men’s Doubles (UMD)
Women’s Singles	Women’s Doubles	Unified Women’s Doubles (UWD)
	Mixed Doubles	Unified Mixed Doubles (UXD)

The Unified Doubles events involve pairing a player with an intellectual disability (an “SO athlete”) and a player of similar sport skills, but without intellectual disabilities (a “Unified Partner”). The key idea here is to enable athletes to develop their sporting skills while socialising with peers, thereby enhancing their social skills.

Men's and women's singles remain the most widely contested categories during Regional and World Games, whereas the Unified Mixed Doubles can be merged with other Unified Doubles depending on the number of entries, as it is the least contested event.

Refereeing at a Special Olympics competition, at any level, is not fundamentally different from officiating at a traditional badminton competition in terms of technical matters. However, there are a few additional areas that the Special Olympics Referee will need to manage during the *planning*, *scheduling*, and *delivery* of the games.

- **Accredited Program (national) level quota system:** Referees will need to be aware and liaise with SOI Technical Delegate and Games Organizing Committee (as applicable) to ensure adherence.
- **Safety and wellbeing of players:** Additional considerations may be necessary in terms of scheduling, coach availability, etc.
- **Priority for inclusion:** All athletes should get fair and equal opportunity to compete, perform, and be recognised for doing their best.
- **Meaningful involvement in Unified Doubles:** Referees will need to work with the Unified Sports Delegate and the Sports Observers (as applicable) to ensure that the [Principles of Meaningful Involvement](#) are not violated during the competition.
- **Sport rules:** Special Olympics badminton competitions at the programme level are intended to operate in accordance with the BWF regulations, but in the case of any discrepancies, the SOI Sport Rules shall apply. At Special Olympics Regional and World Games, however, the BWF rules shall be used. For detailed information on Special Olympics rules, see the [Badminton Sport Rules](#). The [Special Olympics Sport Rules Article 1](#), available in multiple languages, also provide general principles that are not covered in the sport-specific rules.



Photo credit: James Varghese

## 10. DIVISIONING AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Special Olympics athletes who participate at the Regional or World Games possess a broad spectrum of competitive sports skills. In addition, they come with varying intellectual disabilities and sometimes have physical impairments too. Hence, it is a fundamental rule at Special Olympics competitions that athletes should compete with others of the same gender, about the same age, and most importantly, of a similar competitive ability. Special Olympics ensures that the athletes of all abilities are given an equal chance of succeeding by a competition-level matching process called “Divisioning”. This is similar to the classification process in Para badminton in terms of functionality, but the system is unique to Special Olympics.

While it is the technical delegate, the team of sports observers, and the Games Organizing Committee who shall oversee the initial groupings, the referee also holds the responsibility to ensure a fair and meaningful divisioning process. Referees should observe the short matches on divisioning days (ahead of the competition) and be reasonably convinced about the divisioning decisions.

Special Olympics Divisioning is a two-stage process, as follows:

**Stage 1.** Prior to the competition, the coach/team manager submits the skills assessment for a particular player/pair based on the criteria set by the governing body. In measurable/timed sports like athletics, this might be a fairly straightforward process, but the assessment of an open-skills sport like badminton will require additional metrics.

For more information, please see Section 3.3 Individual Skills Competition, from the Special Olympics Badminton Sport Rules document.

**Stage 2.** Based on the above values, preliminary groupings are made. The competitive ability of each player/pair is then confirmed by a series of short games between athletes or teams, or by an assessment of each athlete’s or team’s ability by a committee.

Competition divisions are formed in accordance with the below considerations.

- A division shall have a minimum of three and a maximum of eight players/pairs.
- There should not be more than 15% variance in terms of capability between the lowest-performing and the highest-performing player/pair in the division.

Referees must be aware of the procedure to resolve any issue related to divisioning. This is outlined in the Sport Rules Article 1.

**Note:** *At the time of writing this guide, the BWF and SOI have formed a Sport Impact Standards Working Group to develop further and standardize the divisioning process ahead of the next World Games in 2023.*

## 11. KEY ROLES IN SPECIAL OLYMPICS COMPETITIONS

As mentioned in the Para badminton section, there are multiple aspects involved in running inclusive competitions, but there is also a team of officials to collaborate in the process. Once again, the referee’s skills in leadership and coordination will be important in ensuring effective teamwork.

This section will explore the functions of the different officials involved, as follows:

- the role of the **referee**
- the role of the **technical delegate**
- the role of the **“Unified Sports Delegate”**

The success of the competition will depend on each of the team members working together with a clear understanding of their respective roles.

## THE ROLE OF THE REFEREE

The referee is overall in charge of Special Olympics competitions, ensuring that the tournament is conducted in accordance with the Laws of Badminton, the rules and regulations of the BWF, and SOI. The appointed referee shall work in close relation with the technical delegate and the competition management team to ensure the smooth conduct of the event.

In the case of the Special Olympics World Games, SOI appoints the referee (in coordination with the BWF) almost 24 months in advance. The referee should liaise with the Games Organizing Committee (GOC) and the assigned Technical Delegate (TD) to ensure all the necessary tasks are completed on time.

Regional games will generally also have a referee appointed by SOI. In the case of national or local badminton competitions, it will be important for the organisation in question (national or regional association, or club) to liaise with the national Special Olympics programme to ensure that the referee has all the necessary information and any available support.

## THE ROLE OF THE TECHNICAL DELEGATE

Special Olympics International appoints a technical delegate to supervise and oversee each sport discipline played at the Special Olympics Winter and Summer World Games.

- The technical delegate shall serve as the key sports advisor regarding all sport-specific questions and issues (such as rules, divisioning, sports equipment, uniform requirements, and sport venue specifications).
- The technical delegate shall act as the resource person for the specific Special Olympics regulations and recommendations and shall liaise with SOI, the BWF (as represented by the referee), and the respective SO delegations to ensure adherence to the Special Olympics Sports Regulations as well as the BWF Laws of Badminton.
- The technical delegate or competition manager has final authority concerning divisions and any variation from the criteria.

As with the referee role, there will generally be a TD appointed at regional games, while for national or local levels, it will be important to seek out the expertise of the national Special Olympics body when running a competition.

## THE ROLE OF THE UNIFIED SPORTS DELEGATE

The Unified Sports Delegate (UD) for the regional and world games is the key authority for overseeing the Unified Sports Competition Protocol and ensuring that the Special Olympics Unified Sports Rules are correctly interpreted and implemented during the World Games.

The UD is appointed by SOI. He/She is a member of the Unified Sports Evaluation Committee (USEC) and reports to the SOI USEC lead persons. They manage a group of volunteer sports observers assigned to support USEC work during the divisioning process and the competitions. The UD works closely with the sports observers, whose role is to observe the short matches during sports skills assessment, as well as the Unified Doubles matches (for any violations of the Principles of Meaningful Involvement).

The UD shall consult with the TD regarding any observed violations of the Unified Sports Principle of Meaningful Involvement and any resulting penalties, disqualifications, or suspensions.

In competitions where there is no UD, the organisers and the team of technical officials should keep the Principles of Meaningful Involvement in mind, as well as making these clear to all those involved in the tournament.



Photo credit: James Varghese

## 12. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS COMPETITIONS

In general, tournament preparation will follow the standard procedures as explained in the BWF Level 1 and Level 2 Referees' Manuals. However, there are a few additional points that the referee will want to keep in mind, especially when working with organisers who may be newer to Special Olympics competitions.

### AGE REQUIREMENTS

The minimum age to participate in a regular Special Olympics competition is eight years, whereas the minimum age for World Games is 15. The age group of a player is based on his/her age on the opening date of the competition.

### SCHEDULING CONSIDERATIONS

A player can play a maximum of three events at the World Games. This means players may be competing in singles and doubles, and some of them may also be playing Unified Doubles. Just as with any other tournament, the referee must ensure that the competition schedule guarantees at least the minimum rest times for all players.

It is important to bear in mind that coaches must be present during Special Olympics matches.

However, if multiple players/pairs from the same country are playing simultaneously, coaches may find it difficult to attend to their players, which could lead to delays. As such, when the schedule is being prepared, the referee will want to pay close attention to this, so that no match is delayed due to the unavailability of a coach.

## STADIUM AND FIELD OF PLAY

Players with intellectual disabilities may sometimes get overwhelmed by bright lights and/or loud noises. Both the referee and the tournament organisers should be aware of this, in order to try to manage the surroundings as much as possible. It may be helpful to have a quiet area blocked off near the field of play in case players need a place to get away from stimuli.

## MEDICAL AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the traditional badminton requirements for medical support, referees must be aware of the SOI medical and safety minimum standards outlined in section 7.4 of the Sport Rules Article 1.

## CLOTHING, COMMERCIAL MESSAGES, AND NATIONAL FLAGS

Referees should be aware that there are restrictions in terms of what may be displayed on athletes' and coaches' uniforms during Special Olympics competitions and opening and closing ceremonies. This includes commercial markings as well as national flags. Restrictions should be made clear to all those involved at the appropriate time (organising committee meetings, volunteer recruitment, team managers meetings, technical officials briefings, etc.), in order to avoid any unpleasant surprises during the competition.

A summary is provided below for easy reference, but for the most detailed and up-to-date information, please refer to Special Olympics General Rules, Section 5.08: [Display of Commercial Messages at Games and Prohibition of the Display of National Flags](#).

- The normal commercial markings of the manufacturer are limited to the following:

Article of clothing	Permitted number	Permitted dimensions
<b>Large</b> (shirts, jackets, pants, etc.)	One logo or commercial name per clothing item is permissible	Not exceeding 38.7 square centimetres (six square inches) – for example, a display of 5.08 cm x 7.62 cm (2" x 3")
<b>Small</b> (caps, socks, gloves, etc.)	One logo or commercial name per clothing item is permissible	Not exceeding 19.35 square centimetres (three square inches)
<b>Athletic Shoes</b>	No logos or commercial names are permissible except for names or logos which are included by the manufacturer on athletic shoes which are sold to the public.	

- As per the established protocol of SOI, no national flags are permitted on the athletes' uniform, caps, swimsuits, towels, etc.
- Referees at Special Olympics World/Regional or other multi-program level games must ensure that the electronic score display systems, scoring devices, and result control systems do not display country flags. Instead, they can show the names of the Accredited Program for identification.



Photo credit: James Varghese

### 13. FINAL PREPARATIONS

Once the preparation is drawing to a close, there are a few final details that will ensure that the tournament gets off to a strong start and runs smoothly from the opening matches through to the finals.

#### ASSEMBLY POINT AND MARCH-ON

In Special Olympics competitions, the coaches march on with the players and the team of technical officials. The coaches will be with the players at the assembly point, which will also make the players feel more at ease. The referee should ensure that everyone is aware of the procedures to be followed.

#### PRELIMINARY AND ONGOING MEETINGS

The importance of the initial meetings for the success of the tournament has been amply discussed in the BWF Level 1 and Level 2 Referees' Manuals, and referees will need to apply those guidelines at any tournament in which they are involved. It is, of course, crucial to make sure that everyone knows what to expect and what is expected of them, but communication and teamwork are especially important with Special Olympics. The referee's leadership will set the tone for all interaction over the course of the tournament, and the initial meetings are a great way to encourage an approach that is both inclusive and professional.

### Team Managers/Head Coaches Meeting

The content of the meeting will generally not vary much from what has already been covered in the Level 1 and Level 2 manuals, except that it should include a quick overview of the divisioning and grouping process. However, one important difference with Special Olympics competitions is that the role of “team manager” or “head coach” is very often taken up by a family member of one of the players who got involved as a volunteer. As such, those who attend the team managers meeting are not always experienced with how such meetings, or even tournaments themselves, work. They may not be familiar with different types of draws or with “who does what” among the technical officials team.

Referees will want to be aware of this, and they will need to gauge the comprehension among the participants as the meeting progresses. If necessary, they should be ready to slow down, add some extra context or a short explanation here and there, and provide plenty of time for questions. They will also need to factor in some extra time when scheduling the meeting, to ensure that everyone’s questions are answered, without having to rush through anything.

### Umpire Briefing

As mentioned in the Para badminton section, the referee will want to find out as much as possible about the experience of the umpire crew beforehand. This relates to both umpiring in general and umpiring Special Olympics competitions. It will also be important to have some time to address any questions the umpires may have in either area (especially if they are not particularly experienced).

The referee will want to alert the umpires to details pertaining to the assembly point, such as the clothing inspection rules, coaches marching on with the players and the technical officials team, and the fact that coaches will accompany the players during the coin toss. Umpires should be aware that coaches can be of assistance with communication and with making the players feel at ease, as well as with any difficulties when players may feel overwhelmed or frustrated (or even elated).

Finally, it would be advisable for referees to review the guidelines for inclusive communication with the umpires and line judges, in order to make them feel at ease and prepared to officiate their matches in a way that helps the players concentrate on playing their best.

### Daily Briefings

Daily briefings will ideally be held for technical officials, as well as for team managers/head coaches. They are an important mechanism to share updates, clarify any questions or issues that have come up, and “take the temperature” of how things are going in general. They are key to keeping things moving along positively, maintaining good communication, and heading off any problems before they happen or get too serious. As such, the importance of daily briefings should not be underestimated.



Photo credit: Special Olympics UAE

## PROTEST AND APPEALS

The referee must be aware that SOI regulations allow for the filing of a protest to a “Sport Specific Jury” (consisting of the TD, the referee, and the competition manager, at a minimum).

Who can file a protest?	Head Coach or his/her designee in the absence of a Head Coach
Protest allowed for:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wrong interpretation of the Laws of Badminton or pertinent regulations.</li> <li>• Failure to apply the correct Laws/ Regulations.</li> <li>• Failure to impose a proper penalty for a violation.</li> </ul>
Protests not allowed for:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fact-specific judgment by technical officials on court.</li> <li>• Decisions involving divisioning or meaningful involvement.</li> </ul>

If the decision by the Sport Specific Jury is not satisfactory, the protesting team can file an appeal to the “Jury of Appeals” within 60 minutes from the relevant decision of the Sport Specific Jury. The Jury of Appeals shall be the final authority for all the rule interpretations and appeals during the game. See the Sport Rules Article 1 (sections 8.4 and 8.5) for more details on the composition and responsibilities of the juries.

In practical terms, this also means that referees must ensure that no active protests are pending a decision from either of these juries before handing over the results to the match control. In other words, the referee must see to it that the teams have had adequate time to file protests after their matches before officially publishing the results.

## 14. THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS EXPERIENCE

Special Olympics competitions provide an inclusive sporting experience that offers all those involved – athletes, coaches, organisers, technical officials, volunteers, and families – an opportunity for meaningful interaction and achievement.

### THE SPIRIT OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS

During Special Olympics competitions, athletes of all ability levels are encouraged to participate. As such, there may be players with very basic skill levels in the starting divisions of a particular gender/ age group, on up to intermediate or advanced players in the higher divisions of the same gender/age group. All the participants are recognised for their performance, from participation ribbons on up to winner and runner-up medals. In short, everyone is a winner.

The technical officials should endeavour wholeheartedly to make the competition experience a fair, pleasant, and enjoyable one. It is a customary for the Special Olympics competitions to begin with an oath, whether during the opening ceremony or just before the start of the session. It may be taken by all the technical officials or by a representative, and it states:

*“In the name of all judges and officials, I promise that we shall officiate this Special Olympics competition with complete impartiality, respecting and abiding by the rules that govern them, in the spirit of sportsmanship.”*



Photo credit: James Varghese

## GENERAL GUIDELINES / INCLUSIVE COMMUNICATION

Effective communication is an especially important part of making Special Olympics matches a positive experience for all those involved. First and foremost, this means approaching the athletes in a respectful, calm, friendly and courteous manner, just as you would with any other players. Special Olympics athletes do not want to be treated like children, so it is important to use an age-appropriate style of interaction. Perhaps one notable difference is that it is acceptable, and even advisable, to involve the coaches when communicating with the players. Players are generally most comfortable when their coaches are around and involved.

Following are some tips that may be useful in communicating with Special Olympics athletes:

- **Be patient and understanding:** Special Olympics athletes often need extra time to process information and understand instructions. It is important to speak slowly and clearly in simplified language and to give them time to process one bit of information before moving on to the next.
- **Try to understand the players' strengths and weaknesses:** Some will have hearing difficulties and will rely on reading lips, so it is important to subtly make this as easy for the athlete as possible. Some of the athletes will have physical impairments as well. Observe the athletes to see what they can and can't do, in addition to asking their coaches as necessary.
- **Build trust with the athletes:** This will make the competition and the interaction in general much more enjoyable for everyone. Eye contact, your facial expressions, and your body language will go a long way towards making athletes feel comfortable.
- **Involve the interpreter and/or coach:** For athletes who use sign language, this will help you communicate more effectively and put them at ease.

The spirit of inclusive communication is to encourage all technical officials to do everything they can, within the limits of the Laws of Badminton, to help Special Olympics athletes perform their best. For more tips on working with people with intellectual disabilities, please click [here](#).



Photo credit: James Varghese

## 15. BADMINTON FOR THE DEAF

There are local, national and international badminton competitions for the deaf, and many deaf players also participate in mainstream clubs and competitions. As mentioned in the introduction, badminton for the deaf uses standard BWF regulations. As such, whether technical officials are involved in a competition for the deaf or happen to be officiating a match that includes a deaf player, there are absolutely no differences in rules or procedures.

Badminton has been part of the Deaflympics since 1985, and competition includes singles, doubles, and team events. More information on the eligibility requirements for Deaflympics and other competitions sanctioned by the International Committee of Sport for the Deaf (ICSD) can be found [here](#). It is important to note that players are not allowed to use any kind of hearing aid or amplification device during official Deaf Badminton competitions.

The main considerations for technical officials should be around effective communication with the players, which includes:

- articulating announcements clearly
- establishing eye contact and facing the players, which can help with lip reading
- being mindful of non-verbal communication
- supporting announcements such as “Fault” or “Let” with hand signals to ensure that players understand
- refraining from any unnecessary or distracting gestures

Scoring displays (TV screens or other) will help players follow the score more easily. In Deaf Badminton competitions there should be a sign language interpreter available, in case any additional assistance is required. All of these elements will help technical officials and players communicate successfully, without the players being treated any differently.

## 16. CONCLUSION

The aim of this guide has been to provide referees with a better understanding of the particular challenges that different players may face, as well as how this may (or may not) impact the competition in question. Of course, referees also need a solid understanding of rules, regulations, and procedures, and this guide seeks to support them in understanding the requirements in question, as well as in knowing where to turn for further information. However, as emphasized throughout the BWF Referees' Manuals, being a referee is essentially about working with people, and this guide should help referees enjoy working with an even wider range of badminton players and coaches.



**BWF**

BADMINTON WORLD FEDERATION  
Unit 1, Level 29  
Naza Tower, Platinum Park  
10 Persiaran KLCC  
50088 Kuala Lumpur

Tel +603 2381 9188  
Fax +603 2303 9688

[bwf@bwf.sport](mailto:bwf@bwf.sport)