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FAO:
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Dear Badminton Colleagues

CHANGES TO REGULATIONS

The recent BWF Council meeting on Friday 3rd June 2011 agreed a number of changes both to General Competition Regulations and to specific competition regulations including those relating to the OSIM BWF World Super Series, World Championships, Sudirman Cup, World Junior Championships, and Thomas & Uber Cup. This is not yet a finished process but the Events Committee of BWF are pleased that the bulk of the changes and proposals proposed and discussed over the last year are now confirmed.

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

Law 9.1 - Proposal from China Badminton Association

BWF Council believe the proposal from China Badminton Association to amend Law 9.1 (Service rule) merits further study. This proposal compliments BWF's own experiment on a fixed service height conducted in Paris in August last year (but at a different fixed height). No change to Law 9.1 is being made at this time but further experiments will be carried out and an analysis made of the findings, which if positive may lead to the submission of a law change proposal after the London 2012 Olympic Games.

RTTO 3.5.6.3

The above was reworded to make the regulation consistent with Appendix 9, Code of Conduct for Coaches, Team and Technical Officials (3.3):

'If in the opinion of the umpire, play is disrupted or a player of the opposing side is distracted by a coach, a 'let' shall be called (Law 14.2.5). The Referee shall be called immediately **on recurrence of such incident**'.

Coaches, Team and Technical Officials Code of Conduct

It was agreed to include the additional clause under

2. Coaches/Team Officials during a match and/or while they are on or off court:

2.8 'must not bring the sport into disrepute through media comments relating to technical officials either pre or post match that are personal in nature, imply bias, or question the integrity of the technical officials in charge of the match or tournament'.

And an additional clause under:

3 Sanctions for Breach of Code of Conduct for Coaches and Team Officials;

3.6 'If BWF adjudge that there is a breach of 2.8 the Member Association of the official concerned will be automatically fined US\$500 and an explanation sought for the comments. If so decided by BWF further punishment such as a ban from entering the arena floor for a stipulated period or number of events may also be applied'.

General Competition Regulation 15.3.4 Redraw of Main draw if no qualifying & large number of withdrawals

A new clause has been introduced in General Competition Regulations 15.3.4:

'In exceptional circumstances the Referee may redraw a particular main draw that has been rendered severely imbalanced, provided there is no qualifying and play in that draw has not begun.'

As a guide it should be noted that severely imbalanced is where a large number of players and seeds have withdrawn from one side of the draw not just seeds. This clause should be very rarely implemented and is there as a tool for the Referee if a crisis has occurred (for example the problems caused by the restrictions on air travel after the Icelandic Volcano eruption in 2010).

General Competition Regulation 14.7 Redraw of Qualifying draw

A slight change of wording was agreed to GCR 14.7:

'The Referee may re-draw a particular qualifying draw if it has been rendered **severely** imbalanced and if play in that draw has not begun.'

General Competition Regulation 12.15

This regulation was expanded to make it clearer:

After taking entries into the main draw based on the World Ranking **and Adjusted and Notional Rankings (GCR 12.6)**, as on the date specified in Appendix 8 (refer to Part III, Section IB, Appendix 8) and there are vacancies in the draw to be filled by entries without a World Ranking **or Adjusted and Notional Rankings (GCR 12.6)**, they shall be drawn by Nationality **of such entries** and then the entry with the highest National ranking from that Country is taken'.

General Competition Regulations 13.8.3

This regulation was expanded to make it clearer:

After taking entries into the qualifying draw based on the World Ranking **and Adjusted and Notional Rankings (GCR 12.6)**, as on the date specified in Appendix 8 (refer to Part III, Section IB, Appendix 8) and there are vacancies in the draw to be filled by entries without a World Ranking **or Adjusted and Notional Rankings (GCR 12.6)**, they shall be drawn by Nationality of **such entries** and then the entry with the highest National ranking from that Country is taken’.

General Competition Regulation 23 (Clothing Advertising Regulations)

BWF Council decided not to approve the proposal from CBA at this time to increase advertising opportunities on player clothing but to undertake further investigation, in partnership with BWF commercial and media agency partners, into the example of other sports and the best strategic approach to grow the Sports commercial revenues as a whole.

General Competition Regulations 19.2

Further to the decision by BWF Council to postpone implementation of the change to Regulation 19.2 (agreed in November 2010) it was agreed o change 19.2 as follows:

‘In order to ensure attractive presentation of Badminton at tournaments organized or sanctioned by the BWF, all clothing worn by players shall be acceptable Badminton Sports clothing. It is not acceptable to tape over nor to pin on advertising nor in any way to modify such clothing to comply with advertising or other regulations’.

This removes the sentence: **‘In level 1 to 3 tournaments women must wear skirts or dresses’**.

Consequently it was agreed to remove the reference in **Appendix 11 – Table of Offences and Penalties** relating to non compliance with 19.2 (failure to wear skirts or dresses). **But instead it was agreed to include that failure to comply with Regulations 19 to 21 inclusive will be punishable by a US\$ 250 fine.**

In the first instance however the Referee will always be expected to ask the player to change or solve the problem first and only report the breach if the player cannot change and comply with the clothing regulations.

General Competition Regulation 2.12 & Appendix 10 – BWF Sanction Policy (Exhibition matches)

It was agreed to add to GCR 2.12 Definition of an exhibition match and to include in Appendix 10 – BWF Sanction Policy:

‘Special dispensation may be given at the discretion of BWF’.

Appendix 10 – BWF Sanction Policy

It was agreed that the following wording should be included in Appendix 10 – BWF Sanction Policy:

'Level 2 to 4 tournaments must start and finish in the same Calendar Week (Monday to Sunday)'.

General Competition Regulations 12 (Placement of byes in 64 draw -Table 3)

It was agreed to adjust distribution of the byes in Table 3 (64 draw) to:

First 8 byes:

39, 26, 55, 10, 47, 18, 63, 2

Second 8 byes

35, 30, 51, 14, 43, 22, 59, 6 (previously this was the third group listed)

Third 8 byes

37, 28, 53, 12, 45, 20, 61, 4 (previously this was the second group listed)

Clarification of wording of Appendix 7.1.13 – Notional points

It was agreed to adopt a revised wording to make the regulation clearer:

'The pre-requisite for having notional rankings is that at least one player in the pair must have played with a different partner during the 52 week period prior to the seeding date'.

Wild cards in World Championships

It was felt that the current wild card regulations for the host country are too generous and the regulations should be amended so that host country places are only awarded when there are no players or pairs qualifying via the normal process **(to come into effect for 2013)**.

General Competition Regulation 26.11.3 & 26.11.4 Practice Regulations

It was agreed to adopt new regulations relating to practice provision:

GCR 26.11.3

Practice time must be offered in the practice hall and main venue throughout the competition and it shall be allocated on an equitable basis having regard to the number of active players in each team.

GCR 26.11.4

It is recommended that main hall practice be available for approximately 3 hours per day to players active in the tournament. The practice schedule must be agreed with the Referee in advance of the tournament.

General Competition Regulation 24 Results

It was agreed to revise this regulation to take into account the new system (for levels 1 to 4) of submitting results via the Tournament Planner software file.

GCR 24.1

The draw must be e-mailed to BWF, via the stipulated software file, as soon as it has been made.

GCR 24.2

The results must be e-mailed to the BWF, using the stipulated software file on a daily basis showing full player names, Member Associations who have entered the players and the BWF numbers where players have them.

GCR 24.3

Final results must be e-mailed to the BWF within 24 hours of the conclusion of the event, using the stipulated software file. In case of contingency, the print out of the updated draws must be faxed within the stipulated time. Those not received will be excluded from the World Ranking.

Sudirman Cup Regulations

SC Regulation Part III Section 4, 3.3

It was agreed delete 'In each such group of eight, one sub group shall have the teams ranked first, fourth, fifth and eighth in the group and the other sub group shall have the teams ranked second, third, sixth, and seventh in the group'. As this conflicts with SC regulation 5.2.

Mixed Nationality pairs points not counted in team seedings.

Further to the proposal made by Bulgaria BA to include points from players who are in mixed nationality pairs when calculating the team seedings for Sudirman Cup it was agreed to introduce a system of notional points, using the player in the next ranked pair of the same nationality.

Team Seedings – Inclusion of Players not yet eligible for International representation

It was agreed that players not yet eligible for international representation (even if they have completed the required player transfer forms) should not be included in the calculations for team seedings. Appropriate wording to this effect will be added to SC Regulation 3.4.3

SC Regulation 13.1 Permissible Orders of Play

It was agreed to recommend to amend the list of permissible orders of play to 6 – 13.1.1 to 13.1.6.

SC Regulation 4.2

It was agreed to recommend a change of wording from 'Chief Operating Officer' to: 'Entries must be received by the **BWF** not later than the closing date notified in the invitation to compete (Annexure I)'.

OSIM BWF World Superseries Finals Prize Money Distribution

It was agreed that the Superseries Regulations on the distribution of prize money for the Superseries Finals be adjusted by BWF office to allow the third placed player/pair in the group to receive more than the fourth placed player/pair (currently both players/pairs in the group receive the same prize money). This will be calculated using the same principles for the current distribution.

World Team Rankings

It was also agreed that the World Nations Rankings instead be called the World Team Rankings as they are for member associations rather than countries.

It was agreed to publish them on a quarterly basis and to include the points of mixed nationality pairs through notional points and the points of a player in the next highest ranked pair of the same nationality.

World Junior Rankings

It was agreed that points should be awarded (and also for the adult World rankings when playing in groups) as round based results. So for example players who go through to knock out stages receive points in the normal way and those left behind in the group receive points as follows (if following Superseries finals for example):

The 2 number 3's in the groups receive points as though finishing 5/8.

The 2 number 4's in groups receive points as though finishing 9/16 round.

An appropriate regulation reflecting this will be included in Appendix 6 – World Ranking System.

World Junior Championships 2011

It was agreed that in the Individual event if a MA has no team in the team competition they will be restricted in the individual event to 2 Men's and 2 Women's singles (plus doubles) and the seeding process will be 'done by the BWF with consideration of the World Junior Rankings' but otherwise unchanged from the current regulations.

BWF Sanction Fee System

It was agreed to adopt a system to calculate the BWF Sanction fee in two stages; 10% of amounts up to \$500,000 and then 5% for amounts over \$500,000. So for example if a prize fund is \$1 million then the first \$500,000 provides 10% (\$50,000) and the next \$500,000 provides an additional 5% (\$25,000) to give a total sanction fee of \$75,000. An appropriate wording reflecting the above to be included in GCR 3.2. **To be implemented from 1st January 2012.**

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

Kind regards



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