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FAO:
Member Associations
Badminton World Federation

Dear Badminton Colleagues

CHANGES TO COMPETITION REGULATIONS

The recent BWF Council meeting on Friday 3rd December agreed a large number of changes both to General Competition Regulations and to specific competition regulations including those relating to the BWF Superseries, 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.

We apologise that there is a lot of detail to process in this letter but the aim is to start the process of communicating these changes so that they can be clearly understood and implemented by Member Associations. The updated Regulations will soon be on BWF's website. The regulation changes below come into effect on 1st January 2011 unless stated otherwise (for example 19.2 comes into effect 1st May 2011).

GENERAL COMPETITION REGULATIONS

GCR 3.4.2

If fewer than 90 days before the date of the tournament, any level 4 BWF sanctioned tournament or International tournament offering prize money less than US\$ 50,000 is cancelled, postponed or the prize money as in Regulation 3.3 is reduced, the organiser shall pay the Continental Confederation recommending sanction a fee equivalent to 20% of the total prize money

GCR 5.1 – Entries & Control of Entries including new Online Entry System (& corresponding changes to GCR 12.15 &L 13.8.3)

A new process for placing players in the draw without a world ranking was agreed that requires MA's to provide their entries in National ranking order. Also the testing on the new Online Entry system has been very positive and after a period of shadow testing the first official test events, Hong Kong Open, China Open and India Grand Prix have progressed satisfactorily. Feedback from users so far has been very encouraging with many positive comments made. The aim is to continue testing until March and thereafter level 1 to 3 tournaments will be online entry only. If Continental Confederations are ready and willing and subject to some technical alterations with the system, they may start testing the system for level 4 tournaments in March with a view to only accepting online entries from May.

Online Entries

To help facilitate online entries the following regulation change was agreed:

5.1 Procedure for sending the entries:

5.1.1 For all tournaments requiring the BWF sanction, an entry of player / pair must be made by the Member Association of which the player / pair is a member by midnight local time of the BWF Head Quarters on the closing date in the manner specified by the BWF. **The MA submitting the entries shall specify their National ranking order.**

5.1.2 Where the entries are sent using the BWF Online Entry System, after the closing date, the BWF Online Entry System will send an Entry Confirmation to all participating Member Associations confirming the receipt of final entries. This confirmation is the conclusive evidence of receipt of entries before the deadline. The Member Associations shall contact BWF immediately if such confirmation is not received by Wednesday by noon BWF Headquarters time (+08.00 GMT) following close of entries. Any objection to the entries should be notified to BWF. Following the close of entries if no objection is received by BWF by Thursday 23.59 hours BWF Headquarters time (+08.00GMT) the entries shall be deemed to be correct. No complaints / objections shall be entertained thereafter.

5.1.3 Where the entries are not sent using the BWF Online Entry System, it is the responsibility of the organiser to acknowledge receipt of the entries of player / pair and any subsequent amendment prior to the closing date for entries. It is the responsibility of the Member Association to ensure that confirmation of acceptance is received.

In addition to the above, changes to Regulations 12.15 and 13.8.3 below were agreed to reflect the new process for creating the M and Q list where there are vacancies to fill from players with no World Ranking:

GCR 12.15

'After taking entries into the main draw based on the World Ranking, as specified in Appendix 8 (refer to Part III, Section 1B, Appendix 8) and there are vacancies in the draw to be filled by entries without a World Ranking, they shall be drawn by Nationality and then the entry with the highest National ranking from that Country is taken'.

GCR 13.8.3

'After taking entries into the qualifying draw based on the World Ranking, as specified in Appendix 8 (refer to Part III, Section 1B, Appendix 8) and there are vacancies in the draw to be filled by entries without a World Ranking, they shall be drawn by Nationality and then the entry with the highest National ranking from that Country is taken'.

New GCR 5.10 (Wild Cards)

Following the proposal made by Sweden in December 2009 and subsequent discussion in the relevant working groups and Events Committee it was agreed to introduce following regulation to GCR 5.10 to allow level 3 and 4 tournaments the right to include a wild card in their main draw if there are no other participants from the host country:

'In level 3 and 4 tournaments if the host Association does not have an entry in the main draw in an event they may elect to include a wildcard entry in that event. Wildcards will not win World Ranking points unless they win a match (a walkover does not count as winning a match)'.

GCR 12 Table 1

It was agreed to extend this table to include number of entries 3 to 8.

GCR 12.6.4

A minor change was agreed to make this Regulation clearer:

'A pair may have a seeding from one to four on the basis of any World Ranking but a seeding no higher than five based on any notional ranking and/or adjusted ranking. However, if the number of players/pairs having world rankings is less than the permissible number of seeding places, the **remaining seeding** places can be based on the notional or adjusted world ranking'.

GCR 14.5

Regulation 14.5 had the wrong cross reference instead of 14.2 it should be as follows:

'The withdrawals reported after the managers' meeting shall be dealt with by the Referee as and when they arise (as in Regulation **14.3**).

GCR 15.8 (current 15.8 to renumber as 15.9)

'If a player or pair fails to turn up in time for a match the Referee may declare a 'no show' and award the match as a walk over to the opposing player or pair'.

GCR 16.3.8:

'if a team is unable to complete all their pool ties, all the results of that team shall be deleted'.

GCR 16.4

The following Order of plays are recommended in matches played in a pool system:

Group of 3	Group of 4	Group of 5	Group of 6
1 v 3	1 v 4	1 v 5	1 v 6
	2 v 3	2 v 4	2 v 4
2 v 3			3 v 5
	1 v 3	3 v 5	
1 v 2	2 v 4	1 v 4	1 v 4
			2 v 5
	3 v 4	2 v 5	3 v 6
	1 v 2	1 v 3	
			1 v 3
		4 v 5	2 v 6
		2 v 3	4 v 5
		3 v 4	1 v 5
		1 v 2	2 v 3
			4 v 6
			5 v 6
			3 v 4
			1 v 2

CLOTHING REGULATIONS

GCR 19.2 – to be implemented from 1st May 2011

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. **In level 1 to 3 tournaments women must wear skirts or dresses.** 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.

It was also agreed that failure to abide by this regulation would be included as a penalty in **Appendix 11 – Table of Offences and Penalties.**

GCR 20.3.2 & 20.4.2

In Continental Circuit tournaments the colour of clothing is optional or dependent on the Continental Confederation's regulations.

GCR 20.3.3 & 20.4.3

In World Senior Championships the colour of clothing is optional.

GCR 20.3.4 & 20.4.4

In Superseries tournaments it is mandatory that in the main draw the opposing players in each match wear significantly different colours from each other.

GCR 20.3.5 & 20.4.5

In Grand Prix tournaments, it is mandatory that, from the quarter final onwards, the opposing players in each match wear significantly different colours from each other.

GCR 20.3.6 & 20.4.6

In World Championships, it is mandatory that the opposing players in each match wear significantly different colours from each other.

GCR 20.3.7 & 20.4.7

In World Junior Championships (Individual & Team Championships), it is mandatory that the opposing players in each match wear significantly different colours from each other.

GCR 20.3.8 & 20.4.8

In Thomas & Uber Cups continental stage, it is recommended that the opposing players in each match wear significantly different colours from each other. In Thomas & Uber Cups finals stage, it is mandatory that the opposing players in each match wear significantly different colours from each other.

GCR 20.3.9 & 20.4.9

In Sudirman Cup, it is mandatory that the opposing players in each match wear significantly different colours from each other.

GCR 20.3.10 & 20.4.10

In Olympic Games, it is mandatory for the opposing players in each match to wear significantly different colours from each other. Preferred colours of shirts need to be registered before the Games.

GCR 20.4.3

In BWF level 1 and 2 tournaments, it is mandatory for doubles partners to wear the same colour from the start of the main draw onwards. In BWF level 1 and 2 tournaments it is mandatory from the main draw onwards, the opposing pairs in each match wear significantly different colours from each other.

In BWF level 3 tournaments it is mandatory for doubles partners to wear the same colour from the quarter finals onwards. In BWF level 3 tournaments it is mandatory from the quarter finals onwards, the opposing pairs in each match wear significantly different colours from each other.

GCR 20.5

For all team championships, preferred colours of shirts should be registered with the BWF.

GCR 20.6

In individual and team championships if the opposing players/pairs involved in a match are not wearing significantly different coloured clothing, the player/pair ranked lower will be required to wear clothing of a significantly different colour. Where both players/pairs have the same or no ranking the player or pair listed lower in the first M & Q report made for the tournament will be required to change the colour of clothing.

GCR 23.2.1 to be implemented from 1st May 2011

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

WITHDRAWAL REGULATIONS

GCR 25.1.2

'Any withdrawal after the Sunday immediately preceding the draw for any reason whatsoever, renders the Member Association concerned liable to an amount of US\$250 per player/pair to the BWF for level 1 tournaments, to the organisers and BWF for level 2 & 3 tournaments and US\$150 for level 4 BWF sanctioned tournaments to the organisers, Continental Confederation and BWF, for the inconvenience caused by the withdrawal'.

GCR 25.1.4

For the purpose of these regulations, retiring from a match shall not be considered to be a withdrawal. **'A No show for a match in a tournament shall be treated as a walkover to the opposition and shall not prevent a player/pair from competing in another event in the same tournament.'**

Also as a consequence of the above **Player Code of Conduct 4.1** to be changed to read – **'No show'** and not disqualification. Also relevant clause in **Appendix 11 Tables of Offences and Penalties** to read **'No Show'** and not disqualification.

GCR 25.1.6

'The payment of withdrawal fees shall be collected by the BWF and the amount shall be forwarded to the organisers after US\$50 per withdrawal is retained by BWF except as follows:

If the player was entered by the Member Association under whose jurisdiction the competition was held, the whole payment shall be retained by the BWF.

For level 1 tournaments the whole withdrawal fee is retained by BWF.

For level 2 and 3 tournaments US\$50 is retained by BWF.

For level 4 tournaments US\$50 shall be forwarded to the organisers, US\$50 to the Continental Confederation and US\$50 is retained by BWF. If the player was entered by the Member Association under whose jurisdiction the competition was held, then the payment shall be equally divided between BWF and the Continental confederation'.

New GCR 28.3 (current 28.3 becomes 28.4 etc.) Player Movement

It was agreed that MA's must abide by a new process when a player from another MA comes under their jurisdiction. Both the MA the player has left and the MA the player has moved to must jointly inform BWF via a new form designed for this purpose. The following regulation was agreed:

'A player may be entered into BWF sanctioned competitions by any Member Associations on the condition that BWF have been informed in the format required by BWF and there is no objection from another Member Association'.

GCR - Appendix 6 – World Ranking System

There have been a few changes to the World Ranking system – please see document attached. In particular please note the new wording with regards the minimum entries to allow an event to qualify for World Ranking points, the option for Continental Confederations to swap ranking points from their Continental Championships to the appropriate Continental Multi Sports Games (if the two events are in the same Continental territory), the new points level awarded for Superseries Premier and BWF World Superseries Finals and a new points total for 3rd place in the Olympic Games.

GCR - Appendix 9 – Coaches & Team Officials Code of Conduct – Anti Betting Clause

It was agreed to extend the Coaches Code of Conduct to include a section applicable to Technical Officials and for all Coaches, team officials and technical officials to include the following relating to Anti Betting:

Sanctions for Breach of Code of Conduct for Coaches and Team Officials & Technical Officials:

'Any coach, team or technical official who commits any offence defined in clauses 3 to 5 shall be deemed to have breached this Code. Breaches of the Code constitute the basis for disciplinary action against the coach, team or technical official. General Competition Regulations 31 Penalties applies.'

'Wagering anything of value in connection with a tournament in which one will be, or is working at, in any accredited capacity may result in disciplinary proceedings including possible fines and suspension against Coaches and Team Officials who are reported for such a breach'.

GCR - Appendix 10 – Sanction Policy

It was agreed that countries may host two level 4 tournaments but these must be of different levels, any combination of International Challenge, International Series, and or Future Series.

Timelines for Thomas & Uber Cup, Sudirman Cup, and World Championships

It was agreed that the timelines in the above relating to the draw date be changed to allow more freedom for BWF to choose the optimum date for the draw:

'BWF will decide the date of the draw'.

Thomas & Uber Cup 12.3

It was agreed to move the following paragraph currently under 12.3.2 to 12.3.1 to make the regulation clearer:

'Pairings with no World Ranking shall be placed in the ranking order according to current doubles strength. To arrive at a final ranking order, the Referee will use the procedures in General Competition Regulations 12.6.1 and 12.6.2 where they apply'.

BWF Super series Regulations

BWF Council agreed the changes to the attached BWF Superseries Regulations, which essentially reflect the creation of a BWF Superseries Guidelines manual and the new commercial arrangements in the new three year cycle.

Anti Doping Regulations

Please see attached the amended Anti Doping Regulations taking into account recent changes in how WADA implement anti doping procedures.

World Junior Championships Regulations

It was agreed to change the above to include a note in the seeding process for the Individual Championships to include consideration of the World Junior Rankings and a restriction on entries depending on whether MA's send a team to the Team Championships. The aim being to motivate countries to support the Team Championships. A new competition format for the team event was also agreed by Council with a full set of regulations to be developed and submitted in May 2011 for Council approval.

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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Enc:

New World Ranking System -Appendix 6
Anti Doping Regulations
BWF Superseries Regulations - Appendix A – D
BWF Sanction Policy - Appendix 10
On Line Entries Guidance Notes