

PART III

SECTION 2

REGULATIONS FOR THE THOMAS AND UBER CUPS**1. DEFINITION**

The Competition for the Thomas Cup shall be the ‘Men’s Team World Badminton Championship’, and the Competition for the Uber Cup shall be the ‘Women’s Team World Badminton Championship’. Every Member Association (Rule 2.1) shall be entitled to take part subject to the conditions of Regulation 4.

2. GENERAL ORGANISATION

- 2.1 The Competitions shall be conducted in accordance with the Laws of Badminton. The General Competition Regulations will apply except where specific provisions are contained in these Regulations. Where there is any conflict or apparent conflict, the Regulations for the Thomas and Uber Cups shall take precedence.
- 2.2 Each Competition shall be managed by the BWF, who shall appoint a Committee of Management for the purpose. The Committee of Management shall be of at least three persons, one member of the BWF Events Committee, one from the host Member Association and the Referee. The Committee of Management shall have power to co-opt persons and also to delegate any of the duties to a sub-Committee.

3. METHOD OF COMPETITION

- 3.1 The Competition shall be held together every two years on a date to be decided by BWF.
- 3.2 The Competitions shall be held in two stages – a continental stage and the final stage, known as the “Thomas & Uber Cup Finals”.
- 3.3 Continental Stage format:
- 3.3.1 Each Continental Confederation shall organize a Continental stage event to determine the required number of qualifiers from their continent. The Continental Confederation will determine the overall format which best suits its expected team entry numbers, and will hold the event on the dates set aside in the BWF International Calendar.
- 3.3.2 Each Continental Confederation shall communicate to the BWF on the day of completion of the Continental Stage Competition a list of teams in ranking order. This list shall include one or more teams than the number of places at the Thomas & Uber Cup Finals allocated (see Regulation 3.4.2) to the respective Continental Confederation.
- 3.3.3 Additional qualifiers will be added to the Finals in both competitions from the World Rankings.

4. Format

- 4.1 The Thomas & Uber Cup’s shall be contested by 16 teams which include:

No. of teams	Description / Continent
One	Trophy Holder
One	Host Member Association
Fourteen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-finalists from Asia (4) • Semi-finalists from Europe (4) • Winner from Africa (1) • Winner from Oceania (1) • Winner from Pan Am (1) • Next three highest ranked teams (excluding above) from the World Ranking (3)

*If the trophy holder and/or Host Member Association also take part and occupy a qualifying position in its respective Continental qualifying tournament, the next one or two highest ranked teams (excluding above) from the World rankings in the same continent would also qualify.

- 4.1.1 The final stage shall be played initially in groups, followed by a knockout draw.
- 4.1.2 Initially, the sixteen teams shall play in four groups of four, where all teams in a given group play each other. A final overall ranking order for each group shall be achieved (see diagram below).

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4

4.2 Qualification & Seeding:

- 4.2.1 In addition to the holders & hosts and continental qualifiers, three (3) participating teams will qualify based on the overall strength of the team. All participating teams will be seeded based on the overall strength of the team.
- 4.2.2 The overall strength of the team will be determined based on the World Ranking list as stated in the time lines in Annexure I.
- 4.2.3 Total ranking points of the three highest ranked singles players and two doubles pairs from each country shall be compared to determine the overall strength of the team. Where no world ranking is available the ranking points will be taken as zero.
- 4.2.4 By this determination all the participating teams will be ranked in their order of strength.

5. **Draw:**

- 5.1 The draw, at which each competing Member Association may be represented, shall be made as per the time lines specified in Annexure I.
- 5.2 Full details of the draw shall be notified to each competing Member Association.
- 5.3 Any team withdrawing from the Competition or defaulting after the draw has been made shall:
- 5.3.1 immediately give a written explanation to BWF; and
- 5.3.2 render themselves liable to such action as shall be decided by BWF.
- 5.4 The top two ranked teams shall be dealt with as follows:
- 5.4.1 No. 1 placed at the top of Group A
- 5.4.2 No. 2 placed at the top of Group D
- 5.5 The other ranked teams shall be dealt with as follows:
- 5.5.1 No. 3 and 4 drawn by lot at the top of Groups B and C
- 5.5.2 No. 5 to 8 drawn by lot at the second position of the groups
- 5.5.3 No. 9 to 16 drawn by lot at the third and fourth position of the groups
- 5.6 The draw to allocate teams to the groups shall be conducted in a manner determined by the BWF

- 5.7 In all group play, the team ranking order shall be established in accordance with General Competition Regulation 16:
- 5.8 Draw for the Knock-out stage:
- 5.8.1 The draw for the knock-out stage of the Competition shall be done immediately after the last match of the group play off is over.
- 5.8.2 Two top ranked teams from each group will qualify for this stage.
- 5.8.3 The top teams of each group will be ranked in order of their strength in the manner described in Regulation 4.2.3, based on the most recently published World Ranking immediately preceding the date of the draw. These teams will be considered as Seed No. 1 to 4 for the draw.
- 5.8.4 The 4 seeded teams will be placed in the draw as per General Competition Regulation 12. Remaining teams will be placed in the draw by lot.

6. ENTRIES

- 6.1 Each Member Association is entitled to take part subject to qualification (see Regulation 4) and the timelines for qualification outlined in Annexure I.
- 6.2 Each Member Association is responsible for determining the criteria and method of selecting players for entry, and for entering players, to represent their Association.
- 6.3 Member Associations shall confirm their acceptance of entry after the qualification deadline.

7. TEAM MANAGER

- 7.1 Each Member Association concerned shall appoint a manager of its team and notify BWF of the appointment within the stipulated time as per Annexure I.
- 7.2 From the time of arrival at the venue, the manager shall assume all administrative and other responsibilities on behalf of the Member Association and its team at the competition
- 7.3 The Team Manager shall attend any briefing meeting called by the Referee or Committee of Management. (Refer Part III Section 1A - GCR – Regulation 31.2).

8. CONSTITUTION OF TIES AND TEAMS

- 8.1 Each tie shall be decided by the results of
- First Singles;
Second Singles;
Third Singles;
First Doubles; and
Second Doubles.
- 8.2 Group play
- 8.2.1 In group play, all five matches of each tie shall be played.
- 8.2.2 In non-group play, each tie shall be stopped when the tie is decided.
- 8.3 In singles, each team shall play its three players according to the order as determined by Regulation 9.3.

- 8.4 In doubles, each team shall play its two pairs according to the order as determined by Regulation 9.3.
- 8.5 No player shall play in more than one singles and one doubles match.

9. NOMINATION OF TEAMS

- 9.1 Each competing Member Association is responsible for determining the criteria and method of selecting players for nomination, and for nominating players, to represent its Association.
- 9.2 Each competing Member Association shall nominate to the BWF not fewer than four players and not more than ten players, from whom its team will be selected for a tie, within the stipulated time as per Annexure I.
- 9.3 Ranking Order
- 9.3.1 All players nominated shall be listed in order consistent with current World Rankings in singles. Players with no World Ranking shall be placed in the ranking order according to current singles strength.
- 9.3.2 Intended doubles pairings shall be listed in order consistent with current World Rankings in doubles as follows:
- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| 4 nominated players | : | the 6 possible pairings |
| 5 nominated players | : | the 10 possible pairings |
| 6 nominated players | : | the 15 possible pairings |
| 7, 8, 9 or 10 players | : | the 21 possible or most probable pairings |
- 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.
- 9.3.3 The Referee has discretion to amend the ranking order for players or pairings without a world ranking.
- 9.4 Nomination of team for a tie
- 9.4.1 Each manager shall hand to the Referee within stipulated time fixed (Annexure I) before the start of any tie the composition of the team for each tie in the order as stated in Regulation 8.1
- 9.4.2 These players and pairings shall be selected from those previously nominated and be in the order as ranked (Regulation 12.1 to 12.3). The ranking order of any doubles pairing not previously listed shall be at the discretion of the Referee, who will use General Competition Regulations 12.6.1 and 12.6.2 where they apply.
- 9.5 The use of General Competition Regulations 12.6.1 and 12.6.2 in Regulation 10 shall apply to pairs regardless of whether or not they competed together during the ranking period.

10. ORDER OF PLAY

- 10.1 There are eight permissible orders of play:
- 10.1.1 First singles - first doubles - second singles - second doubles - third singles
- 10.1.2 First singles - second doubles - second singles - first doubles - third singles
- 10.1.3 First singles - second singles - first doubles - third singles - second doubles
- 10.1.4 First singles - second singles - second doubles - third singles - first doubles

- 10.1.5 First singles - second singles - third singles - first doubles - second doubles
- 10.1.6 First singles - second singles - third singles - second doubles - first doubles
- 10.1.7 First singles - first doubles - second singles - third singles - second doubles
- 10.1.8 First singles - second doubles - second singles - third singles - first doubles

10.2 Determining order of play

- 10.2.1 Orders of play 10.1.1 to 10.1.8 will be considered in turn and the first order of play will be used which has no player playing in two consecutive matches or playing doubles before singles.
 - 10.2.2 If all eight orders of play, 10.1.1 to 10.1.8 result in a player playing in two consecutive matches or playing doubles before singles, order of play 10.1.5 will be used.
- 10.3 Any player participating in two matches is entitled to a minimum interval of 30 minutes between them.

11. SUBSTITUTIONS

- 11.1 The Referee may sanction a substitute or substitutes for a player who, in the opinion of the Referee, is incapacitated by illness, accident or other unavoidable hindrance provided that:
- 11.1.1 the team that plays after the substitution conforms to the initially-nominated ranking order for singles and doubles;
 - 11.1.2 any substitute player/pair is lower ranked than the player/pair being replaced (if necessary re-ordering the remaining player/pairs);
 - 11.1.3 for a substitution after the first match of the tie has started due any illness or injury has been sustained since the teams were nominated, any pair unaffected by the need for substitution is left unchanged.
- 11.1.4 A substituted player shall not take part in that tie.

12. DISQUALIFICATION

- 12.1 The Referee may disqualify any team which fails to report its arrival for the Competition within stipulated time as stated in Annexure I or such other period as may have previously been agreed with the Referee.
- 12.2 The Referee has power to disqualify any team which fails to carry out its required programme, or whose team manager fails to attend any briefing meeting called by the Referee.
- 12.3 The Referee shall have power to disqualify at any stage of the Competition any team which had failed to carry out its obligations or breaches the Rules and Regulations for the BWF

Annexure I
Timelines for Thomas & Uber Cups

Date line	Action	Responsibility	Regulation Reference
1 November	Appointment of Committee of Management.	BWF	2.2
Week 7 of BWF International Calendar (variation can only be agreed by Chair of BWF Events Committee)	Conduct of Continental Stage competition	Continental Confederations	3.3
On date of completion of Continental Stage Competition	Send Results and names of teams in Ranking Order to BWF	Continental Confederations	3.3.2
1 st Thursday of March	World Ranking Date for the purpose of deciding the Seeding for Group Play	BWF	4.2.3
Two weeks following the 1 st Thursday of March	Confirmation of acceptance of entry	Member Associations	6.3
Immediately following the seeding date	BWF will decide the date of the draw	BWF	5.2
1 May to 30 June	Stage the Competition	BWF	4.1
Thursday immediately preceding the date of Knock-out stage draw	Use World Ranking for the deciding the strength of the teams qualified for Knock-out stage	BWF	5.8.3
On completion of Group Play of the Competitions	Decide the Seeding of the qualified team for Knock-out stage	BWF	5.7.4
	Conduct the Draw for Knock-out stage	BWF	5.7.4
Thursday immediately preceding to 14 days prior to the start of Finals Stage Competition	Use World Ranking for the deciding the ranking order of the singles and doubles players.	Member Associations	9.3.1 and 9.3.2
Fourteen days prior to the start of Finals Stage Competition	Nominate Team players	Member Associations	9.1 and 9.2
Fourteen days prior to the start of Finals Stage Competition	Appointment of Manger by participating Teams	Member Associations	7
Forty-eight hours prior to first schedule tie	Arrival of participating Teams	Member Associations	12.1
Four hours prior to the time fixed for a tie or such other period as decreed by the Referee	Hand over the composition of the team for that tie	Team Manager	9.4.1