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**PART III****SECTION 10****REGULATIONS FOR SUPERSERIES****1. DESCRIPTION**

1.1 The Superseries is a singles and doubles competition open to all Badminton players who are members of Member Associations affiliated to the BWF. Players can earn points towards their World Ranking according to the special classification of those tournaments which have been nominated by the BWF to participate in the Superseries. The Superseries includes two levels of tournament, Superseries Premier and Superseries.

**1.2 Title**

The Superseries is a series of elite tournaments with a high standard of organisation and presentation. The tournaments are collectively known as the “Superseries”. The series may be known as the “XYZ Superseries” where XYZ is a designation chosen in consultation with the Superseries sponsor. Five tournaments are designated Superseries Premier which have increased obligations and benefits for host Member Associations.

**1.3 Relationship to the General competition regulations**

The General competition regulations will apply except where specific provisions are contained in these Regulations. Where there is any conflict or apparent conflict, the Superseries Regulation(s) shall take precedence.

**1.4 Number and location of Superseries tournaments**

1.4.1 There will be a maximum of five Superseries Premier tournaments per calendar year

1.4.2 There will be a maximum of a further seven Superseries tournaments per calendar year.

1.4.3 The Superseries cycle will run in three yearly intervals.

1.4.4 The BWF Council will decide which countries will host a Superseries tournament based on recommendations from the Events Committee or other panel delegated by BWF Council after consideration of written applications made by the relevant Member Associations.

1.4.5 Applications to host a Superseries tournament will be sent out at least nine months in advance of each cycle.

**2. ORGANISATION AND RESPONSIBILITY**

2.1 Although the organisation of a Superseries tournament may be delegated to a particular group, the Member Association has the ultimate responsibility to ensure that the tournament is organised in a satisfactory manner.

**3. RIGHTS**

3.1 All broadcast rights - commercial, television, Internet, webcasting, audio, film and other rights of like nature at all tournaments and all commercial/sponsorship rights associated with the BWF World Superseries and/or the tournament are allocated between the BWF and each Superseries organiser through a contract for the Superseries cycle. The allocation of rights is decided by BWF Council.

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In all circumstances, the BWF shall always retain the right to publish results and reports on the Internet and elsewhere, and to do so at times determined solely by the BWF.

- 3.2 The Member Association concerned may grant licences and concessions in respect of the tournament rights, including the direct grant of all or part of such rights to e.g. a local Association and/or commercial organisations.

#### **4. TOURNAMENT CLASSIFICATION**

- 4.1 The minimum total prize money for Premier Superseries tournaments will be US \$550,000 in 2016 and US \$600,000 2017. The minimum total prize money for Superseries tournaments will be US \$300,000 in 2016 and US \$325,000 in 2017. All prize money for Superseries tournaments must at all times be quoted in US dollars and all prize money sent to the BWF Secretariat for payment must be in US dollars only.

#### **5. POINTS SYSTEM**

- 5.1 Points earned by players in Superseries tournaments for their World Ranking will be according to the tournament classification of each tournament and the regulations for the World Ranking system.
- 5.2 An addition to Regulation 5.1, a separate points system known as the Superseries Standings will be maintained and a player/pair will accumulate points after each Superseries tournament.
- 5.3 At the end of the Superseries circuit: the top 8 men, 8 women, 8 men's, women's and mixed doubles pairs in the Superseries Standing (subject to Superseries regulation 8.2) will be invited to compete in the Superseries Finals.
- 5.4 If two or more players/pairs are tied in Superseries Standings, the place in the Superseries Finals will be awarded to the player/pair who has participated in the most Superseries tournaments during the year. If there is still a tie, the place will be awarded to the player/pair who has gained the most Superseries Standing points in tournaments from 1 July onwards.

#### **6. CONDITIONS FOR TOURNAMENTS TAKING PART IN THE SUPERSERIES**

- 6.1 Each Superseries tournament must adhere to the organisational and presentational criteria set out in these regulations and the Superseries Organisers Manual (Technical Guidelines). Superseries tournaments should make best efforts to adhere to the organisational and presentational criteria in the BWF World Superseries Manual (Technical Guidelines).
- 6.1.1 Adherence to the Superseries criteria will be monitored by the BWF before and during the tournament.
- 6.1.2 A written report on adherence to the criteria will be submitted to the Events Working Group by the BWF representative. A copy of the report will also be sent to the organisers.
- 6.2 **Entries**
- 6.2.1 If a Member Association enters players for a Superseries tournament, these entries shall be made in World Ranking order in each event. If a player or pair has no World Ranking then the entries shall be made in national ranking order. No dummy entries will be permitted.
- 6.3 **Entry closing Dates**
- 6.3.1 Entries for a Superseries tournament will close six weeks before the first day of play. Entries will not be accepted after that date under any circumstances.

**6.4 All five events must be played:**

Men's Singles;  
Women's Singles;  
Men's Doubles;  
Women's Doubles; and  
Mixed Doubles.

**6.5 Draw sizes**

6.5.1 The tournament must plan main draw sizes as follows:

Thirty-two in Men's Singles; 32 in Women's Singles; 32 in Men's Doubles; 32 in Women's Doubles; and 32 in Mixed Doubles.

6.5.2 Where there are fewer entries in a particular event than shown in Regulation 6.5.1, all entries must be accepted into the main draw.

**6.6 Draw**

6.6.1 The draw shall be conducted as per Competition Regulation 12 and at the discretion of the BWF the draw may be conducted in public, and according to the following:

6.6.1.1 The selection of the players for the main and qualifying draws are taken from the most recent ranking list six weeks before the start of the tournament

6.6.1.2 The seeding of the players for the main and qualifying draws is taken from the ranking lists published on the date lines specified in Appendix 8.

6.6.2 The main draw will consist of 28 entries including any wildcard, together with four qualifiers from the qualifying stage if any.

6.6.3 If the host Association does not have an entry ranked in the 28 highest-ranked entries in any event, they may elect to have a maximum of two wildcard entries in the whole tournament. If the host Association has only one entry in the 28 highest-ranked entries, they can elect to have one wildcard entry in the whole tournament. Host Associations can choose which event(s) the wild cards will play in. These wildcards will play in the main draw. Wildcards will not win World Ranking points unless they win a match (a walkover does not count as winning a match).

The wildcard, if eligible, will be the highest ranked player/pair entered from the host Association, in each event, if applicable.

The host Association must confirm with BWF before publication of the first MQ report, which eligible players/pairs entered (if any) will be chosen as wildcards.

If the host Association declines to choose the highest ranked eligible player/pair entered by the host Association, no other wildcards will be granted in that event

6.6.4 The qualifying draws will consist of up to 16 entries. These 16 entries shall play on a knock-out basis to determine four unbeaten players / pairs to enter the main draw in the respective event.

6.6.5 Where there are fewer entries with world rankings and / or notional rankings than places in the main or qualifying draws, the extra places may be given by the organiser to entries of the organiser's choice.

6.6.6 The seeding of the draw shall be done by the BWF, and the draw itself shall be made by the organiser using the BWF draw software on-line 21 days before the first scheduled

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match (unless the draw day falls on a holiday in which case the draw day can be moved up to two days before or after).

6.6.7 In Superseries, General Competition Regulation 12.9.1 does not apply; instead separation of entries shall be used in the main draw or in the qualifying draws so as to avoid, to the extent possible, the entries from any one Member Association meeting in the first round.

6.6.8 After a draw has been made, no alterations or substitutions are permitted to the draw except corrections as in General Competition Regulation 15.3.1 or promotions as in General Competition Regulation 14.2.

#### 6.7 Seeding

6.7.1 There shall be eight seeds in each of the main draws.

6.7.2 There shall be up to four seeds in each of the qualifying draws.

#### 6.8 Division of Prize money

6.8.1 Prize money in each Superseries Premier tournament must be at least US\$550,000 in 2016 & US\$600,000 in 2017.

6.8.2 Prize money in all Superseries tournaments must be distributed as per the prize money distribution chart. (Annex A)

6.8.3 The actual prizes planned for a Superseries tournament must be advertised in advance in all tournament prospectuses, literature, invitations, etc. issued by the organiser.

#### 6.9 Tournament schedule

6.9.1 The schedule for each Superseries tournament must comply with the outline as attached Annexure B.

6.9.2 The proposed detailed time schedule for a Superseries tournament must be submitted to the referee for approval. If the submitted schedule is not acceptable to the referee, and consultation with the organiser does not result in a schedule that is mutually acceptable, the referee has power to decide the schedule. The schedule may not be published until it has been approved by the referee.

#### 6.10 Venue

6.10.1 All matches in the main draw of a Superseries tournament must be played at the same venue. All qualifying matches must also be played at the same venue as the main draw.

6.10.2 Each Superseries tournament must be played on a minimum of four courts.

6.10.3 All matches in the main draw of a Superseries tournament must be played on portable mats marked solely for Badminton and laid down on a wooden sprung floor. Each Superseries tournament must use BWF-approved court equipment.

6.10.4 The temperature in the arena should be kept between 18 and 30 ° C.

#### 6.11 Shuttles

6.11.1 Only BWF-approved shuttlecocks may be used at the Superseries tournaments, and only one make and brand must be used exclusively.

6.11.2 At least three speeds of shuttles must be available throughout the tournament.

#### 6.12 Technical Officials

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- 6.12.1 An umpire, a service judge, and a minimum of six line judges must be provided for each match at Superseries tournaments. There shall be at least six umpires from member associations other than the host Member Association comprising of at least four BWF and two continental certificated umpires with well spread nationality. All umpires and service judges shall meet the eligibility criteria set for the panel of Technical Officials they belong to.
- 6.12.2 Referees and Deputy Referee(s) for all Superseries tournaments will be appointed by the BWF. Subject to the BWF's permission, an organiser may appoint a local deputy Referee, but all costs must be borne by the organiser.

**6.13 Entry fees**

- 6.13.1 No entry fees shall be imposed on players from Member Associations other than the host Association, provided that these players have been nominated as entrants by their Member Associations.

**6.14 Advertising, colour of clothing and media obligations**

- 6.14.1 Advertising on clothing and colour of clothing shall be regulated by Competition Regulations 19 to 23.
- 6.14.2 All players will be required, if requested, to take part in a Pre-Tournament Media conference. They shall be available (not to exceed one hour in total) on the day prior to their first scheduled singles or doubles match of the tournament.
- 6.14.3 At Superseries tournaments, it is a condition of entry that each player must give on-court interviews for television immediately after a match whether the match has been won or lost, and to attend a post-match press conference on request.
- 6.14.4 By entering a Superseries tournament a player grants and assigns to the BWF and all the Superseries Tournaments, the right in perpetuity to record in tangible form and use my name, performance, likeness, voice, and biography, in any and all media (including the right to produce, display and otherwise use motion pictures, still pictures and live, taped or filmed television and other reproductions of me), solely for purposes of advertising and promoting the Superseries circuit and the Superseries Tournaments including the Superseries Final. Any such use of the players name, performance, likeness, voice or biography shall be without separate compensation to the player or to the heirs, devisees, executors, administrators, legal representatives or assignees of the player. Nothing in this section shall permit the BWF, or the Superseries Tournaments to use the player name, performance, likeness, voice or biography on any product, service or clothing, or in any manner that constitutes an endorsement of any product, service or company.
- 6.14.5 The logo of the tournament sponsors can be put on posters and other marketing material together with the image of one or more players, but in such a way that the image of the player is not directly associated with the sponsors. The image of the player cannot be directly associated with a sponsor without prior consent of the player.
- 6.14.6 To assist with the promotion of the tournament and the game in general, it is a condition of entry that each player must be willing to participate on request in at least one appropriate activity of not more than one hour's duration (such as autograph-signing, participating in "meet the public", question and answer sessions, etc.).
- 6.14.7 BWF may insist that players on the television court(s) change the colour of their shirt or shorts or skirt or dress to avoid problems with the implementation of on court virtual advertising.

**6.15 Practice schedule**

- 6.15.1 Superseries organisers must comply with the outline as attached annex C.

**6.16 Playing background**

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- 6.16.1 All Superseries tournaments must comply with the standards specified in the Superseries Guidelines.
- 6.16.2 The area directly behind each end of each court used at a Superseries tournament shall be free of white or light-coloured areas. Any A-boards at the ends of the court shall have less than 20% of their surface area white or light-coloured. It is recommended that A-boards have no white or light-coloured areas at all.
- 6.17 **Medical services**
- 6.17.1 A doctor or qualified paramedic, who is experienced in sports medicine, must be available at court-side at all times during play to go on court and assist players to diagnose on-court injuries.
- 6.18 **Dope-testing**
- 6.18.1 Dope-testing is mandatory at Superseries tournaments. The organisation and cost of such testing is the responsibility of the Superseries organiser unless otherwise advised by the BWF. At least 12 drug-tests must be done during each Superseries Tournament at the organiser's expense.
- 6.18.2 Dope-testing rooms must be provided and procedures followed as described in the BWF Superseries Guidelines.
- 6.18.3 All information regarding dope-testing is specified in the anti-doping regulations.
- 6.19 **Entry forms and taxes**
- 6.19.1 Entry forms/prospectuses should clearly state the prize monies offered. The amount of any local withholding taxes or entertainment-type taxes should also be clearly stated.
- 6.19.2 Tax receipts for this tax must be forwarded by the tournament organisers to the BWF when forwarding prize monies.
- 6.20 **Imposed conditions**
- 6.20.1 During the nine months leading up to a Superseries tournament, the BWF at its sole discretion, has the right to request a meeting with the organisers in the host city to review plans for the tournament and to inspect the proposed venue. Apart from those of the BWF, expenses of such meetings or inspections shall be met by the organisers.
- 6.20.2 Arising from any meeting or inspection as described in Regulation 6.20.1, or acting on any other information or lack of it, the BWF has the right to impose conditions on the organisers that, having been advised in writing, must be complied with, failing which Regulation 6.20.4 may be applied.
- 6.20.3 Immediately before or during any Superseries tournament, a formal request from the Referee and the BWF Tournament Director must be complied with as it regards the playing conditions, the playing schedule, transportation, or any other matter directly affecting the conduct of the tournament, failing which Regulation 6.20.4 may be applied.
- 6.20.4 Any Superseries tournament failing to comply with the Superseries regulations is at the BWF's discretion liable to the imposition of a penalty payment not exceeding US \$50,000, to have the sanction withdrawn, to having conditions imposed on any future Superseries tournaments, and/or to the refusal to sanction a Superseries tournament for one or more years.

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## 7. WITHDRAWAL FEE

- 7.1 If a player / pair who is accepted into a tournament withdraws from the entire tournament or any event thereof for any reason whatsoever within 22 days before the first scheduled match of the tournament, the Member Association entering the player shall make a payment of US\$250 per player / pair to the organisers for the inconvenience caused by the withdrawal.
- 7.2 The payment shall be collected by the BWF and US\$200 forwarded to the organisers, with US\$50 retained by the BWF. However, if the player was entered by the Member Association under whose jurisdiction the competition was held, then the whole payment shall be retained by the BWF.

## 8. PLAYER COMMITMENT

- 8.1 Players occupying the top 10 places in the BWF World Ranking list of a specified date (BWF Superseries Guidelines) in Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles will be required to play in all BWF Superseries Premier Tournaments and a minimum of four BWF Superseries events occurring in the full Calendar year. Further details and penalties for failing to fulfill this obligation are outlined in Appendix D.

## BWF WORLD SUPERSERIES FINALS

1. Each year after the Superseries tournaments have ended, there will be a final tournament to be known as the Superseries Finals. This tournament will be held subject to suitable sponsorship arrangements being made.

### 1.1 The venue

The BWF will fix a venue for this tournament and notify all players and Member Associations.

### 1.2 Invitations to the Superseries Final

1.2.1 The highest ranked eight players/pairs in the Superseries Standing list will, subject to 1.2.2 and 1.2.3, receive invitations to compete in the BWF World Superseries Finals.

1.2.2 BWF will grant a wild card invitation to reigning World Champions in a non-Olympic year, and to the reigning Olympic Champions in the Olympic year, if they do not qualify as of right via the Superseries standings list, are in the top 20 of the World Rankings on the date of invitation by BWF, and subject to 1.2.3. Where BWF grant such a wild card entry the number of player/pairs in the event will not exceed eight.

1.2.3 Players/pairs will qualify unless a total of two players/pairs from any one Member Association would thereby be exceeded in that event.

## 2. WORLD RANKING POINTS

2.1 World Ranking points will be awarded to players taking part in the BWF World Superseries Finals.

2.2 The points level awarded will be equivalent to those awarded for BWF Superseries Premier tournaments.

## 3. TOURNAMENTS PLAYED UNDER THE POOL SYSTEM OR IN GROUPS

### 3.1 Order of play

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- 3.1.1 If a group contains two players (singles) or two pairs (doubles) from the same Member Association, the first match in the group to be scheduled shall be between these two players/pairs.
  - 3.1.2 Group ranking will be established in accordance with General Competition Regulation 16.2
  - 3.1.3 Immediately following the conclusion of the group stage there shall be a random draw to determine places in the knock out stage (semi-finals). The two group winners in each event will be separated.
  - 3.1.4 Substitutions will be allowed, but only by the next player/pair on the Superseries Ranking list, subject to 1.2.2 above.
  - 3.1.5 A player/pair is entitled to prizes according to results actually obtained before any withdrawal; remaining un-played matches will be treated as if won by the opponent(s) 21-0, 21-0.
  - 3.1.6 Should there be any injury/illness or other unavoidable hindrance preventing player(s) from competing, participating players must be prepared to play in an exhibition match, if requested, to assist with filling in the programme of play for the sponsors, television and/or paying audience.

#### **4. FINANCING OF THE BWF WORLD SUPERSERIES FINALS**

##### **4.1 Travel**

All airfares (economy class) for players qualifying for the BWF World Superseries Finals will be arranged by the BWF.

##### **4.2 Hotel Accommodation**

A reasonable standard of hotel accommodation will also be arranged for players. Players shall be entitled to a daily allowance.

##### **4.3 Players' other expenses**

Players will be responsible for all other expenses incurred by them.

#### **5. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

##### **5.1 Draw and seeding of the BWF World Superseries Finals**

The draw for, and seeding of, the BWF World Superseries Finals will be carried out by the BWF.

##### **5.2 Tournament officials for the BWF World Superseries Finals**

The BWF shall appoint the Referee.

#### **6. AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS**

Council has power on behalf of the BWF to make and publish alterations to the BWF World Superseries Finals Regulations.