

BWF WORLD TOUR REGULATIONS

In Force: 30/11/2018



1. DESCRIPTION

1.1. The BWF World Tour is a singles and doubles competition open to all Badminton Players of Members 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 BWF World Tour. The BWF World Tour includes six levels of Tournaments with the following Tournaments annually:

- Level 1: 1 World Tour Finals
- Level 2: 3 Tournaments
- Level 3: 5 Tournaments
- Level 4: 7 Tournaments
- Level 5: 11 Tournaments (however maximum up to 15 Tournaments)
- Level 6: Number of Tournaments to be decided by BWF

1.2. Title

The BWF World Tour is a series of elite Tournaments with a high standard of organisation and presentation. The Tournaments are collectively known as the "BWF World Tour". The series may be known as the "XYZ BWF World Tour" where XYZ is a designation chosen in consultation with the BWF World Tour sponsor. The six different levels of the BWF World Tour each have different rights, obligations and benefits for the hosting Member.

1.3. Relationship to the General Competition Regulations (GCR)

The General Competition Regulations will apply except where specific provisions are contained in these regulations. Where there is any conflict or apparent conflict, the BWF World Tour Regulations shall take precedence.

1.4. Location of BWF World Tour Tournaments

1.4.1. The BWF World Tour cycle will run in four years intervals.

1.4.2. The BWF Council will decide the criteria and process to decide which countries will host a BWF World Tour Tournament based on recommendations from the Events Committee or other panels delegated by the BWF Council after consideration of written applications made by the relevant Member.

2. ORGANISATION AND RESPONSIBILITY

Although the organisation of a BWF World Tour Tournament may be delegated to a particular group, the Member has the ultimate responsibility to ensure that the Tournament is organised in a satisfactory manner.

3. RIGHTS

3.1. All commercial and broadcast rights will be dealt with according to the GCR Regulation 4 and as specified according to the host contract. The allocation of rights is decided by the BWF Council.

3.2. The Member 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. PRIZE MONEY AND TOURNAMENT CLASSIFICATION

The minimum total prize money for each level in the BWF World Tour is stated in the BWF Tournament Sanction Policy (BWF Statutes, Section 5.3.1).

5. POINTS SYSTEM AND BWF WORLD TOUR RANKING

- 5.1. Points earned by Players in BWF World Tour 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 clause 5.1, a separate points system known as the BWF World Tour Ranking will be maintained and a Player / pair will accumulate points (as per the World Ranking points table) after each BWF World Tour Tournament.

6. CONDITIONS FOR TOURNAMENTS TAKING PART IN THE BWF WORLD TOUR

- 6.1. Each BWF World Tour Tournament must adhere to the organisational and presentational criteria set out in these regulations, the BWF World Tour Contract and the BWF World Tour Organisers Manual (Technical Guidelines).
 - 6.1.1. Adherence to the BWF World Tour 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 Committee by the BWF representative. A copy of the report will also be sent to the organisers.
- 6.2. All five Events must be played:
 - Men's Singles;
 - Women's Singles;
 - Men's Doubles;
 - Women's Doubles; and
 - Mixed Doubles.
- 6.3. **Draw sizes**

The Tournament must plan main and qualifying draw sizes as follows:

 - 6.3.1. **Level 1:** As per clause 8.5.1 of these regulations.
 - 6.3.2. **Level 2-3:**
 - **Main draw:** 32 Players / pairs in each Event main draw (no qualifying positions).
 - **Qualifying draw:** No qualifying draw in any Event.
 - 6.3.3. **Level 4-5:**
 - **Main draw:** 32 Players / pairs in each Event main draw (including four qualifying positions from the qualifying stage if any).
 - **Qualifying draw:** Maximum 16 Men's Singles in qualifying draw and maximum eight in other Events in qualifying draw.
 - 6.3.4. **Level 6:**
 - **Main draw:** 48 Players in Men's Singles main draw (including eight qualifiers from the qualifying stage if any) and 32 Players / pairs in other Events main draw (including four qualifying positions from the qualifying stage if any).
 - **Qualifying draw:** Maximum 32 Men's Singles in qualifying draw and maximum 16 in other Events in qualifying draw.
 - 6.3.5. Where there are fewer entries in the main draw in a particular Event than shown in clause 6.3, all entries must be accepted into the main draw.
- 6.4. **Draw**
 - 6.4.1. The draw shall be conducted as per GCR Regulation 11 and at the discretion of the BWF the draw may be conducted in public, and according to the following:

6.4.2. If the host Member of a Level 2-4 Tournament (Level 5-6 wildcard entries as per GCR) does not have an entry ranked in the 32 highest-ranked entries in any Event for Level 2-3 or 28 highest-ranked entries in any Event for Level 4, they may elect to have a maximum of two wildcard entries in the whole Tournament. If the host Member has only one entry in the 32 (Level 2-3) or 28 (Level 4) highest-ranked entries, they can elect to have one wildcard entry in the whole Tournament. The Host Member can choose which Event(s) the wildcard(s) will play in. These wild cards 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.

Once designated as a wildcard, the player/pair remains a wildcard throughout the tournament.

6.4.3. In the qualifying draws the entries shall play on a knock-out basis to determine the unbeaten Players / pairs to enter the main draw in the respective Event.

6.4.4. No nationality separation according to GCR Regulation 11.11 applies for Grade 2 Tournaments (as of first BWF World Tour Tournament in January 2019).

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

6.5. Seeding

6.5.1. There shall be eight seeds in each of the main draws, unless an Event has 16 or less entries whereby the number of seeds are reduced according to the GCR.

6.5.2. There shall be up to four seeds according to the GCR in each of the qualifying draws, except the men's singles qualifying draw for Grade 2 – Level 6 Tournaments which shall have up to eight seeds.

6.6. Division of Prize Money

6.6.1. Prize money in the different levels of the BWF World Tour Tournaments must be distributed as per the prize money distribution tables in Section 5.3.5 of the BWF Statutes:

- Table 1: Prize money division for Grade 2, Level 1
- Table 2: Prize money division for Grade 2, Level 2-4
- Table 3: Prize money division for Grade 2, Level 5-6

6.6.2. The actual prizes planned for a BWF World Tour Tournament must be advertised in advance in all Tournament prospectuses, literature, invitations, etc. issued by the organiser.

6.7. Tournament schedule

6.7.1. The schedule, including number of courts for each BWF World Tour Tournament must comply with the following:

Levels 2 & 3

Monday		Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Arena practice	MS	L32	L32	L16	L8	L4	L2
	WS	L32	L32	L16	L8	L4	L2
	MD	L32	L32	L16	L8	L4	L2
	WD	L32	L32	L16	L8	L4	L2
	XD	L32	L32	L16	L8	L4	L2
	No. of matches	40	40	40	20	10	5
	No. of courts	4 or more	4 or more	4 or 3	2 or 3	1 or 2	1
	Mins per match	45	45	50	50	60	60
Total mins	1800	1800	2000	1000	600	300	

Variation to the above schedule can be made on application to and agreement of BWF.

Level 4 & 5

Monday		Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Arena practice	MS	Q16 / L32	L32	L16	L8	L4	L2
	WS	Q8 / L32	L32	L16	L8	L4	L2
	MD	Q8 / L32	L32	L16	L8	L4	L2
	WD	Q8 / L32	L32	L16	L8	L4	L2
	XD	Q8 / L32	L32	L16	L8	L4	L2
	No. of matches	28Q / TBD for Main	80 (if all L32 run on this day – some could shift to Tuesday)	40	20	10	5
	No. of courts	4 or more	4 or more	4 or 3	2 or 3	1 or 2	1
	Mins per match	35Q / 40M	40	40	45	45	60
Total mins	980Q / TBD for Main	3200	1600	900	450	300	

Variation to the above schedule can be made on application to and agreement of BWF.

Level 6

Monday		Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Arena practice	MS	Q32 / L64	L32	L16	L8	L4	L2
	WS	Q16	L32	L16	L8	L4	L2
	MD	Q16	L32	L16	L8	L4	L2
	WD	Q16	L32	L16	L8	L4	L2
	XD	Q16	L32	L16	L8	L4	L2
	No. of matches	72Q / 16M	80	40	20	10	5
	No. of courts	4 or more	4 or more	4 or 3	2 or 3	1 or 2	1
	Mins per match	35Q / 40M	40	40	45	45	60
Total mins	3160	3200	1600	900	450	300	

Variation to the above schedule can be made on application to and agreement of BWF.

- 6.7.2. Level 6 Tournaments with full main draws must be played over a minimum of five days. In each Event the rounds must be distributed as evenly as possible over the days and if more than one round is necessary per day in any Event, the extra round must be played on the first days of the Tournament.

6.7.3. The proposed detailed time schedule for a BWF World Tour 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.

6.8. Venue and facilities

6.8.1. All matches in the main draw of a BWF World Tour Tournament must be played at the same venue. All qualifying matches must also be played at the same venue as the main draw.

6.8.2. Each BWF World Tour Tournament must abide by the relevant requirements in Section 5.3.4 of the BWF Statutes.

6.9. Technical Officials

6.9.1. For Level 2-4 Tournaments, an umpire, a service judge, and a minimum of six line judges must be provided for each match. There shall be at least six umpires from Members other than the host Member 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.

6.9.2. For Level 5 and 6 Tournaments, an umpire, a service judge, and a minimum of four line judges must be provided for each match. There shall be at least six umpires from Members other than the host Member comprising of at least four BWF (as of 1 March 2019) and two Continental Certificated umpires with well spread nationality. All umpires and service judges shall meet eligibility criteria set for the panel of Technical Officials they belong to.

6.9.3. Referees and Deputy Referee(s) for all BWF World Tour 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.

6.10. Entry fees

No entry fees shall be imposed on Players from Members other than the host Member.

6.11. Advertising, colour of clothing and media obligations

Players must comply with the requirements of the GCR, including Sections 5.3.7 and 5.3.8 of the BWF Statutes.

6.12. Practice and practice schedule

BWF World Tour organisers must comply with the outline in Section 5.3.4 of the BWF Statutes.

6.13. Anti-doping testing

6.13.1. Anti-doping testing is mandatory at BWF World Tour Tournaments. The organisation and cost of such testing is the responsibility of the BWF World Tour organiser unless otherwise advised by the BWF.

6.13.2. At least 15 doping tests must be done during each Level 1-4 BWF World Tour Tournament at the organiser's expense.

6.13.3. At least eight doping tests must be done during each Level 5 and 6 BWF World Tour Tournament at the organiser's expense.

6.13.4. Doping testing rooms must be provided according to the Specifications for International Standard Facilities (BWF Statutes, Section 5.3.4) and

procedures followed as described in the BWF World Tour Guidelines. Personnel conducting doping testing must be qualified and experienced as per Anti-Doping Regulations (BWF Statutes, Section 2.3).

- 6.13.5. All information regarding doping testing is specified in the Anti-Doping Regulations (BWF Statutes, Section 2.3).

7. PLAYER COMMITMENT

Players participating in BWF World Tour is obligated according to the obligations outlined in Section 5.3.6 of the BWF Statutes.

8. BWF WORLD TOUR FINALS

- 8.1. At the end of the BWF World Tour year there will be a final Tournament to be known as the BWF World Tour Finals. This Tournament will be held subject to suitable sponsorship arrangements being made.

8.2. Qualification and invitation

- 8.2.1. At the end of the BWF World Tour year the top 8 men Players, 8 women Players, 8 men's doubles, 8 women's doubles and 8 mixed doubles pairs in the BWF World Tour Ranking (BWF World Tour Ranking published on a date decided by BWF, but at the latest two weeks before the start of the BWF World Tour Finals), will be invited to compete in the BWF World Tour Finals.

- 8.2.2. If two or more Players / pairs are tied in BWF World Tour Ranking, the place in the BWF World Tour Finals will be awarded to the Player / pair who has participated in the most BWF World Tour Tournaments during the year. If there is still a tie, the place will be awarded to the Player / pair who has gained the most BWF World Tour Ranking points in Tournaments from 1 July onwards. If there is still a tie, the place will be awarded by drawing lots.

- 8.2.3. BWF will grant an 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 BWF World Tour Ranking list, are in the top 20 of the World Rankings on the date of invitation by BWF, and subject to clause 8.2.4 below (maximum Players / pairs from one Member). Where BWF grant such an invitation the number of Player / pairs in the Event will not exceed eight (8).

- 8.2.4. Players / pairs will qualify unless a total of two Players / pairs from any one Member would thereby be exceeded in that Event. If more than two Players / pairs are qualified the invitation in clause 8.2.3 above will be invited first and thereafter the highest ranked Player / pair from the BWF World Tour Ranking.

8.3. The venue

The BWF will decide the venue for this Tournament and notify all Players and Members.

8.4. World Ranking Points

World Ranking points will be awarded to Players taking part in the BWF World Tour Finals according to the World Ranking Regulations (BWF Statutes, Section 5.3.3.1).

8.5. Tournaments played under the pool system or in groups

- 8.5.1. Each of the five Events shall be played under the group system with two groups of four Players / pairs.

- 8.5.2. Seeding and draws are conducted as per the GCR.

8.5.3. No nationality separation applies for Level 1 Tournaments.

8.6. Order of play

8.6.1. If a group contains two Players (singles) or two pairs (doubles) from the same Member, the first match in the group to be scheduled shall be between these two Players / pairs.

8.6.2. Group ranking will be established in accordance with GCR Regulation 16.2.

8.6.3. 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.

8.6.4. Promotions will be allowed, but only by the next Player / pair on the BWF World Tour Ranking list and subject to clause 8.2.4 above.

8.6.5. 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.

8.6.6. 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.

8.7. Financial matters related to the BWF World Tour Finals

8.7.1. Travel

All airfares (economy class) for Players qualifying for the BWF World Tour Finals will be paid for.

8.7.2. Hotel Accommodation

A reasonable standard of hotel accommodation for Players qualifying for the BWF World Tour Finals will be paid for.

8.7.3. Players' other expenses

Players shall be entitled to a daily allowance as decided by BWF, but will be responsible for all other expenses incurred by them.

9. AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS

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