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Dear Colleagues,

In March 2016, Badminton England will be welcoming the world to Birmingham for the **YONEX All England Open Badminton Championships 2016**, part of the MetLife BWF World Superseries Premier, and we invite you to join us.

The YONEX All England is the world's oldest and most prestigious badminton tournament, now in its 106th year. We've showcased the very best athletes within our sport since 1899, including many outstanding performances and rivalries, and 2016 provides an exciting opportunity for athletes and spectators ahead of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. We are one of just five Premier events within the MetLife BWF World Superseries, which conclude with the season finale - the Dubai World Superseries Finals.

This invitation contains important information for your planning and preparation, ahead of entry submission and travelling to England. Please ensure that you take some time to read through the various sections. Any further questions should be directed to majorevents@badmintonengland.co.uk.

We look forward to welcoming you to England in March!

Chris Miller
Championships Director

Attachments: Transport Request Form
Visa Support Request Form
Practice Request Form
Ticket Booking Information

Badminton England
National Badminton Centre, Milton Keynes MK8 9LA
Tel: 01908 268400 Fax: 01908 268412
majorevents@badmintonengland.co.uk
www.badmintonengland.co.uk



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- Date:** Tuesday 8th to Sunday 13th March 2016.
- Venue:** The Championships will once again be held in the prestigious Barclaycard Arena (formerly National Indoor Arena) in Birmingham:
- Barclaycard Arena
King Edward's Road
Birmingham
B1 2AA
England
- Referee Team:** (appointed or approved by BWF)
- Referee:
Nahathai SORNPRACHUM (THA) / Email : nsornprachum@gmail.com
- Deputy Referee:
Chris LAWRENCE (USA) / Email: cclawrence@aol.com
- Local Deputy Referee:
Heather CRUMP (ENG) / Email: refereeuk@yahoo.co.uk
- Qualifying Rounds:** The Qualifying Rounds will be held from 12:00 hrs on Tuesday 8th March, and will be completed that same day. A maximum of 16 players or pairs will take part in each event, with the winners progressing to the relevant Main Draw event(s).
- Championship Events:** The Main Draw events will start at 09:00 hrs on Wednesday 9th March. Draw sizes for the Championships will be 32 players or pairs in each event, including those promoted from the Qualifying Rounds.
- Special Notice:** All events will be on a strict timetable system. Competitors who are not ready to play at the time for which their match is scheduled will be scratched.
- Conditions of play:** The YONEX All England Open Badminton Championships 2016 will be run in accordance with, but not limited to, the Badminton World Federation (BWF) General Competition Regulations (GCR) and Regulations for Superseries. In the event of any dispute, the decision of the Tournament Referee will be final.

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Competition Schedule:

YONEX All England Open Badminton Championships 2016 - Competition Schedule						
DAY	EVENT	ROUND	No. COURTS	DOORS	START	END
TUESDAY 8TH MARCH	MS/WS/MD/WD/XD	QUALIFICATION*	5	11:00	12:00	21:00
WEDNESDAY 9TH MARCH	MS/WS/MD/WD/XD	FIRST ROUNDS*	5	08:00	09:00	23:00
THURSDAY 10TH MARCH	MS/WS/MD/WD/XD	SECOND ROUNDS*	4	11:00	12:00	21:00
FRIDAY 11TH MARCH	MS/WS/MD/WD/XD	QUARTER-FINALS*	3	15:00	16:00	23:00
SATURDAY 12TH MARCH	MS/WS/MD/WD/XD	SEMI-FINALS*	2	11:00	12:00	17:00
SUNDAY 13TH MARCH	MS/WS/MD/WD/XD	CHAMPIONSHIPS SHOW & FINALS	1	10:30	11:30**	17:00

***Times and order of play may be changed at the discretion of the Referee**

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Team Managers' Meeting:

The Team Managers' Meeting will be held on Monday 7th March at 19:30 hrs in Foundry Level of the Barclaycard Arena. Your Team Liaison Officer (TLO) can direct you to this location.

PLEASE NOTE: It is compulsory for all Team Managers to attend the Team Managers' Meeting. You will be fined/penalised for failing to attend, in accordance with GCR Part III Section 1A, Appendix 11 "Offences and Penalties". Member Associations may make a request for someone to represent them at the meeting, provided the Referee is notified in advance.

Key Dates:

Closing Date for Entries	Tuesday 26 th January 2016
World Ranking Date for M & Q Report	Thursday 28 th January 2016
Publish Date for M & Q Report	Friday 29 th January 2016
World Ranking Date for Main Draw Seeding	Thursday 11 th February 2016
Seeding Released	Friday 12 th February 2016
Last Date of Withdrawal (without penalty)	Sunday 14 th February 2016
Draw Date	Tuesday 16 th February 2016
Competition	Tuesday 8 th – Sunday 13 th March 2016

Prize Money:

A prize fund of US\$550,000 will be distributed in accordance with BWF Regulations (see below). Income tax may be deducted from the prize money in accordance with British Inland Revenue regulations. All players will be taxed at the standard rate of UK tax on gross earnings from prize money and other sources. An allowance of £50 per day whilst playing in the Championships will be taken into consideration.

	WINNER	RUNNER UP	SEMI FINAL	QUARTER FINAL	LAST 16
MEN'S SINGLES	\$41250	\$20900	\$7975	\$3300	\$1925
WOMEN'S SINGLES	\$41250	\$20900	\$7975	\$3300	\$1925
MEN'S DOUBLES	\$43450*	\$20900*	\$7700*	\$3987.50*	\$2062.50*
WOMEN'S DOUBLES	\$43450*	\$20900*	\$7700*	\$3987.50*	\$2062.50*
MIXED DOUBLES	\$43450*	\$20900*	\$7700*	\$3987.50*	\$2062.50*

* - per pair

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- Presentation Ceremonies:** Medals will be presented to all winners and runners-up. During the presentation ceremonies, players may wear tracksuits, but headgear, rackets and racket bags are not permitted. No other form of advertising will be permitted. This will be strictly enforced by our stewards prior to each presentation ceremony.
- Online Entry:** Online entry for the Championships is mandatory. Member Associations should complete entry by the closing date using the following link:
<http://bwf.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/tournament.aspx?id=EA417436-F4B0-4DA1-9FF4-7CB910F51658>
- You will require a username and password to submit your entries, and this can be obtained from BWF. Please contact s.ramachandran@bwfbadminton.org - M. Shan Ramachandran. The online entry page will close immediately on **Tuesday 26th January 2016** at 23:59 hours, BWF Headquarters time (+08:00h GMT). You are required to submit the entries on time and late entries will not be accepted.
- Close of Online Entry:** **Tuesday 26th January 2016 at 23:59 hours BWF Headquarters time (+08:00h GMT).** After the closing date, the BWF Online Entry System will send notification to all participating Member Associations confirming receipt of final entries. Receipt of this notification is the conclusive evidence of receipt of entries before the deadline. The Member Associations should contact BWF immediately if such notice is not received by Wednesday 27th January 2016, 12:00 hrs BWF Headquarters time (+08.00 GMT) following close of entries. If no objection is received by BWF by Thursday 28th January 2016, 23.59 hours BWF Headquarters time (+08.00 GMT) following the close of entries, the entries shall be deemed to be correct. No complaints/objections shall be entertained after this point. All entries must be submitted online only.
- Visas:** If you are a national of the European Union (EU), European Economic Area (EEA), Switzerland or a national who does not normally require a visa to visit the UK, you do not need to apply for a visa to participate.

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Please note, the letter of invitation does not guarantee entry into the UK and the final decision is made by the UK Border Agency. All visa applicants must meet the requirements of the UK immigration rules.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that they apply for their visa in sufficient time. Any issues with the visa application need to be dealt with directly to the Embassy who is dealing with your application. We accept no responsibility for withdrawals made due to late visa applications. Where required, courier costs to post letters of invitation will be recharged to your Association.

You must **apply and pay online** for the visa using the link at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-uk-visa>. You will need to provide your biometrics (fingerprints and photograph) at a **visa application centre** as part of your application. The application will not be complete until you have provided your biometric information. You will be able to book an appointment at the end of the on-line application. In those countries where there is no visa application centre, you will need to go to the British Embassy or British High Commission. You can apply for a visa up to 3 months in advance.

Withdrawals:

The process for withdrawals will be run in accordance with the BWF GCR. Member associations can withdraw their players/pairs in the on line entry system until the withdrawal date. Please ensure that the Tournament Secretary and Referee are immediately notified of any withdrawal after the withdrawal date. This must be confirmed in writing, also stating the reason for withdrawal. If a withdrawal takes place after the draw is made, it must be supported by a medical certificate.

Referee: Nahathai SORNPRACHUM (THA)
Email : nsornprachum@gmail.com

Tournament Secretary: Chris MILLER
Email: chrismiller@badmintonengland.co.uk

If withdrawal arises after your players arrive in Birmingham, notification of withdrawal must be made by the Team Manager in person to the Referee, or Deputies, and must also be confirmed in writing.

In accordance with the BWF General Competition Regulations, a penalty shall be applied to players withdrawing within twenty three days before the first scheduled match of the tournament (*see key dates above*).

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Transport: We will provide transport in Birmingham between the Barclaycard Arena, official hotels and selected transport hubs. To request this, please complete and return the Transport Request Form by **Tuesday 9th February**, but no later than 24 hours prior to arrival.

If travelling by air, we will provide transport from Birmingham International Airport to your accommodation. If you arrive at London Gatwick or London Heathrow or Manchester and do not wish to fly onward to Birmingham, you can travel by National Express Airports coach to Birmingham at your own expense.

Bookings should be made at the Speedlink desk at the airport on arrival (Gatwick and Heathrow), or at the National Express desk (Manchester). For times of coaches you may wish to look at www.nationalexpress.com where advance bookings may also be made.

Alternatively you may travel by rail from London Euston Station to Birmingham New Street Station. The journey time varies between 80 and 100 minutes. We will provide transport from both Birmingham New Street and Birmingham International Train Stations.

Accommodation: The release date for hotel booking is **Thursday 4th February 2016**. For details of the Official Hotels please visit www.cremeconferences.co.uk/teams.

Reservations should be made online, or by contacting Crème Conferences only. After the release date, any requests must continue to be directed only to Crème Conferences, but we cannot guarantee the special rates offered; badminton@crememk.co.uk

Official transport will be available between the Barclaycard Arena and official hotels provided the hotel booking has been made with Crème Conferences. We cannot arrange transport to and from other hotels, or those booked independently.

Hotel Check in: To speed up hotel check-in, Team Managers may provide a list of their squad prepared in advance showing the rooming list. This must include forename, family name, passport number and date of birth of every member of their party.

Payment for Accommodation: Payment for bed and breakfast and extras must be settled directly with the hotel the day before you depart. Please ensure that your Team Manager checks on arrival with the hotel what payment arrangements are acceptable. Please note that most hotels in England now require guests to provide credit card details on check-in.

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**Practice
Facilities:**

We can offer practice in both the Main Arena and Training Hall (Sport & Leisure Centre) within the Barclaycard Arena. If you require time for practice, please complete and return the Practice Request Form no later than **Tuesday 9th February 2016**. We cannot guarantee to accommodate all requests.

Main Arena practice for Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th March will be allocated shortly after 16th February based on returns received. Countries not returning forms by this date will be fitted in where spaces allow. There is limited court space on Wednesday 9th March in the Main Arena and this will be prioritised for teams who arrive too late to have a session in the Main Arena on the Tuesday.

Accreditation:

All team accreditation this year will be processed through an online accreditation system. Teams will each have access to one accreditation account which should be managed by a nominated employee of your BWF Member Association. When you click on the link below you will be asked to set up an account. Once your account has been approved by Badminton England, you will be able to log in and submit details for all individuals within your delegation who require accreditation (this includes athletes and team officials). All accreditation applications must be made by **Monday 9th February 2016** in order for them to be assessed and if accepted, to be processed.

Accreditation Website: <http://badmintonaccreditation.co.uk>

All entry into the Barclaycard Arena will be controlled by personalised photographic accreditation passes, which will be available for collection from your Team Liaison Officer or from the accreditation team within the Barclaycard Arena. The fee to replace any lost or damaged accreditation passes will be £50 on each occasion, charged to your Association.

The number of complimentary accreditation passes available for Team Officials is dependent on the number of competing players from the same National Association:

No of players from Association	No of accompanying Officials
For 3 or less	1
For 4-7	2
For 8-15	3
For 16 or more	4

PLEASE NOTE: A limited number of additional accreditation passes for Team Officials will be available for purchase at a fee of £100 each, charged to your Association.

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Non-playing personnel: Visitors attending the Championships in a non-official capacity will be required to purchase tickets for the required sessions. Please see the enclosed ticket form for details or visit www.allenglandbadminton.com.

Media Obligations: It is essential that we do all we can to secure maximum publicity for our sport. Please note that at Superseries Premier tournaments, all players will be required, if requested, to take part in a Pre-Tournament Media Conference. They shall be available (not to exceed 1 hour in total) on the day prior to their first scheduled singles or doubles match of the tournament. It is also a condition of entry that each player must be willing to 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.

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, coaching activity for children etc). The request will be made at least 24 hours in advance

Media Accreditation: Media accreditation requests should be made using the official form online at <http://badmintonaccreditation.co.uk>, selecting the media option. Applications for media accreditation should be submitted no later than **Sunday 31st January 2016**.

Video Recording and Photography: Photography is not permitted within the playing arena at any time, and Barclaycard Arena Security may confiscate any items of equipment. **Video recording is permitted only by coaches of competing Member Associations from clearly defined points using video passes.** There are a limited number of these positions and passes available. Prior authorisation for the use of any video equipment must be obtained in advance from the Information Office, and must be clearly displayed on the cameras. Venue Security will confiscate cameras set up in incorrect positions or without a pass.

Video footage captured must be used solely for training purposes by the Member Association and its coaching staff. Member Associations may be liable for any costs incurred by BWF if their video footage is used for any other purpose.

Television: IMG has been appointed as world-wide distributor of the YONEX All England Open Badminton Championships 2016. The Championships will be televised from Thursday 10th to Sunday 13th March 2016 inclusive.

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- Medical Services:** Full medical and physiotherapy services will be provided during the Championships. For incidents outside of the playing Arena, it is recommended that appropriate insurance be obtained.
- Anti Doping:** Anti-doping will be conducted in accordance with BWF and WADA Regulations. Please consult the BWF website for further information, and to view the current WADA Prohibited List. Please note that athletes must complete a TUE application process to apply for authorisation to take medications which fall under the Prohibited List - before they take medication.
- Insurance:** Please ensure that the appropriate insurance cover is provided for all visitors to Birmingham.
- Official Shuttle:** YONEX Tournament Grade (F-90) feather shuttles will be used throughout.
- Advertising and Clothing:** The Championships will enforce clothing and advertising Regulations as specified by the BWF in GCR and Regulations for Superseries.
- Other:** The YONEX All England Open Badminton Championships 2016 will adhere to BWF Regulations, including those concerning Advertising, Players' Code of Conduct, Offences and Penalties, Coaches and Officials' Code of Conduct, and Betting. Please familiarise yourself with these Regulations prior to your arrival in Birmingham.
- Shuttle Time:** Badminton England will be collecting any spare rackets from players, officials and spectators at the event in support of the BWF Shuttle Time initiative. We will be forming a racket tower in the venue spectator zone and all contributions from teams and player would be very welcome.
- Shuttle time is BWF's Schools Badminton Programme which aims to help teachers and coaches develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to plan and deliver safe badminton lessons to children and youth. The BWF is working with its Continental Federations and Members to implement Shuttle Time worldwide.
- Official Website:** www.allenglandbadminton.com

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