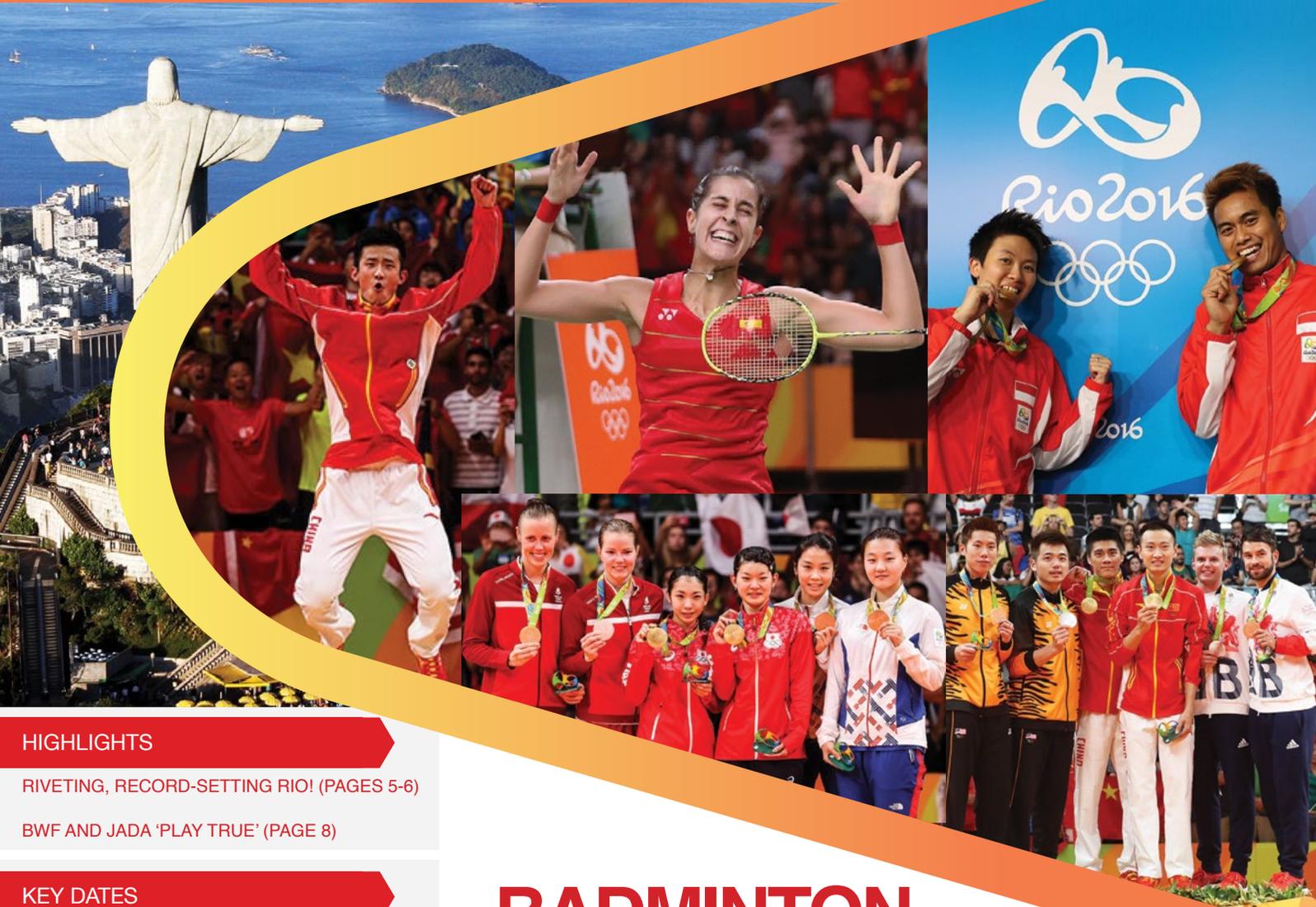


REVELLING IN RIO: It was truly one for the record books – the Badminton Competition at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games!

Nine nations sharing the 15 medals – badminton's best-ever Olympic medal spread. Four countries winning gold; including a first gold for Japan and Spain. Most memorably, what a welcome for badminton in South America's first outing as hosts of the Summer Games – cheering crowds absorbing the action.

Ultimately, badminton was the biggest winner of all!



HIGHLIGHTS

RIVETING, RECORD-SETTING RIO! (PAGES 5-6)

BWF AND JADA 'PLAY TRUE' (PAGE 8)

KEY DATES

- 04-09 October SCG Thailand Open (Grand Prix Gold) - Bangkok
- 18-23 October YONEX Denmark Open 2016 (Superseries Premier) - Odense
- 25-30 October YONEX French Open 2016 (Superseries) - Paris
- 01-06 November Bitburger Badminton Open (Grand Prix Gold) - Saarbrücken
- 02-06 November BWF World Junior Championships 2016 – Mixed Team Championship (BWF Major Event) - Bilbao
- 08-13 November BWF World Junior Championships 2016 – Individual Championships (BWF Major Event) - Bilbao
- 15-20 November THAIHOT China Open 2016 (Superseries Premier) - Fuzhou
- 22-27 November YONEX-SUNRISE Hong Kong Open 2016 (Superseries) - Kowloon
- 29 November – 04 December 2016 Macau Open (Grand Prix Gold) - Macau
- 06-11 December VICTOR 2016 Korea Masters Championships (Grand Prix Gold) - Jeonju
- 14-18 December Dubai World Superseries Finals - Dubai

BADMINTON 'INFRONT' NOW!

BWF President Poul-Erik Høyer has hailed the new partnership with Infront Sports & Media "a clear step that will give badminton new momentum".

In the aftermath of the historic deal, the head of badminton's world-governing body said the landmark agreement with the Wanda subsidiary dovetails perfectly with the BWF Strategic Plan 2016-2020. The eight-year contract, spanning 2018-2025 inclusive, marks the first time BWF will

work with one global partner for both media and sponsorship rights distribution, with Infront locking down the centralised media and sponsorship rights for the BWF Major Events (Sudirman Cup, Thomas & Uber Cup Finals and the World Championships) and for a revamped BWF Series – encompassing the current BWF World Superseries and Grand Prix Gold events – to be relaunched for the 2018 season.

Continues on Page 4



SEASON FINALE
METLIFE BWF WORLD SUPERSERIES
14-18 DECEMBER, 2016
HAMDAN SPORTS COMPLEX



Poul-Erik Høyer
BWF President

Dear Colleagues and Friends

We have enjoyed a wonderful three months in badminton, undoubtedly highlighted by the amazing success of our sport at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games and now the announcement of our global partnership with Infront Sports & Media (2018-2025).

These two milestone events go hand-in-hand and mark a significant stage in the life of the Badminton World Federation – and indeed in the evolution of badminton.

The partnership with Infront – and its parent company, Wanda – is the first time ever BWF will work exclusively with one global partner for the distribution of both our media rights and sponsorship rights. The importance of this venture cannot be over-estimated. It will give badminton vital new momentum – and at precisely the right time. It fits in perfectly with one of the key objectives of the BWF Strategic Plan 2016-2020, that being to boost badminton's entertainment profile. We want to engage and excite our fans more and this union with Infront is a clear step in that direction. Their reputation precedes them and we look forward to Infront sprinkling their sports-marketing stardust across the badminton landscape – and helping our sport to shine even brighter.

Inspired by the outstanding Badminton Competition at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, we are focused on replicating globally the popularity and stardom which badminton enjoys in Asia and parts of Europe. The manner in which sports-crazy Brazilians cheered loudly alongside passionate Indonesian, Chinese, British, Japanese, Danish, Malaysian and fans from many other countries at Rio 2016 was an incredible sight. Watching Indian and Spanish spectators trying to outdo each other during the Women's Singles final was as memorable as the match itself.

Moreover, with nine countries sharing the 15 badminton medals in Rio – our best-ever Olympic medal spread – there is no doubt our sport is ready to scale even higher heights – and hence this partnership with Infront could not have come at a better time!

I am pleased to welcome Wanda and Infront to the family of badminton. We are confident it will be a mutually-beneficial relationship as we at BWF, as well as our tournament hosts, work with Infront to improve the delivery of events; capitalise on the growing demand for badminton worldwide; and achieve our vision of 'Giving Every Child a Chance to Play for Life'.

While we look to the future with great anticipation, allow me a moment to shine the spotlight one more time on Rio 2016 which was a glorious and exciting showcase of badminton in the Olympic Games first outing in South America. Congratulations to all our medallists for their fine performances, especially to the winners who can now proclaim themselves Olympic champions. In addition, thank you to all 172 players who contributed to the wonderful spectacle of our sport which was shown around the world for ten days.

I also wish to thank the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Rio 2016 Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (ROCOG) as well as BWF Council and staff for a successful collective effort.

Badminton has been the winner in all of this.

Meanwhile, action has resumed on the MetLife BWF World Superseries and players are now battling to reach the year-end Dubai World Superseries Finals. We will soon see how the rankings are shaping up following the Yonex Open Japan and Victor Korea Open but it is sure to be a thrilling showdown as the race to the December finale heats up.

We look forward to seeing who will emerge victorious come Sunday 18 December at Hamdan Sports Complex in Dubai.

Poul-Erik Høyer



Badminton in the United Arab Emirates is expanding to include athletes with impairments thanks to a partnership involving the Dubai Sports Council, the UAE Table Tennis and Badminton Association, the UAE Disabled Sports Federation and the Badminton World Federation.

A recent two-day para-badminton workshop provided an introduction for 45 regional athletes and coaches from Ajman, Dubai and Sharjah. The 5-6 October course blended classroom-based badminton theory with on-court sessions led by Scottish BWF coaches, Kaity Hall and Fraser Michie.

This latest step adds to badminton's evolving canvas in the UAE as the sport continues to gain popularity. In 2014, BWF collaborated with the Dubai Sports Council as well as Falcon and Associates to bring the BWF's schools-based Shuttle Time programme to the region alongside the blockbuster Dubai World Superseries Finals which showcases the world's best badminton athletes in a year-end showdown. These strides were quickly followed by the establishment of tournaments for schools and clubs while badminton also features in the annual Dubai Sports World festival each summer. In March this year, the UAE formed a governing

body – the UAE Badminton Association – to oversee badminton's ongoing development at all levels.

Now, in keeping with BWF's policy of developing para-badminton in tandem with badminton, athletes with impairments are being brought into the UAE fold.

"We are pleased to partner with sports organisations in the UAE to expand badminton's reach to athletes with impairments. It is an important milestone and we look forward to further para-badminton activities which will give athletes the opportunity to develop and show their skills," BWF Vice-President Para-Badminton, Paul Kurzo.

"In BWF our motto is '**One Sport – One Team**' which underlines our policy of developing para-badminton in the same way as we do badminton and we will work closely with our UAE colleagues to replicate that model here.

"We are confident the UAE public will soon discover what we have been saying – that para-badminton is its own best advertisement; a compelling and competitive sport with great athletes."



Badminton coach, Kaity Hall, teaches an athlete how to serve.

WETWITHAN'S TRIPLE HAUL

Annouy Wetwithan was the big winner at the 3rd Indonesia Para-Badminton International 2016 in August.

The Thailand wheelchair athlete sped off with gold medals in WH 2 Women's Singles and WH 1 - WH 2 Mixed Doubles (with compatriot Jakarin Homhau). She also won the WH 1 - WH 2 Women's Doubles exhibition event with compatriot Sujirat Pookkham (both pictured at left).

There was also double-gold success for Indonesia's Fredy Setiawan and Chan Ho Yuen of Hong Kong. The latter won WH 1 - WH 2 Men's Doubles (with Korea's Lee Yong Ho) and WH 2 Men's Singles, ironically defeating Lee in the final, 21-11 21-11.

Meanwhile, Setiawan was the hometown hero, taking top honours in SL 4 Men's Singles as well as SL 3 - SU 5 Mixed Doubles with his team-mate, Leani Ratri Oktila. There was also a silver for Setiawan in SL 3 - SL 4 Men's Doubles, partnered by team-mate, Maman Nurjaman.





BWF President Poul-Erik Høyer (left) and Philippe Blatter, President & CEO of Wanda Sports Holding, sign the agreement between the Badminton World Federation and Wanda.

WANDA PARTNERING WITH BWF

"One of our key objectives is to boost badminton's entertainment profile. We want to engage and excite our fans more and this union with Infront is a clear step in that direction. Their reputation precedes them and we look forward to Infront sprinkling their sports-marketing stardust across the badminton landscape – and helping our sport to shine even brighter," said Høyer, following a signing ceremony at Wanda Plaza in Beijing on 30 September.

Welcoming Wanda and Infront to the BWF family, he added that BWF anticipates that a fruitful partnership with Infront will prove beneficial to the organisation's ultimate vision of 'Giving Every Child a Chance to Play for Life' as badminton reaches new heights and frontiers.

Wang Jianlin, Chairman of the Wanda Group, said: "This landmark agreement with the BWF is a further step towards developing Wanda's influence in the international sports landscape. Wanda will endeavour to bring as many benefits to the sport of badminton as possible. In addition, we will ensure Infront's invaluable expertise across both media and marketing sales as well as broadcast and digital will be fully utilised to help propel the sport worldwide to further success."

Through the partnership, Infront will also support the federation with its television production operations – providing host broadcast, post-production and broadcaster servicing across all BWF Major Events. Additionally, Infront will conduct a full review of

BWF's digital landscape to ensure all channels are being maximised to reach badminton's 500 million fans globally as the sport's popularity continues to grow beyond the traditional heartlands of China, South-East Asia and northern Europe.

Philippe Blatter, President & CEO of Wanda Sports Holding, said: "We thank the BWF for putting its trust in Infront, adding another Olympic sport to our repertoire is a fantastic accolade. We are confident of our position and capacity to take the BWF events to the next level worldwide, and together with our shareholder Wanda Group utilise our global network to grow the sport even further.

"Wanda will leverage the Infront network to increase commercial returns across the board. This agreement encompasses the full breadth of our expertise and...will enable BWF to optimise along the entire value chain from media and marketing sales, to television production, digital content and client and event servicing."

Meanwhile, BWF Marketing Chair Nigel Skelt highlighted the partnership's tangible benefits to BWF event hosts.

"We are certain Infront will help all BWF stakeholders to keep improving the standard of our overall delivery of events, while also ensuring the stable and ongoing financial growth that has underpinned badminton's very encouraging development in recent years."



Wang Jianlin, Chairman of the Wanda Group, addresses the audience at the signing ceremony.

IN FOCUS: ELITE PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

Identification and development of elite players at junior and senior levels will be the over-arching theme of three upcoming coaching conferences at BWF tournaments.

The conferences will be held 11-12 November at the BWF World Junior Championships in Bilbao, Spain; 16-17 December at the Dubai World Superseries Finals in Dubai, UAE, and 25-26 August at the TOTAL BWF World Championships in Glasgow, Scotland. While the Bilbao and Dubai conferences deal with **Developing Elite Junior Players** and **Talent Identification and Development of Junior Players** respectively, the Glasgow forum (**The Journey to Elite Performance**) will target senior level. The panel of experts for Bilbao and Dubai includes Kenneth Larsen (Denmark), Xu Huaiwen (Germany), Fran Dacal (Spain), Mike Woodward (England), Ji Hyun Marr (Korea), Stewart Kerr (Scotland) and Ian Wright (BWF). Speakers for Glasgow will be announced later.

An estimated 80 coaches are expected to attend the Bilbao forum with about 60 slated for Dubai. The Glasgow conference will host 80 to 120 participants. These events will be geared towards international audiences and coaches from the respective host nations will benefit from exposure to world-class experts.

"The conferences will cover a combination of theory and practical sessions. We want them to be very interactive, with lots of discussion and questions. We are looking to expose participants to discussions around the development of elite junior players," said BWF Development Chair David Cabello (at right).

Topics - Bilbao: Player Reflection; Injury Prevention; Singles Play

Topics - Dubai: Comparison of Player Development Systems (Asia and Europe); Talent Identification Methods and Systems; Key Development Areas – Junior Athletes (Technical, Tactical, Mental and Physical)





Brazil's Ygor Coelho de Oliveira hits shuttles to fans.

IOC President Thomas Bach (right) and WADA President Sir Craig Reedie.

China's Fu Haifeng (left) and Zhang Nan celebrate gold.

RIVETING, RECORD-SETTING RIO!

Spain and Japan joined badminton's Olympic pantheon as their respective national anthems rung out for the first time in badminton's 24 years at sport's highest level.

Top seeds in their events, Carolina Marin and the duo of Misaki Matsutomo and Ayaka Takahashi revelled in their finest hours as professional athletes at the Rio 2016 Badminton Competition, wresting gold in Women's Singles and Women's Doubles respectively. Both were made to work hard for the ultimate glory, staging comebacks versus worthy opponents during the finals.

Remarkably, the Japanese reeled off five straight points from 16-19 down in a nail-biting third game against Europe's best – Christinna Pedersen and Kamilla Rytter

Juhl of Denmark. Their nerves of steel were matched by Marin, arguably badminton's Iron Lady, whose self-belief propelled her to pride of place on the podium after wearing down long-legged Indian, PV Sindhu, in another three-game thriller.

As many accolades and trophies as they have racked up, this was uncharted territory for these three women and the emotional weight of the moment told on them, tears flowing as they watched their nations' flags ascend to the rafters in Riocentro – Pavilion 4. While they celebrated, China was coming to terms with the stunning about-turn as the powerhouse failed to win a medal in either category, having captured gold in both at every Olympic Games since 2000, and all five golds at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Mixed Doubles was the first category to slip from China's clutches, with Indonesia's Tontowi Ahmad/Liliyana Natsir breaking the grasp of defending champions Zhang Nan/Zhao Yunlei in the semi-finals before steamrolling Malaysia's Chan Peng Soon/Goh Liu Ying in the gold-medal match.

However, China rebounded on the last two days. Men's Doubles pair Fu Haifeng/Zhang Nan survived three match points in the quarter-finals against Korea's Kim Gi Jung/Kim Sa Rang. A similar situation unfolded in the final as Malaysia's Goh V Shem/Tan Wee Kiong earned two match points but squandered both with poor serves. China heaved a sigh of relief as the experienced Fu/Zhang clinched their nation's first badminton gold in Rio; Fu defending the title he won in London with Cai Yun.

Continues on Page 6



Women's Singles medalists

Men's Singles medalists

Mixed Doubles medalists

Continued from Page 5

Then it was Chen Long's turn to deny Malaysia's Lee Chong Wei just as his Chinese compatriot Lin Dan had done in Beijing and London. Lee, having pulled off an epic semi-final victory over his nemesis Lin for the first time in major finals, appeared short of energy and ideas as the two-time World champion wrapped up the Men's Singles showdown in straight games before dissolving into tears.

Badminton's seventh outing at the Olympic Games was one of the record books – with an unprecedented nine countries splitting the 15 medals and four nations winning gold. In addition, Malaysia reached three finals (including its first medal by a female player); India bettered its London

bronze medal, thanks to Sindhu's silver; Indonesia won its first Mixed Doubles gold; and Denmark got its first Women's Doubles medal. The increasingly-prominent contention that badminton is more open and competitive than ever was also borne out by the fact that no nation managed more than one medal in any category.

Beyond such records, badminton set an invaluable legacy in the first Olympics in South America. Impressive crowds packed the stands, cheering and chanting in a

manner that would have rivalled the famed Istora Senayan in Jakarta. Passions reached their height when Brazilians Ygor Coelho de Oliveira and Lohaynny Vicente took to the courts for their group matches. The reception they received was unbelievable – and they rose to the occasion, proving that, in the land of football, badminton has its place.



Lee Chong Wei (Malaysia)



Kim Gi Jung/Kim Sa Rang (Korea)



Misaki Matsutomo/Ayaka Takahashi (Japan)



PV Sindhu (India)



Eefje Muskens/Selena Piek (Netherlands)



Linda Zetchiri (Bulgaria)



Zhang Nan/Zhao Yunlei (China)

FINAL RESULTS

MS: Chen Long (CHN) bt Lee Chong Wei (MAS) 21-18 21-18

WS: Carolina Marin (ESP) bt PV Sindhu (IND) 19-21 21-12 21-15

MD: Zhang Nan/Fu Haifeng (CHN) bt Goh V Shem/Tan Wee Kiong (MAS) 16-21 21-11 23-21

WD: Misaki Matsutomo/Ayaka Takahashi (JPN) bt Christinna Pedersen/Kamilla Rytter Juhl (DEN) 18-21 21-9 21-19

XD: Tontowi Ahmad/Liliyana Natsir (INA) bt Chan Peng Soon/Goh Liu Ying (MAS) 21-14 21-12



BWF Council Members, Nigel Skelt (left) and Yuhuan Tan (right), with Badminton Switzerland's Robbert de Kock.



BWF Secretary General Thomas Lund chats with outgoing IOC Athletes' Committee Chair, Claudia Bokel.



BWF President Poul-Erik Hoyer (right) with Li-Ning Director, Li Zhujun, and BWF's Owen Leed (left).



Falcon and Associates' Alastair Ruxton (left) with BWF Deputy President Gustavo Salazar Delgado and his wife, Sandra Salazar.



WADA President Sir Craig Reedie (right) and BWF President Poul-Erik Hoyer.

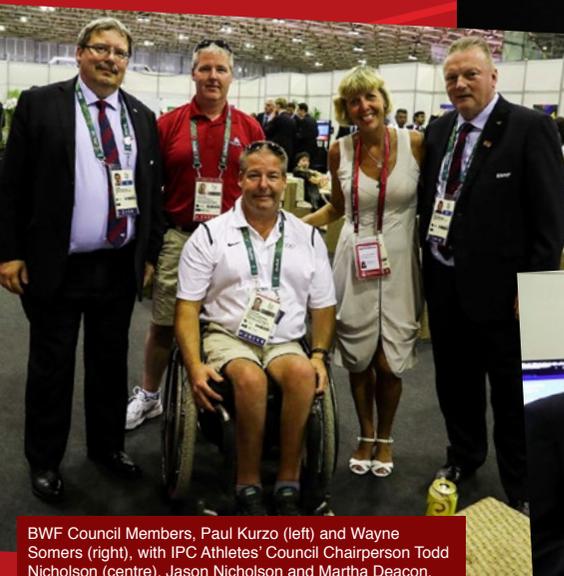


BWF Council Members, Li Lingwei (left) and Nora Perry.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

BWF HOSTED SPORTS FRATERNITY WITH RIO 2016 RECEPTION

Guests try to score points with fun activity.



BWF Council Members, Paul Kurzo (left) and Wayne Somers (right), with IPC Athletes' Council Chairperson Todd Nicholson (centre), Jason Nicholson and Martha Deacon.



Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister, General Tanasak Patimapragorn (second right), with BWF Secretary General Thomas Lund, Badminton Association of Thailand's Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul (right) and Deputy Referee - Rio 2016, Nahathai Somprachum.



BWF Council Member, Dato Lim Teong Kiat (left) with Yonex's Ben Yoneyama and his wife, Jo Ann Yoneyama. At right is BWF's Darren Parks.





England's Chris Adcock signs his commitment to clean sporting values. He also won the quiz which tested players' knowledge of anti-doping procedures.

Japanese players (from left) Shizuka Matsuo, Ayaka Takahashi and Minatsu Mitani supported the integrity-awareness activation.

BWF AND JADA 'PLAY TRUE'

**PLAY
TRUE
2020**

**i am
badminton
honest · clean**

Integrity of sport continued to dominate the news in the lead-up to the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

In the aftermath of the South American showpiece, the focus now is on Tokyo 2020, and in the next four years, the Badminton World Federation (BWF) will heighten the roll-out of its "i am badminton" integrity campaign, engaging youth with activities that uplift wholesome values in sport and the important role athletes play in protecting the integrity of badminton on and off the field of play.

As the Olympic focus shifts to Japan's capital, it was fitting the first major badminton tournament following Rio 2016 was in Tokyo, with the Yonex Open Japan taking place 20-25 September.

BWF collaborated with JADA – the Japan Anti-Doping Agency – in a co-branded series of activations which targeted athletes and the public at the MetLife BWF World Superseries event, raising awareness as a part of **PLAY TRUE 2020**. The latter

is one of the three pillars of **Sport for Tomorrow**, the Japanese Government's legacy project for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic & Paralympic Games. Its vision is to create the future through the power of sport by disseminating messages on the values of sport and implementing activities particularly targeting youth.

At this year's Yonex Open Japan, BWF Athletes' Commission member Shintaro Ikeda worked with JADA staff and volunteers at a booth in the training hall, explaining concepts to players and inviting them to participate in anti-doping quizzes, to sign a 'Play True' flag (as a pledge of their commitment to the true values of sport) and to take photos highlighting key messages of **PLAY TRUE 2020**.

The activations attracted top players including Japan's Nozomi Okuhara, Akane Yamaguchi, Ayaka Takahashi, Minatsu Mitani, Denmark's Anders Skaarup Rasmussen, Korea's Lee Dong Keun, Ko Sung Hyun, Thailand's Bodin Issara, Indonesia's Tommy Sugiarto and England's Chris Adcock.

Partnerships are integral to BWF's strategy of ensuring clean and honest badminton and this collaboration with JADA and Nippon Badminton was the first step in this regard in the four-year cycle towards Tokyo 2020.

These partnerships focus on shared goals around:

- Awareness and education (focusing on youth)
- Monitoring athletes and sharing information
- Testing programmes and services

BWF's appreciation goes to JADA for its continuing collaboration with BWF; to the Nippon Badminton Association for its support and to all the athletes who embraced the activities in Tokyo in September.

NOTE: For more information on this initiative, please check the **BWF Corporate** website.

TESTING TIME – AGAIN!

Fifteen tournaments will experiment with the "best of five games to 11 points" as BWF engages in a third round of testing a potentially-new scoring system.

The Slovak Open 2016, Yonex-Sunrise India Junior International Badminton Championships 2016 and Celcom Axiata Malaysia International Youth U-19 2016 have been the first to try this option, with testing having started in September 2016 and scheduled to run until December 2017.

BWF has invited Level 3 BWF Grand Prix, BWF Level 4, and all international-sanctioned junior tournaments taking place during this time to test this system with one of the following formats for setting:

1. Setting to a maximum of 15 points
2. A three-point decider if the score reaches 10-all

There will only be a one-minute break between games.

Setting Option 1 – At 10-all, the player/pair wins the game when a two-point lead is achieved or first to 15 when the score reaches 14-all.

Setting Option 2 – At 10-all, a 3 points challenge will be played where the first player/pair to score three points wins the game. The score for that game would be displayed as 11-10 (3-2), 11-10 (3-1), or 11-10 (3-0).

BWF is working with its tournament-software provider on the required functionality to allow hosts to use either setting option and will send templates detailing the information it wants from the testing of this experimental scoring system. Member associations have also been invited to undertake testing at their domestic events and leagues and to submit information from athletes, spectators, technical officials and other stakeholders involved in those events.

Analysis from tournaments played from September 2016 to September 2017 will be considered by the BWF Council at its meeting in October/November 2017 and analysis from tournaments played October to December 2017 will be considered in the analysis provided to the Annual General Meeting in May 2018.

The following events will use the experimental scoring system of best of five games to 11 points with setting at 10-10:



The BWF scoring system is being reviewed again.

Tournament	Category	Dates	Setting Option
Slovak Open 2016	Future Series	1-4 September 2016	#1 – to 15
YONEX SUNRISE India Junior International Badminton Championships 2016	Junior International Grand Prix	1-4 September 2016	#1 – to 15
Celcom Axiata Malaysia International Youth U-19 2016	Junior International Series	6-10 September 2016	#1 – to 15
Chinese Taipei Masters 2016	Grand Prix	11-16 October 2016	#1 – to 15
41st YONEX Hungarian International 2016	International Challenge	27-30 October 2016	#1 – to 15
Finnish Junior 2016	Junior International Series	28-30 October 2016	#1 – to 15
YONEX Korea Junior Open 2016	Junior International Series	21-27 November 2016	#1 – to 15
India International Series 2016	International Series	22-27 November 2016	#1 – to 15
Finnish International 2016	International Series	24-27 November 2016	#1 – to 15
TATA Open India International Challenge 2016	International Challenge	30 November – 4 December 2016	#1 – to 15
YONEX Estonian Junior 2016	Junior International Series	9-11 December 2016	#1 – to 15
Swedish Junior 2017	Junior International Series	27-29 January 2017	#1 – to 15
26th Iran Fajr International Challenge 2017	International Challenge	9-12 February 2017	#1 – to 15
7th Multi Alarm Hungarian International Junior 2017	Junior International Series	9-12 February 2017	#1 – to 15
Russia Open 2017	Grand Prix	3-8 October 2017	#1 – to 15



New Chair of the BWF Technical Official Commission, Gilles Cavert (front: second left), and his predecessor, Torsten Berg (front: third left), were among those attending the BWF Referees Workshop.



Development Chair David Cabello (centre) and representatives of BWF's continental confederations and BWF staff.

SUPPORTING 'SCHOLARLY' PLAYERS

Badminton scholarships, health benefits of badminton and a review of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games were among the numerous discussions during the annual BWF workshops with its continental confederations.

During the Development meeting, the prospect of introducing scholarships for players who want to study and train at same time was raised as an option to ensure athletes who are keen to pursue both avenues can do so.

"Scholarships existed in the past and it would be good to have them again," said BWF Development Chair, David Cabello.

"They can help to keep players in the sport while allowing them the opportunity to continue their education.

"We are increasing the Player Development Fund to continental confederations in 2017 and encouraging them to identify talented players for Tokyo 2020 (Olympic and Paralympic Games) and to give these

players scholarships now so they can build competitive experience."

Additionally, BWF will explore the possibility of establishing a network of universities which are interested in badminton development.

"We want to set up partnerships with these universities to provide scholarships to allow players to continue their education while pursuing their high-level goals in our sport," explained Cabello.

Another topic on the agenda was the diverse health benefits of badminton and related research. BWF wants to support and validate more of these projects to continue building this important aspect of the sport.

"There's a lot of research around the health benefits of badminton and we want to demonstrate the real benefits of our sport. For example, the Russian study of youth myopia. Research has shown that prescribing participation in badminton can help to treat this problem and can reduce the

need for glasses," said BWF Development Director Ian Wright, adding the French Badminton Federation is also among those with whom BWF wants to collaborate given French research highlighting badminton's positive benefits regarding rehabilitation.

Meanwhile, at the Events Workshop, BWF Events Chair Peter Tarcala noted the Rio 2016 Badminton Competition produced the sport's best Olympic medal spread, with nine countries sharing the 15 medals.

"We had a lot of challenges leading up to these Olympics but the tournament itself had some outstanding matches and our feedback so far is that global viewership was extremely high," he said, adding that a formal review will be forthcoming.

The week's other meetings in Kuala Lumpur included BWF Referees (Certificated and Accredited Referees and the Technical Official Commission Chair), the Constitution Working Group and the General Competition Regulations Review Group.



BWF Events Director Darren Parks (left) makes a point during the Events Workshop while BWF Events Chair Peter Tarcala (centre) and BWF Secretary General Thomas Lund listen.



BWF Events Chair Peter Tarcala (centre) leads the meeting of the General Competition Regulations Review Group, including Vice Chair of the BWF Athletes' Commission, Koen Ridder (right).