

PLAYER COMMITMENT REGULATIONS

In Force: 13/11/2022 V2.1



1. GENERAL COMMITMENTS

- 1.1. The general commitments under Clause 1 of the Player Commitment Regulations apply to all Players participating in BWF Sanctioned Tournaments defined in GCR Regulations 2.2 to 2.6.
- 1.2. All Players participating in any BWF Sanctioned Tournament must follow BWF Statutes including the General Competition Regulations, and in particular observe GCR Regulations 4.6 to 4.12.
- 1.3. Players ranked number 100 or above on the World Ranking must sign a BWF Players Undertaking to confirm their acceptance of the BWF Statutes, including the General Competition Regulations

Media Obligations

- 1.4. It is a condition of entry into BWF Sanctioned Tournaments that each Player is required, immediately after each match, to go to the Mixed Zone (where applicable), to participate in media interviews.
- 1.5. It is a condition of entry into BWF Sanctioned Tournaments that each Player, if requested by the BWF, the Media Manager or other Tournament officials, is required to:
 - 1.5.1. attend any Pre-Tournament media conference. Players shall be available for such a Pre-Tournament media conference for a period not to exceed two hours in total on the day prior to their first scheduled singles or doubles match of the Tournament.
 - 1.5.2. attend any filming activity for the creation of TV-graphics for the Tournament or to generate promotional content for the Tournament. Such filming activities may include green screen filming or may take place at iconic places in the host city of the Tournament.
 - 1.5.3. attend any special themed media conference during the Tournament;
 - 1.5.4. give on-court interviews for television immediately after a match whether the match has been won or lost, and must follow instructions to create an effectful sports presentation for spectators and TV viewers.
 - 1.5.5. unless injured and physically unable to appear, attend any post-match media conference, within 30 minutes of the match finishing, regardless of whether the Player was the winner or loser of such a match, provided that this does not interfere with the preparation for the Player's next match. The minimum time commitment for such a post-match media conference is 25 minutes per media conference;
 - 1.5.6. attend any television studio interview to promote a Tournament the Player is participating in or is due to participate in, or badminton in general. If the studio interview is off site of the Tournament this should preferably be organised after the Player's final match of the day or on a non-playing day;
 - 1.5.7. Attend 'one on one' television interviews (up to four per Tournament). BWF has the right to decide two of these interviews in its sole discretion whilst the nature of the remaining two interviews shall be agreed between BWF and the Player; and

- 1.5.8. assist with the promotion of a Tournament and the game in general. A Player must be willing to participate on request in at least one appropriate activity of not more than one hour's duration during each Tournament (by way of example only autograph-signing, participating in "meet the public" events, question and answer sessions, etc.).
- 1.6. All media activities should preferably be arranged before the Tournament or on the same day as the Tournament after the Player has played the relevant match, but where a Player only plays matches after 6pm, media activities can be arranged before 12 am the same day. Practice is not an excusable reason for non-attendance at such media activities.

Sponsor / Commercial Obligations

- 1.7. It is a condition of entry into BWF Sanctioned Tournaments that each Player, if requested by BWF or other Tournament officials, is required to participate in:
 - 1.7.1. hospitality visits, autograph sessions or other similar sponsor related activities (up to two per Tournament and to last between 30-60 minutes per activity).
 - 1.7.2. photograph opportunities – minimum of one photograph opportunity per year. Each such photograph opportunity shall be jointly agreed upon by BWF and the Player, and will be organised during a Tournament in which the Player is participating.
 - 1.7.3. Media/sponsor activities for the BWF World Championships, BWF World Team Championships, BWF Men's World Team Championships, BWF Women's World Team Championships, and BWF World Tour Title sponsors – up to three activities per year.
- 1.8. Players are entitled not to attend an activity specified in clause 1.7 above if they have existing sponsors in categories which conflict with categories of the relevant BWF or Tournament sponsor, it being agreed that BWF will decide if a category conflict exists.
- 1.9. The activities specified in clause 1.7 above cannot constitute a direct individual endorsement by the Player of a commercial product.

Ceremony Protocol

- 1.10. Players participating in the finals of a Tournament must attend the final ceremonies directly after the match or must follow the instructions given by the organisers regarding the ceremony protocol, including but not limited to wearing the correct style of clothing (e.g. tracksuit or uniform) and the correct way of entering/exiting the ceremony area.

No other equipment, including rackets, are allowed to be brought onto the podium.

Flags are allowed to be brought onto the podium at Grade 1 Team Tournaments. When doing so, it can only be one flag and cannot obstruct or interfere with the receipt and/or display of any medals, trophies, or other prizes provided.

Flags are not allowed to be brought onto the podium at Grade 1 Individual Tournaments and Grade 2 Tournaments.

Bronze medallists and/or losing semi-finalists must attend the relevant ceremonies if such Players are notified in advance in the Tournament prospectus that the ceremonies will include bronze medallists and/or losing semi-finalists.

Other General Provision

- 1.11. It is a condition of entry into BWF Sanctioned Tournaments that each Player must accept and comply with the following provisions:
- 1.11.1. Players must dress and present themselves for play in a suitable smart manner in clean and acceptable Badminton sports clothing.
 - 1.11.2. 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.
 - 1.11.3. Clothing worn during post-match interviews, press conferences and during prize ceremonies must be in accordance with the GCR advertising regulations, "Advertising on Players' clothing", GCR Regulation 24.
 - 1.11.4. For the purpose of promoting BWF Sanctioned Tournaments, 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 used in a manner that solely constitutes a direct endorsement or association with a sponsor without prior consent of the Player.
 - 1.11.5. BWF is also entitled to use Player images, logos and other identifications for the purpose of producing and promoting Badminton Gaming (Player trading cards, games for computer and playing consoles, social media gaming and similar gaming concepts). BWF is only permitted to use Players collectively, (collectively being defined as a minimum of five Players) for Badminton Gaming purposes for each of the gaming concepts. This right is not transferable as per GCR Regulation 4.12 and can only be exercised by BWF unless sub-licensed to other parties in writing.
- 1.12. All Players ranked number 100 or above on the World Ranking shall be required, if requested, to participate in one day of up to eight hours or two days of up to four hours each day for the purpose of attending and participating in BWF information meetings, educational activities or similar during each calendar year. BWF will schedule such activities on site at Tournaments where the Player participates.

2. "TOP COMMITTED PLAYER" OBLIGATIONS

- 2.1. Players occupying the top 15 places in Men's Singles and Women's Singles, and the top 10 places in Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles of **the World Ranking as at the third week of November the year before the relevant BWF Sanctioned Tournaments ("Top Committed Players")** will be required to play in the following Tournaments occurring in the full Calendar year:
- 2.1.1. Level 1: BWF World Tour Finals (if qualified);
 - 2.1.2. Level 2: All four Tournaments;
 - 2.1.3. Level 3: All six Tournaments; and
 - 2.1.4. Level 4: Two out of nine Tournaments.
- 2.2. Any Players who, in addition to the Players above, occupy places in the top 15 in Men's Singles and Women's Singles, and the top 10 in Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles of the World Ranking as at **the first week of July before the relevant BWF Sanctioned Tournaments** will also be deemed "Top Committed Players" and will be required to play in all Level 1-3 BWF World Tour Tournaments (Level 1 if qualified) occurring in the remaining Calendar year and a minimum of one BWF World Tour Level 4 Tournament.

- 2.3. Failure to play in any BWF World Tour Level 1-3 Tournaments by a Top Committed Player (as described in clauses 2.1.1 to 2.1.3, and 2.2 above) will be considered a breach of these Player Commitment Regulations and in addition to other withdrawal fees and penalties, the Player / pair will receive an additional penalty over and above normal withdrawal fees as stated in the Table of Offences and Penalties (BWF Statutes, Section 2.4). In addition, BWF will have the right to consider further penalties following consideration by the Disciplinary Committee.
- 2.4. Exemption from the additional penalty set out in clause 2.3 above will be considered in case of injury in one or more Tournaments, in case of certain exceptional circumstances (as set out in clause 2.7 below) and on receipt of a valid medical certificate. The involved Player will be required to attend the Tournament s/he has failed to play in for a minimum of two days at his/her own expense and take part in any media event arranged by BWF during that time. BWF has the right to waive this obligation if medical conditions prevent travel.
- 2.5. Failure to play in the minimum number of BWF World Tour Level 4 Tournaments at the end of the calendar year by a Top Committed Player (as described in clauses 2.1.4 and 2.2 above), will be considered a breach of these Player Commitment Regulations and in addition to other withdrawal fees and penalties the Player / pair will receive an additional penalty over and above normal withdrawal fees as stated in the Table of Offences and Penalties (BWF Statutes, Section 2.4). In addition, BWF will have the right to consider further penalties following consideration by the Disciplinary Committee.
- 2.6. Exemption from the penalty as set out in clause 2.5 above will be considered in case of injury in one or more Tournaments, in case of certain exceptional circumstances (as set out in clause 2.7 below) and on receipt of a valid Medical Certificate. The involved Player will however be required to take part in any one media event requested and arranged by BWF during the first quarter of the next calendar year. BWF has the right to waive this obligation if medical conditions prevent travel.
- 2.7. BWF may waive the penalty as specified in clauses 2.3 and 2.5 in certain exceptional circumstances (such as forced military service or similar), Player suspension (by BWF or Members) and official Player retirement (following submission of official retirement form to BWF).
- 2.8. Top Committed Players are allowed to play a maximum of four Grade 2, Level 5 Tournaments unless BWF give a special exemption or provided that the Player participates in all Grade 2, Level 1-4 Tournaments. World Ranking Points will be deducted for participating in more than four Tournaments if the requirements of clause 2.8 are not met.

3. SPONSOR AND HOSPITALITY OBLIGATIONS – TOP COMMITTED PLAYERS

- 3.1. In addition to the general commitments in clause 1 and Top Committed Player Obligations in clause 2, all Top Committed Players shall be required, if requested, to participate in:
 - 3.1.1. Photograph Opportunities – minimum of two (2) photo opportunities per year. Each such photo opportunity shall be jointly agreed upon by the BWF and the Player, and one of the photo opportunities may be organized on a location not in the home country of the Player (in such case any travel and accommodation costs shall be paid by the BWF). The other activity will be organized during a Tournament in which the Player is participating.

- 3.1.2. Sponsor/BWF Special Events and BWF Awards Ceremony – minimum of two (2) sponsor/BWF special events or BWF Awards Ceremony. BWF shall provide at least 30 days' advance notice of the date and location of the BWF Awards Ceremony.
- 3.1.3. Media/sponsor activities for BWF World Tour Title sponsor – minimum four (4) activities per year.
- 3.2. All activities should preferably be arranged before the start of the Tournament or on the same day as the Tournament after the Player has played the relevant match, but where a Player only plays matches after 6pm, activities can be arranged before 12:00 am the same day. Practice is not an excusable reason for non-attendance.
- 3.3. Players are entitled not to attend an activity specified in clause 3.1 above if they have existing sponsors in categories which conflict with the categories of the relevant BWF or Tournament sponsor, it being agreed that BWF will decide if a category conflict exists.
- 3.4. The activities specified in clause 3.1 above cannot constitute a direct individual endorsement by the Player of a commercial product.

4. PLAYER INJURY – MEDICAL EXEMPTION AND PROTECTED RANKING

- 4.1. Players occupying the top 32 places in Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, and Mixed Doubles can submit a request to get a protected ranking due to injury, pregnancy, or other circumstances making it impossible for the Player to compete for long periods in the following way:
 - 4.1.1. The Player must submit medical and/or other relevant documentation supporting the request to get a protected ranking.
- 4.2. If BWF grants the protected ranking, the Player will:
 - 4.2.1. be exempt from the mandatory Tournament participation rules;
 - 4.2.2. not be eligible for any bonus for that year;
 - 4.2.3. be unable to participate in any Tournament for a minimum of three months, up to a maximum of 12 months, or until such time as the Player notifies BWF that the Player wishes to enter a Tournament again. The protected ranking period commences once permission has been granted by BWF, and is calculated and tracked by day. After 12 months, the Player will have to enter Tournaments based on their normal ranking position and the protected ranking will no longer be in force;
 - 4.2.4. not be entitled to be granted a similar protected ranking for at least two years from the time of return to competition; and
 - 4.2.5. upon return have the right to enter into BWF World Tour Tournaments with the protected ranking position for the same amount of time as they have been absent, subject to a maximum of six months. The protected ranking will not count towards seeding or for any other Tournaments outside the BWF World Tour Tournaments.