

INTRODUCTION

This document outlines a consolidated set of guidelines for organizers of AirBadminton tournaments, aiming to support BWF Member Associations and other organisers in hosting AirBadminton tournaments at national, regional, and to some extent, international levels.

CALENDAR CONSIDERATIONS

- **Climatic Conditions:**

Since AirBadminton is played outdoor, AirBadminton tournaments should not be organised in winter seasons or in extreme cold weather. Rainy or windy seasons should also be avoided.

- **Clashes with National and International badminton tournaments:**

When scheduling your tournament, it is advisable to avoid any major clashes with badminton tournaments, including national and/or international tournaments, if relevant.

LOCATION AND VENUE

- **Playing Surface**

AirBadminton tournaments are to be played on sand. It is recommended for the sand to be at least 30cm deep and composed of fine loosely compacted grains. The sand can be dry and to some extent, wet, but it shall not pose any risk to the players.

For national tournaments and in countries where there are no sand courts and beaches, a soft and safe surface could be chosen instead (Example: grass).

During the tournament, the sand should be regularly watered to reduce the temperature of the sand. Watering the sand also helps with the visibility of the AirShuttle on camera.

- **Location**

Windy location or areas prone to airflows shall be avoided.

In cases where the wind is greater than 12 Kph, the chosen location shall be naturally protected or in an enclosed area so that the impact of the wind and any resultant airflow is considerably reduced or eliminated. Such protected areas could be locations surrounded by trees, buildings and any other natural or manmade structures.

- **Accessibility and Space**

The location shall be accessible and spacious enough. Existing manmade sand courts can be excellent locations with consideration of the wind and other elements. This option could also be advantageous if any structures are already present at the venue (example: stands).

In some countries, the easiest option is to look for existing beach volleyball courts.

- **Facilities**

Make sure to have basic facilities available for players and officials: toilets, running water, shelter/shade (for players and officials) and others.

FORMAT, DURATION AND SCHEDULE

• **Tournament Format**

BWF intends to focus on the 'team' element in AirBadminton. As such, the main events for AirBadminton will be:

- Team Relay
- Men's Triples
- Women's Triples

In addition, the following events may also be played:

- Men's Doubles
- Women's Doubles
- Mixed Doubles
- Mixed Triples

To allow for maximum playing time, it is also recommended that the format of the tournament be a group stage followed by elimination.

• **Entries**

Entries for the Team Relay and Triples event should be in Teams. Each Team should have at least 3 male and 3 female players but can have up to 4 male and 4 female players.

Before each match, players should be nominated by a Team Manager or a Team Captain.

The BWF is currently experimenting with substitutions during a tie or match. Please contact us if you want to test the system.

We recommend that Team names and players names are properly registered to be later sent to the BWF as part of the final results and report.

For the time being, BWF recommends that you use League Planner but you may also use other software. The results must be sent to the BWF in PDF format or Excel or League Planner file.

• **Duration of the tournament**

The duration of the event is up to the organisers and it will depend on all factors mentioned above. For example, the tournament can be held on:

- 1 or 2 full days
- 2 or more consecutive days with matches in the afternoon.
- 2 consecutive Sundays/weekends, either full days or matches in the afternoon.
- Etc.

• **Scheduling**

Below are some key considerations on scheduling:

- **Weather forecast:** Rain, wind and temperature shall be properly and continuously monitored by the Referee and organisers.

- **Match duration:** Appropriate match duration times shall be used for schedule based on level and events (Team Relay, Doubles and Triples). On average a Team Relay match would last 45 minutes while a double or triple match would last 30 minutes.
- **Contingency:** While scheduling your tournament, plan for contingencies in case play is suspended due to weather conditions.

EQUIPMENT

The basic equipment requirements shall be: AirShuttles, competition kits (line system), net posts, net and other field of play equipment. The BWF support package will assist you, but **additional equipment might be necessary**, depending on the number of participants, size of tournament, number of courts, etc.

Equipment	Details
AirShuttles	<i>Provided by BWF</i>
Competition Lines	<i>Provided by BWF</i>
Competition Nets	<i>Badminton nets can be utilised.</i>
Net posts	<i>Traditional badminton posts can be used. But if used, they must be dug in the sand to be at 1.50m in height.</i>
Cones	<i>Service markers – Provided by BWF (Competition Kits)</i>
Umpire Chair / Stand	Traditional umpire's chair can be used, or a volleyball Referee stand can also be used if present on site.
Umbrellas	Can be fixed to umpire's chair
Sand Rake	To level sand when required
Water Hose or Watering Can	To water the playing areas when necessary.
Shovel	Burying plaques to stretch and hold line system in place (Plaques included in competition kits)
Line Judge Flags	Used by Line Judges to signal (optional at national level)

Depending on the level of the tournament and players, other **optional equipment** may be needed:

Venue Specs / Facilities	Details
A-boards	<i>Around courts and FOP</i>
Players Box	<i>On each side of the courts</i>
Scoreboard / Screen	<i>Display score and others</i>
Wind flags	<i>Around venue</i>
Wind Sleeve	<i>Set-up around FOP to measure wind direction</i>

Court covers / Tarpaulins	<i>Only in rainy countries/regions/seasons</i>
Coaches FOP Seats	<i>2 per courts – For triples events only</i>
Players FOP Seats	<i>4 per side – for Mixed Team Relay only</i>
Sound System	<i>For music and PA</i>
Anemometer	<i>Wind testing device</i>
Stringing Machine	<i>Restringing Services</i>

TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

Technical Officials role in AirBadminton are very similar to badminton except for the 'service judge' who will act as an 'Assistant Umpire' in AirBadminton. The Technical Officials needed for your national tournament:

- A Referee
- Deputy or deputies (as needed)
- Umpires
- Line Judges

You may also consider volunteers who will rake and level the sand courts whenever it's necessary.

You can download the AirBadminton National Tournament – TOs Guidelines document here ([link](#)).

OTHERS

• AirBadminton Experience

Create a vibrant atmosphere with music and engaging activities for players, their entourage, spectators and anybody attending the event.

• Medical

AirBadminton is a relatively safe sport as is badminton but, as recommended for all tournaments, make sure to have medical assistance at the venue.

• Playing Outdoor

During summer time and in particular locations, it can get really warm for players and officials. Make sure to remind all to stay hydrated, use caps, sunscreen and other protective equipment as may be necessary.

• Draw and Scoring System

You can use League Planner to set-up and manage your tournament. You can also use Tournament Software scoring system (as in badminton). If you have any questions, please contact us (airbadminton@bwf.sport).

If preferred, you can also use a manual system. Click on the links to download the scoresheet of the Mixed Team Relay ([link](#)) and the Triples events ([link](#)).

- **Live Streaming and Promotion**

We encourage you to promote your tournament on the different media platforms including live streaming. BWF may further promote your tournament on its platforms as well.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS REPORTING

Complete and send the BWF AirBadminton Tournament Report ([link](#)), with photos, to airbadminton@bwf.sport.

CONTACTS

If you have further questions on aspects not covered in this document, you can contact us on airbadminton@bwf.sport.