

BWF SPORT SCIENCE RESEARCH GRANT 2026



The BWF Sport Science Research Grant is designed to support research institutions and individual academia to conduct badminton related sport science research projects.

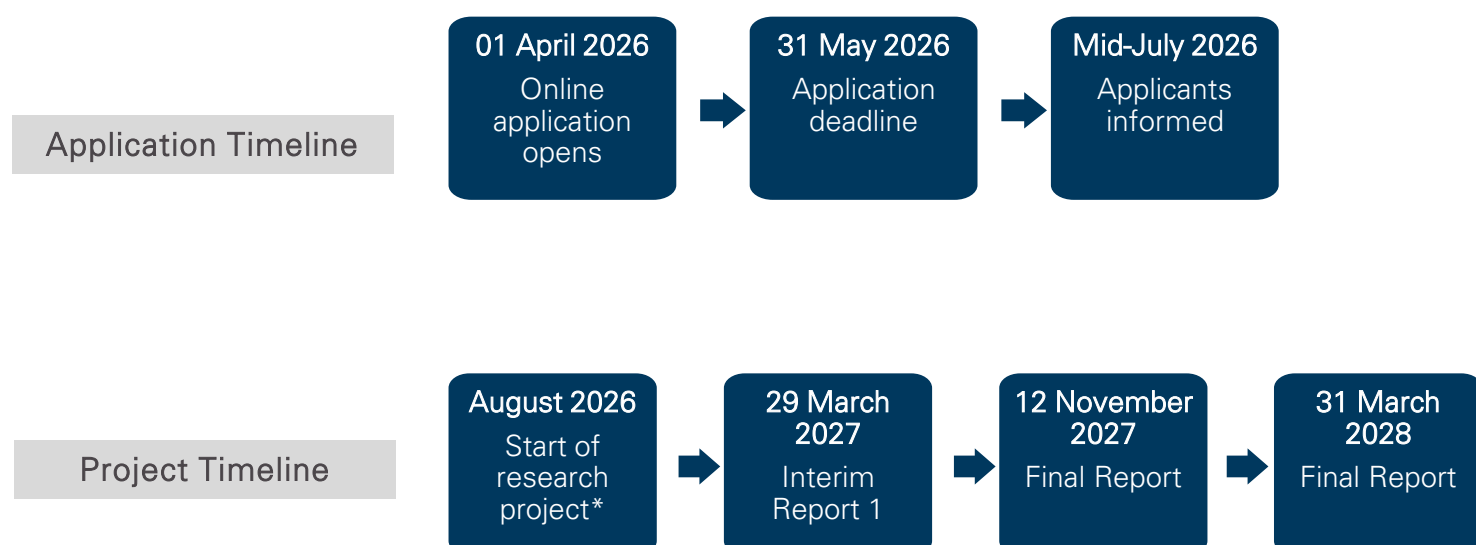
Programme overview

The BWF Sport Science Research Grant programme aims to meet the objectives sets out by the BWF Sport Science and Medical Research Panel:

1. Encourage and widen interest and investment in applied research in Badminton.
2. Improve the level and quantity of scientific material available to players, coaches and badminton practitioners.
3. Contribute towards the increased knowledge on performance and safety at the international level - for coaches and players.

The grant is open to individuals pursuing or holding a Master's degree or higher who are conducting research on badminton across various academic disciplines. Upon completion, the findings will be shared with BWF Member Associations and the global badminton community. Applicants are required to submit a recommendation letter, preferably from a BWF Member Association, to ensure the research aligns with current issues and provides the highest practical value.

Timeline



**The official project start date will be determined by the date the agreement is signed.*

Research Themes and Topics

The BWF Sport Science and Medical Research Panel has identified the following key research themes and topics for the 2026 cycle.

Theme 1: Badminton performance / Player development / Coaching

- ◀ Physical and performance characteristics in badminton: differences by gender and discipline
- ◀ Scientific approaches to coaching methodology in badminton
- ◀ Impact of current BWF tournament structure on player development

Theme 2: Physical activity, mental well-being & overall health

- ◀ Physical and psychological changes in aging population through regular badminton sessions
- ◀ Physical and psychological changes in youth through regular badminton sessions
- ◀ Barriers and retention on female participation in badminton

Theme 3: Injury prevention & strategies / Medical research

- ◀ Structured warm up/injury prevention programme in reducing injury risk in youth / elite / recreational players
- ◀ Monitoring and managing on-court and training workload for injury prevention in elite badminton players

Theme 4: Para badminton / Inclusive badminton

- ◀ Optimal wheelchair set-up (seating position, wheel camber, anti-tip, tyre type/pressure) to maximise movement efficiency and force/power output for Para badminton athletes
- ◀ Defining principles and training zones for specific sport classes to ensure practice mirrors the demands of elite competition.
- ◀ Developing standardized, class-specific testing methods to accurately measure athlete performance and progress.
- ◀ Establishing core principles for strength and conditioning tailored to the unique physiological needs of each sport class.
- ◀ Critical success factors of collaboration between National Federations and Special Olympics Programs in enhancing sustainable badminton growth and participation opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities.
- ◀ Impact of competition formats (including Unified Doubles) on performance, social engagement, and psychological well-being of Special Olympics athletes.



Requirements

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- ◀ be enrolled as a postgraduate student at a university or equivalent institution and currently preparing a postgraduate dissertation/thesis; or
- ◀ have obtained a postgraduate degree and currently hold a research position at a university or equivalent institution; or
- ◀ be a researcher (with or without doctorate), whose academic research work is documented and established at a research institution; and
- ◀ have a letter or recommendation preferably from a BWF Member Association.

Individual vs Institutional application

Grant applications may be received either from an individual or institutional researchers who all need to fulfil the eligibility requirements.

For Institutional applications, the lead researcher, i.e. main applicant, will hold responsible for the proper conduct of the research, as well as the obligations arising from these regulations

Language of the Research Project

Research application (including supporting documents) and research projects are accepted only in **ENGLISH**.



Application Process and Supporting Documents

Applications for the grants must follow the process describe below. Only complete applications that meet all requirements will be considered.

Online Application

All applications must be submitted via the Online Application Form available at <https://development.bwfbadminton.com/sport-science/bwf-research/research-grants-application>

All mandatory fields must be completed. Partial or incomplete applications will not be considered. No changes to the application will be possible once the application has been completed and submitted.

- ◀ Opening date for applications: **1st April**
- ◀ Closing date for applications: **31st May**
- ◀ Communication of results: **by mid-July**

Supporting Documents

Grant applicants will be requested to provide the following supporting documents in PDF for the evaluation process upon submission of the application:

a) Curriculum Vitae (CV)

If there is more than one researcher, a CV for each member is required. Please compile all CVs into a single document.

b) Endorsement Letter

From academic institution, research centre or BWF Member Association

c) Budget & Justification

Detailed budget breakdown with justification

d) Video proposal

Explain the project in a 5-min video

Budget

The amount of funding awarded may vary each year. Grants typically may be awarded of up to USD 8,000 per research project. The final amount will be determined by the BWF, considering the Evaluation Panel's feedback on the research circumstances and the feasibility of the proposed budget.

Researchers are required to submit a budget justification explaining and justifying the expenses outlined in their proposed budget for evaluation. The budget should accurately reflect the costs associated with the research project.

Grant recipients must submit an expenditure report upon project completion and may be asked to provide supporting invoices if necessary.

The BWF Sport Science Research Grants intend to cover the following direct costs:

- ◀ Rental of necessary technical equipment and devices, duly justified;
- ◀ Purchase of necessary minor technical equipment and devices, duly justified;
- ◀ Investigator allowance to compensate for the time and personal expenses associating to the research, duly justified;
- ◀ Domestic travel, exclusively for the purpose of conducting the research
- ◀ Fees required for the conduct of the research (e.g. Translation cost, cost of data collection, etc.)
- ◀ Fees paid to research subjects, such as modest incentives for participation, where ethics clearance has been obtained.

Kindly note that the BWF does not provide grants solely for equipment costs or investigator allowances.

The following cost will **NOT** be supported through the grant:

- ◀ Salaries / replacement teaching cost
- ◀ Taxes
- ◀ Tuition Fees
- ◀ International travel (unless it is agreed with the BWF)
- ◀ Expenses incurred prior to the effective date of the grant
- ◀ Writing/publication expenses (unless it is agreed with the BWF)
- ◀ Living expenses
- ◀ Contingency funds
- ◀ Miscellaneous expenses
- ◀ Fees paid for external consultant or vendor
- ◀ Administrative support, utilities and facility maintenance

Assessment Criteria and Process

Assessment Criteria

Only complete applications fulfilling all the required criteria will be reviewed and evaluated by the Evaluation Panel. In evaluating applications for grants, the following criteria shall apply:

- a) **Strategic Value** – meet the strategic value of BWF and benefits the global badminton community;
- b) **Scientific Value** – high quality scientific value with clear design and methodology;
- c) **Feasibility** – the practicality of the research (ethics, budget, operation, time, etc.)
- d) **Immediate Impact** – the potential practical implications and applied aspect (clinical / training / performance)
- e) **Sustainability** – the implementation and dissemination plan of the research

Evaluation Panel

A panel of academic and badminton experts will evaluate the grant applications. The evaluation panel will consist of:

- ◀ The Chair of the BWF Development and Sport for All Committee or delegated member of the Committee
- ◀ Two or more members of the BWF Sport Science & Medical Research Panel
- ◀ The BWF Director of Development

The panel will recommend the list of awardees and research to the BWF Development team, which will make the final decision on awarding the grants.

Agreement, Funding and Reporting

Agreement

A Research Grants Agreement will be signed, between the BWF and the grant recipient – individual or institution - which covers the following areas:

- a) Focus of Research
- b) Research question(s)
- c) Methodology
- d) Expected outcomes / findings and its applicability to badminton
- e) KPIs against stages of the project
- f) Allocation of grant / part of grant against KPIs or stages
- g) Confidentiality and communication
- h) Publication rights

Successful applicants will typically have up to **two months** to finalise the agreement, and **no later than 30 November 2026**. Applicants applying through an institution are advised to check with their institution in advance to ensure this timeline can be met.

Please note that delays in finalising the agreement may result in the cancellation of the grant.

Funding Schedule

The grant typically will be paid in two (2) payments. The first payment (70%) will be paid upon both parties have signed the agreement and the second payment (30%) will be paid following the evaluation and approval of the interim or final report, approval of the expenditures, and submission of all deliverables.

For multi year project, the grant typically will be paid in three (3) payments. The first payment (60%) will be paid upon both parties have signed the agreement and equal payments (20% each) for the subsequent two payments will be paid following the evaluation and approval of the interim and final report, approval of the expenditures, and submission of all deliverables.

Reporting

A member of the BWF Sport Science & Medical Research Panel will monitor progress against the research plan of each project.

Researchers awarded grants by the BWF will have up to **20 months** to produce the following deliverables, depending on the date of agreement signing::

- a) **Final report** (approx. 20 pages); and
- b) **Abstract** (2 pages / approx. 600 words); and
- c) **Poster and/or infographic presentation** (where the project experience is explained in a short and graphical way).
- d) **Expenditure report**

A detailed reporting guideline will be provided upon the signing of the agreement.

Publication

BWF has teamed up with the International Journal of Racket Sport Science ([link](#)) to promote academic research on badminton.

A selection of high-impact projects may also be considered for publication in the *International Journal of Racket Sport Science*.

Contact

For more information about the BWF Sport Science Research Grant programme and assistance on the research grants application process, please contact us at sportscience@bwf.sport.

