

FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2020

AN OPEN LETTER

BWF President: Poul-Erik Høyer

BWF Secretary General: Thomas Lund

Dear friends of badminton,

I write to you today with the positive news that in partnership with the Badminton Association of Thailand and the Government of Thailand, we will be proceeding with the Asian leg of the adjusted HSBC BWF World Tour. The 2020 season will now culminate with three back-to-back tournaments in Bangkok, Thailand in January 2021.

These will be two Super 1000 tournaments plus the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals, and they will sit alongside next month's DANISA Denmark Open 2020 in forming the conclusion to the new-look HSBC World Tour 2020 calendar.

We acknowledge that pushing the back end of the HSBC BWF World Tour 2020 season into the beginning of next year is likely to affect the World Rankings and next season's BWF Tournament Calendar, but this solution for the Asian leg gives us the best opportunity to resume and complete this year's HSBC BWF World Tour as part of our return to international badminton.

A big thank you must go to the Badminton Association of Thailand and the Government of Thailand for making this possible. We look forward to working with our hosts and all participating teams and players in making this a success.

This great news follows the recent postponement of the TOTAL BWF Thomas and Uber Cup Finals 2020. It was with great disappointment that we had to make that very tough call.

But the stark reality was that we had to respect the decision of a number of teams and individual players to elect not to travel to Denmark for tournaments in Aarhus and Odense.

Unfortunately, the ability for BWF and its partners to proceed with the TOTAL BWF Thomas and Uber Cup Finals 2020 and guarantee the level of competition reasonably expected by fans became a near impossible task. The logistical difficulties and commercial complexities that faced us, mixed with understandable personal concerns about COVID-19, placed us in a very difficult situation.

From the start, we emphasised we would only see a return to international badminton if it was safe and logistically possible to do so. Therefore, for the past six months, we have been 100% dedicated to preparing for the safe return to international badminton.

This includes going to extreme lengths to preserve the health and safety of all participants such as implementing a bubble system to create a safe badminton ecosystem and putting in place a robust testing process onsite at venues to protect all participants from contracting COVID-19 at tournaments.

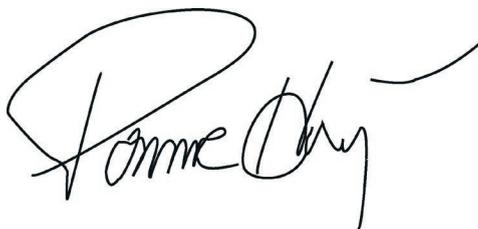
We are confident these best efforts have created and can create safe environments for players and key personnel to participate, and therefore are convinced that with the DANISA Denmark Open in October and the culmination of the HSBC BWF World Tour season in Bangkok in January 2021, we now have a clear roadmap for delivering international badminton once again.

To the players and team entourages, we have heard your frustrations and we thank the many of you who have supported us and shown patience as we work towards an eventual return. It is our priority to ensure badminton remains relevant and to protect the livelihoods of international badminton players.

To our fans, we know you are all eager to see international badminton soon. We are, too. Beyond the Asian leg in Bangkok, we have already begun a thorough process to establish clear solutions to deliver a full calendar for the rest of 2021. It's vital that we frequently assess the landscape and start envisaging what badminton will look like in three months, six months, 12 months and even beyond that time.

Finally, we reach out to the entire badminton community to keep your spirits high, play badminton where and when possible, and embrace our sport with great passion as we build towards our return at the Denmark Open in a few weeks.

With our best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Poul-Erik Høyer', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

BWF President, Poul-Erik Høyer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Lund', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

BWF Secretary General, Thomas Lund