

NOTICE**New Tournament Calendar for the HSBC BWF World Tour**

With the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the main concern for BWF is to ensure the health and safety of all participants once international tournaments resume again.

We believe we are able to create a safe environment around all HSBC BWF World Tour tournaments, but the main challenge with the existing international tournament calendar is the ability of the participants to travel between the many different host locations/countries where different entry and safety restrictions apply.

Therefore, and due to the exceptional circumstances presented by COVID-19 which are beyond our control, an adjusted calendar for the HSBC BWF World Tour will be implemented for the remainder of 2020.

The Plan for the Remainder of 2020

The **TOTAL BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals** in Denmark remains part of the international tournament calendar and will go ahead on the planned dates from 3-11 October 2020.

Regarding the **HSBC BWF World Tour**, it has been decided to rearrange four Tour tournaments and one Finals to be played in two locations for the remaining part of 2020 in the following way:

1. European leg of the HSBC BWF World Tour

Following the TOTAL BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals in Denmark in Week 40 and 41, the HSBC BWF World Tour will resume as follows:

1. **Week 42:** Danisa Denmark Open I, Super 750, prize money USD 750,000, Odense
2. **Week 43:** Denmark Open II, Super 750, prize money USD 750,000, Odense

2. Asian leg of the HSBC BWF World Tour

Following the tournaments in Denmark in Weeks 40-43 there will be a two-week transition time to relocate players to the Asian leg of the HSBC BWF World Tour being planned in the following way (all of the below tournaments will be hosted in the same location – to be announced):

1. **Week 46:** "Asia" Open I, Super 1000, prize money USD 1 million, exact name of tournament and location to be announced.
2. **Week 47:** "Asia" Open II, Super 1000, prize money USD 1 million, exact name of tournament and location to be announced.
3. **Week 48:** HSBC BWF World Tour Finals, prize money USD 1.5 million, exact location to be announced.

3. **Qualification to the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals:** The qualification will be based on the following principles:

1. All points accumulated on the "HSBC Race to Guangzhou Rankings" until 15 March 2020 will count towards the final qualification ranking (new name "**HSBC Race to World Tour Finals Rankings**").
2. Points from the four HSBC BWF World Tour tournaments in Weeks 42, 43, 46 and 47 will be accumulated to count for the final qualification ranking.

No other tournaments will count towards the final qualification ranking for the Finals.

3. It is furthermore a condition that players qualifying for the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals must participate in both the European leg and Asian leg of the remaining HSBC BWF World Tour tournaments.

It will not be logistically possible to include players not playing in the two legs of tournaments due to safety and quarantine procedures.

Asian Leg - Final information around Tournament Location

BWF is working with different Member Associations to explore the detailed arrangements to set up the tournaments in the Asian leg in Weeks 46-48. BWF expects to provide further information around the exact location shortly, which will enable all participants to plan their final travel arrangements.

BWF expects that teams and participants planning to enter into tournaments in the European and Asian legs would not return to their home countries as many would then have to undergo quarantine upon their return to home base. Participants – in particular players – should therefore include in their planning considerations to transfer directly from the European leg to the Asian leg without returning to their home country.

COVID-19 Safety Measurements - participation in the above tournaments

1. All tournaments during the European leg (including the TOTAL BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals), and the Asian leg tournaments, will be conducted in strict compliance with BWF COVID-19 safety tournament protocols for hosts and participants (players, coaches and other entourage).
2. Attached to this Notice is the guiding principles of the safety protocols, but further information will be provided which is specific to each of the tournaments as the guidelines will be further developed and detailed to fit the specific requirements around each tournament (i.e. adjusted to specific venue setup, hotel location/setup, transport setup etc.) based on the most recent advice of the health authorities at the location of the tournament. More information will be provided in due course.

Two documents are attached:

- **"Restarting International Badminton Tournaments – Safety Protocols & Operating Procedures"**
- (shorter version of the above with most relevant information for players and team entourage) – **"Restarting International Badminton Tournaments – Protocols for Players and Team Entourage"**.



3. All participants must be tested for COVID-19 before leaving their home country and present a negative test result on arrival to the tournament destination. COVID-19 testing during the tournament weeks (Weeks 40-48) will be conducted by BWF.
4. Accreditations will be issued in a way where participants that have tested negative on arrival at the tournament location will get a "Green Accreditation" to allow movement in dedicated areas only for "Green Accredited" people.
5. All participants who have a "Green Accreditation" will still need to following protocols and guidelines to ensure safe personal hygiene practices.
6. All participants must expect that BWF rules will apply around restricted movement of participants to ensure minimum contact with people not tested and without a "Green Accreditation". Any breach of the BWF guidelines and protocols can mean that accreditations are revoked, and participants not allowed to enter the venue and participate in the tournament.
7. **Remember – the protocols and guidelines are designed to take care of each other and to ensure the safety of all participants.**

Practical Information – participation in the tournaments

1. Entry Deadlines

Entry possibility is now open for all the above stated HSBC BWF World Tour tournaments. The exact entry deadline for each tournament will be:

1. Danisa Denmark Open I: **8 September 2020** (extended one week).
2. Denmark Open II: **8 September 2020** (same entry deadline as Danisa Denmark Open I – it is assumed that all or most players will enter into both tournaments in week 42 and 43, hence the same entry deadline).
3. Asia I: **29 September 2020** (information around the exact location and detailed prospectus information will follow as soon as possible).
4. Asia II: **29 September 2020** (same entry deadline as the Asia I – it is assumed that all or most players will enter into the tournaments in both Weeks 46 and 47, hence the same entry deadline).

2. Visa and Entry Clearance

Participants will be permitted to enter the two locations/countries for the Grade 1 and 2 tournaments organised for the remainder of 2020. BWF and the local host will provide assistance to ensure the entry of participants. However, this is subject to the COVID-19 safety restrictions related to each relevant country/territory.

3. Internal Transport between Tournament Locations during the European leg

Transport from Aarhus (location for the TOTAL BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals) to Odense (location for the two HSBC BWF World Tour tournaments) will be arranged by BWF and Badminton Denmark. Transport will be organised with dedicated transport only for participants with a "Green Accreditation".

4. Transition time between European leg and Asian leg

BWF would expect that teams and participants expecting to enter tournaments in the European and Asian legs cannot return to their home countries between the two legs as many would then have to undergo quarantine upon their return to their home country.

BWF will organise practice opportunities in Denmark and/or in the Asian host location in the weeks between the European and Asian leg.

5. Considerations - Transition from European leg to Asian leg

Please note that it may be necessary for all participants to arrive early to the Asian leg location to undergo a "Screening Period" in the host country of up to 14 days. This will not be a strict quarantine setup where participants are confined to be in their hotel rooms, but will be a "Screening Period" where participants have restricted movement possibilities. Participants will, however, be able to move around the hotel (including outdoor hotel premises) and also, most importantly, to practice in badminton training facilities.

If this "Screening Period" is necessary (to be confirmed once fully clarified with possible host locations) then all participants will have to leave immediately after the last tournament in the European leg to arrive at the Asian leg location early in Week 44. Accommodation costs during the "Screening Period" will be covered by BWF.

6. Transport from the European leg to the Asian Leg

Transport arrangements are being considered for all participants to be transferred with a chartered and dedicated badminton participants flight from Denmark to the Asian leg location. This is however not yet confirmed and more information will follow in due course.

7. Assistance with Planning and Coordination

BWF will help participating Members to coordinate travel arrangements and staff from the BWF Events Team will contact Member Associations with players in the Top 50 of the World Rankings to offer assistance.

Ranking Considerations

1. Ranking points for tournaments in 2020 (Grade 1, 2 and 3)

Tournaments completed in 2020 will accumulate points for the World Rankings. This is necessary in order for these tournaments to be considered officially validated and therefore fully viable.

It is, however, recognised that the very special circumstances around COVID-19 can result in unintended ranking impacts for players potentially not being able to participate due to the COVID-19 situation. The unfreezing of the World Rankings will therefore include a process on how the points accumulated in 2020 will be dealt with to reasonably mitigate against unintended impacts – please see below.

2. BWF World Ranking

Following the freezing of the World Rankings, it is being carefully considered how to unfreeze the rankings again. Due to the uncertainty related to the ongoing COVID-19 situation and the impact on the overall tournament calendar, the following principles will be applied to the unfreezing of the World Rankings.

The World Rankings (WR) will remain frozen until further notice and will be unfrozen based on the following – earliest in 2021:

- a) Unfreezing of the WR will depend on having had a consistent run of tournaments being played.
- b) Upon completion in 2021 of a reasonable number of weeks (to be confirmed in due course) of consistent tournament activity (including a minimum number of World Tour tournaments, to be confirmed in due course) the points won in all tournaments (including 2020 tournaments) will be included in the first week of the recalculation of the WR.
- c) Points won from tournaments in 2020 will be included in the recalculation of the unfrozen WR, but these 2020 points will gradually decrease in value and therefore not count fully during a full 52-week period. The exact decreasing factor is to be confirmed.
- d) No tournaments will be dropped off in the first week of the recalculation of the WR.
- e) Thereafter points are added as normal on a weekly basis.
- f) Old results will be dropped off the ranking with results in the two oldest weeks being dropped off on a weekly basis.
- g) Depending on the continuation of the COVID-19 situation, further adjustments to the unfreezing of the WR may be included.

3. Tentative WR

A "Tentative WR" will be calculated to be used for M&Q and seeding purposes for the rest of the year of 2020. The "Tentative WR" will be calculated on the following basis:

1. Points will be included for Grade 1, 2 and 3 tournaments.
2. Points from all tournaments (including the expected World Tour tournaments Denmark I & II and Asia I, II & the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals) will be accumulated onto the Tentative WR on a weekly basis.
3. Points from earlier tournaments will not be dropped off.
4. The "Tentative WR" calculation may remain, counting for tournaments played into 2021 and until the WR is unfrozen according to above principles.

4. Olympic Qualifying Process

It is being considered how the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 may impact the Olympic Qualifying process. More information will be released once it can be determined if any adjustments are needed.

Tournaments Not Happening as Originally Planned

The tournaments on the **HSBC BWF World Tour** that are not happening as originally planned will be the following:

1. YONEX German Open, 3-8 March 2020, Super 300 (tournament was earlier suspended but is considered cancelled)
2. YONEX French Open, 10-15 October 2020, Super 750
3. BARFOOT & THOMPSON New Zealand Open, 20-25 October 2020, Super 300
4. Macau Open, 27 October – 1 November 2020, Super 300
5. Fuzhou China Open 2020, 3-8 November 2020, Super 750
6. YONEX-SUNRISE Hong Kong Open, 10-15 November 2020, Super 500
7. Syed Modi India International, 17-22 November 2020, Super 300
8. BLIBLI Indonesia Open, 17-22 November 2020, Super 1000
9. CELCOM AXIATA Malaysia Open, 24-29 November 2020, Super 750
10. TOYOTA Thailand Open, 1-6 December 2020, Super 500
11. YONEX-SUNRISE India Open 2020, 8-13 December 2020, Super 500
12. HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2020, 16-20 December 2020 (new dates and location to be confirmed)

Thomas Lund
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