

Criteria and regulations for BWF ITO Line Judges

Introduction

The appointment as a BWF International Technical Official (ITO) allows a line judge to officiate at the highest-level tournaments in the world including the Olympic Games, World Championships, etc. There will usually be at least one and often more opportunities per year, and these trips are partly paid for by BWF, and subsidised up to set amounts by the BLJAofE.

Criteria

Candidates must:

- Be less than 65 years of age at the start of their final calendar year as BWF ITO (ie. No older than 61 years at the start of their first year as BWF ITO)
- Be available for all four years of their appointment.
- Hold the grade of International Line Judge in our Association.
- Have five or more years of overseas experience as a line judge.
- Have officiated at the Yonex All England on at least three occasions, and been available for at least three days for each of those championships.
- Have a minimum level of certification as an umpire from a national association, including the Badminton Umpires Association of England, or have successfully completed a one day umpiring course run by the BLJAofE.

Notes

- BWF nomination & appointment process takes place every two years in even numbered years (2024, 2026, etc).
- Each cycle lasts for four calendar years (2025-2028, 2027-2030, etc).
- The total number of BWF ITO Line Judges has now reduced from 100 just four years ago to only 80, leading to fewer places available to each country, but more opportunities for those that are appointed while they are serving.
- BLJAofE members who meet the criteria (see below) are invited to apply when the nomination process has been announced by the BLJAofE.
- All applications are ranked in priority order by the BLJAofE BWF ITO Selection Sub-Committee (see bottom of here -> <https://bljae.org/committee>).
- The final list is submitted to Badminton Europe who will make their own selections and then forward these to BWF for final confirmation.
- Currently Badminton Europe selects only a maximum of two line judges per country in each cycle, therefore there are very limited opportunities for our members to attain the highest grade of BWF ITO Line Judge. We therefore

only allow previous BWF ITOs to apply again if there are no suitably qualified new candidates without BWF ITO experience.

- Any serving BWF ITO Line Judge coming up to the end of their second consecutive term will not be put forward for re-nomination for the following two cycles

Regulations

Notification of acceptance

BWF ITOs must notify the Secretary as soon as possible of their selection by BWF to attend events, to enable a record of attendance to be recorded on the database and also for the Committee to be aware of the selection.

Air travel subsidies

Air travel subsidies will be provided to BWF ITOs selected for Major BWF events, ie above BWF Super 1000 level. 50% of the airfare will be paid for each trip, up to a maximum of £300. Air travel subsidy payment will only be paid for a maximum of two trips per calendar year.

Any claims for air travel subsidy must be made to the BLJAofE Treasurer accompanied by a copy of the BWF Selection letter.

It is recommended that you take out Travel Insurance in case you need to cancel your attendance to an event, as BWF and the BLJAofE cannot recompense any costs for a cancelled attendance.

Document Approval

Approved by the BLJAE Committee on 4th March 2025

Document History

1 st Draft	May 2022	Abby Kumar
2 nd Draft	Sep 2024	Abby Kumar & Gerry Lewcock
3 rd Draft	Feb 2025	Himanshu Anil Shah, Abby Kumar, Andrew Peacock