



PRESS RELEASE

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## **BWF FREEZES BADMINTON WORLD RANKINGS**

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) can announce it will freeze World Rankings and World Junior Rankings until further notice.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the badminton community has experienced an unprecedented suspension to international tournaments from mid-march 2020 to the end of April 2020.

At present, it is difficult to predict when the next international tournament will take place with further tournaments also expected to be suspended in May and June.

The freezing of rankings will be backdated to Week 12, which is the week following the last international tournament that was played – the YONEX All England Open 2020.

The ranking lists issued on 17 March 2020 will serve as a basis for entry and seeding into the next international tournaments – although it is difficult to say at this stage when this may be.

BWF will provide more information in due course regarding the process as to how the rankings will eventually be 'unfrozen' following the commencement of the international circuit.

However, it is difficult to outline the exact procedure until we have an exact overview of what the international calendar will look like once play resumes and suspended tournaments have been rescheduled.

We are seeking to define a solution to unfreeze the rankings in a staggered way to avoid any extreme drop off of points from previous tournaments causing an extreme impact on the ranking structure.

BWF is liaising closely with the Athletes' Commission on the unfortunate impacts of the COVID-19 situation upon players.

The Athletes' Commission fully supports the freezing of the BWF World Ranking lists from Week 12, and agrees that the exact procedure for unfreezing the rankings will need to be determined based on more exact tournament calendar information presently under review.

BWF hopes to communicate more information on rescheduled tournaments in the coming weeks, which will also provide more clarity on the unfreezing of rankings once it is deemed safe to resume tournaments.

Following yesterday's announcement to reschedule the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games to 23 July to 8 August 2021, BWF will now also initiate a review process to confirm any impacts on the Olympic qualification system.

Please note that the consequences of freezing the World Rankings will not apply to the Olympic qualification system.

This review process is expected to take several weeks upon which BWF will make a further announcement once all circumstances have been carefully considered.

***\*\*Note: Backdated frozen rankings from 17 March will be in place from today (31 March 2020) until the freeze ends.***

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**ABOUT BWF**

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) is the international governing body of the sport of badminton, recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). It was originally the International Badminton Federation (IBF) which was founded on 5 July, 1934, before being rechristened the Badminton World Federation in 2006.

The purpose and objectives of BWF include regulating, promoting, developing and popularising the sport of badminton throughout the world and organising, conducting and presenting international events at the highest level.

The BWF's vision is to make badminton a leading global sport accessible to all – giving every child a chance to play for life. Its mission is to lead and inspire all stakeholders; to deliver entertainment through exciting events to drive fan experience; and to create innovative, impactful and sustainable development initiatives.

BWF has its headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, with 194 Member Associations worldwide.

Poul-Erik Høyer is the BWF President and Thomas Lund is the BWF Secretary General.

**Websites:** [www.bwfbadminton.com](http://www.bwfbadminton.com) and [www.bwfcorporate.com](http://www.bwfcorporate.com)

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