



MINUTES:

Badminton Australia
Limited AGM 2024

DATE: Saturday 16th November 2024

TIME: 11.30am AEDT

LOCATION: via video conference

Attendance:

State/Territory Member Representatives: Carolyn Toh (NSW), Michael Chen (NSW), Victoria Wang (NSW), Fiona Dunbar-Smith (NT), John Stark (NT), Tristan Clow (QLD), Andrew Wong (SA), Brent Munday (TAS), Rochelle Liyanage (VIC), Clint Proctor (VIC), Peejade Cheng (VIC), Narasimhan Ravi (VIC), Christine Ferguson (WA), Lily Buttrose (WA), Olaf Schuermann (ACT),

Badminton Australia Board Members: Julie McDonald (President and Chair), Geraldine Brown, Rayoni Nelson, Paul Reining, Aditi Biswas, Steven Sam.

Badminton Australia Staff: Tjitte Weistra (CEO), Sonia Gouveia, Anthony Pinda, Brent Miller, Leanne Choo, Vountus Saniru, Helen Haydock, Anna Ronald.

1. Opening and Welcome

Welcome: The President, Julie McDonald, opened the meeting at 11.30am AEDT welcoming all Delegates, Observers, Board members and Staff Members to Badminton Australia's (BA's) 83rd Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Acknowledgement:

Julie welcomed everyone and acknowledged the traditional owners of the various lands we meet on across the country.

Julie also thanked, the sponsors and partners: Sports Australia, Australian Institute of Sport, Sathio and Crown Group, Yonex, Badminton Family, Australian Olympic Committee, Commonwealth Games Australia, Paralympics Australia, BWF, Badminton Oceania, and each of the State and Territory Members.

Attendance/Apologies: Kaitlin Mason (BA Board Member), Brent Miller, Abbie Rothery, and Peter Roberts (BA staff).

Voting Delegates:

Julie confirmed the below voting delegates:

- NSW – Carolyn Toh
- NT – Fiona Dunbar
- QLD – Tristan Clow
- SA – Andrew Wong
- TAS – Brent Munday
- VIC – Rochelle Liyanage
- WA – Christine Ferguson
- ACT – Olaf Schuermann

Voting Rights:

Julie explained the voting entitlements as per the Constitution:

- For any vote on resolutions relating to the election of Directors, each State Member shall be entitled to one (1) vote at General Meetings.
- For all other resolutions each State Member with up to 3,099 Registered Individuals shall be entitled to one (1) vote at General Meetings; and State Members with 3,100 or more Registered Individuals shall be entitled to two (2) votes.

Based on the information provided by State Members in the Annual Report, Victoria is eligible for 2 votes and all other States and Territories have 1 vote.

Julie asked Steven Sam, new BA Board Director to introduce himself.

In Memoriam:

Julie offered her condolences to the families and friends of Cedric Baxter, Ron Chau, Lois Smith, Beverley Trollope, Andrew Chong Sing Ong, and Anne Thirlwell recognised their dedication and contribution to badminton. The attendees observed a moment of silence in their memory.

2. Motion to confirm the holding of the AGM online and in-person

A procedural motion was put forward to agree to the holding of the AGM as a hybrid meeting (online and in-person participants).

Motion: 'That the format and conduct of the meeting be accepted and that any challenge arising from any procedural irregularity in, or to, the conduct of the meeting be waived.'

*Moved: Tristan Clow
Carried Unanimously*

Seconded: Judith Cousins

3. Confirm the Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes 2023¹

Julie invited the attendees' feedback and/or questions regarding the AGM minutes.

Motion: The attendees accepted the minutes from the 2023² AGM

*Moved: Christine Ferguson (WA) Seconded: Brent Munday (TAS)
Carried Unanimously*

4. Presentation of the Annual Report and audited Statement of Accounts

4.1 Annual Report Presentation (see Papers)

Julie McDonald

Julie stated that the annual report will be taken as read and continued to recap her president's message in the annual report. She highlighted the qualification of Tiffany Ho, Setyana Mapasa, and Angela Yu for the Paris ~~2024~~ Olympic Games and Mischa Ginns and Celine Vinot for the Paralympic Games and extended a congratulations to all 5 women who can now call themselves Olympians/Paralympians. Julie also acknowledged the hard work of the coaches being Leanne, Vountus, and Ian.

Julie acknowledged departing board members Andrew Greenway and Geraldine Brown and thanked them for their many years of service to badminton. Andrew was on the board for many years including 4 years as president. Geraldine has been involved for 27 years in many different capacities including positions held on Badminton Oceania and

the BWF. Julie asked everyone to take a moment to congratulate both Andrew and Geraldine for the contribution.

Julie concluded by thanking the BA staff lead by TJ.

Tjitte (TJ) Weistra

Due to technical issues, TJ was unable to speak to his report and rejoined the meeting as soon as the issues were resolved. Julie spoke while technical issues were being sorted and noted that the CEO report was taken as read.

4.2 Audited Statement of Accounts (see papers)

2023/2024 Financial Report

Julie spoke to the annual financial report and highlighted the sale of the Williamstown property.

Victoria Wang from NSW asked Julie to elaborate more on the Williamstown Property. Julie explained that the property was purchased quite some time ago. It was used as the BA office and after BA moved to Sports House, was leased out. The tenant got into financial difficulties and BA decided that it was the right time to sell the property. Since the purchase of the property, BA made a profit of \$127,000 on the sale. The property was revalued and recorded in our financial statements. The loss recorded was due to the revaluation of the property at \$260k and the subsequent sale of the property at \$220k (before agent fees etc) which led to a recorded loss of \$44k [in the current financial year](#). The value of the property was recorded in our equity reserves. TJ stated that there has been a lot of discussions internally within the FAR committee and with the auditors to discuss how this was best recorded in the financial statements.

Victoria Wang (NSW) then asked a question about the reduction in event income. Julie and TJ explained that this is due to the fact the BA is no longer financially responsible for the delivery of the Australian Badminton Open (ABO). Initially and up until last year, BA still held some responsibility by acting as the conduit between BWF and the ABL when it came to certain financial transactions. This FY, almost all transactions were dealt with directly between the BWF and ABL which is why event income on BA's side has further reduced. This was always an in-and-out procedure and doesn't impact on the overall event income/expenses.

Next, the 2024/2025 BA budget was presented and TJ added that later during the AGM, a presentation from the ASC will provide further insights into the participation funding and TJ also highlighted a significant uplift in Para HP funding and provided some insights into the timelines around when this funding will be received and the HP funding includes funding from Commonwealth Games Australia and indicated that we don't know how the non-inclusion of badminton in 2026 at the CWG will impact any future CGA funding in the lead up to 2026.

Motion: *The Financial Statements as presented in the annual report be accepted.*

*Moved: Rochelle Liyanage (VIC) Seconded: Brent Munday (TAS)
Carried Unanimously*

5 Election of Office Bearers

5.1 Candidates seeking election

Julie confirmed that 2 positions were available and that 2 nominations were received. She also confirmed that both candidates had been confirmed as eligible by the BA

Nominations & Remunerations Committee. Julie extended the opportunity to both candidates to speak to their nomination which Rayoni Nelson and Peejade Cheng both took up.

The following motions were passed:

That Rayoni Nelson be elected to the Board of Badminton Australia Limited for a period of 2 years

Elected Unanimously

That Peejade Cheng be elected to the Board of Badminton Australia Limited for a period of 2 years

Elected Unanimously

Julie congratulated both candidates on their appointment.

6 Appointment of Auditor

The Board recommend that the AGM approve Davidson's as the auditor for 2024/25.

Motion: *That Davidson's of 101 West Fyans Street, Newtown, Victoria be approved as Badminton Australia Limited Auditors for 2023/24.*

*Moved: Fiona Dunbar (NT) Seconded: Brent Munday (TAS)
Carried Unanimously*

7. Motions Received

Julie acknowledged the tremendous work done by the governance committee led by Rayoni Nelson and took a moment to thank the committee for their hard work.

Julie handed over to Rayoni who took the AGM through a recap of the background to the proposed changes, the process that was followed and spoke about the pre-AGM forum that was held to walk through all the proposed changes and the opportunity for S/T's to provide feedback. Subsequent to the feedback received, BA made some minor changes which was sent out to the members prior to the AGM. Since then, some further information has come to light and discussions were held around the framing of the national gender equity in sport governance policy and highlighted a very minor change to the wording but that BA wants to be super transparent. Rayoni went to explain the wording as per the National Gender Equity in Sport Governance Policy compared to the proposed wording in the BA Constitution.

Rayoni, on behalf of the BA board, proposed to remove the words "at least" from clause 14.1 of the BA constitution to ensure we are fully aligned with the ASC wording/policy given that we have an odd number of board member (7). By not removing the words "at least" and then having to adhere to at least 50% of women/gender diverse board members, BA could find itself in a situation where it has to fill a vacancy on the board where there are 3 men and 3 women/gender diverse people on the board already, and the 7th person would then have to be a woman/gender diverse to comply with the clause in the BA constitution. By removing the wording "at least", BA would have the option to appoint a male or female/gender diverse person and still be compliant with the ASC policy.

Following Rayoni's explanation and clarification, Julie asked if there were any further questions regarding the proposed changes.

TJ highlighted that we will document in the AGM minutes the action for BA to follow up with its members on creating a document that outlines how BA will engage/consult with S/T members given the changes to clauses 40.2 and 40.3 of the constitution.

Rayoni confirmed that BA wants to be really transparent around the feedback and consultation process and that an action point will be minuted.

ACTION ITEM: That BA follows up with the S/T members with a document outlining how it will engage/consult with its members around any changes to regulations.

There were no further questions.

Motion:

BA Constitutional Changes

The following motion, proposed as a special resolution, has been notified to the Chief Executive Officer by the Board as a special resolution under Article 39 of the BA Constitution and section 136(2) of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth):

“THAT the existing Constitution of Badminton Australia Limited is replaced with the Constitution as annexed to this Notice being vs2 of the circulated proposed constitutional changes minus the wording “at least” in clause 14.1.”

*Moved: Fiona Dunbar (NT) Seconded: Brent Munday (TAS)
Carried Unanimously*

BA Regulations Changes

Under Rule 40.1 of the BA Constitution the Board may formulate, issue, adopt, interpret and amend such Regulations for the proper advancement, management and administration of the Company, the advancement of the Objects and Badminton in Australia as it thinks necessary or desirable. Such Regulations must be consistent with the Constitution, Regulations and any policy directives of the Board. The Board has consulted in good faith with State Members regarding the application and effect of the attached amended Regulations.

There is no motion required and an action item has been noted for the board to approve the regulation changes at its next board meeting in December.

8. Special & General Business

1. ASC Play Well Presentation from Richard McInnes, Executive General Manager Sport & Community Capability

Richard presented on the Play Well Investment Process and Framework and specifically on the ASC's evaluation of badminton, the NSO recognition process and highlighted the significant amount of work that is involved with that process. He also highlighted the National Play Well Plan and the National Play Well Implementation Plan. He highlighted the importance of data to convince government to invest more in sport.

Clint Proctor from VIC asked if there are any examples/pilots around how to best capture data especially with the high number of private badminton venues being established. Richard mentioned that one option is to use QR codes during come and try days and also spoke about the value proposition that can entice people to register.

Richard went on to present an overview/chart of the Play Well Investment for badminton for the period 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2026 and the ASC arrives at the final investment figure for badminton via the score calculation process. The chart highlighted that badminton is sitting above the national average in all areas within the assessment rubric but that there is room for growth in certain areas which would then have a positive impact on participation funding moving forward.

There were no questions following Richard's presentation. TJ highlighted that BA has started the process of designing a new participation strategy and that Sonia will reach out for input from S/T's.

2. National Integrity Manager – Helen Haydock

Helen provided a brief overview of her new role with BA as National Integrity Manager, her background, and the roles and responsibilities for BA, S/T's and Clubs. Helen also highlighted the current projects she's working on which are the integrity implementation guide and BA's national education plan.

Rochelle Liyanage from VIC asked about the child safeguarding standards as Victoria has its own which are slightly different from the national standards. As a result, BV has had to have two different policies in place. Helen responded by saying that she's very aware of this and that this is being worked on at SIA/National level. Rochelle asked how this can all be fine-tuned so that your average club member/committee member can understand how it all links together. Helen and Rochelle agreed to catch up to go through this and see how BA can assist.

TJ mentioned that Julie McDonald, had a very important family engagement to attend and that she had about 15min left before having to sign out of the AGM. TJ mentioned that if we needed more than 15min, that Rayoni Nelson, chair of the BA Governance Committee and board member, would take over as chair for the remainder of the meeting.

3. Badminton Western Australia - Order of Play at National Junior Team Championships
4. Badminton Western Australia – Playing out of all ties at National Junior Team Championships

Before passing on the Christine Ferguson from WA, TJ reminded everyone that as part of the By-Law consultation process, that S/T's have until the 18th of December to provide feedback on the draft proposed By-Laws for 2025 and that there will be another online forum in the beginning of December to discuss any comments/feedback on the draft By-Laws as well.

Christine explained WA's concerns around the order of play for junior national teams events which currently is up to the referee after receiving the team line-ups from both teams. WA is of the opinion that the order should be fixed so that coaches can submit a team line-up knowing what the order of play is going to be and therefore be strategic with their line-up.

Christine also highlighted WA's desire for ties to be fully played out and not stopped during the knock-out stage once a team had already won the tie stating the players come a long way to participate in these events and train very hard. During the knock-out stage and subject to the order of play, this could lead to certain players never taking the court during these knock-out stage ties.

TJ provided some context around the current BWF regulations that are being applied but that there is no reason why BA couldn't have a different rule in place.

Fiona from NT supports the suggestion from WA. Andrew from SABA and Tristan from QBA also expressed support.

TJ made the strong suggestion for S/T's to include this in their feedback by 18 December latest but that this could also be discussed further at the forum in early December.

5. Badminton Victoria – Splitting of National Ranking into separate Junior & Senior rankings

TJ passed on to Rochelle from VIC to talk to splitting of the national junior and senior rankings.

Rochelle explained that they find that a lot juniors playing in graded events and international events such as the Bendigo international which leads to a misrepresentation of the national rankings. VIC would like to push for a split of the rankings and asked for Peejade Cheng to add his thoughts. Peejade explained that seedings at events are distorted as they are based on the national rankings which is sometimes a bit embarrassing for organisers when high seeded players are losing in the first round. Peejade also suggested to take a proportionate approach similar to the BWF where a player's ranking points are taken from their best 10 results.

TJ responded by saying that there is no reason why we can't split them and personally agreed that the current method does create distortion. He said that we can start working on a potential split but that it would be difficult to have this ready for 2025.

Christine from WA mentioned that rankings are very difficult to manage and agreed that there is total distortion and that it depends on who can afford to travel to tournaments to gain ranking points. She asked how it would work when the rankings are split and whether a junior playing in an open event would carry their obtained points to the junior ranking.

TJ responded by saying that if BA separates the junior and senior rankings that players will only be able to obtain points for the junior ranking from junior tournaments and senior ranking points from senior tournaments and that they can't be carried between the two.

Christine stated that it would perhaps be best to look towards 2026 and that 2025 would come too soon.

TJ stated that this discussion will be added to the agenda for discussions in the new year. TJ did indicate the splitting the rankings via tournament software will be costly but that it's worthwhile exploring and to find out what the unintended consequences might be from splitting the rankings.

Rochelle stated that to Peejade's point, when BA does split the rankings, that we need to include the proportionate approach by including a maximum number of results for each player in the rankings.

9. Meeting Close

Rochelle asked if TJ would be sharing the presentations from the meeting which TJ confirmed he would.

TJ then passed on to Rayoni to officially close the meeting.

Rayoni thanked everyone for their engagement in the discussions, welcome Helen as the latest/new staff member to BA and welcomed Peejade Cheng as the new board member. Rayoni expressed a shout out to TJ and the staff not just for organising the AGM but what the staff does for the sport. Rayoni also thanks the S/T members and encouraged everyone to continue working together and wished everyone a great rest of the year.

Meeting closed at 1.28pm.