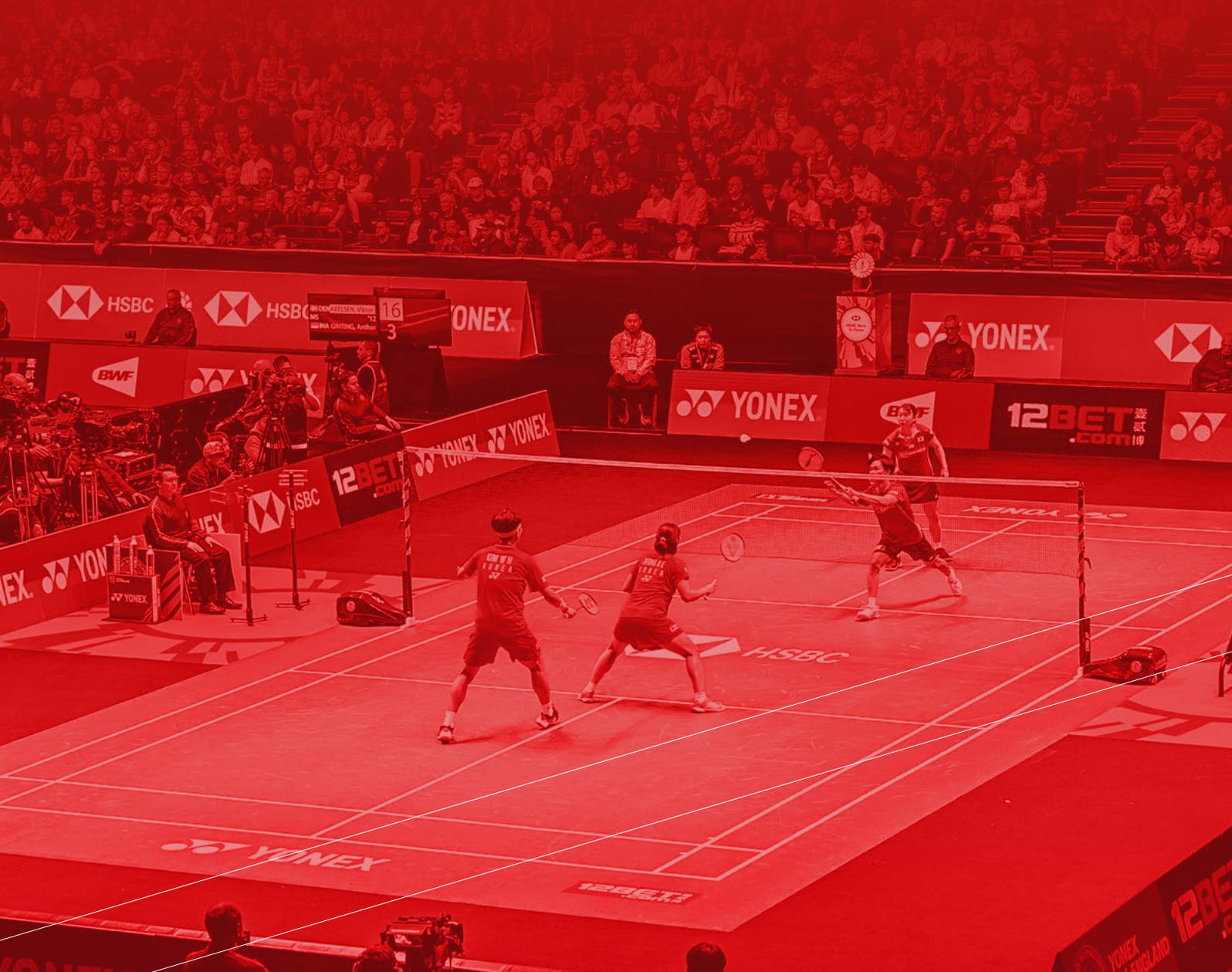


3×15 SCORING SYSTEM 87TH BWF AGM PROPOSAL

Official Report Paper

Key Principles and Stakeholder Benefits Summary



INTRODUCTION

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) has spent several years studying different scoring formats, including 3×21, 3×15, and 5×11. Based on these tests and data analysis, BWF Council recommends adjusting the current scoring system from 3×21 to 3×15. This is not a major change, but a measured shift that can provide meaningful benefits for players, fans, officials, and event organisers.



Scoring System Analysis

BWF analysed match data from BWF World Tour tournaments and BWF Major Championships between 2014 and 2024, comparing five different scoring systems.

- ▶ 3×21 (current system)
- ▶ 2×21 + first to 11
- ▶ 5×11
- ▶ 3×15 (setting to 21)
- ▶ 3×15 (setting to 25)

The following was observed/recorded:

- ▶ Winning probabilities
- ▶ Length of matches
- ▶ Closeness of games
- ▶ Number of exciting points



Key Findings

The key findings were:

- ◀ All alternative scoring systems produced less points than the current system.
- ◀ 3×15 (setting to 21) showed the greatest probability for the lowest number of points in a match (factoring in variables: even opponents / slight difference in strength / greater difference in strength).
- ◀ Reduced game length increases the chances of tighter scores (e.g., 10-10), which increases excitement.
- ◀ Longer games make it easier for stronger players to build large leads, reducing suspense.
- ◀ While 5×11 also creates excitement, matches become less exciting when one player leads 2 games to 0.
- ◀ A 1-0 game lead in a 3×15 match is more suspenseful than a 2-0 game lead in a 5×11 match, especially when the leading player is the stronger one.
- ◀ Overall, 3×15 (setting to 21) is found to be more exciting across entire matches and offers similar average match lengths to 5×11.



Final Conclusions

Based on all data and analysis, 3×15 (setting to 21) is the best scoring system option because it:

- ◀ Creates more exciting points due to fewer points per game.
- ◀ Reaches those exciting moments faster.
- ◀ Produces reduced and more predictable match lengths.
- ◀ Balances excitement within each game and across the whole match.
- ◀ Offers more consistent match durations than 5×11.



Key Principles for Change



1

More Exciting Points

Reduced game length (3x15) increases the chances of having close scores (defined as within three to five points). This means more moments where the score is tight and exciting. Match data shows that 3x15 creates more of these moments than other options.



2

Reaching Exciting Points Sooner

Because players need fewer points to win each game, the important and exciting "endgame" points arrive faster. This keeps the pace high and maintains audience interest.



3

More Close Matches

Games in reduced length naturally increase the chance of tied or close-to-tied scores. Compared with 3x21, the 3x15 format makes it more likely that matches will feel more competitive and suspenseful.



4

Measured Reduction in Time on Court

Across all scoring systems studied, 3x15 consistently resulted in reduced match durations. This creates a range of holistic benefits:

- a. More efficient tournament scheduling.
- b. Fans stay engaged for full matches.
- c. Reduces player fatigue – lowers risk of injury.

Impact for Key Stakeholder Group



1

Players

- ◀ Better health: Slightly fewer points per match reduces stress on the body and lowers injury risk.
- ◀ Longer careers: Over a full year, fewer total points may allow players to play more tournaments and extend their playing careers.
- ◀ Higher performance: Shorter matches and fewer points can give players more energy and engagement for each point and more recovery time between matches.



2

Technical Officials

- ◀ Less fatigue: Shorter matches help referees, umpires and service judges stay focused and deliver consistent performance.



3

Fans, TV Audiences, and Spectators

- ◀ More entertainment: More exciting points and close finishes increases viewer engagement.
- ◀ Better product quality: Players perform at higher levels more consistently throughout the match.
- ◀ More dynamic matches: Fan retention increases in a competitive sports and entertainment environment.



4

Host Organisers

- ◀ More efficient staffing and planning.
- ◀ Reduced operational costs.
- ◀ Higher spectator engagement: Leads to more ticket sales and onsite revenue.

In summary, 3x15 (setting to 21) provides the right balance between the current 3x21 system and the 5x11 system, offering improved excitement, fairness, and scheduling efficiency.



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