JAMAICA BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Player Classification Guidelines

A. Purpose:

The player classification guideline is the methodology used by the Jamaica Badminton Association (JBA) to evaluate and assign the skill level of badminton players competing in local tournaments. Local tournaments typically include divisional events as well as Open events. The objectives of these guidelines are:

1. to ensure a consistent and objective methodology in the determination of how players are assessed and assigned skill levels across divisions
2. to promote transparency in the re-classifications of players, minimizing the influence or perception of bias
3. to provide a fair level of competitiveness for players at each division
4. to encourage a wide level of player participation in local tournaments

B. Classification Types

Players shall be classified using the terminology “Division” or “Level”. Player classification is used as a basis to categorizing player skills and to segment local tournament events by these skill categories. Division & Level based tournament events imposes entry restrictions for players and seeks to encourage a high level of competitiveness among players in the community, by “evening the playing field”. Classifications are as follows:

A-division: An Advanced level of play. A player in this division shall demonstrated expert level mastery of all technical and fitness skills in at least one event. Players in this category are eligible to represent their country at an international level, commensurate with their recognized specialties (performance based)

B-division: An Advanced-Intermediate level of play. A player in this division shall demonstrate mastery of most technical and fitness skills in playing at least two types of events (singles, doubles or mixed)

C-division: - An Intermediate level of play. A player in this division shall demonstrate a consistent level of proficiency in the basic technical and fitness skills of the game. Basic skills shall include the following: Serves; Clears; Drops; Drives; Smashes and Backhand shots.

D-division (unranked)- A Beginner level of play. A player in this division has not demonstrated a consistent level of proficiency in the basic technical skills in playing Singles and/or Doubles. Players who have never competed in a local tournament may automatically be assigned to this division; however exceptions may be enforced at a local tournament by the assigned tournament referee, based on evidence that a player is not considered a beginner.

Masters-Level - A player achieves this category level once they are over the age of 40 years and will qualify to enter Local Masters Tournament Events. Masters level players shall be allowed to retain their highest
division level without competing consistently in local tournaments; however they may be subject to reclassification (demotion or promotion) on entering tournaments in their assigned Division.

C. Assessment Protocol

Re-classification assessments shall include the following:

1. Player re-classifications recommendations shall be collated and reviewed by the JBA appointed National Selection Panel. Final re-classification lists will be determined by majority vote from the Panel, after which a final list will be submitted to the JBA Council for approval by majority vote. Any decisions that cannot be settled by majority vote will be decided by majority vote of the JBA Council.

2. Written re-classification recommendations may be submitted from the JBA Tournament Committee, Tournament Referees and recognized badminton coaches (JBA recognized coaches who are actively involved in formal coaching programs for badminton players e.g. Club assigned coaches, school coaches and national coaches), may submit their recommendations based on observations of skill-level at tournaments, league based events e.g. Inter school, club or company) These recommendations will be reviewed as indicated in #1.

3. JBA coordinated assessments may be requested for consideration of a player’s reclassification that may impact National Selection. This shall only be conducted based on special requests in writing to the JBA from the badminton community, and must be sanctioned by the player’s coach. These types of requests are considered exceptions, where a player with exceptional skill is identified and the player has not had the opportunity to demonstrate local tournament performances. This assessment shall be conducted by the National Selection Panel considering the technical guidelines presented below.

D. General Guidelines

1. Classifications lists will be assigned and maintained by the JBA, under the guidance of the National Selection panel and the Tournament Committee.

2. Changes to player classifications shall be conducted at least twice per year to encourage accuracy in the competition level for Divisional Tournaments. Interim re-classifications may be done throughout the year and announced accordingly.

3. Players are considered for classification once they enter a local badminton tournament on the JBA Tournament Calendar. (Participation in tournaments outside of Jamaica may be considered)

4. A player who is not listed on the JBA Classification is typically considered unclassified, such players are typically assigned to division D.

5. Temporary classifications may be assigned by tournament referees for unclassified players or players who are not maintained on the JBA classification list; and will only be enforced for a particular tournament. The objectives of this classification is to prevent unknown players or inactive players not maintained on the JBA list, from having an unfair advantage by entering a divisional event that is significantly below their skill level, such decisions should be guided by credible information. E.g.
tournament results outside of Jamaica, preliminary trial games coordinated by the tournament
referee or credible skill observations in club participation.

6. An unclassified player or an inactive player who has not competed in a recent local tournament may
be prohibited entry to the D, C or B-division by the local tournament referee based on a referee’s
temporary classification in that tournament (based on point #5).

7. An unclassified player who has previously recorded tournament results outside of Jamaica may
request a temporary classification in order to enter a local tournament; requests should be directed
to the JBA Secretary or referee for the particular tournament.

8. Temporary classifications should be followed by a classification recommendation from tournament
referee(s) at the end of the tournament and directed to the JBA via the Secretary.

9. Players are allowed to enter tournaments in Divisions levels higher than their assigned classification
(including temporary classifications); however they are not allowed to enter tournaments in divisions
lower that their assigned classification

10. Masters level players are subject to demotion in their classification after demonstrating their level of
play in a JBA sanctioned event played in their assigned division (A or B). This does not include
participation in Master’s events.

11. A-Division Players (who do not qualify as Masters) may be subject to demotion in their classification
if they do not compete in a local event for more than two years.

12. A player may request a demotion in their classification by submitting a request in writing and
providing suitable evidence or cause as justification for their request e.g. sustained injury.

13. Re-classification (promotions or demotions) requests should be directed to the JBA by direct email to
the Secretary of the JBA.

E. Criteria for Qualifications for Divisions:

D-Division:

1. All unclassified players will automatically be assigned to the D Division, with the exception of a
temporary classification assigned by a tournament referee.

2. Once an unclassified player competes in a tournament sanctioned by the JBA, their level of play shall
be assessed to determine eligibility for promotion to a higher Division.

3. Once promoted a player cannot be demoted to the D Division.

C-Division

Players shall qualify for the C-Division based on meeting the following criteria below:

1. Player must demonstrate basic proficiency in the technical ability of the game as follows:
   1.1. DEEP SERVE: execute either an under arm or back hand serve with minimal service faults, serves
        shall mostly be inbound. Serves must meet the basic criteria of the game AND
   1.2. SHORT SERVE: execute either an under arm or back hand serve with minimal service fault, serves
        shall mostly be inbound. Serves must meet the basic criteria of the game AND
1.3. **CLEAR:** execute a deep overhead clear to the back of the court; shuttle shall land consistently inbound between the doubles and singles serving line AND

1.4. **DROP:** execute a drop shot where the mechanics look like the clear, contact is made above the head or close to it, placing the shuttlecock over the net and in front of the short service line, and a gentle follow through. The shot may lack deception at this level AND

1.5. **DRIVE:** execute a drive shot below an opponent’s shoulder on the forehand side, while keeping the shuttle inbound AND

1.6. **SMASH:** basic beginner level smashing, smashes must be inbound and some may be returnable AND

1.7. **BACKHAND:** demonstrate proficiency in at least one backhand stroke (drop, clear or drive)

2. A player who has not mastered all the basic technical criteria highlighted in #1, shall still be considered for this division based on at least one of the following tournament results as follows:

2.1. Record at least one result as a Semi-finalist or better in a C-Division or higher event

2.2. Record at least one result as the Winner in Singles/Doubles in the D-Division

2.3. Record at least two results as either a Winner or a Finalist in the D-Division across two or three consecutive tournaments in any event (Singles, Doubles or Mixed). (Results in junior tournaments shall be assessed based on the division level of players in the particular age categories entered)

**B-Division**

Players shall qualify for the B-Division based on meeting the following criteria below:

1. Player must demonstrate proficiency in the technical ability of the game as follows:

   1.1. **DEEP SERVE:** execute either type of serve with minimal service faults, serves shall mostly be inbound AND

   1.2. **SHORT SERVE:** execute either type of serve with minimal service faults and mostly remain inbound; serves shall be low and mostly prevent an offensive return from the opponent AND

   1.3. **CLEAR:** execute a consistently proficient deep overhead clear to the back of the court; the clear should be used appropriately and typically prevents a smash return from the opponent or allows for a returnable smash if attempted by the opponent AND

   1.4. **DROP:** execute a drop shot where the mechanics look like the clear, contact is made above the head or close to it, and places the shuttlecock close to the net and in front of the short service line, and a gentle follow through. The shot should show some level of deception or surprise to the opponent. Player should also be proficient in executing effective net drops shots AND

   1.5. **DRIVE:** execute a drive shot below an opponent’s shoulder on both the backhand or forehand, while keeping the shuttle inbound AND

   1.6. **SMASH:** demonstrate Intermediate to advance level smashing. The shuttlecock should consistently land in bounds and be an effective offensive shot during play AND

   1.7. **BACKHAND:** demonstrate proficient skill in multiple backhand strokes (drop, clear or drive)
2. **In addition** to demonstrating the technical criteria outlined in #1, a player shall demonstrate the effectiveness of court play and shot selection in tournament performance, by achieving tournament results as follows:

2.1. Record at least one result as a Winner of a B-Division Singles **OR**
2.2. Record at least two consecutive results as a finalist in a B-Division event (singles, doubles or mixed) or better. **OR**
2.3. Record at least two results as Winner or Finalist across two or three consecutive tournaments in the C-Division, results must include either Singles only or Singles and another event **OR**
2.4. Record at least one win against a player of a higher division (and highly ranked) in competition in a singles/doubles event. (A competitive match to three sets shall also be considered, if the player does not win), However, player must also demonstrate a high level of play within their own division at the same event. **OR**

**A-Division**

Players shall qualify for the A-Division based on meeting the following criteria below:

1. Player must demonstrate **exemplary/noteworthy** (this does not imply perfection) proficiency in the technical ability of the game as follows:

   1.1. **DEEP SERVE**: execute either type of serve with rare service faults, serves shall rarely be out of bounds **AND**
   1.2. **SHORT SERVE**: execute either type of serve with minimal service fault and mostly remain inbound; serves shall be low and rarely result in an offensive shot from the opponent **AND**
   1.3. **CLEAR**: execute a consistently proficient deep overhead clear to the back of the court; the clear should be used appropriately and typically prevents a smash return from the opponent or allows for a returnable smash if attempted by the opponent **AND**
   1.4. **DROP**: execute a drop shot where the mechanics look like the clear, contact is made above the head or close to it, and places the shuttlecock close to the net and in front of the short service line, and a gentle follow through. The shot should provide consistent deception or surprise to the opponent. Player should also be proficient in executing effective net drops shots, including cross court net drops **AND**
   1.5. **DRIVE**: execute a drive shot below an opponent’s shoulder on both the backhand or forehand, while keeping the shuttle inbound **AND**
   1.6. **SMASH**: Advance level smashing. The shuttlecock should consistently land in bounds and be an effective offensive shot during play **AND**
   1.7. **BACKHAND**: demonstrate exemplary skills in multiple backhand strokes (drop, clear or drive)

3. **In addition** to demonstrating the technical criteria outlined in #1, a player must demonstrate the effectiveness of court play and shot selection in tournament performance, by achieving tournament results as follows:

   3.1. **Performance in Singles**
3.1.1. Record at least one (1) result as the Winner in the Open Singles event. OR
3.1.2. Record at least two (2) results as a finalist in the Open Singles event across two or three consecutive tournaments OR
3.1.3. Record a Quarterfinal result or better at an Open International Singles Event – exemplary performance in both singles or doubles may be considered OR
3.1.4. Record at least two (2) results as Winner or Finalist in a local tournament across two or three consecutive tournaments in singles at the B-Division plus a Semi Final result or better for Open Singles. (A competitive match to three sets shall also be considered, if the player does not win may be considered.) However, the player must also demonstrate a high level of play at the B-Division with results as a Winner or Finalist in singles at the same tournament. (Results from local Junior Tournaments shall typically not be considered)

3.2. **Performance in Doubles:** A **doubles pair** shall be eligible for promotion to A based on the following results:

3.2.1. Record at least one result as the Winner in an Open Doubles event OR
3.2.2. Record at least two (2) results as a finalist in the Open Doubles event across two or three consecutive tournaments OR
3.2.3. Record a Quarterfinal result or better at an Open International Doubles Event – exemplary performance in both singles or doubles may be considered OR
3.2.4. Record at least three (3) results as Winner or Finalist in a local tournament across two or three consecutive tournaments in doubles at the B-Division plus a Semi Final result or better for Open Singles or Doubles. (A competitive match to three sets shall also be considered, if the player does not win may be considered.) However, the players must also demonstrate a high level of play at the B-Division with results as a Winner or Finalist in doubles at the same tournament. (Results from local Junior Tournaments shall typically not be considered
3.2.5. A single player who has achieved any of the results above, but not consistently with the same partner, may be considered if the player has demonstrated Semi-Final results or better in the Open division in other events (Singles or Mixed)

3.3. **Performance in Mixed Doubles:** A **Mixed doubles pair** shall be eligible for promotion to A based on the following results:

3.3.1. **The pair** shall record at least two (2) results as the Winner in an Open Mixed Doubles event OR
3.3.2. **The pair** shall record at least three (3) results as a finalist in the Open Doubles event across four consecutive tournaments OR
3.3.3. Record a Quarterfinal result or better at an Open International Doubles Event – exemplary performance in both singles or doubles may be considered OR
3.3.4. **The pair** shall record at least three (3) results as Winner or Finalist in a local tournament or across two or three consecutive tournaments in doubles at the B-Division plus a Semi Final result or better in doubles at the Open Division. (A competitive match to three sets shall also be considered, if the player does not win may be considered.) However, the player must
also demonstrate a high level of play at the B-Division with results as a Winner or Finalist in doubles at the same tournament. (Results from local Junior Tournaments shall typically not be considered)

3.3.5. A single player who has achieved any of the results above, but not consistently with the same partner, may be considered if the player has demonstrated Semi Final results or better in the Open division in other events (Singles or Doubles)

F. Demotion from Divisions
1. Players may be re-classified from a higher division to a lower division under the following circumstances:
   1.1. A player who does not maintain the proficiency level of the assigned division and demonstrates this in competition through repeated (at least 3) losses to players at a lower division.
   1.2. A player (who is not at the master’s level) classified in the A-division or B-division who does not compete in their division or higher for at least 3 years may be demoted no more than one level. Players may avoid demotion by submitting a written leave of absence from local competition or providing evidence of competition overseas.
   1.3. Demoted players from (1.2) may be subject to temporary classifications by tournament referees when entering local tournaments.

2. Players who have previously been assigned to divisions but did not meet the guidelines outlined in this document will not be demoted, however they are subject to the rules governing demotion as outlined above.