



Player and Coach Information on Handling On-Court Injuries **2 December 2022**

Background

It is characteristic for badminton and different from many other sports that play shall be continuous from the first service until the match is concluded, except as in the defined intervals or when play is suspended (Laws of Badminton, Clause 16.1).

The development and professionalization of badminton means steadily increased television exposure and media attention, but also more focus on behaviour and fairness on court, as well as pressure on the players' health and safety.

The tournament programme is intensive. Some players carry injuries from one tournament to the next and players dive much more on court than before. This development has led to the referee and tournament doctor being called on-court more frequently to handle serious injuries sometimes causing considerable and excessive delay of the game.

This document is to clarify for players and coaches what can and cannot be done in case of injury or illness on court, to respect the players' health and safety as well as the Law on continuous play, and fairness on court.

Procedures

1. If a player appeals to the umpire to receive medical assistance, the umpire shall call the referee to the court by raising his right hand, provided the appeal is for a genuine injury or illness.
2. The referee will then quickly come on court, accompanied by the tournament doctor.
3. The referee and the tournament doctor shall seek to resolve the situation as quickly as possible so that play can resume. The tournament doctor shall examine the player and establish a diagnosis.
4. The tournament doctor shall inform the player and the referee whether it is advisable to continue playing.
5. If necessary or upon request, the tournament doctor administers only treatment that will not delay play (e.g. cold spray to alleviate pain only once during play in a match, or taking necessary steps to stop a bleeding wound, etc.).
6. Taping and strapping are only permitted in an interval, and without causing delay. Removal of taping can only happen if play is not delayed.



7. Having received the tournament doctor's advice, the player shall quickly decide to continue or to abandon play and inform the umpire and referee of the decision. Delaying the decision or delaying the resumption of play is a breach of the Law on continuous play and may be penalised as such.
8. The player is only allowed to remove shoes or socks if requested to do so by the tournament doctor as this is considered undue delay.
9. In case of cramping, the Tournament Doctor can be called on court only once, for treatment of a cold spray, to alleviate the pain.
10. In case of an obviously serious injury where there appears to be no doubt that the player cannot continue play (e.g. Achilles tendon rupture, knee ligament rupture, fainting, etc.), the tournament doctor shall start emergency treatment on court and, as soon as possible, ensure that the player is transported to hospital or other emergency care.
11. In the intervals, a team official (coach, physio or even the tournament doctor if accepting to do so) may administer any treatment of an injured player. To maximize the treatment time, and to be ready to play by the end of the interval, players should be proactive about their requests for treatment (e.g. notify their coach of the intention to seek treatment during the interval) so that play is not delayed.