

Athletes' Commission Elections

Candidate Profiles



Akvile STAPUSAITYTE (Lithuania)

Date of Birth – 5 March 1986

Current Ranking - Women's Singles: 224

Achievements

- Played at the Beijing 2008 and London 2012 London Olympic Games

Languages spoken/written

Lithuanian, English, Russian



Statement from the Player



Akvile Stapusaityte is a professional badminton player from Lithuania. She has been national champion multiple times in singles and other disciplines as well.

Akvile has represented her nation at two Olympic Games – the first was in the year 2008 in Beijing in China and the second one in the 2012 London Games.

Her badminton career has seen her play at many international tournaments hosted in many different countries far and wide. From her travels, Akville has observed that conditions at various tournaments were generally good but there are many things that could be further improved.

Among them, she listed the following areas that can be worked on - individual entry, tournament time schedules, better understanding between players and empires, more efficient price money distribution and player's lounge.

Hence, it is her wish to be able to offer her contribution to the game as a candidate such that there can be improvements in the future.

Athletes' Commission Elections

Candidate Profiles



Edwin Ekiring (Uganda)

Date of Birth – 22 December 1983

Current Ranking - Men's Singles: 331

Achievements

- Former African No 1
- Represented Uganda at two Olympic Games and two BWF World Championships

Languages spoken/written

English, Dutch, and a little bit of German



Statement from the Player



A professional badminton player and former African No 1, Edwin Ekiring has the honour of representing his country at two Olympic Games – Beijing 2008 and London 2012 as well as two BWF World Championships, three Commonwealth Games, three African Games plus a long list of international competitions.

Being based in the Netherlands, Edwin is pursuing his lifetime dream of being a professional badminton player.

Being a part of the Athletes' Commission, I will be able to use my wide experiences and knowledge to help players around the world, especially those coming from developing countries.

Among the areas I would like to contribute are prize money, easy admittance for independent players, medical and well-being during tournaments. I would like the Commission to be more visible at events, improve standing of African events and assisting young talents to emerge.

I wish to be the first African Athletes' Commission member ever.

Athletes' Commission Elections

Candidate Profiles



Koo Kien Keat (Malaysia)

Date of Birth – 18 September 1985

Current Ranking - Men's Doubles: 22

Achievements

- Asian Games Gold 2006
- YONEX All England Champion 2007

Languages spoken/written

Bahasa, Chinese, English and Thai



Statement from the Player



I have been representing Malaysia for 16 years now.

During that time I have won several major titles, among them the Asian Games Gold Medal in 2006, and the YONEX All England Championships Men's Doubles title in 2007.

In my badminton career I have also reached World No. 1 ranking in Men's Doubles for which I also claimed numerous titles on the BWF World Superseries circuit, Commonwealth Games, BWF Super Series Finals and the Malaysian Open.

Badminton has given me vast experiences especially with my ability to speak and write several languages which led to meeting many players from many countries worldwide.

With that I feel I understand the predicament faced by players on the tour and their needs.

Hence, I feel given my experience in the game be in good stead to successfully contribute if I am in the Athletes' Commission.

Athletes' Commission Elections

Candidate Profiles



Kirsty Gilmour (Scotland)

Date of Birth 21 September 1993

Current Ranking - Women's Singles: 38

Achievements

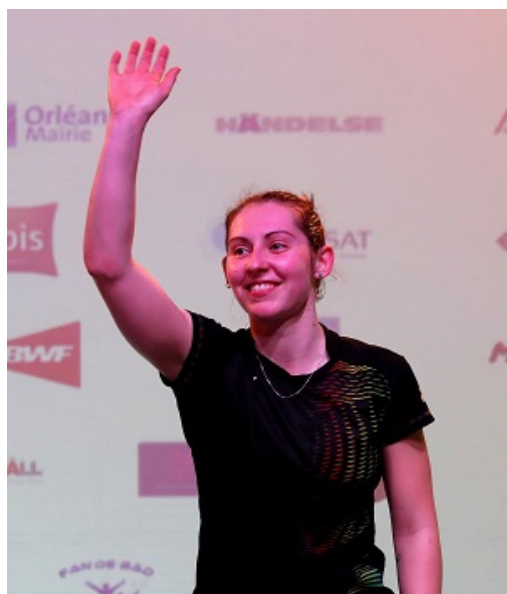
- Professional Player for 5 years
- Bachelor's Degree from the University of the West of Scotland
- the West of Scotland



Languages spoken/written

English

Statement from the Player



I have been a professional badminton player for the last 5 years now. I compete regularly in tournaments ranging from International Challenge Level through to BWF World Superseries Premier.

And as a result I feel I have the necessary experience that would make me a good candidate for the Athletes' Commission.

With a Bachelor's Degree in Creative Industries Practice (Filmmaking and Screen Writing) from the University of the West of Scotland Kirsty feels she is confident in communicating and working within a team for the benefit of the badminton fraternity.

Travelling to tournaments often by myself, I have made invaluable connections with players worldwide, and I believe these relationships will make me a trustworthy and reliable link for players who wish to express their feelings to the BWF.

Badminton is an ever-changing and ever-growing sport and I hope to be a part of this continuing legacy in the coming years. I believe the best way to do this is by giving the athletes a voice and a platform to be heard as we are the ones who are living it every day.

Athletes' Commission Elections

Candidate Profiles



Luis Ramon Garrido Esquivel (Mexico)

Date of Birth 10 May 1996

Current Ranking - Men's Singles: 166

Languages spoken/written

Spanish and English



Statement from the Player

I am an athlete with the intention of searching for the best experience for every player with regard to the communication and the experience every player gets as they travel from tournament to tournament in different countries.

I would like to see the organisation of every tournament get better and better. I would also like to help to analyse the rules and improve them so that badminton becomes better and better.

I have had many experiences and lived through many situations myself and listened to many different players opinions about their experiences on the badminton circuit. I am a constructive critic for other players and the good of all players

I am looking for the best for our sport badminton because I love badminton and I want badminton to get better day by day.

Athletes' Commission Elections

Candidate Profiles



Marc Zwiebler (Germany)

Date of Birth 13 March 1984

Current Ranking - Men's Singles: 15

Achievements

- o European Champion 2012
- o 3x Olympic Games (2008, 2012 and 2016)
- o 9 times German Champion
- o Long-term World Ranking player (best 10)
- o Head of Athletes' Commission Germany
- o Bachelor of Arts



Languages spoken/written

English and German

Statement from the Player



I am planning to represent the players.

I have been involved in international tournaments as a player for more than 15 years. And as such I feel I have enough experience to be able to contribute to player welfare.

Individual entries, prize money, and general welfare of players during competitions are just some of the areas I would like to make my contribution to. While time scheduling, playing/hall conditions and players' lounge are some others areas that I would like to see to.

However, players must ensure they are united in voicing out their difficulties during their travels in order that improvements can be worked on and achieved.

Athletes' Commission Elections



Candidate Profiles

Nikhar Garg (India)

Date of Birth - 2 January 1995

Current Ranking – 392 Men's Doubles

Languages – English, Hindi

Statement from the Player

I am a national-level player from India with reasonable international experience. Six months back, at the age of 21, I decided to take a sabbatical from international badminton. Since then, I have actively vouched for greater autonomy and freedom for badminton players, both at the national & international level. I had started an online petition in May 2016 demanding the Badminton World Federation to allow players to submit their tournament entries directly to BWF. This petition was signed by more than 350 players across the world, and has been submitted to BWF in Feb'17.



Experience:

1. Technical Advisor & Ambassador: AM Badminton Academy, Maldives
2. Promoter (Sponsored Player): Maxx Sports Sdn. Bhd., Malaysia (2016)

Objectives:

- To enable the players to **submit their tournament entries online, directly to the BWF**, replacing the current system of submitting entries through the national association. This will help curb the unjustified obstructions created by national associations, leading to refusal for participation of potential players in tournaments.
- To facilitate **direct dispersion of prize money by the tournament organisers to the players**, rather than national associations, immediately after the completion of the tournament.
- To allow the players to **utilise more space on their apparel for printing logos of sponsors**. This will enable the players to attract more sponsors. Current BWF regulations allow only a limited number of advertisement/ logos to be printed on players' apparel.
- To **set up an 'Online Grievance Redressal Portal' for players**, on behalf of the BWF Athletes Commission, where the players can directly post their grievances. The grievances shall be responded within 30 days.
- To establish rules to **set an upper limit on the entry fee collected from players** at tournaments, as per the Tournament Level (Grand Prix, International Series, and Challenge etc.)
- To **set up stringent Anti-Doping regulations** with more frequent Dope Tests, even at International Series and International Challenge Tournaments.
- To enforce **permanent ban on the use of 'hard' flooring such as concrete**, for international tournaments, irrespective of the tournament grade.

I will strive to fulfil the above objectives if I get an opportunity to represent the athletes at the Badminton World Federation. Kindly cast your precious vote for me. Athletes can contact me directly on my phone or email address.

Athletes' Commission Elections

Candidate Profiles



Pusarla V. Sindhu (India)

Date of Birth 5 July 1995

Current Ranking - Women's Singles: 2

Achievements

- Bronze Medal in BWF World Championships 2013 and 2014
- Bronze Medal in Commonwealth Games 2010
- Bronze Medal in Uber Cup 2014
- Silver Medal - Rio 2016 Olympic Games
- Winner of China Open in 2016,
- Runner up in Hong Kong open in 2016
- Winner in Syed Modi Grand Prix Gold 2017.

Languages Spoken/Written - Telugu, Hindi, English



Statement from Player/ Association



Sindhu was born in a sporting family who encouraged and supported her to start badminton at an early age of 8 years. Sindhu is presently pursuing post graduation masters degree in Business Administration.

Sindhu is the first Indian Badminton player to win a Silver Medal at RIO Olympics. Some of her career best achievements in Women's Singles are as above and she is ranked 2nd in BWF Rankings.

Sindhu was the recipient of the Best Female Promising Player of 2016 award of BWF. Sindhu is the youngest Indian to receive fourth highest Indian civilian honour "Padma Shri" in 2015. Sindhu received highest sporting honour "Rajiv Khel Ratna" Award of India in 2016. Sindhu is Brand Ambassador for Government of India for various public utility projects.

If elected Sindhu will act as a link between players and BWF by communicating the interests and feelings of the players. She would like to strive her best to build good and healthy relations between the players, BWF and IOC. She will put in efforts to keep the Game

free from Doping and dishonesty (match fixing). She will work for bringing Badminton in top bracket of IOC sports.

We strongly feel that she would be an asset to BWF, she is sincere dedicated and has strong moral qualities. We strongly recommend her.

Athletes' Commission Elections

Candidate Profiles



Yoo Yeon Seong (Korea)

Date of Birth 19 August 1986

Current Ranking

- Men's Doubles: 102
- Mixed Doubles: 34



Languages spoken/written

Korean

Statement from the Player



For many years I have had the wonderful opportunity to be involved with the badminton world which possesses one of the greatest sporting competitions ever. Now I would love to assist its governing body, BWF, to ensure the sport remains on the right path.

Having recently been elected as a member of Athlete's Commission of the Korean Sport and Olympic committee and also recently become Suwon's Paralympic sports ambassador, I feel deeply that I can help badminton to scale even greater heights.

I have the desire to help the players cause for working to improve their playing as well as working conditions will only help them perform and produce better results. Identifying and recognising their problems and hardships as they travel the globe to participate in events interest me a great deal.

If I am given the chance to be part of the Athletes' Commission, I will give my very best to listen to player troubles and hardship, ideas and suggestions, opinions and criticism. I will go on to act to ensure your needs are seen to.