

SST Jäseninfo 13.1.2025 / Questions and answers

1. As a regional umpire, I would like to be familiar with and practice umpiring in team competitions. Would it be possible that SST suggests the Finnish Badminton Association (SSuL) allowing umpires in place in I-Division (Team Championship qualifying competition)? The umpiring activities can be treated as volunteering (without compensation to umpires), and only warm meals, snacks and drinks provided.

A: First division is regarded equal to any national competition. So any umpire is free to apply an umpiring position from the organizer.

2. As a regional umpire, I have noticed that most of the time, it is difficult to be accepted as an umpire for a tournament (no matter the level of the tournament). It leads to me having very few umpiring records. In my opinion, that is a blocker issue for my umpiring career growth in the long-run. What suggestions/action points SST could provide, and help regional umpires (who have been facing the similar issue).

A: The umpire should contact the competition referee and notify him or her about availability.

3. Annually, is there a minimal amount of umpiring records set? Or/and a minimal amount of tournament participation is required?

A: To keep the regional status there is no requirements to have certain number of matches umpired. To keep the national status you have to umpire at least 20 matches per year.

4. Currently, as a regional umpire, I have no information regarding the possible schedule of tournaments for regional umpires' appraisals and assessment. Once the badminton competition calendar has been set (around summer time), would it be possible that SST officially informs all regional umpires (or/and national umpires) that what tournaments could be suitable or set for regional umpires' appraisals and assessment? The regional umpires who are interested in such matters would have enough time to do their plan accordingly.

A: The umpire path development is under way and your suggestion is one of the elements which are under planning.

5. Would it be possible that SST from time to time organizes technical online seminars led by experienced umpires?(or form a group for all the umpires to share cases or news also great idea) The ideas may include by using real cases, to demonstrate how to deal with rare situations properly during matches, and if regulations changed, how to easily adopt the new changes, etc...

A: This is under consideration and we are trying to find suitable ways and times to make this kind of activity to become reality.

6. Would it be possible that SST officially publishes the guideline of the regional umpire promotion programme including possibilities of the assessment retaken? The picture shown on the web site does not tell everything.

A. The pathway picture does not tell everything. The promotion program needs to be planned on yearly basis and it can be and actually should be published on the web site.

7. **It is well known that Finnish Championship level umpires usually would have more opportunities on Finnish Championship level tournaments and possible tournaments overseas.** Due to the recent annual umpire record report rule, I would like to suggest that for high level tournaments (Eliitti and Premier Elite), there shall be a quotation for different levels of umpires. For example, if a tournament requires 8 umpires, the setup would be max 2 Finnish Championship level umpires (SM-tason tuomari), 2 to 3 National level umpires (Kansallisen tason tuomari), and the rest of umpires would be Regional level umpires (Aluetason tuomari). **If an umpire coming from a different geo region/different club asks to join a tournament, the tournament shall take the umpire's level into consideration.** The main reason is those regional level umpires would need more matches to develop their careers in the long-run, and National level umpires as well. In addition, if the club (hosting the tournament) has some umpires belonging to the club, it shall still be open to accept a few more regional level umpires.

A: This would be a good idea and suggestion but in practice might be difficult or impossible to make happen because the tournament organizers have the right to decide how many umpires they want to use and choose the umpires. Also the organizers usually have to consider the costs and the budget i.e. how much they have money for umpires and referees.

8. Regarding the annual umpire record report, there is a rule as below:
Umpires not fulfilling the requirement shall be removed from the list of qualified umpires to the level umpire has been.

If some people's level changed, how can it be notified to the tournament referees? So referees do not pick up wrong umpires into the tournament.

A. The list of umpires will be published and if the level changes the umpire will be listed in relevant category. In practice the level is important only in national championships and team national championships.