



Scoring: It's a Hot Topic in the Midwest
by Jess Morgan

Seems like many people have something to say about the new scoring system. Dare I say that there are more opinions voiced on the topic than when the IBF transitioned from 3x15 to 5x7. Although the new scoring system was not intended to discriminate against women, that is what it appears to do. In a country where equality is often taken for granted, this is a slap in the face. Okay, so maybe in the big picture it's not a huge deal. After all, we are talking about badminton scoring, not the right to drive a car or vote or go to 7-Eleven at 2 am.

In this issue, I am printing an article by Sue Vartanian (see page 3), a response she wrote after reading Katharina Prax's article last issue. I would also like to share the results of our online poll, which was posted on our website around the same time that the last issue of the Flick was published. 93 people responded to the survey as of January 1st. The results:

2% were females that said I Don't Care! (2 responses)
8% were males that said I Don't Care! (7 responses)

22% were females that said I Hate It! (20 responses)
38% were males that said I Hate It! (35 responses)

6% were females that said I Like It! (6 responses)
25% were males that said I Like It! (23 responses)

I must say, I've heard many people comment that they do not like it. One of those people was Colin Orton, of Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan. He wrote:

I am saddened that the leaders of the sport I have loved all my life have chosen to discriminate against women. The IBF should be ashamed of itself. I hope the United States has joined the several other countries to express their disgust. I thought the world had moved on from the old days when women were treated as too "delicate" to compete at the same level as men in sporting events.

After I asked him if I could print his opinion, he added:

I well remember the time when women were not allowed to run more than 400 yards in the Olympics because they were thought to be not strong enough. Now the best women can beat most of the good US runners in the marathon. I can't imagine what was going through the minds of the IBF when they passed this resolution.

Like many situations of debate, it is often the opposers who are heard from more frequently. Although I am one of the opposers of the scoring changes, I would love to hear from supporters of it. If you are one of those people, send me an article or just a note expressing why you are in favor of this change. Maybe you're a guy that doesn't care that much for Mixed Doubles. Or a strictly singles playing female that is unaffected. Or maybe a tournament director that thinks shorter games will help you get home earlier on Saturday night. In any case, it's always good to hear from both sides!

New USAB Fees for 2003

Attention, Tournament Directors and USAB Clubs!

Due to the spiraling costs of liability insurance, USA Badminton is increasing the sanction/insurance fees for tournaments and the USAB club membership costs for 2003. In talking with Peggy Savosik in the USAB National Office, the insurance costs for 2003 have increased 43%! If you have car insurance, homeowners' insurance, health insurance, you know of what we speak.

The increases are as follows:

Sanction and Insurance Fees

- § \$90 – (\$30 sanction, \$60 insurance) – clinics, camp [no deposit required]
- § \$250* – (\$50 sanction, \$100 insurance) – tournaments sponsored by USAB Clubs or Associations
- § \$270* - (\$70 sanction, \$100 insurance) – tournaments sponsored by USAB Individual Members

*(\$100 deposit refundable if all requirements are met within two weeks of tournament)

2003 Club Membership Application

\$50 annually – Club Membership
Additional \$100 annually – Insurance Coverage

All 2003 club memberships and insurance policies will expire December 31, 2003.

Editor's note: Note that the club membership mentioned above is NOT your MBA Club membership!

The Flick is published by the Midwest Badminton Association 10 times a year, monthly between September and April, with May/June and July/August being combined.

Submitting Information:

Tournament entry forms will be printed and distributed with The Flick for a \$75 fee. Website publishing is included in this fee. Please submit forms to the Editor at least eight weeks before your entry deadline.

Tournament results and drawsheets should include full names of participants and match scores. An article would be nice, too.

Send material with little or no formatting to the address or email below. Please include your phone number or email address.

Deadlines:

Articles and entries and other material may be submitted at any time. But to guarantee that your submission will be in the next issue, it should get to the editor by the 10th of the month prior (e.g. to be in the June issue, send by May 10th). Otherwise, it will be printed at the editor's discretion.

Advertising rates per issue:

Full Page: \$55 (\$40 if 6 or more issues)
 Half Page: \$35 (\$25 if 6 or more issues)
 Quarter Page: \$25 (\$20 if 6 or more)

Payment:

Make checks payable to the Midwest Badminton Association and mail to the address below.

Editor:

Jessica Morgan
 2254 W. Farragut Ave. Apt. 1F
 Chicago, IL 60625
 773-728-0920 (h) 312-894-0395 (w)
 webmaster@midwestbadminton.com

Tournament Calendar

JANUARY 2003

Date	Tournament/Location	Contact Information
Jan 4-5	Kentucky State Open Louisville, KY	Charles & Bobbie Norton 502-426-5518 bnorton828@aol.com
Jan 18-19	Region 2 Classic & Indiana Open Terre Haute, IN	Dawn & Bharat Patel 765-349-0662 dbpatel@metinc.net

FEBRUARY 2003

no events currently scheduled

MARCH 2003

Date	Tournament/Location	Contact Information
March 17-19	Midwest Closed Championships Terre Haute, IN	Dawn & Bharat Patel 765-349-0662 dbpatel@metinc.net

**For updates regarding tournaments, please visit our website:
<http://www.midwestbadminton.com>**

As soon as your tournament/camp has been scheduled, please send dates, location, and contact person to the Flick, and it will be listed here at no charge to you.

Entry forms and event information will be distributed with *The Flick* for a \$75 fee (see left).

They will also be made available on the MBA's website (<http://www.midwestbadminton.com>) at no additional cost, unless you specify that you do not want it to be published on the website.

Midwest Officers and Directors

President:

Dawn Patel
 5390 State Rd. 37North
 Martinsville, IN 46151
 765-349-0662
 dbpatel@metinc.net

Secretary:

Mary Ann Bowles
 4514 Pegasus Dr.
 St. Louis, MO 63129
 314-487-7187
 MABowles@worldnet.att.net

Katharina Prax
 1876 Windwood Apt 203
 Rochester Hills, MI 48307
 248-844-8311
 katharinaprax@yahoo.com

Kristin Artman
 2214 Guebert
 Fenton, MO 63026
 636-225-4325
 krisartman@hotmail.com

Elke Haefke
 488 Windham Cove
 Crystal Lake, IL 60014
 815-477-8367
 Wingr66@aol.com

Vice-President & Editor: Treasurer:

Jess Morgan
 2254 W. Farragut Ave. 1F
 Chicago, IL 60625
 773-728-0920
 jessmorgan76@yahoo.com

Ken Alwine
 1569 Willoughby
 Wooster, OH 44691
 330-263-6154
 KAlwine@aol.com

Meredith Wertz
 3 Ashford Ct.
 Buffalo Grove, IL 60089
 847-398-7293
 mlwertz@hotmail.com

Alice Wunderlich
 316 S Hi Lusi Ave
 Mt. Prospect, IL 60056
 847-392-3537
 awunderlich@deloitte.com

**New IBF Scoring Rules — I Hate Them
by Susan Vartanian (aka the Dragon Lady)
USAB Life Member 147**

The December issue of the MBA's newsletter had an editorial by Katharina Prax about the newest IBF scoring changes in which Women's Singles, Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles are played to 11 points. (I will now abbreviate this "females-play-to-11" rule as "F-11".)

My only experience with F-11 was during the September tournament in Charlotte NC. There, Jim Greenlees was doing his best to squeeze too many matches into too little gym time. Some matches were one-game-to-21. In fact, I teasingly accused Greenlees of changing the scoring for each and every match.

I agree with Katharina that it is difficult to get used to a new scoring system. We are fond of getting into our ruts, being able to warm up slowly, psyching ourselves when the score reaches X. In the end, it really doesn't matter. Shorter games require us to wake up sooner. Period.

I still cannot understand is how and why the IBF actually changed the rules so quickly. I've passively observed the IBF try out other scoring systems (e.g. 5x9, 5x7) and figured they would do the same thing with F-11. The IBF should then get some feedback and THEN decide whether or not to change the rules.

I admit I don't remember any testing of the rule change that eliminated the 13-all set. And it didn't bother me. I guess I agreed that it was always difficult for players to learn and remember. A complication we didn't need.

However, in this case, I felt the IBF really went the wrong way down the gender-equality track!

I've always loved badminton for the way it can equalize. Short folks can clear over tall folks. Fat people can hit winning drops against thin runners. Old people can anticipate the movements of youngsters and put the bird away. Old fat women (like me) can actually beat men! (OK, so they're old and fat too...) But that's the beauty of badminton. It a sport that EVERYONE can play.

And so the one thing that had always galled me was the way that all the games were to 15 points EXCEPT for Women's Singles! Why???

That was the nice thing about 5x7 or 5x9 — it made all the matches the same number of points no matter which event it was. And now the IBF has gone and passed the F-11 rule! What WERE they thinking?

All right, they were probably thinking that two scoring systems already failed, but they still needed some way to make the games shorter for their beloved television coverage. But do they really need to change the game?

Admittedly, tennis changed its scoring for TV, but it already had short breaks built in: changing ends every 2 games (each game is only 4 points with win-by-2). They did eliminate the win-by-2-sets rule and added new-fangled tie-breakers. And, yes, some tournaments STILL have women playing only best-of-3 sets compared to the best-of-5 for men. (I'm not sure how many sets are used in Mixed Doubles, but I bet it's three.)

So tennis still has some sex-discrimination. Why must sports assume that women can't last as long as men? Or that people would rather watch men play more? Isn't badminton better than that? Let's treat our athletes equally — as they deserve to be treated. **continued on page 4**

Membership Application



MBA Membership allows you to participate in MBA Closed Championship tournaments (if you meet residency requirements) and to be eligible for MBA rankings (if USAB member too). You will receive a subscription to the MBA newsletter, The Flick. You have a choice to receive this online or via postal service. Check the box next to your email address to receive the Flick online.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Area Code and Phone: _____

Birthdate: _____ Home Club: _____

Email Address: _____

I want to (check one):

___ Join the MBA as an individual member (\$15 for year membership July - June)

___ Get my Flick! Please verify membership and correct info above.

___ Be a patron for the year (\$30, \$50, \$100... or more! It's tax deductible!)

___ Make a tax deductible donation to _____ (ex. Jr. Development)

___ Register an MBA Club. Please send me forms and information.

Make check payable to Midwest Badminton Association and send to:
MBA c/o Jessica Morgan
2254 W. Farragut Ave. Apt. 1F Chicago IL 60625

Scoring continued from page 3

We could make ALL badminton games to 11 points. (Call it 3x11?) Here again, we have the psychological trauma of a shorter game.

Or perhaps the televised competitions should take another approach. I suggest they take a 90-second commercial break every 10 minutes, no matter what the score is. Well, maybe not at game-point — not until side-out, anyway. The players involved will have built-in rest periods that mess with the “continuous play” rule, but they may eliminate some creative stalling techniques.

I really don't appreciate the IBF changing the scoring based upon gender. I hope the IBF can settle on a simple scoring system that is equitable and easy to understand. The problem that the IBF is trying to solve is making Badminton more suitable for television. Scoring changes are not the complete answer.

What's New? Olympic XCEL Program by Mary Ann Bowles

USA Badminton is introducing the OLYMPIC XCEL program beginning January 1, 2003. What is this new program, you may ask? As part of your USA Badminton membership, you will now be eligible to receive new benefits from U.S. Olympic Team sponsors. Benefits included range from hotel specials to airline discounts. OLYMPIC XCEL opens the door to a world of new value. The OXL card has been developed in conjunction with the U.S. Olympic Committee, U.S. Olympic sponsors, and USA Badminton.

At the same time, your membership will provide the necessary resources for USA Badminton to build the sport in America for you and the many members to come.

USA Badminton is also introducing a new ranking system. The USAB Board of Directors voted to adopt the current International Badminton Federation ranking system. This new ranking system should encourage more participation in tournaments throughout the U.S.

With all these new benefits to USA Badminton members, the membership dues have been increased as of January 1, 2003, for the first time in five years. With the OXL card, your membership fee will pay for itself in no time. USA Badminton is taking steps to increase badminton participation, awareness, membership, and give new benefits to our members. Be sure your membership is current—if not a member, now's the time to join!

“Walk of Fame Plaza” Fund Drive by Mary Ann Bowles

Have you been reading about the USAB “Walk of Fame Plaza” in the “USA Badminton” magazine? You should be aware that the “Walk of Fame Plaza” will be constructed on the front sidewalk of the Orange County Badminton Club to honor athletes, coaches, and administrators who have excelled nationally and internationally or demonstrated outstanding leadership for our sport. The inaugural 2003 Induction Ceremony/ Reception will be held April 25, 2003, at 4:30PM at the club.

The fund drive is progressing well, thanks to many donors all over the U.S. The goal for March, 2003, is \$6,000, and the current total as of this printing is \$5378.50. If you have not made a contribution yet, there is still plenty of time. Just \$10 will classify you as a Fan (\$10-24), but there are gift plans for Player (\$25-49), Finalist (\$50-74), and Champion (\$75-100). All donations are tax deductible. Check out the “Walk of Fame Plaza” web site, <http://www.usabadminton.org/wof> for all the details.

On The Road Again, Again! by Bob Ericson

Seems like just yesterday I was returning from the Kansas Senior Games driving on the back roads of northern Kansas and southern Nebraska and here I am traveling south on Hwy 75 to Topeka, 2002 style. This time my wife is with me so I have to behave. She said she'd come along only if she could go to the Yarn Barn in Manhattan. So while I played on Friday she took the car and went to the Yarn Barn in Manhattan.

We arrived in Topeka around noon and went to the Senior Games headquarters in Gage Park, at the zoo, to sign in. From there we checked into our hotel and then returned to the zoo. Since I work at the zoo in Omaha, I had arranged to meet someone from the Topeka Zoo education department to give us a tour. Our host gave us a behind the scenes tour of many of the exhibits.

By then it was time for Grapes With the Apes, the welcome social for all participants of the games. After picking up our eats we sat in the tunnel of the ape house, ate our grapes and crackers and talked with other participants. Met a swimmer, a bicyclist and eventually some new badminton players from Iowa.

While we were snacking and talking two familiar faces walked past. I said to myself, I know those folks but from where. So I went over and talked to them and then it dawned on me when John spoke up that it was John and

Alice Mohr from St. Louis. We asked them to join our group so we then had a more interesting conversation. Since we talked so much we had to go back for seconds and thirds on the grapes and crackers. The hosts kept bringing wine and lemonade around to us at the tables. Turned out to be dinner for my wife and I.

Well, so much for the social aspect of the games. Friday morning play started around 9:15 but I didn't get on the court until after 10:30. I played 60-64 Mens Singles, 60-64 Men's Doubles and 60-64 Mixed Doubles.

In singles I won my first three matches early. One of my opponents was a shot putter. I didn't play the final, against my doubles partner, Bob McFarland, from Grand Island, Nebraska until, 2pm in the afternoon, after we'd played and won the mens doubles and I'd also played Mixed doubles.

Bob and I played three games. He won the first one 15-11 and I won the second one. In the third game I think he got tired and I finally won 15-7. Makes for a long day. In Mixed Doubles Anne Marshall, from Topeka, and I lost to Bennie Meyer and Sue Miller both from Topeka. Just one match in that age division.

After my last singles game, took a shower and hit Hwy 75 north back to Omaha. It's less than a three hour drive. Since I'd not had lunch we stopped in Auburn, Nebraska to eat dinner. On the road again to the Kansas Senior Games was an interesting but short two day trip.

Make a Change! By Dawn Patel

The New Year is the perfect time for you to make a change for the better. The changes you make don't have to be dramatic ones. Small realistic changes in your daily life are the ones that will last and help you achieve a healthier, happier you. Being a healthier and happier you will tend to have a positive impact on others.

How well do you juggle? We all know life is a balancing act where the most skillful "juggler" succeeds. As badminton players we think about trying to schedule time for training and playing. We might be thinking about starting or changing an exercise routine and/or diet. We all have cherished relationships with family and friends that are very important and need nurturing. Beginner jugglers start with one ball at a time, so focus on one goal and be determined to get there. As your "juggling" skills

advance accept the challenge to develop your mind, body and spirit.

One goal might be to add a bit more fun and humor into your daily life. You might use humor to ease a tense moment. A little harmless teasing can be very healthy at the right time. Researchers have proven that laughter is good medicine. Laughing at your self can provide some healing benefits, as well as help others release pressure.

After 23 years of teaching and coaching at the collegiate level last year I made many changes in my life. I love teaching and coaching, but I was sleep deprived, ill very often and not getting to spend as much quality time with family and friends. I am very fortunate to have a wonderful friend and husband in Bharat Patel. We decided it was time to get more control of my time and energy. I truly believe in God's guidance.

I sat down (Jan., 2002, age 46) and decided on 4 issues that were important to me at that time in my life.

1. I wanted a more flexible schedule and more sleep!
2. I wanted to be able to be more available to my friends and family.
3. I wanted to do something positive for others, including family and friends.
4. I wanted to still make money to do things Bharat and I want to pursue.

Bharat and I already have a company called Sport Designs that does silk screened and embroidered apparel, trophies and miscellaneous items. We are expanding that business. We have family and friends that are making landscaping changes, so we now have a landscaping company called "Dawnscares". I also am offering to give badminton lessons, as well as providing personal training. I am marketing me—my time and experience—to add quality to the lives of others, mostly family and friends! Bharat and I are much more thoughtful about how we spend our money. In other words ... WE ARE POOR, BUT HAPPY!

People who live the life of their dreams get there by demanding what they want and doing what it takes to make it happen. That might mean breaking a few rules, a few hearts, and a few habits along the way, especially the habit of apologizing for who you are. Daily evaluation is critical because you decide how you spend every second of your life. Yes, we all have factors that influence these decisions, but the final decisions belong to each one of us. Enjoy the challenge of each new day. Frank Lloyd Wright says, "The trick is to grow up without getting old." I hope we all have many more memories to share on and off the badminton courts! This wish for health and happiness comes from the bottom, top and all sides of my heart.



LeAnn Du-Higashi and Dawn Patel won the 35+ and 40+ Women's Doubles at the Senior Midwest Closed Championships, held December 14-15 in Dayton. Full results will be printed in the next issue.

In Your January Flick:

More Opinions on Scoring

USAB Notes & Changes

On the Road with Bob

Dawn Encourages Change

Midwest Badminton Association

2254 W. Farragut Ave. Apt. 1F, Chicago IL 60625

Thanks to our MBA Patrons

The Alwine Family
Ann Arbor Badminton Club
The Artman Family
Russ and Mary Ann Bowles
John Lizza
Bill McOwen
Alan Mills
Ted Moehlmann
Frank Panice
Park Ridge Badminton Club
Dawn and Bharat Patel
Don Ross
Jim Safranek
Virginia Smith
Dick Witte
Hull Wu

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Address Correction Requested