



The Year in Review (2018 -2019)

From the last Annual General Meeting (AGM) in 2018 the board of the Trinidad and Tobago Badminton Association (TTBA) continued on the path of moving badminton forward.

We were propelled by the hosting of the Pan American Male and Female Team Continental Championships, the first of its kind to be held in Trinidad and Tobago.

We were able to facilitate the hosting of a zonal school tournament hosted by Trinity College at the National Racquet Centre. At this point we were prepared to continue with our calendar of events set for 2018 to host a number of tournaments and coach education seminars. However, we encountered huge obstacles in the form of lack of facilities and funding.

We made several attempts to obtain use of the National Racquet Centre but were blocked at every turn. After numerous meetings with personnel from SPORTT it became necessary to write a report on the current situation at the National Racquet Centre. This was submitted to the Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs as well as the Permanent Secretary. Please see appendix one (1) for a copy of this report.

This reports highlights the issues we encountered last year. To this day we still have not been provided with a copy of the user policy for the National Racquet Centre or our lease for our office.

In spite of these challenges badminton in Trinidad and Tobago was still able to move forward. Presented with lack of use of the National Racquet Centre, alternative venues were sought as we carried out our mandate to host our events and programmes.

High Performance

This aspect of badminton has been the area to suffer the most over the past year, this partly due to lack of facilities and funding. Previously in years gone by we had sufficient funding to send athletes to CAREBACO and at least two athletes to the Pan- Am Juniors. We were still represented well at both these tournaments as athletes were able to raise funding to attend.

We were fortunate to be able to have two athletes compete in the Central American and Caribbean Games in Columbia. Both these athletes performed admirably given the circumstances. Trinidad and Tobago was also represented well by our athletes at the Suriname International.

The executive recognized that a drastic change in approach is required in the areas of development and high performance. Steps were taken to initiate this change. This saw us part ways with our technical director. The board has begun the process of reviewing our strategic plan and operational plan to implement the required change to improve in this facet of our sport.

Events and Competition

These are some events and competitions that were carried out for 2018-2019.

- Senior Nationals
- Junior Nationals
- Trials for CAC Games
- Solo Juniors
- Solo Seniors
- Pan Am Games Trials

In an effort to increase the number of events in Trinidad and Tobago the TTBA sent out a correspondence inviting clubs who were interested in hosting events to submit an expression of interest. The TTBA would be providing shuttles and also assistance with the National Racquet Centre where possible. This was done to allow clubs the opportunity to seek sponsorship and earn revenue by hosting these events and also fulfilling our mandate of increasing the amount of badminton competitions being held in Trinidad and Tobago.

This partnership has already bore fruit with one of our newest clubs, SGCSA hosting an excellent master's tournament earlier this year. This gave our masters athletes an opportunity to participate in another event and push sport for all. It is our hope that a number of clubs will take advantage of this opportunity to host events.

Another area of focus was the quality of our events. Now at the local tournaments athletes are attended to by medical personnel. This is now the standard that has been set for all events sanctioned by the TTBA. We have also improved the quality for our participants by ensuring clubs are able to book practise sessions at the tournament venue at no cost to themselves.

Organisational Excellence

We have improved our website to provide updated content including tournament results and schedule of events. Our new format is much more user friendly with information readily available for members and the general public.

The board reviewed our strengths and weaknesses, as part of a holistic approach. Communication and administration was an area which was identified for immediate improvement. The board took a paradigm shift away from an organization solely run by volunteers to a professional based association with at least one member of permanent staff.

The position identified was an administration assistant tasked with the day to day operation of the office of the TTBA. The job description has been completed and interviews are on-going. This decision was taken with the view of allowing the board to focus more on the governance of the sport instead of solely operational.

Also importantly for the third consecutive year, the TTBA has been able to produce audited financial statements. This was a significant step as proof of financial transparency is one of the main factors that sponsors ask for when partnering with entities.

Participation

We have seen growth in membership, with three new clubs being registered with our association. Welcome to SGCSA, Paragon and Legends badminton clubs. This now takes our official number of clubs to sixteen (16) clubs. This represents a 25% increase since 2016.

The BWF shuttle time program is one of the main conduits used by badminton associations to introduce our sport to youths while training tutors how to correctly teach our sport. We recognized the importance of gaining further exposure with young persons and streamlined the coordination of the Shuttle Time program in Trinidad and Tobago. To push our efforts forward meetings were held with members of the Secondary School Badminton Association (SSBA). Coming out of these meetings a decision was made to enable the SSBA to implement Shuttle Time programs within their different districts. This saw the certification of thirty-four (34) physical education teachers under the Shuttle Time program.

We have also seen an increase in the number of schools and students participating in the SSBA tournaments. This event has grown to the capacity where students are now set into graded events in the district tournaments with a final of both the A grade and B grade events occurring at the National Racquet Centre. The finals saw representatives from 47 schools across 6 districts compete for glory in the different age categories.

Another area of increased participation is at the CXC Physical Education Examination. Badminton has moved from third place into second for number of students choosing our sport to be evaluated.

Para- badminton

In 2018 we were also able to take steps towards starting para badminton in Trinidad and Tobago. We participated in a para-badminton administrative and coaching workshop in Sao Paulo Brazil. This opportunity has now provided us with a country coordinator for para badminton as well as a coach with knowledge how to handle para athletes. We have indicated to the Badminton World Federation and the Pan American Badminton Association that we require financial assistance for the introduction, exposure and progressive competitions as we seek to introduce and develop the sport of Para badminton in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Future

Here I take this opportunity to highlight some of the upcoming ventures of the TTBA. We have produced our operational plan for 2018-2019. (appendix 2) Below I have highlighted a few of the main areas.

- Increased numbers of tournaments held locally. The aim is to have 6 tournaments per age category by 2020.
- Consultation with clubs to host tournaments with the aim to earn revenue.
- Allocation of training times for the clubs at the National Racquet Centre
- Improved administrative capacity.
- Improved Communication with the membership.
- Fund raising initiatives.
- The hiring of a foreign coach with aim of providing improved technical ability
- Coaching Certification and Shuttle Time Programs
- Increased numbers of Secondary Schools participating in badminton

These are just some of the activities identified for the year 2018-2019.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my members of the Board for their time, effort and unwavering belief in this endeavour that we have embarked upon. It will not always be perfect but we are making progress. To our membership we are now at one of the most important junctures of sport in our recent history. We have an opportunity to move our sport forward in a manner that will see the maximum benefit be derived. We have for far too long embarked on a vicious cycle which is not progressive, together we have an opportunity to change that. Be the change you wish to see and together we can take badminton in Trinidad and Tobago to the heights we know it belongs.

Sincerely,



Rahul Rampersad
President
Trinidad and Tobago Badminton Association



Trinidad & Tobago Badminton Association

Affiliated:

BadmintonWorld
Federation

Trinidad&Tobago
OlympicCommittee

Caribbean Regional
BadmintonConfederation

Badminton Pan Am Confederation

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September 18th 2018

The Honourable Shamfa Cudjoe
Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs

Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs
#2 Elizabeth Street,
St. Clair

Dear Honourable Minister,

Re: Current Situation at the National Centre for Racquet Sports

We refer to the matter of caption. For the past eight months the Trinidad and Tobago Badminton Association (TTBA) has been unable to utilize the National Centre for Racquet Sports (NCRS).

The last event that was hosted by the TTBA in the NCRS was the first ever Pan-American Team Continental Championships held in Trinidad and Tobago. This saw 200 hundred athletes participate from over 14 different countries. This event took place from February 15th-18th of this year.

This was also our 2nd successful International event in 9 months. The first being the 2017 Caribbean Regional Badminton Confederation Championships (CAREBACO). This was held in August 2017 and saw over 500 athletes participate in 5 tournaments over 15 days. The first time in 13 years that Trinidad and Tobago hosted this event.

Since February, we have effectively been put out of the NCRS. This has been orchestrated in a very effective and convoluted manner. The reason we are not being allowed to utilize the facility is down to a number of factors. These are:

1) **The president of the Tennis Association is on the board of SPORTT.**

This is a conflict of interest as Mr. Mitchell has represented SPORTT in meetings regarding disputes concerning the National Centre for Racquet Sports. He is also given prior knowledge and information that benefits his agenda.

2) Badminton and Table Tennis were allocated one indoor Tennis Court each to be based as their home at the National Centre for Racquet Sports.

This was iterated many times by the then Minister of Sports, the Honourable Darryl Smith. This resulted in arguments and disagreements as Tennis did not want this. It went further where members of the Tennis Association put out articles in the newspapers calling badminton and table tennis squatters. A meeting was held and it was made clear that barring international events both badminton and table tennis will have their home on courts 1 and 2 of the indoor component of the facility.

It should be noted there are 12 tennis courts at the NCRS, but badminton and table tennis must give up two courts.

3) Cart Blanche approval for Tennis -

Due to the stipulation that only International Events were supposed to interrupt the stakeholders, Tennis holds as many international events as they please and are obviously given approval by SPORTT.

When approval is given badminton and table tennis must vacate. This has now extended to local events such as Catch and Nationals now displacing the two other stakeholders.

This is allowed to happen because the head of the body requesting the usage is also on the board of COTTEC and SPORTT. This attitude is also reflected in the employees of SPORTT who manage the facility with the understanding that TENNIS is running the show. Any other organization would first have to be given permission to host these events. How is this happening for tennis? Also how can the President of Tennis be allowed to be in charge of facilities or even be on the board of SPORTT.

4) SPORTT refusal to act -

Since May 1st 2018 letters have been sent to SPORTT requesting information on the National Centre for Racquet Sports (please see attached). This has gone unanswered. When meetings are held we are faced with the president of tennis/ SPORTT board member. How are we supposed to feel any confidence that our sports are being given a fair chance? Instead members of SPORTT offer us facilities that are on the brink of collapse to pacify us. We had to postpone our Junior Nationals for nearly three months because we could not secure a venue.

Badminton had to request to use facilities not even open to public in an aim to keep our sport alive. One of these facilities being the Indoor Facility in Sangre Grande.

5) Badminton International Flooring -

The National Centre for Racquet Sports was initially intended as a Tennis Centre. Badminton requires a certain type of flooring. This flooring is also conducive for Table Tennis. Badminton and Table Tennis invested in infrastructure to convert an indoor tennis facility to the National Centre for Racquet Sports. Both fraternities enjoy a healthy relationship. With this in mind, badminton allows table tennis to utilize the International standard flooring it installed at the centre. This mat is extremely expensive and intended to be installed on a permanent basis. It costs approximately \$5000- \$7500 TT to install and re-install the flooring every time.

Badminton only made this investment after it was ensured that it would be granted a permanent spot at the National Racquet Centre. Every time tennis states that they require all 12 courts, we must incur this cost without reimbursement, sometimes only being given 2 week spans between tennis tournaments. This is unfeasible financially.

Timeline of Badminton at the National Centre for Racquet Sports

- June 22nd 2016 – Test event hosted by SPORTT where badminton, table tennis and tennis was hosted concurrently.
- September 2016 – Badminton won the bid to host the 2017 Caribbean Regional Badminton Confederation Championships (CAREBACO) in August 2017
- January 2017 – Badminton given their home by Minister of Sport. Badminton moves into the National Racquet Centre.
- January 2017 – August 2017 – Preparation of the National Centre for Racquet Sports. Over TT \$500,000.00 invested in outfitting the centre to host CAREBACO 2017
- August 2017 – CAREBACO 2017
 - 15 days
 - 5 tournaments
 - Over 500 athletes
 - Record breaking medal haul
- September 2017 – Badminton Awarded the Pan American Team Continental Championships. The first in the history of Trinidad and Tobago.
- September – December 2017 – local tournaments and trials
- January – February 2018 – National Training and Venue Preparation
- February 15th – 18th 2018 – Pan Am Team Continental Championships & Coaching conference.
- March 2018 - emails to book facility but being told that we had to remove our flooring with Tennis having back to back tournaments with no availability.
- April 28th 2018 – Request meeting with SPORTT
- May 1st 2018 – Official letters sent to Mr. Kairon Serrette regarding concerns of the TTBA regarding the National Racquet Centre.
- May 25th 2018 – Request to use the National Racquet Centre. Only then informed of new procedure. No memo ever sent to stakeholder prior.
- June 2018 – Meeting held but attended by president of Tennis/SPORTT Board Member.
- June 29th 2018 – Approval granted to use Sangre Grande.
- July 2018 – Pan Am Juniors (no training)
- August 2018 – (CAREBACO 2019)
- September 2018 – Moved flooring to Sangre Grande to host Junior Nationals (approx. cost TT15,000)
 - Junior Nationals being hosted, basketball expresses dissatisfaction that they cannot utilize their home. Discussions took place. Badminton up in the air.

Since February Badminton has not been able to utilize the National Centre. It has severely hindered the ability of our athletes to prepare for international events which include but is not limited to:

- 1) CAC Games
- 2) CAREBACO 2018
- 3) Junior Pan American Badminton Championships

Both badminton and table tennis are being treated like second hand sports compared to Tennis.

Both badminton and table tennis have in the past qualified for the Olympics, captured medals at the Pan American and CAC level as well as numerous Caribbean titles.

It is understood that this facility was built under the last administration without any justification and that we must maximize the usage of the facility but it is unfortunate when one sport is being chosen to represent all the stakeholders.

There have never been consultations with badminton or table tennis yet tennis is being allowed to put forward strategic plans for the centre.

We have remained patient and this may have been to our detriment. We have refused requests from our membership to go to the media and social media to vent our frustration at this blatant conflict of interest and lack of equity at the National Centre for Racquet Sports.

We implore you to intervene on our behalf as we have worked extremely hard to bring our sport to a level which we want to build upon.

I have also attached correspondence between badminton and SPORTT with regard to the National Centre for Racquet Sports.

If you require any further information, please feel free to contact me at 868 761 2909.

Your Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'R. Rampersad', with a horizontal line underneath.

Rahul Rampersad
President
Trinidad and Tobago Badminton Association

Appendix 2

Operational Plan Badminton Trinidad & Tobago 2019 - 2020				
Organisation				
	How	When	Responsibility	Costs
Targets 2018 – 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satisfaction = 65% Profile raises 25% Communication “Good” Revenu raises 25% Sponsorship TT\$ 350.000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up an office, 50% / week, Phone, Internet, Mail address Meet Clubs at their accomodation Information spread through website, mail office; office available for information Entry fees, Government Support, organize fund raising events, memberships fee Invite relations to events, start up a network, ask for small support (when organization is OK!) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 May 2019 Board Member + President, twice a year per club Every day Every day From today on; 350.00 should be reached by August 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretary Board President Office, Secretary Board Board President + Board 	
Participation				
	How	When	Responsibility	Costs
Targets 2018 – 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1500 persons are playing badminton Shuttle Time is introduced in 60% of Primary and Secondary Schools 36 Coaches are educated on BWF Level 1 12 Coaches are educated on BWF Level 2 A system of Coach Education is introduced A System of educating Court Officials is introduced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local promotion, feeding media on weekly base, website Shuttle Time Courses + BWF Level 1 Courses Organizing 3 BWF Level 1 Courses Organize 1 BWF Level 2 Course Develop Coach Education program with Level 1 & 2 Courses and 4 Workshops each year Make use of existing knowledge and develop program comparable with Coach Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2019 December 2019 May 2019, Nov 2019, May 2020 May 2019 Oct 2019 Oct 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs together with Board WG Shuttle Time, 1 Board member, 3 teachers WG Education, 1 Board member, Nat. Coach, 2 Umpires, 2 Club representatives 	

Appendix 2

High Performance & Talent Development				
	How	When	Responsibility	Costs
Targets 2018 - 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talent Development Program with 100 juniors National Junior Squad u19, u17, u15 with year program National Senior Squad with 2 year program T&T Players qualify for WC 2019 Selected players are satisfied with HP policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up a program of selecting and developing juniors in National + Club Practice Organize weekly national practice in National Racket Centre for Nat. Squad Players, design year program Select players for National Squad, organize daily practice in Nat Racket Centre. Design 2 year program Program of practice and participation in international tournaments, should lead to qualification Interviews, meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 August 2019 From 1 May 2019 1 August 2019 May 2019 From start of National Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nat. Junior Coach + Nat. Coach Office + Nat. Junior Coach National Coach – by 1 July 2019 National Coach President + National Coach 	
Events & League				
	How	When	Responsibility	Costs
Targets 2018 – 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Events Working Group functioning Yearly Events Calendar League competition started Shuttle Time participants tournament & integration Ranking system Overall satisfaction with events organized in Badminton TTO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board appoints members Working Group (WG) WG in cooperation with clubs WG in cooperation with clubs; League Competition in National Racket Centre Yearly Shuttle Time Tournament in National Racket Centre Integration of ST participants in local tournaments Set up Ranking System comparable with WR system Interviews, meetings, listening, explaining 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 May 2019 Calendar 2020 ready 1 Sept 2019; provisional calendar 2020 ready 1 June 2019 Oct – Nov 2019, 2020 etc. Date tbc: end of School Year Tbc with local organizers 1 Dec 2019 Always 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair: Board Member 2 Representatives from clubs 1 Umpire 	

Appendix 2

Strengthening Clubs				
	How	When	Responsibility	Costs
Targets 2018 – 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs are growing with 25% in membership Clubs are taking part in activities of Badminton TTO (Talent Development, Tournaments, League, Shuttle Time, Education etc.) Clubs have their own strategic plan (accommodation, growing, practice, education etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting Badminton in media, make use of Shuttle Time, organize events Badminton TTO is offering possibilities to clubs Set up meetings on how and what 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From now on! From now on! Ready by the end of 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WG Clubs, President + 2 Board members 	