



PRESS RELEASE

Monday 23 March 2020

## **BWF MEDIA STATEMENT ON BARFOOT & THOMPSON NEW ZEALAND OPEN 2020**

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) can confirm that the BARFOOT & THOMPSON New Zealand Open 2020 to be held 28 April to 3 May has been suspended.

The escalation of the COVID-19 outbreak globally has led BWF and Badminton New Zealand, in close consultation and consensus with relevant tournament partners, to suspend and postpone the event.

The health, safety and wellbeing of all athletes, their entourage, officials and the greater badminton community remains the top concern for all.

Extreme travel and quarantine restrictions in place globally has also contributed to the suspension.

Badminton New Zealand said the decision is in keeping with advice from the New Zealand Government to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

BWF accepts that all relevant health, safety and logistical risks have been considered by tournament organisers and Badminton New Zealand in reaching this decision.

The tournament is a Super 300 event on the HSBC BWF World Tour.

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### **Contact:**

Lloyd Green  
Communications & Media Manager  
[l.green@bwfbadminton.org](mailto:l.green@bwfbadminton.org)  
Mobile: +60 19-384 0556  
WhatsApp: +60 19-384 0556  
Skype: lloydhgreen13

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### **ABOUT BWF**

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) is the international governing body of the sport of badminton, recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the

International Paralympic Committee (IPC). It was originally the International Badminton Federation (IBF) which was founded on 5 July, 1934, before being rechristened the Badminton World Federation in 2006.

The purpose and objectives of BWF include regulating, promoting, developing and popularising the sport of badminton throughout the world and organising, conducting and presenting international events at the highest level.

The BWF's vision is to make badminton a leading global sport accessible to all – giving every child a chance to play for life. Its mission is to lead and inspire all stakeholders; to deliver entertainment through exciting events to drive fan experience; and to create innovative, impactful and sustainable development initiatives.

BWF has its headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, with 193 Member Associations worldwide.

Poul-Erik Høyer is the BWF President and Thomas Lund is the BWF Secretary General.

**Websites:** [www.bwfbadminton.com](http://www.bwfbadminton.com) and [www.bwfcorporate.com](http://www.bwfcorporate.com)

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