

The Badminton Return To Play Roadmap - Players

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I am delighted that we are now able to move to the next phase of our Return To Play plan. This means two key developments:

1. the return of match league play is now possible
2. increasing coach to player ratios

Both of these will hopefully help more clubs, coaches and players get back on court.

We have worked with Government and lobbied for the continued evolution of our guidance in direct response to your feedback about what would help more of you to return to play. The move to Phase 3 of the plan has been possible because you have been successful in implementing the first two phases which saw players, clubs and coaches returning safely, in line with our guidance over the past six weeks. All of your hard work in making the return to play possible means that we can now amend our guidance to allow for more formats to be played.

We all know how challenging and fast-moving the public health response has had to be over recent times and this is why we have moved in a very careful and managed way, to ensure that people can get back to badminton safely. Naturally we will continue to work with the Government to ensure that we are monitoring the health situation very closely.

Although the move to Phase 3 is welcome, I very much recognise the challenges that many of you face in trying to find a venue in which you can play and in ensuring that your sessions are financially viable. Our hardship fund has allocated thousands of pounds to affiliated clubs and registered coaches and it will reopen shortly to continue to support you to get back on court. We continue to do everything we can to get more venues open and to help clubs find alternatives. I personally will be lobbying Government until all venues with badminton courts, including schools, are open for safe play.

As we have been throughout the lockdown and the return to play, we are here to answer your questions. We have taken the opportunity to condense and simplify our guidance documents to make them easier to use; we will continue to run webinars to help you understand the guidance as it changes; keep checking our websites for updates in line with any changes in government guidelines and, please, let us know if your facility is open, so that we can help more people get back on court or if it remains closed, so that we can help you find alternatives and continue to lobby Government.

I very much hope that the changes we are introducing now will help and encourage more of you to get back on court with confidence in a COVID safe and secure environment. As a sport, we have come a long way over the past few weeks and, whilst the game of badminton continues to look a little different from what you are used to, I would like to thank you all for your support, patience and hard work in continuing to bring back our sport safely.

Stay safe and best wishes

Adrian Christy
Chief Executive

Introduction

The last four months have been a hugely challenging time for all sports and community leisure activities and it's not been any different for badminton. Our clubs, coaches and members have all been impacted in many ways. However, the good news is that we are now able to move to Phase 3 of our roadmap with effect from Saturday 12 September. This updated document provides all the information coaches require to run sessions. It is supported by documents for players, clubs and facilities.

It provides practical guidelines to follow so that badminton can be played where local conditions allow it. Our aim is to provide as much information as possible and to support you as best we can to make your return to play as easy as possible. To do this, we are also providing the following:

- FAQs – we have already started to answer your questions and will continue to update this as more questions arise.
- Resources and tools – this includes access to Re-Activate COVID awareness training, risk assessment template and Covid-19 Officer details.

You will find these at our return to play hub on www.badmintonengland.co.uk; if you can't find the answer to any questions you may have, please contact us directly via our [contact form](#).

Alignment to Government guidance

These guidelines have been developed in accordance with Government guidelines, are accurate at the date of publication but are subject to change in line with government guidance. You will be aware how rapidly the situation can change but we continue to remain in close contact with the Government and, should any of the restrictions change, including Government mandated local lockdowns, we will issue revised guidance to all our members, clubs, counties and leagues as soon as we are able to. You can keep up to date with the latest guidance through our [website](#) and social media channels.

Facilities

Whilst we are delighted that we are able to announce further developments in the return to play we know that there are still challenges that remain to getting all our clubs and players back on court due to the availability of courts across the country. To support the reopening of facilities Badminton England are:

- Working with Government, including the Department for Education, to lobby for the safe and efficient opening of facilities.
- Working with Sport England, ukactive and Community LeisureUK to consult commercial leisure operator partners to better understand when facilities will reopen and how we can support the opening of facilities
- Leveraging our partnerships with school facility providers to try and open doors to new and alternative venues on either an interim or permanent basis.
- Working to update our activity finder to be able to quickly and easily notify the badminton community of facilities that are open to help find alternative venues where required.

In addition to this we have developed specific guidance for facilities outlining how different types of badminton activity (clubs, coaching, No Strings and casual) can return to their facilities safely and appropriately.

Before playing

- Keep up to date with [Government guidance](#) on social distancing and gathering sizes.
- If you are symptomatic or living in a household with someone else who has a possible or confirmed Covid-19 infection you should remain at home.
- Good hand hygiene is essential – wash your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds – you should wash your hands before leaving to play and on your return to home.

Booking

- If you are booking your own court, e.g., for pay and play, you must check the requirements of your venue before arriving to play. It is likely you will need to book in advance.
- If you are attending a club or coach led session, you will need to book through them – you cannot turn up to a session unless you have pre-booked. Separate guidance has been provided to clubs and coaches to help them manage this.

Venue

- It is the responsibility of each user (individual, coach, club, group) to understand the specific requirements of the venue you are using.
- You must follow the venue's guidance to maintain social distancing on entering and leaving the venue and whilst moving around it.
- We recommend that you arrive prior to your players, changed and ready to coach. Shower at home and do not use the venue's changing area.

Playing badminton

- Both singles play and doubles play can take place in groups of people from different households, as long as you remain 2 metres apart as far as possible.
- You can play singles and doubles using all areas of the court, within the respective court markings – if social distancing between adjacent courts cannot be maintained, you should only use the singles court markings.
- We recommend that you do not change ends. If you adopt the club match play option 2 for your club sessions or are playing league matches, you must not change ends.
- Players are advised to limit their interactions with anyone outside of the group they are playing in (e.g. players in another group).
- Other than where players are from the same household or part of a support bubble, follow Government advice on staying alert and safe, and:
 - Stay at least two metres away from other players (including during play) as much as possible, when taking breaks and before and after play.
 - Do not make physical contact with other players (such as shaking hands or high fiving).
 - Avoid chasing the shuttle down towards another court if other players are using it.
 - For doubles, consider agreeing in advance which player will take the shot if a shuttle travels to the centre of the court.

Equipment

- Take hand sanitiser with you or make use of the provision made by the venue or your club/group.
- You **must** take all your own equipment you need for the session keeping to essential items.
- You **cannot** share equipment.
- Clean and wipe down your equipment before and after use.
- You must only use your own racket(s).
 - The sharing of shuttles is permitted. Please ensure you have thoroughly washed your hands (in accordance with Government guidance) or used hand sanitiser immediately before and after play. You should avoid touching your face.
 - Players must avoid using their hands to pick up shuttles from other courts; where possible - use your own racket to return them.
- Bring a full water bottle, clearly marked and do not share food or drink with others.
- Equipment bags should be stored behind the court you are playing on and at least 2 metres from the back of the court and any other players.
- Ensure you take all your belongings with you at the end of the session and do not leave anything on court.
- Avoid using/touching other equipment such as nets, posts, court mops where possible. If you have to set up or take down nets, for example, ensure you wash your hands immediately afterwards in line with Government guidance.

Disclaimer

Please note that the subject matter covered in this guidance is in no way exhaustive and the material does not stand on its own nor is intended to be relied upon as a substitute for obtaining specific legal advice. Individual circumstances will differ. The information contained in this guidance is given in good faith but any liability of Badminton England or its professional advisors (including their respective members or employees) to you or any third party which may arise out of the reliance by you or any other party of the contents of this guidance is hereby excluded to the fullest extent permitted by law. Badminton England and its professional advisors accept no duty of care or liability for any loss occasioned, whether caused by negligence or otherwise, to any person acting or refraining from actions as a result of any material in this guidance. We would strongly recommend that you consult professional advisors on specific issues before acting or refraining from action on any of the contents of this guidance.

