

# The Badminton Return To Play Roadmap - Clubs

Version 2 published June 19th 2020



I am delighted to say that badminton is beginning to open up again and we want you to be as prepared as possible. Since the YONEX All England Open Championships in Birmingham in March, international badminton has been paused and grassroots badminton has been at a standstill.

However, on 8th June, the elite squad began to return to training at the National Badminton Centre in Milton Keynes in line with Government guidance; signalling a crucial first step in getting our sport back up and running safely. News of training restarting has been met with overwhelming positivity from the wider badminton community and now it is the turn of those at grassroots level, the backbone of any sport, to get ready to return.

While we still await a formal announcement from the government on exactly when and how indoor sports facilities can reopen, it did reiterate its ambition to open the sector from 4th July. We therefore want to give the badminton community as much time as possible to prepare for a return; we are extremely mindful that many of you will be involved in organising the return for your club or your players and therefore I hope early sight of our guidelines, as we know them right now, will prove helpful. And if these measures require further amendment because of the changes to Government guidelines, we will update our document and share it.

Although this signals the start of a return to normal, playing, like the rest of life, will have a new normal as measures will operate in our sector in similar ways to those that we have become used to in other sections of society. These same measures will apply to our return to grassroots badminton and the safety of everyone involved in returning, players, coaches, volunteers, staff etc., must remain the number one priority.

We are not able to see a full return to badminton just yet, but I'm sure you will agree, the opening of indoor facilities, and the ability to meet and play with friends and family, to work with a coach, all within Government measures, is welcomed.

The latest measures may affect the number of people who can access a sports hall, they will certainly limit the number of players you can play with and, depending on who you are playing with, they will determine whether you must play singles or you may play doubles. There are also changes to the way that sessions such as club nights will need to be managed during this time. A person will need to be appointed as the 'Covid-19 Officer' to ensure your session is safely managed, players will need to pre-book their attendance, and the number of players able to play together will be restricted.

We recognise that this will place some additional burden on volunteers, but we will provide guidance and tools to minimise these. As an example, we will run a series of webinars to help get clubs up and running again, and all Badminton England affiliated clubs will have free use of a session booking system. We will also provide an online tool to run ladders/box leagues for their clubs.

But most importantly we will be here to answer your questions as we return to play. Keep checking our website for updates to our roadmap which we will continue to update in line with any changes in government guidelines. We look forward to working with you to get our game back to its rightful place in our lives.

Stay safe and best wishes,

Adrian Christy  
Chief Executive

## Introduction

The last three months has 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 version 2 of our roadmap provides more specific guidance on the restart of play with updated information on outdoor badminton and details on the return to indoor badminton when public facilities can reopen.

This document provides practical guidelines to follow so that badminton can be played where local conditions allow it. We are sure you will have some questions as you consider the restart guidance and we have tried to pre-empt these with a FAQs at [www.badmintonengland.co.uk](http://www.badmintonengland.co.uk). We will keep this updated as more questions arise. Our aim is to provide as much information as possible, but if you have any queries, please contact us directly via the [contact form](#).

You will also find more support, resources and further guidance to help your return to play at [www.badmintonengland.co.uk](http://www.badmintonengland.co.uk). This includes a step by step guide to what you need to consider as a club and/or coach, with links to resources, tools and support to help you run a safe session.

## Alignment with Government guidance

Badminton England has worked very closely with Government on the guidance it has been developing for the providers of grassroots sport and gym/leisure facilities.

Badminton England's Return to Play guidance has been developed in accordance with Government guidelines and these should be considered a helpful resource when planning your return activity.

Our guidance is up to date at the time of publication and reflects Government guidance and advice at that point in time. You will be aware how rapidly the situation can change and it is possible that some of the Government guidelines used to inform our guidance may alter before venues reopen. We feel that it is right to share our current thinking so that the badminton community can prepare for the return to play and, should any of the restrictions change, we will issue revised guidance to all our members, clubs, counties and leagues. You can also keep up to date with the latest guidance through our website and social media channels.

## A Phased Return

Badminton England will seek to return to all formats of play as soon as Government guidelines, and hence public safety, allows us to. This roadmap sets out how the return to badminton will evolve and how it will likely affect players and clubs, but it must be noted that more specific activity and timelines are, and will continue to be, led by further revisions to government advice.

We are following a 1:2:3 approach whereby all activity is governed by:

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1.

Government guidelines



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2.

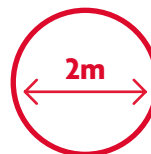
Application of venue specific rules  
(e.g. changing room, equipment,  
travel protocols)



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3.

Badminton specific adaptations required  
(singles vs doubles, etc) in order to meet  
measures such as social distancing



# A Phased Return

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## Phase 1

From 13th May 2020



- Outdoor badminton
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## Phase 2

From 4th July 2020



- Indoors play allowed
  - Singles between households
  - Doubles from same households
  - Restricted coaching
  - No formal competitions
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## Phase 3

Date to be led by government advice



- Singles and doubles play
  - Unrestricted coaching
  - Competitions resumes
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## Phase 4

Date to be led by government advice



- No restrictions
-

## Phase 1: Outdoor badminton

- Since 13 May, it has been possible to play badminton outdoors.
- You can meet people outside of your household to play badminton outdoors, but you **must** stay two metres apart
- Whilst limits on gathering sizes remain in place, you must manage your outdoor badminton to reflect this. As the guidance changes regularly, you should check [www.badmintonengland.co.uk](http://www.badmintonengland.co.uk) for the latest guidance
- Outdoor coaching is permitted so long as social distancing guidelines and limits on gathering sizes are observed. The coach counts as one of the people within the gathering size.
- 1-1 coaching for young people under the age of 18 can take place in line with usual safeguarding guidance - the parent or guardian should be in attendance

## Phase 2: Indoor badminton restarts

From 4 July, indoor venues can reopen to provide indoor badminton. Some venues which are, by design, crowded and where it may prove difficult to enact distancing, may still not be able to re-open safely at this point, or may be able to open safely only in part.

This document provides guidance for the restart of indoor badminton – Phase 2. During this phase, the game of badminton will look and feel different from what players are used to so that play is safe but that we can provide opportunities to play. In particular:

- In general, only singles play will be permitted; the only exception where doubles is allowed is where each member of a pair comes from the same household
- There will be limited numbers allowed onto each court and into each sports hall
- Activity can take place in groups of people from different households as long as you follow the guidance on group sizes
- You can have more than one group in a hall. This depends on the space available and your ability to maintain social distancing. A group could, for example, be housed on one court and its surrounding run-off area or across more than one court
- Players can rotate within the group but social distancing must be maintained within this group. You cannot move groups within a session
- Venue specific restrictions will be in place – these may include the number of venues which are open, the extent of opening hours/court access, restrictions on numbers, prior booking and strict arrangements relating to entry into and exit from the building and movement around the venue.
- There will be strict equipment rules in place for rackets and guidance on the use of shuttles

## Phase 3: Return to full format badminton - Date TBC and led by Government advice

- All formats of playing, training and competition
- League badminton to resume
- Local and sanctioned tournaments to resume
- Some social distancing and gathering restrictions remain in place

## Phase 4: No restrictions - Date TBC and led by Government advice

- All restrictions are lifted

## Indoor badminton

Leisure centres can start to reopen from 4th July, making indoor badminton possible. It is important to note that not all venues will reopen and access may be restricted at certain times and in certain venues.

The guidance below sets out how the game can be played given the restrictions that need to remain in place. Should you have any questions, please refer to our FAQs at [www.badmintonengland.co.uk](http://www.badmintonengland.co.uk). You will also find support, resources and further guidance to help your return to play at [www.badmintonengland.co.uk](http://www.badmintonengland.co.uk)

### Before playing

- Keep up to date with Government guidance on social distancing and gathering sizes - <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- 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 hand 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.

### Venue

- It is the responsibility of each user (individual, coach, club, group) to understand the specific requirements of the venue you are using. Our step by step guide takes you through what you need to consider and do before you play, together with resources to support you – [www.badmintonengland.co.uk](http://www.badmintonengland.co.uk)
- 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 changed and ready to play. Shower at home and do not use the venue's changing area.

### Safe sessions

- You must complete a risk assessment – you can find a template [here](#)
- All clubs/groups must appoint a Covid-19 officer for each session
- A coach running a coaching session should act as the Covid-19 officer
- All coaches, No Strings coordinators and Covid-19 officers must be aware of Covid-19 related safety, hygiene and social distancing protocols – basic training will be available for free through [CIMSPA](#), the sector's professional body
- Anyone attending a session will want to know that they can do so safely. As well as providing them with all the relevant information required to attend you should:
  - Communicate how the session will be managed safely for those looking to attend so they know what to expect.
  - Share clear guidelines they need to follow before they attend including facility specific guidance (car parking, access, arriving and leaving), player guidelines, and session information.

## Organising your session

- Your sessions must be managed by the designated session Covid-19 Officer. This person may be able to take part in play depending on numbers but must be able to manage the session. The ability to maintain social distancing will determine the total number of people in your sessions
- A maximum of six players must be grouped together; the number will be determined by the space you have in order to maintain social distancing. If space allows, you may group players on one court and its surrounding run-off area; you may group them over more courts if necessary.
- Players cannot mix into other groups at a particular session – they must stay within their allocated group but are able to change groups at the next session
- You must implement a pre-booking system. This will enable you to manage the number of players attending each session allowing for you to maintain social distancing measures. You cannot allow members to play without them having pre-booked their attendance
- Badminton England has made a [booking system](#) available to affiliated clubs at no cost
- If collecting monies from players, you should use online or contactless payment wherever possible

More advice and tools to help you run and organise sessions can be found at [www.badmintonengland.co.uk](http://www.badmintonengland.co.uk)

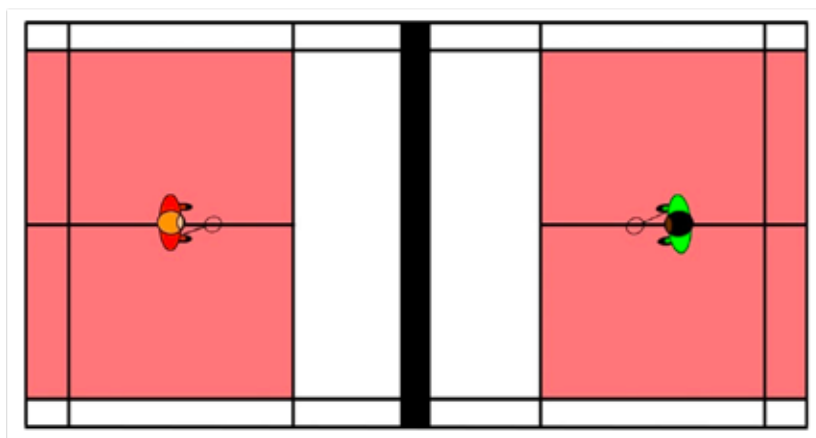
## Playing badminton

If all the players on the court are from the **same household**, you can:

- Play full court singles
- Play doubles using all areas of the court – 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 any players on the court are from **different households**:

- Only singles play is permitted. In order to comply with social distancing guidelines, players must not play at the net in the forecourt area
- You **cannot** play doubles unless each pair are from the same household. Unless both pairs are from the same household, players must not play at the net in the forecourt area
- If social distancing requirements cannot be maintained between adjacent courts, any doubles play must be within the singles court (no tramlines)
- The area of play is shown in red on this court diagram
- We recommend that you do not change ends.





## Social Distancing

- Wherever possible, the whole court area (including the side/back tramlines) can be used, e.g., where there are empty courts adjacent or large run-off areas between courts well in excess of social distancing requirements. However, if social distancing between players on adjacent courts cannot be maintained, play should only take place within the singles court markings. To meet social distancing guidelines, anyone not playing on court must remain at least 2 metres from those playing and each other.
- Activity can take place in groups of people from different households. As the guidance on group (gathering) sizes changes regularly, please check our FAQs and [www.badmintonengland.co.uk](http://www.badmintonengland.co.uk) for the latest advice.
- Players can rotate within the group but social distancing must be maintained within this group. You cannot move groups within a session.
- You can have more than one group in a hall. This depends on the space available and your ability to maintain social distancing. A group could, for example, be housed and its surrounding run-off area on one court or across more than one court.
- All movement on and off court and around the hall must be controlled by the designated session Covid-19 Officer. You should adopt a one-way flow around the hall where possible.
- Many clubs use pegboards or ladder boards to manage their sessions. If you use this method, you must have one for each group of players or the session Covid-19 Officer must be able to manage a pegboard for each group.
- Only the Covid-19 Officer is able to touch and move the pegboard.

## Equipment

- As a club or coach organising a session, you should ensure that you provide hand sanitiser for your players.
- Players and coaches **must** take all their own equipment they need for the session – rackets, grips, towels – and try to minimise the amount of equipment you take.
- You **cannot** share equipment.
- You **must** only use your own racket(s). Do not share rackets.
- 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 racket to return them. Clean and wipe down your equipment before and after use.
- 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.

## Managing Shuttles

- In addition to the advice above, you should allocate shuttles to each group of players in line with how you are organising the session in the hall
- As long as strict hygiene rules are applied, each player within a group is able to handle the shuttles allocated to that group. You should not allow players from different groups to handle shuttles not allocated to their group. Its important reemphasise the need for thorough handwashing after play

## Coaching

- Coaching can take place in groups of people from different households. As the guidance on group (gathering) sizes changes regularly, please check our FAQs and [www.badmintonengland.co.uk](http://www.badmintonengland.co.uk) for the latest advice
- A coach cannot run a group of more than six people
- The coach counts as one of the group, e.g., if the permitted group size is six, that equates to one coach and five players
- Players can rotate within the group but social distancing must be maintained within this group. You cannot move groups within a session
- You can have more than one group in a hall. This depends on the space available and your ability to maintain social distancing. A group could, for example, be housed on one court and its surrounding run-off area or across more than one court. However, a coach (or assistant coach) is needed to lead each group – you cannot coach or lead the session for a second group in the same hall at the same time
- Coaches are permitted to coach one group and then coach another group after the conclusion of the first session
- Additional guidance has been provided for coaches on how to manage sessions. This may also be useful for other groups to help them organise sessions and can be found at [www.badmintonengland.co.uk/return-to-play/](http://www.badmintonengland.co.uk/return-to-play/)

## Spectators/Parents

Spectators are not permitted unless a child is playing in which case, one parent/carer may be permitted per child to supervise their child while following social distancing guidelines.

As long as social distancing guidelines are met, parents/carers do not count towards the group size.

## Safeguarding

- Clubs must ensure that all safeguarding requirements are in place prior to any junior activity commencing. This means there is a designated Welfare Officer to manage all concerns from parents and young people
- It is very important to be aware of, and to focus on, mental health and well-being at times of uncertainty. Remember that many of your players may have been through a difficult period and need reassuring on their return to play

## Inclusion

Remember, some players may need additional support or adaptations to support their participation. Further guidance is available via [www.badmintonengland.co.uk](http://www.badmintonengland.co.uk)

## Further support and guidance

These guidelines are accurate at the date of publication but are subject to change in line with government guidance. Keep checking [www.badmintonengland.co.uk](http://www.badmintonengland.co.uk) for the latest version and supporting tools and information.

## 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.

