

BADMINTON WALES RETURN TO COURT MEMBERS & CLUB GUIDANCE

Introduction

The First Ministers announcement on Friday 6th August 2021 is hugely welcomed news for our sport and I am delighted that we can move into Alert Level 0 of the Coronavirus Plan and welcome all forms of badminton to return throughout Wales.

The last eighteen months have been incredibly difficult in so many ways and the strength and resilience that the badminton community have shown throughout has been incredible. Badminton Wales would like to thank each and every one of you for your support and patience as we have moved through the Alert Levels safely to finally reach this point.

Many challenges may still remain despite legal restrictions being lifted and BW will continue to support the clubs and members as we move out of the restrictions.

The Vaccination programme in Wales has been very successful however, this does not mean the pandemic is over. Covid-19 remains in our society but we are now at a point when we can live with the endemic virus. As we move to Alert Level 0 many of the restrictions and laws that we have been accustomed to will now become part of measures that can put in place to minimise the risk of infections and maximise our protection. We will all need to continue to do our part to keep Wales safe.

[Alert level 0:](#)

- There will be no legal limits on the number of people who can meet others.
- Carrying out a coronavirus risk assessment will continue to be a legal requirement.
- Organisations will still be required to take reasonable measures to manage the risk of coronavirus.
- The reasonable measures to be taken, such as physical distancing and other controls, will be for each organisation to consider depending on the nature of the premises and the risks of exposure to coronavirus identified.
- If you are unwell you should self-isolate and get tested.
- Face coverings will remain a legal requirement indoors in public places.

See [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) about the alert levels.](#)

Return to Court

As we exit our Return to Court Road Map this document will help to provide practical guidelines and reasonable measures to follow to ensure that we continue to play our part in keeping Wales safe.

BW aim to review this document regularly however this document may not be fully up to date on the day you read it.

Specific venues will provide their procedures so please check with your venue provider to ensure you comply with their guidance.

Members and Clubs Return to Court experience is divided into 9 categories:

1. Indoor Badminton
2. Before Play
3. Organising safe sessions
4. Equipment / Coaching
5. Spectators / parents
6. Safeguarding
7. After Play
8. Alert Level Phased Return
9. #CLUBREADY Toolkit

All Clubs must appoint a COVID Officer and each activity session must have a Responsible Person (usually the Coach) present.

- Take a register of attendees
- Ensure COVID self-declarations are made
- Ensure the reasonable measure are communicated to participants
- Ensure COVID risk assessment has been completed

All COVID Officers, Responsible Persons & Coaches must be aware of Covid-19 related risks and the reasonable measures that should be taken to mitigate against the spread of the infection. [Covid-19 Awareness Course for the Sports and Recreation Sector](#) is available at a discount for all affiliated clubs and registered members of Badminton Wales.

A risk assessment must be completed before each session – you can find a template in the #COURTREADY Toolkit.

In a club setting, a disclaimer document (template available in the #COURTREADY Toolkit) signed and dated by all members of the club returning to play is advisable. Clubs should keep a copy of the fully completed document on file for Insurance purposes. These measures should be in place until further notice.

1. HALL SET UP

Venue Operator guidelines should be followed.

2. BEFORE PLAY

Face coverings are still required by law to be worn in all public spaces which includes indoor public places unless you are participating in sport/exercise, have an exemption.

Continue to use COVID self-declaration by members.

You must stay at home if you:

- Have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- Have been overseas – please read the [Foreign Travel Government Advice](#)
- Have flu-like symptoms or are feeling unwell.
- A continuous high temperature.
- A loss of taste or smell.
- A new continuous cough.
- Live with a person over 70 years of age or a person who is considered extremely [vulnerable](#).

You must:

- Check with your GP prior to playing if you are in a high-risk health category.
- Find out what protocols are in place at the club/venue.
- Ensure club has up-to-date contact details for its members.
- Ensure club COVID Officer is known to the members.

3. ORGANISING SAFE SESSIONS

All players should continue to use their own equipment, such as rackets, shoes, drinking bottles, towel (sweatbands) etc. and not share equipment.

During the badminton session all body contact off court should be avoided and whilst distancing will no longer be required by law, BW would encourage this measure to be adhered to wherever possible.

On-court: -

Singles Play – no restrictions

Doubles Play – no restrictions

In case one of the players show signs of COVID-19 symptoms, immediate and necessary Venue Operator guidelines should be followed.

An immediate direct communication shall be established to the rest of the training group at the venue

- Session must be managed by the appointed session COVID officer / Responsible Person.

- Check venue specific guidelines /restrictions on back to back sessions, changing facilities. This should be known when planning.
- Pre-booking attendance should continue to enable the COVID officer to manage/limit the amount of players attending.

Reasonable Measure to protect against infection:

- Continue to refrain from handshakes and high fives with other players.
- Keeping your distance when off court.
- Do not share food, towels, drinks, equipment.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or hand-sanitizer, after going to the toilet, sneezing and coughing.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes and dispose of any used tissue in your own bag and bring it home with you.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Try not to touch any surfaces, but if you do sanitize your hands as soon as possible.
- Remain apart from other players when taking a break.
- Wear a mask when not participating in sport.

4. EQUIPMENT / COACHING

- Players should continue to bring their own hand sanitiser in addition to the provision at the venue.
- Players / Coaches should continue to only use their own equipment and not share equipment. This includes any training equipment, towels and water bottles.

Players should continue to bring the following to ALL sessions:	Coaches / Volunteers	Equipment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinks for whole session - water bottle labelled with players name. • Rackets– no sharing of equipment (enough to cover the whole session in case of strings breaking – recommended minimum of 6) • Anti-bacterial hand gel /Anti-bacterial wipes • Towels • Spare kit as required (plus separate bag to put dirty kit in) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face covering is not required if Coach is actively participating in the session. • Bring own Anti-bacterial wipes/hand sanitiser • Distancing where possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue to advise that you do not share your equipment.

- Be aware of high touch points and continue to wash your hands (in accordance with Government guidance) or used hand sanitiser and avoid touching your face.
 - Shuttles
 - Nets
 - Posts
 - Court mops
 - Door handles
 - Light switches
- You should avoid touching your face.
- A coach (or assistant coach) is the Responsible person for the session.

5. SPECTATORS / PARENTS

There is no restrictions to spectators however this will be venue dependent and should be checked ahead of the session.

6. 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.

Remember, some players may need additional support or adaptations to support their participation.

7. AFTER PLAY

- Continue to wash hands or sanitise after play.
- If an player becomes unwell after the session, they should first contact their GP/ NHS and then inform their club COVID officer / session Responsible Person. The club will then follow advice provided to them by the NHS on the next steps.

[Frequently asked questions](#)

8. ALERT LEVELS IN WALES

ALERT LEVEL 4– LOCKDOWN	ALERT LEVEL 3	ALERT LEVEL 2	ALERT LEVEL 1	<u>ALERT LEVEL 0</u>
<p>Exercise with members of your own household. Outdoor Badminton can be played with family members, at home.</p> <p>BW Shuttle Time Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Badminton At Home • Couch to Court <p>Face to Face Club activity cancelled, clubs maintain remote engagement with members.</p> <p>Solo training, or with family members, at home or within walking distance of home.</p> <p>Clubs to plan for return to facility use and engage with facility operators/providers to develop a safe Return to Use Plan at the dedicated Badminton facilities where appropriate.</p>	<p>Indoor Facilities to open with venue specific guidelines and protocols in place.</p> <p>Indoor Badminton to restart with restrictions on group numbers (15).</p> <p>Only singles be played with distancing measures in place.</p> <p>Double can be played where each member of a pair comes from the same/extended household (one other household).</p> <p>Groups of 15 excluding U11</p> <p>U18 excluded in group size number if activity is exclusive for U18</p>	<p>Indoor Badminton with restrictions on group numbers (30).</p> <p>Double can be played where each member of a pair comes from the same/extended household (one other household).</p> <p>Groups of 30 excluding U11</p> <p>U18 excluded in group size number if activity is exclusive for U18</p> <p>Modified version of Doubles training and matches can be introduced at Alert Level 2.</p>	<p>Groups of 50 excluding U11</p> <p>U18 excluded in group size number if activity is exclusive for U18</p> <p>Double can be played where each member of a pair comes from the same/extended household (two other household).</p> <p>Modified Doubles training and matches can be played at Alert Level 1.</p> <p>League badminton may resume whilst maintaining distancing in line with PHW / WG and BW guidance on doubles and modified doubles.</p>	<p>No modifications to training or match play.</p>

BW ARE CURRENTLY IN ALERT LEVEL 0 (7TH AUGUST 2021) OF THE PHASED RETURN TO COURT

9. #COURTREADY Toolkit

Badminton Wales want to ensure that all Clubs and Members can deliver Badminton safely. Badminton Wales will support you every step of the way. We have provided a Toolkit with resources, templates and training links so that together you can remain safe on court. #COURTREADY gives you the tools and checklist to ensure you ready for your Badminton activities.

1. #COURTREADY Checklist
2. Disclaimer
3. Risk Assessment
4. Register
5. Access to First Aid Statement
6. Visuals inc. Posters
7. [Covid-19 Awareness Course for the Sports and Recreation Sector](#)
8. Duty of Care and Guidance for Clubs
9. Test, Trace, Protect Procedure
10. #BeActiveWales Fund
11. FAQ

If you have any further questions of queries please get in touch.