

BADMINTON WALES RETURN TO COURT MEMBERS & CLUB GUIDANCE

Return to Court: The starting point

“The coronavirus will remain a serious risk to us until a vaccine or an effective treatment is available. So, as we start to consider moving out of the rigid but effective control measures that we first put in place, we are clear that this is a process of managing, not eliminating risk.

Much as we might want it to, ‘normal’ life will not be possible for many months – possibly years”.

[Welsh Government - Unlocking Our Society and Economy](#)

This document establishes the approach Badminton Wales are taking for the sports practical return to the court and the club environment. The Members and Club guidance is a live document that needs to be flexible and adaptable to allow the easing of WG guidelines. All members and clubs returning should continue to follow the latest Government Guidelines, on a daily basis, outside of the environment in order to control the spread of the virus. More information on the up to date Guidance can be found on the [Welsh Government website](#).

Covid-19 remains a fastmoving situation, however, we want to ensure that our Members and Clubs have the visibility of the return to court plan.

[Unlocking our society and economy](#)

Exercise, playing sport and games

Lockdown

Exercise once a day outside of house on own or with household.

Red

Exercise more than once a day and incidental activity locally.
Outdoor sports courts to open. Elite athletes resume some activity.

Amber

Team and individual sports, non-contact sport and games in small groups indoors and outdoors. Some outdoor events with limited capacity and events behind closed doors for broadcast.

Green

All sports, leisure and cultural activities open, with physical distancing. All events resume with limited capacity.

Return to Court

This declaration document has been developed by Badminton Wales in accordance with our Return to Court Roadmap.

The past few months has been a hugely challenging time for all sports and community activities. Badminton Clubs, coaches and members have all been impacted in many ways and with the First Ministers welcomed announcement on the 31st July 2020 - to ease restrictions and reopen Indoor Sports Facilities across Wales from August 10th 2020, Badminton Members and Clubs can now begin to return to the sport we love in a safe manner. This document will give the badminton community and those involved in the organisation of the clubs and players time to prepare for the return to court as much as possible. The health and safety of our members is our priority so please follow the guidance carefully to ensure that all returning do so to a safe environment whilst continuing to follow government guidelines.

Badminton Wales Return to Court Roadmap released in June 2020 provided the traffic light phased return of our sport. We are now in Phase 2 of BW Roadmap this document will help to provide practical guidelines to follow so that badminton can be played where local conditions allow. Information and guidance will be subject to change in response to [government guidance](#) and the document will be updated in accordance. 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 to ensure compliance with government restrictions, the following aspects of the Members and Clubs Return to Court experience is divided into 11 categories which will need to be followed:

1. Indoor Badminton
2. Hall Set Up (dependant on venue)
3. Before Play
4. Organising safe sessions
5. Equipment / Coaching
6. Spectators / parents
7. Safeguarding
8. After Play
9. Local Lockdown
10. Traffic Light Phased Return
11. #CLUBREADY Toolkit

It is a requirement that each Club must appoint a COVID Officer for the Club. Each activity session must have a Responsible Person (usually the Coach) present.

- Take a register of attendees
- Ensure COVID self-declarations are made
- Ensure guidance is communicated to participants
- Monitor for compliance with measures
- Ensure safe dispersal at end of session

All COVID Officers, Responsible Persons & Coaches must be aware of Covid-19 related safety, hygiene and social distancing protocols - [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 and will help ensure clubs, coaches and host facilities are following relevant government guidelines and provide a positive re-introduction to sport and recreation for all participants.

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. The measures and procedures outlined in this document are under constant review and updated as advice from government, health authorities and governing bodies evolves in line with the gradual lifting of restrictions.

1. INDOOR BADMINTON

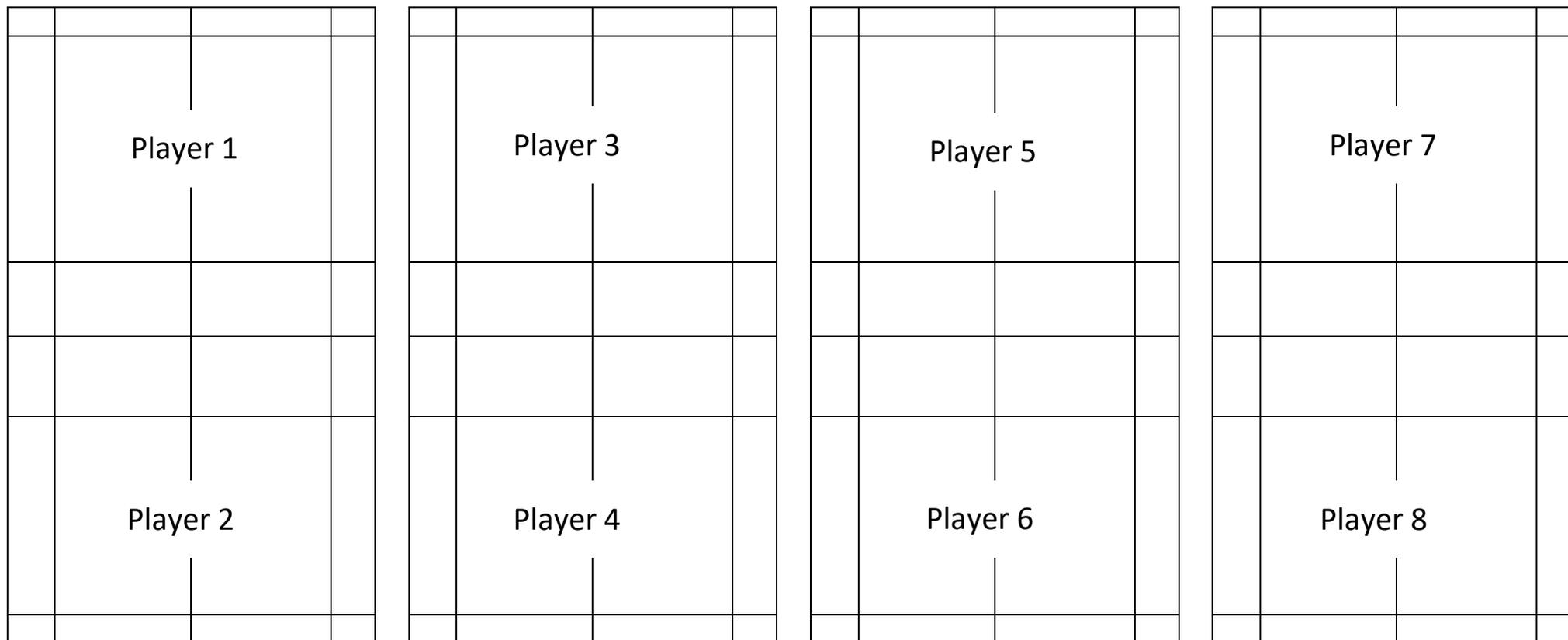
In order to return to the courts this document provides guidance for the restart of indoor badminton in a safe manner. Badminton Wales will provide protocols and processes that members and clubs should follow to ensure everyone is kept as safe as possible as they return to the court and to mitigate against the risks of potential transmission within the environment. During this initial phase, the game of badminton will look and feel different from what players are used to so that play is safe but that opportunities to play are still created.

- In general, only singles play will be permitted; the only exception where doubles can be played is where each member of a pair comes from the same/ extended household (which must be limited to six people at any one time - not including any children aged under 11).
- There will be limited numbers allowed onto each court and into each sports hall (venue dependent – indoor group size of 30 people max whilst strict 2m distance is maintained).
- Venue specific restrictions will be in place and need to be considered when planning the return to court.
- There will be equipment rules in place for rackets and guidance on the use of shuttles.

Procedures will include all aspects of the Badminton experience, from hall set up, organising safe sessions before finally stepping on court to play. Players will be required to comply with the rules on distancing throughout unless the players are from the same/extended household (limited to 6 people – not including children aged under 11).

2. EXAMPLE OF HALL SET UP – Singles Play only, ensures government guidelines on 2m distancing between players on adjacent courts (venue dependent) is maintained at all times. Doubles can be played between the same household/extended households (limited to 6 people – not including children aged under 11). Indoor group size of 30 people maximum ensuring 2m is maintained.

Player allocated seating area adhering to distancing regulations



3. BEFORE PLAY

From 14th September 2020 face covering should be worn when entering an indoor facility and throughout the duration of the visit.

The only occasions when face coverings are not required to be worn inside an indoor facility:

- When you are taking part in sport and exercise.
- If you have a reasonable excuse not to wear one – as detailed in the [government guidance](#).

Clubs **MUST** ensure that facilities have suitable hand washing stations available / alcohol- based hand gel / hygiene facilities at multiple locations in the venue (please check with venue specific protocol). Clubs should encourage all members carry their own hand gel and to regularly practice good hand hygiene throughout the session while observing the strict distancing guidance. Ensure COVID self-declaration are made 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 to a non-exempt country on the FCO list for safe travel (exempt list available here <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-countries-and-territories-exempt-from-advice-against-all-but-essential-international-travel>) or in close contact to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- 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 [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.

4. ORGANISING SAFE SESSIONS

- Session must be managed by the appointed session COVID officer / Responsible Person.
- Players should travel to training by bike / car with from members of the same household. If players are using public transport please follow government guidelines.
- Check venue specific guidelines /restrictions on Indoor group capacity of 30 people max may vary whilst ensuring 2m distancing in maintained. This should be known when planning.
- Pre-booking attendance must be implemented by the club to enable the COVID officer to manage/limit the amount of players attending. We recommend that players should not be allowed to join the session without pre-booking.
- Venue specific guidelines will determine the amount of time needed to minimise the risks between any back to back sessions.

- Players should arrive ready for the session – check venue specific guidelines regarding changing rooms facilities and toilet facilities.
- Player to arrive and leave as close as possible to session timings.
- It is recommended that only one parent/guardian should accompany younger player where possible minimising the number of individuals in the venue.
- 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.

To protect against infection:

- Players must refrain from handshakes and high fives.
- Follow government guidelines on distancing at all times.
- 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.
- Keep your distance from people who are obviously sick and notify session COVID Officer-Responsible Person / Venue COVID Officer.
- 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.
- Any player not on court must remain at least 2 metres from those playing and each other.

5. EQUIPMENT / COACHING

- It is recommended that players should bring their own hand sanitiser in addition to the provision at the venue.
- Players / Coaches must bring and only use their own equipment. This includes any training equipment, towels and water bottles.
- Players should not share this equipment with or use the equipment of other members.

Players are encouraged 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face covering is not required if Coach is actively participating in the session. • Coaches instructing from back/side of the court should use face shield/face covering as best practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must only touch your own equipment • Allocated seating area which you are responsible for clearing at the end of every session

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towels • Spare kit as required (plus separate bag to put dirty kit in) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring own Anti-bacterial wipes/hand sanitiser • Maintain distancing regulations. 	
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- Although there is no specific evidence that equipment can spread COVID-19, we know that contamination from respiratory droplets from an infected person can potentially survive on hard surfaces for up to three days.
- It is recommended that cleaning equipment with a disinfectant spray at the beginning and conclusion of training. Equipment to be cleaned when applicable throughout training sessions.
- The sharing of shuttles is permitted on your allocated court. 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.
- Equipment bags should be stored in an allocated place 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, please use appropriate PPE (disposable gloves) and ensure you wash your hands immediately afterwards in line with Government guidance.
- A coach (or assistant coach) is the Responsible person for the 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.

6. SPECTATORS / PARENTS

Spectators should be discouraged unless a child is playing in which case, we recommend that one parent/carer may be permitted per child to supervise their child whilst following distancing guidelines.

7. 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.

8. AFTER PLAY

- Once the session has finished players should leave the club promptly.
- Hands should be washed and sanitised as soon as possible.
- Ensure own equipment is cleaned thoroughly after use.

- If an athlete becomes unwell after training, 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.
- Members should be encouraged to remind other members of the guidelines, in a gentle way, when they witness poor practices.
- Repeated poor practice should be reported to the club COVID officer as soon as possible.

9. LOCAL LOCKDOWNS

Badminton Wales Lockdown Traffic Light approach will allow members and clubs to plan and prepare for local lockdowns being introduced in areas across the country.

RED	<p>Areas in government lockdown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Members residing inside the area in lockdown should not attend badminton activities outside the area e.g. Competitions, training, club nights. ● Members residing outside the area in lockdown should not attend facilities or club nights inside the area in lockdown. ● Affiliated clubs in the affected area are advised to continue adhering to the Return to Court: Members & Club Guidance and exclude any members living outside of the affected area from attending club nights or training sessions.
AMBER	<p>Areas where the rate of infection is greater than 30/100,000 are on alert</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Activities not to be cancelled until area enters Red. ● No new activities to be booked or planned in Amber areas.
GREEN	<p>Badminton activity can continue within the existing Return to Court: Members & Club Guidance.</p>

10. TRAFFIC LIGHT PHASED RETURN

BLACK – LOCKDOWN	RED - Phase 1	AMBER - Phase 2	GREEN - Phase 3
<p>Exercise once per day locally.</p> <p>Outdoor Badminton with members of your own household</p>	<p>Outdoor Badminton with members of another household.</p> <p>No contact and keeping a safe distance from each other.</p> <p>Training groups outdoors</p> <p>No sharing of sharing equipment.</p>	<p>Indoor facilities to open with venue specific guidance in place.</p> <p>Singles only play.</p> <p>Doubles can be played with members of the same/extended household.</p> <p>Keep a distance between coaches and players at all times.</p> <p>Looking at government advice before sharing equipment.</p>	<p>All formats of playing, training</p> <p>Local tournaments to resume</p> <p>Distancing and gathering restrictions remain in place</p> <p>League Badminton to return</p> <p>Full use of exercises and drills in training.</p> <p>Smaller & larger groups training. Preparation for competitions for when Domestic and International Competition restarts.</p> <p>All formats of playing, training and competition resumed.</p>

BW ARE CURRENTLY IN THE AMBER - PHASE 2 OF THE TRAFFIC LIGHT PHASED RETURN TO COURT

11. #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 get back on court as quickly and as safely as possible. #COURTREADY gives you the tools and checklist to complete before recommencing 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.