

A parental guide to choosing your badminton club



A top junior badminton club will welcome working through this checklist to satisfy Safeguarding requirements. Taken from parental checklist article in BE members e-news June 2014.

Areas to consider	Why is this important?	Yes / No
Is the club affiliated to Badminton England? If the club is affiliated to the County Badminton Association they are also affiliated to Badminton England.	Affiliation is important because it confirms a relationship between the club and the national governing body. Affiliated clubs and members receive regular updates from us as well as insurance, access to enter BE competitions and discount on event tickets.	
Does the club hold a Clubmark award?	Clubmark is the national benchmark for a quality junior club in England. If the answer to this is yes then you are fairly assured that the answer to all the following questions will also be yes!	
Does the club adopt the Badminton England Safeguarding Policy?	This means the club listens to children, values them and knows how to work with young people. Importantly they will work to best practice with young people in all areas and can also react in the right way if something should go wrong or cause alarm.	
Does the club have a Welfare Officer?	If they adopt the Safeguarding Policy they should also have a named Welfare Officer. This person is key to establishing positive conduct in the club and can help when there is an issue, or simply for advice.	
Do the coaches hold a Badminton England coaching qualification?	<p>If a coach has a BE coaching qualification then you know that they have reached a required level of coaching practice. Their experience has been endorsed by the national governing body of badminton in England and they are deemed competent.</p> <p>The current qualifications are endorsed by the United Kingdom Coaching Certificate (UKCC) as this is working to agreed standards in technical badminton knowledge and coaching practice</p> <p>We are now promoting a coach license to ensure that all coaches are not just qualified but are regularly updating their qualifications.</p>	
Are the coaches registered with Badminton England?	If a coach appears on the Coaching Register they will have public liability insurance (providing they are within the turnover threshold) . This also means Badminton England have completed the necessary background checks (DBS check) on the person and agreed that they may work with young people.	
What about coaches from other countries?	Clearly coaches from different countries bring different skills and backgrounds but that does not	

	mean that normal safeguarding principles do not apply. There are options for a DBS check with foreign nationals and for an assessment of their coaching qualifications to be validated through BE systems. Be aware just because a coach claims to be qualified abroad this may not be the case. So ask the questions!	
Have all people who are eligible for a DBS check with Badminton England had one?	For more information see: www.badmintonengland.co.uk/DBS We check all roles which fall into the category of 'Regulated Activity' this includes coaches, team managers and Welfare Officers.	
Does the club promote positive Codes of Ethics and Conduct?	Are you made aware of standards expected from coaches, other players and parents? A club should be clear about the standards expected of all, and crucially what action they will take should standards slip.	
Does the club adopt the BE Equality Policy?	This is a key document which confirms that a club will gladly welcome people from all backgrounds, ages, abilities etc. This sets the scene for an inclusive club.	
Are you invited to attend a club session / watch a match in advance of joining?	An open club will welcome people being able to view a training session and / or attend a club night. From attending you will be able to see how much other young people are enjoying their badminton and how they react to their coaches, respect their opponents etc. This is a good indicator of the culture of a club.	
Does the club hold social events outside of badminton?	We think that social activity can sometimes be as important as the badminton. Find out what, if any, other opportunities the club offers.	
Is the club run by a well organised and proactive committee?	In many clubs this information is not easy to obtain but look for information on who holds committee positions. This may be available on a club website, noticeboard or in an information pack. We do not advocate a club that is run, coached and managed by one person. An outward facing club with a future is one with many adults and young people involved in its management.	
What is the club's social media presence?	Do your homework, look on twitter and facebook for club pages. Does the club have a professional approach and is there a positive attitude throughout the club. Friendly banter is one thing but do you see a genuine positive feeling around the club, players and coaches.	
Are you given a 'welcome leaflet'?	If yes, this is a great big tick from us! If the club has given you all the information you require:-teams you are eligible to play in, training days, kit required and costs then you are well on your way to making the right decision!	

More information on Clubmark see: www.badmintonengland.co.uk/clubmark