

The Badminton Return To Play Roadmap

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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 document provides the background context and roadmap for the return to play. We have simplified the return to play documents, so this roadmap document is accompanied by guidance for players, clubs and competitions, coaches and facilities.

The guidance 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 with 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.

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 we will support players and clubs to return to play ensuring that we are following government advice at all stages.

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

1.

Government guidelines



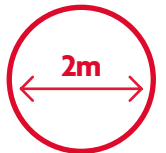
2.

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



3.

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



A Phased Return

Phase 1

From 13th May 2020



- Outdoor badminton
-

Phase 2

Updated from 25th July 2020



- Indoor play allowed
 - Full court doubles and singles between any households allowed
 - Restricted coaching
 - No formal competitions
-

Phase 3

Introduced from 12th September 2020



- Singles and doubles play
 - Fewer restrictions on coaching
 - Competition (league matches) resumes
-

Phase 4

Date to be led by government advice



- No restrictions
-

Phase 1: Outdoor badminton

- Since 13th May, it has been possible to play badminton outdoors.
- 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 – meaning that four people from different households can play doubles.
- For outdoor badminton, groups are limited to a maximum of 30. 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 our website 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 restarted - 25th July 2020

- 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 – meaning that four people from different households can play doubles.
- Venue specific restrictions are in place and you are responsible for ensuring you adhere to these.
- Strict equipment rules remain in place for rackets and guidance on the use of shuttles.

Phase 3: Return to competition and coaching - 12th September 2020

The changes we are now able to introduce mean that we can move to the start of Phase 3. There remain some restrictions in place - all formats of playing, training and some league competition are now feasible, however, social distancing and gathering restrictions remain in place.

- Local league badminton can take place with up to 6 players per team allowed.
- Coaches can deliver coaching sessions to up to 15 players in a session.

At this stage, and with gathering restrictions in place, it is not possible to reintroduce tournaments. However, we are working on a range of innovative solutions to allow competitive players to play in tournaments. We continue to discuss with Government proposals for the return of coach education

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

- All restrictions are lifted.

