



2021 National Volunteer Conference



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Badminton England are delighted to invite you to join our 2021 National Volunteer Conference. Unlike previous years, this live event will be delivered as a digital series of webinars over a number of weeks, to ensure your safety is paramount. By doing this, we look forward to even more volunteers coming together from across the country, to enjoy the latest training and updates by our experts.

The Conference will begin with our 'Launch event', which will include the announcement of the YONEX Volunteer of the Year Awards. Thereafter our series offers a broad range of topics to suit most voluntary roles within our Badminton communities. You will connect with other volunteers and come away inspired to put into practise your learnings so you can continue to play a key role in increasing the number of people playing Badminton.

We have listened to your feedback, and this year welcome you to attend as many webinars as you wish, with no cost to attend. All webinars, although online, will still have an interactive element to ensure you gain the most out of attending.

How To Book

To book onto any the webinars, please see the links within the information below.

Eligibility

Delegates must be a minimum of least 16 years of age and be able to communicate effectively in English.

Online Requirements

In order to access the online webinars, delegates will be required to:

- Have access to a laptop or tablet. A smartphone device is accepted but functionality can be limited
- The device must have access to a microphone as the sessions will be interactive
- Have good Wi-Fi access
- Have access to an environment with limited distractions which is conducive to learning
- Be able to log into the webinar 10 minutes ahead of the designated start time

If you have any additional learning needs, please let us know when registering for the webinar so we can support you.

Section 1: Conference Launch

Launch Event & YONEX Volunteer of the Year Awards

This webinar will provide an overview of the current Badminton England Volunteer Strategy and the newly developed Young Leader Academy whilst also recognising the contributions of our volunteer workforce and announcing the 2021 YONEX Volunteer of the Year Award winners and runners up.

Webinar cost: FREE

| DATE | FORMAT | START TIME | FINISH TIME |
|---|--------|------------|-------------|
| Sunday 31 st January 2021 | Online | 19:30 | 20:15 |

[Book Now](#)

For more information and your opportunity to nominate somebody for an award this year, please click below:

[Click Here](#)

Mental Health Keynote

Join Hayley Jarvis, Head of Physical Activity from Mind, to explore the positive relationship between volunteering, badminton and mental health. During the session we will explore practical techniques to support you and your participants to thrive, as well as highlighting when and how to signpost people to professional mental health support if needed.

GB Men's Singles No1, Toby Penty will also share his personal mental health challenges and his perceived ability to cope. Attendees will be invited to participate in a Q&A session with Toby at the end.

Webinar cost: FREE

| DATE | FORMAT | START TIME | FINISH TIME |
|--|--------|------------|-------------|
| Wednesday 3 rd February 2021 | Online | 19:30 | 20:30 |

[Book Now](#)

Section 2: Growing the Grassroots

Designing Your Inclusive Club

This webinar will explore how you can become an inclusive club and accessible to disabled people. You will be encouraged and supported to think about how you can design and develop your club inclusively through engaging with disabled people, ensuring inclusive communications, and creating a welcoming club ethos. Wimbledon Racquets & Fitness Club will also share their experience and journey of setting up inclusive badminton sessions.

Webinar cost: FREE

| DATE | FORMAT | START TIME | FINISH TIME |
|--|--------|------------|-------------|
| Tuesday 9 th February 2021 | Online | 19:30 | 20:30 |

[Book Now](#)

Structuring Coaching Sessions for Long Term Player Development

This webinar will provide coaches with ideas of how to structure and deliver individual sessions, blocks of sessions and annual plans with differentiated delivery to meet the various needs of a group. The webinar will also cover the importance of allowing time for players to experiment in sessions and how to incorporate and structure this within a coaching session.

Webinar cost: FREE

| DATE | FORMAT | START TIME | FINISH TIME |
|--|--------|------------|-------------|
| Thursday 11 th February 2021 | Online | 19:30 | 20:30 |

[Book Now](#)

Engaging with Schools & Young People

Developing links with schools, whether you are a coach or a club, is critical to growing any junior section. During this webinar, you will hear top tips from a School Games Organiser on how to go about approaching schools, and understand what schools are really after from your delivery.

Webinar cost: FREE

| DATE | FORMAT | START TIME | FINISH TIME |
|---|--------|------------|-------------|
| Wednesday 24 th February 2021 | Online | 19:30 | 20:30 |

Book Now

Increasing Female Participation

The webinar will provide a range of strategies for increasing female participation through topics such as promoting active participation; making sessions and facilities safe and female friendly; increasing media coverage and visibility and promoting gender equity on boards. Riverside Leisure Centre Badminton Club will share their experience of engaging and retaining female players.

Webinar cost: FREE

| DATE | FORMAT | START TIME | FINISH TIME |
|--|--------|------------|-------------|
| Thursday 4 th March 2020 | Online | 19:30 | 20:30 |

Book Now

Section 3: Challenging You

Becoming a Better Negotiator

Negotiation can be daunting at first however done effectively, it can be helpful. There are many opportunities to use negotiation skills within a club, such as ensuring the best deal for your members, having meaningful discussions with your committee or delegating tasks to spread the workload. Coaches also need effective negotiation skills to agree appropriate venue access and cost, implement community programmes, and to ultimately get the best business deal to run a session.

In the webinar, Psychologist, Mandy Rutter, will delve into the behaviours involved with negotiating and the session will be a step-by-step guide of how to put negotiations into practice within your club to help it run smoothly and support your members' best interests.

Webinar cost: FREE

| DATE | FORMAT | START TIME | FINISH TIME |
|--------------------------------------|--------|------------|-------------|
| Sunday 7 th March 2021 | Online | 19:30 | 20:30 |

[Book Now](#)

Improving Your Volunteer Experience

Delivered by Sport Structures, this webinar focuses on developing a positive culture of volunteering within your club environment and will help you to create an action plan to improve your club volunteer experience. You will be challenged to reflect on current practices and make positive changes to improve your volunteer retention.

Webinar cost: FREE

| DATE | FORMAT | START TIME | FINISH TIME |
|--|--------|------------|-------------|
| Wednesday 10 th March 2021 | Online | 19:00 | 21:00 |

[Book Now](#)

2021 YONEX Volunteer of the Year & YONEX Young Volunteer of the Year Awards

The two categories for the 2021 YONEX Volunteer of the Year Awards are:

- YONEX Young Volunteer of the Year (13-18yrs)
- YONEX Volunteer of the Year (19 years and above)

The 2021 nominations should be to recognise the contributions of volunteers and ongoing commitment to badminton, specifically during the COVID-19 pandemic. The awards are targeted towards those who have used new and innovative methods to keep their clubs and players engaged in badminton during the lockdown period.

The winner of each award will be announced during the Launch Event & YONEX Volunteer of the Year Awards webinar, as part of Badminton England's National Volunteer Conference series launch, on Sunday 31st January 2021.

Nominate Now

The closing date for nominations is Friday 11th December 2020.



Read about last year's YONEX Volunteer of the Year Award Winners below!

2020 YONEX Volunteer of the Year Award Winners

These two awards are presented annually to volunteers who have stood out in demonstrating undoubted passion, commitment and dedication to badminton and had a positive impact and influence on others' experience within the sport.

2020 YONEX Volunteer of the Year Award: Melanie Vickery

Melanie devotes 16 hours each week of voluntary coaching to the North Wiltshire Badminton Project, which she set up, in partnership with a Level 3 Head Coach. The nucleus of the operation was to devise and deliver coached foundation sessions specifically tailored for 5-12 year olds who would, when sufficiently competent, be able to join the coached and social sessions of good local junior badminton clubs and represent those clubs in the local leagues. Melanie has been orchestral in building up a solid staff of coaching assistants who are fundamental in making the foundation sessions happen. These comprise of six Level 1 coaches, another Level 2 coach and a host of junior assistants.

Throughout 2019, she has continued to develop new projects and ideas to build up numbers in all the sessions. She has formed a strong relationship with Badminton England, set up various new sessions and delivered a handful of foundation badminton holiday day camps. She also developed a large scale marketing campaign by producing branding for her van and buying merchandise which was used at the Chippenham Carnival and Melksham Party in the Park.

Melanie has worked hard to develop relationships with local primary schools to deliver the Racket Pack and identify children to signpost to North Wiltshire Badminton Project sessions. In October 2019, she delivered a festival in Chippenham as part of The Racket Pack Tour which was a great success and introduced 60 new children to badminton.

During the league season she spends her Saturday afternoons team managing, coaching and generally supporting the various teams in the Mid-Wiltshire Junior League and during 2019 she also founded a new senior club, Vectors Badminton Club, to provide advanced playing opportunities to the more developed, older junior players.

2020 YONEX Young Volunteer of the Year Award: Annie Zhu

Annie had been showing potential as a volunteer for several years at Thornaby Junior Badminton Club but, after attending the Badminton England North Young Leaders Academy in 2018, she really blossomed in 2019 into a confident and inspiring Young Leader.

Alongside training at the Tees Valley Badminton Academy and playing 3-4 per week, she always acts as a role model and manages to give her time to younger, less experienced players at the weekly Thornaby Junior Club session. She has been the lead Young Leader at numerous local school events such as Racket Pack festivals and the County Finals of the School Games as well as assisting Tournament Referees at the Tees Valley Gold/Silver/Bronze tournaments.

After attending the North Young Leaders Academy, she was invited to be a Young Official at the National Badminton Centre in Milton Keynes for the Finals of the National Schools Championships.

Not satisfied with her successes as a Young Leader, this young volunteer wanted to further develop herself so she could improve the quality of the coaching advice she was giving to the junior players and her ability to develop the quality of their play. In April 2019, she successfully gained her Level 1 Coaching Qualification, only one month after her 16th birthday!

Alongside her volunteering, her commitment to "be the best she can" is evidenced by successfully applying in 2017 for a place on the sub regional Future Champions programme.

